Published: February, April, June, August, October, December
Deadline: First of month preceding month of publication

AIM: To keep our membership more closely related and better informed; and to present information for the advancement of the Club and the Breed. Articles and comments do not necessarily represent the Club's views.

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HALF PAGE: $7.50 plus $3 per photo
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BREEDERS - B.C.A. sends a complimentary copy of The Dew Claw to each of your puppy buyers. Just send a list of their names and addresses to the Secretary.

"See what happens when you pull on your leash?"
MINUTES

The Minutes of our BCA Meeting are intentionally detailed, in order to give those of you who could not attend a more complete picture of the meeting and the business of the Club. We wish you all could have been there.

B.C.A. ANNUAL MEETING
Saturday, August 7, 1981
Holiday Inn, Racine, WI

The Annual Meeting of the Briard Club of America was called to order by President Philip Zingsheim, at 5:15 p.m., Aug. 7, 1981. Roll call was taken and 68 Members were present, surpassing the quorum requirement of 40.

The President introduced Michael Heffling, Innkeeper of the motel, who welcomed everyone, thanking them for their consideration of the motel and staff. He noted that the BCA has a well deserved good reputation with the motel and he was happy to have the Club return again this year. He commented that there had been some complaints the night before about dogs barking incessantly and asked that the few who had left their dogs unattended please try to keep closer watch on them. He then wished the group a good meeting and show.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT - Phil Zingsheim thanked all who had served BCA over the past year, then extended a special thank you to Gloria and Rich Merder, who had made and donated the walnut plaques on which the award plates were mounted.

Phil then presented the President’s Merit Award for 1981 to Mr. Floyd Stevenson for his service to the Briard and the Club. Floyd has been active in helping the new owners with obedience and showing, done considerable work with the rescue of Briards in need, then keeping in touch with the new owners of these dogs, thereby setting an excellent example.

SECRETARY’S REPORT - Diane McLeroth thanked the many people who have helped over the year with articles and news for the Dew Claw, ideas and suggestions and many other contributions. She noted that BCA work is volunteer and all who help are deeply appreciated.

She reported that the list of available puppies indicates the breeders are showing concern and a realistic appraisal of the slow puppy market, that they appear to be taking reservations for puppies before breeding a litter.

On behalf of the membership, Diane thanked retiring President, Phil Zingsheim for all his hard work and dedication over the three years he has served as President, and for the stability he brought to the Club. She then presented him with an award engraved: "Phil Zingsheim, BCA President 1978 to 1981, WELL DONE." On the top of the award was added a red glass, on which was mounted a gold seal.

Diane then reported that Janet Zingsheim had taken over the task of Show Secretary, when that job had been vacated. This is a very sizable job in itself, but Janet had taken it on in addition to her job as Specialty Weekend Chairman. She then presented Jan with a master bearing the inscription: "As soon as the rush is over, I'm going to have a nervous breakdown. I owe it to myself; I worked for it, and no one is going to deprive me of it."

TREASURER’S REPORT - Phil noted that all were sorry Pat Long could not come to Racine but that her Annual Treasurer’s Report had been printed in the meeting program.

STATISTICIAN’S REPORT - Dave Behrens reported that he would like to have more information sent in to him. He announced that Mary Bloom and Mert Weltz will be helping research the past, compiling a list of every dog to hold a title and ultimately every Briard to be sire or dam of a litter. He asked that people notify him as soon as a dog finishes and he would also appreciate more information on dogs of the past.

SECRETARY’S REPORT - Diane McLeroth thanked everyone for coming to Racine. She then thanked her Chairmen: Dick Long, Obedience; Gerrie Minor, Specialty; Ken Behrendt, Advertisements; Ellen Shea & Linda Carpenter, Hospitality; Fran Taylor, Flowers; Dick Birkholz, Grounds; Concessions and Chief Ring Steward and Bob Boelter, Banquet Chairman.

SPECIALTY 1981 - Manny Littin & Jean Heft reported that the 1982 Specialty will be in Toledo, Ohio on Aug. 6. They asked everyone to research the Judges at the to of the list to indicate whom you prefer for a Specialty Judge.

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Faye asked about a list of judges to be considered for BCA specialties.

Diane McLeroth reported that each year the Board has asked for suggestions for specialty Judges, however each year the response had been very small. The Board therefore set a policy last year, that a list of possible specialty Judges be drawn up from Judges in the area of the specialty and from the judging panels of companion shows. She pointed out that the purpose of this is to find a Judge who will draw the greatest entry at the least cost to the Club. The Board then votes to select the Judge.

The President suggested that anyone wishing to submit names of Judges for potential specialty Judges, should please turn them in to the Board. He pointed out that the selection is made to please as many people as possible but that it is not possible to please everyone.

Faye asked if there is a list of Judges approved by AKC to Judge Briards and suggested that this should be updated every year.

Ed asked the Secretary if there were such a list.

Diane reported that the A.K.C. publishes the list and sends an update to the Club every 6 months.

Art Tingley suggested that it would stimulate interest if a list, in the order of preference, was provided for comments by the membership. If you then did not like the Judges at the top of the list you could campaign to get the ones you don’t like off the list, or bring forward the ones you do like.

The President responded that as an officer of the Club, he would never endorse any policy which would put a rating system on the Judges, that it would be acceptable to indicate whom you prefer for a given specialty, but not to set up a rating system.

Janet Zingsheim pointed out that when AKC approves a Judge for a given breed, AKC has therefore attested to his/her qualifications as a Judge of that breed.
Minutes - continued

FUTURE SPECIALTIES - Steven Marcus asked where the 1983 Specialty would be.
Ed responded that it is being planned to move the Specialty away from the Midwest or the East Coast and that probably will occur in 1984. Ed added that he would prefer that if there is a Specialty in one part of the country, it is better if the Club does not have a supported entry in another region of the country. He added that if the specialties are planned for the month of August (when the By-Laws require the annual meeting be held) then there would be no necessity of holding a supported entry show and the annual meeting elsewhere.

Mike Greenberg asked why, with the Specialty in Racine in 1981, was it going to Toledo, Ohio in 1982.
Manny Littin reported that when we plan an independent Specialty, motels are often difficult to reserve and this will influence the region where the Specialty will be. He pointed out that he has suggested long-range planning for several years past. Mike also pointed out that there would be no cost to the Club if the entry was held in another region. The President pointed out that another reason is that the Club needs volunteers to do the work. The members of the North Central Briard Club hosted the Racine Specialty, and the Great Lakes Briard Boosters will host the Specialty in Toledo for B.C.A. He commented that B.C.A. has always encouraged regional clubs to contact people in their area and to work with B.C.A. on the specialties. Individuals can also serve in this capacity. B.C.A.'s work is done by volunteers.

Mike pointed out that there is a four day weekend in eastern Ohio in August when there might be good for a B.C.A. Specialty.

Jean Heft pointed out that the shows are all held on the same week on the same showgrounds and that maybe this weekend should be rebooked in the long-range planning.

Cece Collins reported on a proposal she had made as an alternative to a rassemblement. Instead of one Judge, there would be three, a Breeder Judge, an All Ronder, and a Handler, to evaluate each dog. The dogs would be given points on a scale from 1 to 100 for each point of the Standard and at the end, the top winner chosen by the points awarded. This, she explained, is similar to the 20th Top event of the Dobro Club.
Sheri Daniel asked if the idea of a rassemblement was no longer being considered, commenting that she would prefer one to a competitive event such as Cece suggested.
Cece pointed out that the event she was suggesting would be similar to a rassemblement, but with three Judges and in the end the dog they believe best represents the Breed would be chosen.
Sheri said she enjoyed the non-competitive idea of the rassemblement.
Lynn Behrendt suggested the Club could expect more participation for a rassemblement, with each dog only evaluated against the Standard.
Rob Ferber commented that as an educational event, Cece's idea sounds fine, but not if it is another form of competitive Judging. He said he thinks the educational benefits of a rassemblement are very important to the Breed.
Ed Konrath suggested that such an event could be educational if the Judges would comment on each point over a P.A. system.
Sheri Daniel added that a rassemblement is nice since you do not have to worry about what is winning, but can just enjoy the evaluations and learn from them.
The President pointed out that the Club has enjoyed more participation at an independent Specialty in conjunction with a rassemblement than at any other type of event. He then advised the assembly that such decisions fall upon the Board and the assembly that the Club has asked for a voluntary assessment from each member of $5 per person, but that not all members had sent it in. He asked if anyone had not sent the assessment, to please do so.
Faye Sloan pointed out that $1,217.59 had been spent for eye research and asked what all that money was for.
In the absence of the Treasurer, Ed asked the Secretary to answer. Diane reported that the money used to support eye research was not part of the operating fund, but had been donated by individuals and raised through raffles for that specific use. She also said that the money spent was for specific uses in special funds and not for general operation of the Club.
Ken Collins pointed out that the income on the Treasurer's report shows money coming to the Club for eye research, offsetting the money spent.

EYE RESEARCH - Faye Sloan suggested that if B.C.A. wants to help the English cousins with their eye problems, why doesn't B.C.A. make a donation in an amount we can afford, perhaps $400.
The President recognized Diane McLeroth for a response. She said that the money was raised for eye research, not to help the British breeders, but to help our own. She reported that Dr. Adurrie, who is a noted English fielder, a Diplomat of the American College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists, and an Associate Professor at the Univ. of Pennsylvania's College of Veterinary Medicine, is researching Briard eye disease for B.C.A. He has been working closely with Dr. Peter Bedford in England for several years, where eye disease is most prevalent. Dr. Adurrie has advised B.C.A. that central progressive retinal atrophy in Briards is a genetic recessive, that it is, in all likelihood, also in this country! They have not examined enough American Briards to know if there are affected dogs, but many more dogs must be checked before we know this! That there may be some environmental influences which precipitate or aggravate the disease, but it is unquestionably genetic in origin. Dr. Adurrie and Dr. Bedford are currently cooperating on research of this environmental question, and have divided a litter of Briard puppies from affected parents, and therefore with the genetic makeup to be affected. Three of these puppies are being raised by Dr. Adurrie in Pennsylvania and the others are with Dr. Bedford in England. They are under carefully controlled and recorded conditions to see if there are any environmental influences, and if so what those factors might be. She also said that she would like to know if there are affected dogs, and if so, what those factors might be. She also said that she would like to know if there is a genetic influence, whether it is one or more genes, and if so what those factors might be.

Diane McLeroth reported on a proposal she had made as an alternative to a rassemblement, with each dog only evaluated against the Standard. She added that it is being considered. She reported that Dr. Aguirre, who is a Diplomat of the American College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists, and an Associate Professor at the Univ. of Pennsylvania's College of Veterinary Medicine, is researching Briard eye disease for B.C.A. He has been working closely with Dr. Peter Bedford in England for several years, where eye disease is most prevalent. Dr. Adurrie has advised B.C.A. that central progressive retinal atrophy in Briards is a genetic recessive, that it is, in all likelihood, also in this country! They have not examined enough American Briards to know if there are affected dogs, but many more dogs must be checked before we know this! That there may be some environmental influences which precipitate or aggravate the disease, but it is unquestionably genetic in origin. Dr. Adurrie and Dr. Bedford are currently cooperating on research of this environmental question, and have divided a litter of Briard puppies from affected parents, and therefore with the genetic makeup to be affected. Three of these puppies are being raised by Dr. Adurrie in Pennsylvania and the others are with Dr. Bedford in England. They are under carefully controlled and recorded conditions to see if there are any environmental influences, and if so what those factors might be. She also said that she would like to know if there are affected dogs, and if so, what those factors might be.

Dave Behrens commented that if we don't deal with the potential that CPRA can affect our American Briards we would be very short sighted. He reported that dogs are being used without any mention of eye exams, and even if the breeder knows the results of these exams, others are also interested. He pointed out an exam is a simple one and not very expensive, but that it certainly is not as difficult as an X-raying of the hips.

Rob Ferber commented that we are burying our heads in the sand if we do not look down the line for what this genetic disease can do to our Breed.

Ed Konrath reported that there are a good number of dogs of English descent in this country and we must be aware of the potential.

Dave Behrens added that the dogs in England have common ancestry to our Briards and in fact, there are Briards of French breeding which are affected by CPRA.
Bob Boelter reported that he had made over 100 reservations for the banquet, and asked people to see him for their tickets.

TRIMMING ARTICLE - Sheri Daniel expressed a protest about the comment in a recent article on the trimming of the Briard coat, "...such as dyeing of the black coat to cover a brown/red cast in the color," and asked if there was any substantiation for the phrase.

Diane McLeroth reported that the Club had received complaints about black dogs being dyed and it therefore was included in the article.

Sheri said she thought it was a slur against black Briards and should not have been published.

Mimi Long commented that no one denies that people are trimming the coats of their dogs for showing, and it certainly is conceivable that they will dye the coats as well.

Rob Ferber reported that he shows black dogs and had been advised by someone who knew better, to dye one dog to hide the red tips.

The President concluded that this certainly was substantiation and that in any case, such a practice should be discouraged.

The President then stated that above all, a Briard is a sheep dog and many of today's dogs would not last 8 hours with sheep. He noted that we should keep the original purpose of the Breed in mind; we don't want them dyed and we don't want them trimmed; and that the purposes of the Briard should be kept first and foremost.

The President entertained a motion for adjournment, there being no further discussion. The meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

TREASURER'S REPORT
May 1, 1981 through June 30, 1981

INCOME
Dues $278.00
Dew Claw, ads 60.00
Subscriptions 258.00
Stud Dog 10.00
Back issues 1.50
Misc.
Plaque 10.00
Brochures 7.00
Bank interest 24.78
Eye Research, shipping fee 68.35
Assessment income 889.40
$1,592.36
Opening balance $3,297.65
Income + 1,192.36
Expenses - 1,890.01
New Balance $2,793.87
Reserved Funds 1,422.12
OPERATING BAL. $1,516.75

(*Reserved Funds donated for specific uses include Charity, Medical, Rescue and Eye Research Funds.)

EXPENSES
Dew Claw, April 237.37
April postage 237.37
Subscription overpayment 9.00
Other printing 81.28
Nomination postage 72.00
Electronical supplies 49.04
Club insurance 125.00
Treasurer's Bond 25.00
Brochure postage 4.21
Secretary's postage 36.00
Eye Research, shipping fee for puppies 562.43
'81 Specialty trophies 43.00
$1,951.14

TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT
July 1, 1980 through June 30, 1981

INCOME
Dues $3,518.00
Dew Claw 1,055.66
Subscriptions 461.00
Stud Dog 10.00
Back Issues 17.50
Misc.
Rass. Reports 61.25
Bad check 15.00
Overpayment, dues 1.00
Plaque 10.00
Calendar 683.00
Brochures 36.50
Bank interest 142.72
'E80 Booster Show Trophies 35.00
Raffle 268.00
Sweeps refund 2.25
'80 Banquet 1,102.85
'80 Spec. Show Trophies 80.00
Eye Clinic 435.00
Eye Research 658.75
'81 Specialty Trophies 43.00
Assessment 889.40
$9,040.72

EXPENSES
Dew Claw 3,227.13
Printing 1,354.06
Postage 24.78
Supplies 400.07
Refund, ad 24.00
Refund, subscriptions 18.00
Overpayment, dues overpmt. 13.00
Bad check 15.00
Title awards 201.86
Attorney, bal. due 168.58
Election supplies 72.00
Election postage 72.00
Ads, Ins., Dues 345.20
Calendar 40.28
Postage 108.47
Brochure postage 16.55
Eye Research 65.55
Treasurer's postage 90.00
Eye Research 8.32
Bank charges 4.00

Opening bal. $3,807.86
Income 9,040.72
Expenses $12,848.58
New Balance 9,090.71

(Operating Fund $1,516.75
(Charity Fund 764.86
(Medical Fund 43.39
(Rescue Fund 157.71
(Eye Research Fund 456.16

(*Reserved Funds donated for specific uses include Charity, Medical, Rescue and Eye Research Funds.)
PRESENT FOR YOUR VIEWING PLEASURE

CH. DE BEAUJOLIS MON AMI

ALWAYS COMPETING IN TOUGH CALIFORNIA
COMPETITION, BOTH IN BREED AND AT GROUP
LEVEL. THIS DAY SHOWN GOING B.O.B. OVER
TOP WINNING SPECIALS.

MON JOVIS BRIARDS
Mary Lopez
408/554-8880

Exclusively handled by
CHRIS GRIECO
"THE MON JOVIS BRIARD"

"THE MON JOVIS BRIARD" ALSO HAS A GROUP II AT SAN JAUQUIN KENNEL CLUB IN APRIL UNDER DISTINGUISHES JUDGE, HELEN WITTRIG.

CH. DE BEAUXJOLIS MON AMI

AGAIN GOING B.O.B. OVER TOP WINNING SPECIALS AT SUN MAID KENNEL CLUB IN MARCH.

"THE MON JOVIS BRIARD" HAS A GROUP IV AT THE OAKLAND K.C. SHOW IN FEBRUARY UNDER JUDGE, DR. MALCOLM PHELPS.

MON JOVIS BRIARDS
Mary Lopez
408/554-8880

Exclusively handled by
CHRIS GRIECO

(L TO R) CH. DE BEAUXJOLIS MON AMI GOING B.O.B. UNDER FRED YOUNG AT SANTA CRUZ IN APRIL; MON JOVIS BEAU DERIK GOING B.W. AND B.O.S.; MON JOVIS BELIEVE IT, GOING W.D. AT THE AGE OF NINE MONTHS.
MON JOVIS A CLAIM TO FAME

FAME IS A LOVELY, TAWNY DOG, Sired by "THE MON JOVIS BRIARD". FAME HAS TEN POINTS AND ONE OF HIS MAJORS.

Proudly owned by Fred Miley

Exclusively handled by CHRI$ GRIECO

MON JOVIS BELIEVE IT

THIS YOUNG MALE HAS NINE POINTS AND ONE OF HIS MAJORS, SHOWN HERE GOING B.O.B. UNDER JUDGE, FRED YOUNG, AT ELEVEN MONTHS.

Proudly owned by Helen Jobe & Gail Holcomb

Exclusively handled by Bob Lopez
"BEAUX-BEAUX"
"BABY DOLL"

MON JOVIS BEAU DEREK

BEAUX HAS FOUR POINTS. SHOWN HERE WITH JUDGE, FRED YOUNG, GOING W.B., B.W. AND B.O.S.

A REPEAT OF THIS BREEDING NOW AVAILABLE

MON JOVIS BRIARDS
Mary Lopez
408/554-8880

Exclusively handled by Bob Lopez

"CHESTER"

"MON JOVIS CHESTER"
7 WEEKS

A LOOK AT THE FUTURE PUPPIES AVAILABLE

Proudly owned by Randall Van Syoc and Allan Ransome

To be handled by CHRIS GRIECO
REGIONAL CLUBS CAN PROVIDE IMPORTANT SERVICES

B.C.A. has always encouraged the formation of Regional clubs, and these can provide a very special and much needed service to the Breed. The personal contacts with the novice do much to further the well-being of the Briard and can provide a form of education which can not be done by B.C.A. on the national level.

Other national clubs have also learned the great value and service which comes from regional contact with new owners as the following comments of Mrs. Douglas Huntley, a respected Irish Wolfhound fancier, indicate. She offers these comments here to inspire the formation of new regional clubs and perhaps offer those already formed some useful ideas. Although written for Wolfhound owners, the ideas apply to every breed.

Every concerned IW fancier is appalled at the ever increasing numbers of mediocre - and worse - Wolfhounds flowing into the hands of novices from puppy mills, pet shops and backyard all over the country. What is even more appalling is the rise in the number of poor quality hounds that are being bred. Even strong measures have proven ineffective against commercial producers who are unconcerned with quality. Money is the dam and the dam is the rise in the number of poor quality hounds that are being bred. Even strong measures have proven ineffective against commercial producers who are unconcerned with quality. Money is the dam and the dam is a hard-sell to the novice buyer and novice owner.

Breed clubs generally use the fun match to raise money for the club treasury, to promote the breed with a view to better sales potential and as an opportunity to practice for the big-time; the AKC show.

All these considerations should be secondary to the main objective, EDUCATION. (Our regional club) believes we have developed a match format which has been enormously effective without creating a group of disgruntled, first-time buyers.

Our first rule is that the judge must be an experienced Wolfhound breeder or exhibitor. This has a two-fold advantage in that it helps to train future breed judges and at the same time makes the novice exhibitor confident that he will get a more knowledgeable evaluation of his dog.

Secondly, we solicit entries from the full spectrum of IW owners, regardless of the quality or origin of their hound. We include spay and neuter classes as well as best head, type and movement classes, so that the novice can better appreciate the pride of owning a Wolfhound for its unique qualities.

Sometimes show breeders are reluctant to enter puppies as they feel they have a better chance of winning, thereby discouraging the novice. This is a valid presumption. Education is a learning process and the fledgling exhibitor cannot learn to evaluate the quality, good or bad, without representative specimens available for comparison.

We build our entries by applying selling techniques employed by ad agencies every day to sell you everything from toothpaste to dog food; strongly emphasizing the advantages of meeting other Wolfhound owners and making new friends with the same doggy interests.

Our show committee makes every effort to create a friendly and relaxed atmosphere of breed hospitality, taking time to give objective answers to the many questions thrown their way by the prospective buyers as well as the new owners.

To cement this budding relationship, we make up a complete match catalog and mail copies to each exhibitor, together with a picture of his hound in action in the ring, as a memento of his introduction to the wonderful world of Wolfhounds.

In the vernacular of the advertising world, the new owner is "hooked"! He is now conditioned to seek experienced advice and guidance from his new-found friends, rather than from the corner pet shop or an uninformed neighbor.

After each match, my own phone calls reflect positive results with requests for information on the breed, sparing, feeding and even one from a man who had been told by his vet that his puppy had rickets because of his big knuckles.

B.C.A. ASSOCIATED REGIONALS

All it takes to form a BCA Associated Regional Club is a few interested and concerned Briarders. B.C.A. will include news of the new club being formed in The Dew Claw and help in every way possible to give the new group a good start.

Once the new regional is started, it can become a BCA Associated Regional by submitting a copy of its Constitution and list of members to the BCA Board of Directors. News from the Associated Regionals can be sent for a Regional News Column in The Dew Claw, and BCA has had great success by having the regional clubs host the national breed specialties.

LOOKING FOR BRIARD NOVELTIES? The B.C.A.'s Briard Novelty Shoppe offers many items for Briarders such as, jewelry, note paper and stationary, clothing, art work and leather goods. From practical items such as ear glue to novelties and gifts, the Novelty Shoppe has those hard to find items. For further information write to Jan Zingsheim, 5350 Co. Road 151, Mound, MN 55364.
BRIARD EYE RESEARCH

Dr. Gustavo Aguirre, the noted veterinary ophthalmologist heading our Briard eye research has told us, THE EYE RESEARCH BEING DONE ON THE BRITISH BRIARDS IS ONE OF THE MOST COMPLETE AND MOST IMPORTANT GENETIC STUDIES EVER DONE ON DOGS. He tells us that this study has been surpassed by only one other study on dogs.

The British Briarders, and those who have helped them from Australia Denmark and other countries, should be applauded for their courage and determination to overcome this genetic disease, and for their sincere and unselfish concern for the future of our Breed.

This very important study, being done by leaders in the field of scientific research, has now est-

FACT - Central Progressive Retinal Atrophy in Briards is GENETIC IN ORIGIN.

FACT - This disease clearly appears to be a GENETIC RECESSIVE, with each parent contributing the causative gene.

QUESTION - Are we in America in a position to dispute these experts and deny the results of their study?

There is no question that it is easier to try to ignore the facts, conjure up all kinds of childish excuses to justify our position, but we will thereby allow this genetic disease to spread through the American Briard population (akin to ignoring radioactive exposure).

Or, we can recognize that there is a serious potential for this disease; face reality and support the research before the disease has spread to impossible propor-
tions here.

The sooner we help, the sooner we will have some reliable answers.

HOW?

1. Have ALL BRIARDS CHECKED FOR EYE DISEASE - especially the older dogs, not just puppies or breeding stock. This must be done with dilated pupils, an indirect ophthalmoscope and a slit lamp.

2. CONTRIBUTE TO THE EYE FUND to help pay the expenses. B.C.A. has been asked for only $1,500 this year, toward this very expensive work. Surely we care enough to give that amount!

Some additional facts determined by the research:

FACT - CPRA has been identified in Briards bred in France and some still living in France.

FACT - The bloodlines ARE THE SAME as many of our American Briards. This disease is not just a British problem!

FACT - CPRA is a genetic disease of the retina - it cannot be seen as you look at the dog's eyes, except by a specialist through dilated pupils with special instruments.

FACT - The disease progresses and can eventually cause total loss of sight.

FACT - The disease has been found as early as 17 months of age and can develop after the age of 3.

THEORY: It is possible something in the environment can influence the disease, but only further research can determine if this is true.

If the research establishes the above is true, then the influences must be determined by further research.

If all of the above is found to be true, then it might be possible to find a treatment to stop or retard the progress of this disease in those dogs which have inherited it.

REMEMBER: THEORY IS ONLY SPECULATION and should not be used as an excuse to ignore the FACTS!

- PLEASE HELP -
B.C.A. EYE CLINIC

Dr. Gustavo Aguirre, a Diplomat of ACVO, and well known to Briarders for his important research of inherited eye disease in Briards, will be on hand to examine our dog's eyes. He will also report on the latest findings of his research. He will have just returned from 3 weeks in England where he has spent time with Dr. Bedford and will also answer any questions you may have.

The complete list of eye exam results of well over 600 Briards examined in England (including sire & dam of each) will be given to any participant in the Eye Clinic. Pedigrees showing the relationship of affected Briards with our bloodlines will be posted.

HANDLING, TRAINING & GROOMING SEMINAR - For fun, there will be Seminars for Handling, Training and Grooming ongoing throughout the day - the perfect opportunity to have your questions answered and to learn some secrets, helpful to owners of pet and show dog alike.....also a great opportunity to give your dog some added socialization.

FUN MATCH for puppies will be chaired by Donna Kahn.

POT LUCK PICNIC - will top the day and is open to all. If you plan to stay to eat, PLEASE BRING A DISH TO SHARE, YOUR OWN SANDWICHES AND TABLE SERVICE. COFFEE WILL BE PROVIDED. There is a stove with oven available to keep hot dishes warm.

PLAN TO JOIN US FOR THE LAST BRIARD FUN FLING OF THE YEAR - LOTS OF FUN - LOTS OF BRIARDS AND FRIENDS - AND HAVING YOUR BRIARD'S EYES CHECKED WILL BE A GREAT SERVICE TO THE BREED. (All breeds are welcome.)

Some of those coming in the night before will be staying at the Holiday Inn - West, 2429 S. Reynolds Rd., Toledo, Ohio 43614 (419/381-8765).

EYE CLINIC REGISTRATION FORM

Owner's Name______________________________
Address____________________________________
City/State/Zip______________________________
TELEPHONE: Area Code_______________________
Dog's Full Name_____________________________
Dog's birth date_____________________________
Registration #________________Tattoo_________

Please enclose fee of $9 for the first dog and $7 for each additional dog you own. Please make checks payable to: Briard Club of America.

DEADLINE for reduced registration fee October 15, 1981.

MAIL TO: Susan McCormick
25743 Culver
St. Clair Shores, MI 48081

To help us schedule eye exams, please mark your time preference below.

_____ I plan to come for the day and will arrive about______ am/pm. on Sunday, October 18, 1981.

_____ I can only come for the eye exam. Please schedule my dog(s) for the time checked below.

/ 8-10 am / 10=12 noon / 12-2 pm / 2-4 pm / 4-6 pm /

(If you have problems with this schedule, please call Diane McLeroth at 219/627-5939. It may be possible to schedule some dogs on Saturday evening.)

EYE CLINIC, SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18, 1981. COME JOIN US!

(Please attach separate sheet for each dog)
When the subject of nutrition is under consideration, ideas about feeding will naturally be what follows. However, feeding is only the gastronomic vehicle for nutrition, while nutrition involves making available all the required nutrients.

**SPECIFYING CORRECT QUANTITIES OF NUTRIENTS IS IMPOSSIBLE**

It is impossible to specify the correct quantities of the essential nutrients for all dogs, because of the wide variation in size, the varying conditions of climate under which they live and the vastly different functions dogs perform.

The objective of feeding is to maintain optimum nutrient levels. However, the practical application of nutrition must combine the art of feeding with the science of biochemistry. An understanding of both is important in meeting the nutrient needs of each dog.

What constitutes the best diet for dogs? The dog is by nature a carnivore (although for economic reasons, man has added many foods of vegetable origin to his diet). His teeth are more for cutting and tearing than for grinding, and his digestive tract is relatively short.

Comparatively speaking, the canine digestive tract is similar to that of man. Since the metabolism is also similar, the dietary essential nutrients required by dogs are almost the same as those of man. While this suggests that dogs should enjoy good nutrition at man's hand, this is not always the case. Probably this is because many individuals lack an appreciation of their own nutritional needs. In addition, people frequently over-indulge their pets, perhaps as a result of misdirected kindness.

A great deal of research data on the nutritional needs of dogs was developed from the late 1930s to the early 1950s. This information was reviewed, summarized and published by the National Research Council (publication 989 entitled Nutrient Requirements of Dogs). This is a single, complete source of information available and is widely used as the basis for formulating and evaluating commercial dog foods in the U.S. today. These recommendations should not be considered requirements but recommended allowances since, in several instances, the "requirements" were estimated.

The recommendations are sufficiently liberal to meet the needs of the medium-sized (30 lb.) dog, under most conditions. Variations in requirements due to size, conformation, coat, work, disposition, and environment are left to the judgement of the dog's owner. Values recommended need to be adjusted in cases where feeding becomes an individual matter. The NRC requirements were intended only as guides since in the final analysis it is "the eye of the master that feeds his dog."

This old adage is still relevant today. There are gaps in knowledge about nutritional requirements of dogs, particularly with reference to toy or large breeds during early growth and stressful periods.

**COMMERCIAL FOODS**

For the vast majority of dogs in the US today, prospects never have been better for achieving their nutritional needs. Pet food manufacturers using the NRC recommended allowances have developed a great variety of complete and balanced foods. Some have conducted extensive research to simplify feeding and to insure the nutritive content of their product. They have proven to themselves that their foods can be fed to
many breeds of dogs as the sole source of nutrition for several generations, yielding successful results. Nutrition scientists working for these firms recognize the varying needs of dogs. Therefore, their formulas are tailored to what they consider safe and effective levels to meet above average needs for most dogs. These formulations were developed to supply optimum nutrition with maximum convenience at reasonable prices. Also, pet food manufacturers recognize that foods must be palatable as well as nutritionally adequate. Optimum nutrition under most conditions can be supplied by feeding any one of a number of high quality commercial foods.

Additionally, all that is required is reading of labels and application of common sense in feeding and in evaluation of the dog's response.

EVALUATION OF A DOG FOOD

How can a "high quality," nutritionally complete and balanced dog food be selected? This can be done quite easily if it is kept in mind that all of the products represented as "complete and balanced" now are similar when nutritional content is expressed on a dry matter basis. Individual ingredients which are the sources of the nutrients may vary, but this does not matter.

The most consistent difference among the three principal types of commercially available dog foods (dry, canned and semi-moist) is the water content and texture. Thus, the decision to use dry, canned, or semi-moist, or a combination is not so much a matter of nutrition, but one of palatability, convenience and economics.

Selection of a specific product should be made primarily on its total nutrient content. An evaluation of content can be made from the complete chemical analyses, which are available from the manufacturers.

Direct comparisons can best be made when nutrients are expressed on a dry matter basis. To do this, "as is" nutrient analysis of dry food should be multiplied by 3/1/2, and those of the semi-moist foods by 1/1/2, and then should be compared directly to the recommended allowances by the NRC. Foods closely approximating or exceeding this combination of nutrients would be the more nutritious foods. Total nutrient content should be compared, not just the approximate analysis found on the package label.

The label analysis is important primarily to indicate the amount of water content. But it is wise to examine the label for other information; the list of ingredients. Are the ingredients wholesome foods for dogs? While the exact amounts are not given, regulations require that they be listed in the order of their content in the product. The wholesome nutritional ingredients appear at the top of the list; anything after the first few ingredients is likely to be present in very small amounts.

The other important considerations in selecting a dog food are its total caloric content; the biological value of its protein, and the digestibility of the food. The manufacturer will supply this information if requested.

In the final analysis, however, it is the owner who will have to evaluate his dog's acceptance of the food and his response to it.

BREEDER'S FEEDING PROGRAM

In spite of the fact a number of major pet food manufacturers have fed their products exclusively to dogs for several generations with complete success, this simply is not the practice in the field. Considerable blending of foods and supplementation is being done. This may be partly due to a misconception of nutrition or a lack of confidence in the content of the commercial foods.

Mostly, it is because breeders and handlers have learned that feeding "Brand X" exclusively does not always result in their dog's concept of optimum performance for their dogs. In some instances it is the breeder's concept of ideal performance which can be questioned but in many instances, foods which are satisfactory for optimum growth of young dogs are not ideal for the growth of another.

When dogs are under stress they need a higher nutrient density food than when they are in repose. When metabolic needs are not met as a result of what the dog eats, some inducements or changes must be made. Breeders may change to a more palatable food or add highly palatable ingredients and commercial supplements to the basic food they have been feeding. These supplements usually are meat and other animal protein products, fat, or gravies. Vitamin-mineral supplements also are given and often improvement is recorded.

WHAT DOES SENSIBLE SUPPLEMENTATION ACCOMPLISH?

Basically; what was done to the nutrition by these changes and the supplements? The caloric density was increased; both the quality and quantity of the protein were increased and the concentration of vitamins and trace minerals was increased. If the quantity of the supplements was not excessive, nutrient balance was not adversely affected. Increased intake of a food with a higher nutrient density and higher digestibility resulted. Metabolic needs were met.

The simplest way to increase a dog's plane of nutrition without resulting excesses or imbalances is to blend a high quality, complete dry dog food with a fortified (balanced) high protein, high caloric density, canned dog food. Since both are nutritionally complete and balanced, a mixture of any proportion will result in a food which is still complete and balanced.

Other practical considerations will also be met. This blending will give a mixture which is more palatable and more digestable, and which has a higher protein content of higher biological value, thus supplying more energy, amino acids, and other essential nutrients to the dog. Additional vitamin/mineral supplementation will not be necessary except in special cases.

Milk is another nutritionally complete and balanced food. Whole or evaporated milk may be mixed with dry food with no gross imbalances. Some adult dogs cannot tolerate the milk sugar and the quantity of milk should be limited. Excess lactose (milk sugar) may cause diarrhea. Observations at our laboratory indicate the adult dog can adapt to dietary lactose, and that one can of evaporated milk per day, per dog, has no adverse effects.

If balanced dog foods are supplemented with nutritionally incomplete foods, like eggs, meats, fats or oils, cottage cheese or liver, caution must be exercised. Such supplements should not exceed 10 to 25% of the dog's daily diet. They usually are deficient in calcium. Most one and fats are also low in vitamins A, D, and E. In addition, unsaturated fats are likely to become rancid. This will hasten the destruction of vitamin E and increase the dog's dietary requirement for this vitamin.

AVOID EXCESSIVE USE OF UNBALANCED FOODS

Excessive use of nutritionally unbalanced food should be avoided; unless calculations can be made to determine the correct amounts of calcium, phosphorus and vitamins A, D, and E which must be added to balance the diet.

COMPLETE AND BALANCED DIETS

Contant reference has been made to complete and balanced foods. To nutritionists this means the foods contain all of the dietary essentials in adequate amounts to
meet metabolic needs. Further, it means that the nutrients are present in these foods in the proper proportions so that no adverse effects will result. The concept of nutritional adequacy was the basis of the National Research Council recommendations.

In spite of the fact that some recommendations were only estimates from other species, nutritionists recognize that nutritional requirements can be expressed on a quantitative chemical basis. Most nutritionists agree that the performance in healthy dogs of a dog food made from well-known food ingredients, can be predicted when only a chemical analysis is available. Nevertheless, the validity of labeling a dog food as complete and/or balanced on the basis of this analysis has been challenged by the Association of American Feed Control Officials, the feed industry's watchdog for pet foods.

The AAFCO ruled that in order for a food to be labeled as complete and balanced it must meet the needs of dogs for the stage of the life cycle specified, as demonstrated by feeding tests with dogs. Some specific protocols were prepared by committees designated by the Pet Food Institute, defining tests to evaluate nutritional adequacy for maintenance, growth, gestation and lactation. The last date for compliance with the new regulations was Jan. 1, 1974.

### Effect of This Legislation on Dog Owners

What was accomplished for dogs as a result of these new regulations? Initially, very little. It is a known fact that most of the present major brands of commercial dog food meet the requirements for growth of medium-sized dogs. For the same size dogs, food acceptable for growth will serve for reproduction. The dog food will pass readily the prescribed feeding tests. Major manufacturers already have the data to support their products.

Small producers may be more adversely affected by the time and cost for having the tests conducted. Long-range effects will be more marked.

### Future Foods Will Be More Fortified

Future products invariably will be more highly fortified, resulting in higher nutrient density. While this will improve the foods for use in smaller breeds, it will compound the problems for dogs of other breeds for which the use of present foods already contributes to problems of over-nutrition. Education in the use of the new foods will be needed.

Future requirements for testing may be more stringent. Use of more than one breed of dog may be required. This will cause manufacturers to improve and modify their foods for specific physiological functions and for individual breeds of dogs.

Confidence in pet foods will be greatly strengthened, but the owners instinctive impulse to supplement will not be eliminated.

### Future Plans

In spite of the fact that sufficient nutrition knowledge exists to produce dog food which meets the needs of average healthy dogs, there remain many fundamental problems which require solutions.

It is recognized that calories do count, but is the source of the calories important? Are carbohydrate calories more desirable than those of protein and fat? Is dietary carbohydrate required at all? If so, how much? What levels of Protein are best? Is expression of protein content meaningful if there is no consideration given to the amino acids supplied or to the ratio of protein to available energy? What are the amino acid(protein) need for gestation and lactation? What are the requirements for other nutrients at these stages of the life cycle? No critical researches of these needs have been published. Studies to answer many of these questions are underway at Cornell.

(continued page 38)
CHATEAUBRIARD RUMORS R was BEST IN MATCH his first time shown at Palm Springs K.C. Match on April 12th. He was bred by Cecie and Ken Collins and is owned by Phyllis Hubert.

NOTRE RIGOLD DE STRATHCONA took a 3 POINT MAJOR from the puppy class at Detroit K.C. under judge, Virginia Hampton. He was bred by Stephanie & Jerry Katz and handled by his owner, Bradley Fitch.

AMERICAN AND CANADIAN UTILITY DOG

AM/CAN. CH. BEARDSANBROW'S N'EST PAS,
AM/CAN. UDT, Sch. I, AD

Owner: Dave Behrens Breeder: Janis Charbonneau
Canadian U.D: November 11, 1980
American U.D: May 2, 1981

Sire: Ch. Phydeaux Quoin de Quivre
Ch. Phydeaux Usheba des Bergers
Ch. Tres Vien Chez Rogues de Brie

Dam: Ch. Uther Bijou de Strathcona
G'Veret Kahlbah de Strathcona, UD

Trained & handled by owner
NEW BRIARD CHAMPION

CHAMPION TROUPEAUX PRETZELLE ORIELLE (bitch)

Owners: Mike & Sue Gresko Breeders: Bob & Marie Herd
Championship: May 31, 1981
Whelped: September 14, 1979

Sire: Pa'Chick's Rebel Deux
Dam: Ch. Bellesprit Licol Mon Bonheur
Ch. Chateaubriard Votre Sante

Ch. Pa'Chick's Man O'War
Ch. Pa'Chick's Jezebel
Ch. Phydeaux Tallulah, CD

Judge: Joe Mellor

NEW BRIARD CHAMPION

CHAMPION DROMORE'S PERRIER (bitch)

Owner: Linda Beall Breeder: Susan & Margaret McCormick
Championship: May 25, 1981
Whelped: August 17, 1979

Sire: Am/Can. Ch. Sirhan Drover
Safari de Murgis Akra
Sirhan Cadeau de Noel
Ch. Pa'Chick's Rebel Deux

Dam: Ch. Pa'Chick's Ms-Be-Haven Am/Can CD
Am/Can. Ch. Pa'Chick's Jezebel

Handled by owner
CHAMPION LE BEAUCHIEN'S RYE CHAPARRAL, C.D. (dog)

Owner: Pat Morale
Breeders: Marie & Monroe Kokin
Companion Dog Degree: March 29, 1981
Championship: April 17, 1981
Whelped: March 7, 1980

Sire: Ch. Ralph des Elies de Malouse, CD
Am/Can Ch. Pa'Chick's Indian Summer
Ch. Pa'Chick's Rebel Deux

Dam: Le Beauchien's Majolique
Ch. Bellesprit Fille Vendredi

Judge: Mr. Langdon Skarda
Handled by Bill Henry

CHAMPION DROMORE'S PETITE CHAPARRAL, CD (bitch)

Owner: Pat Morale
Breeders: Margaret & Susan McCormick
Companion Dog Degree: June 15, 1980
Championship: September 28, 1980
Whelped: August 17, 1979

Sire: Am/Can. Ch. Sirhan Drover
Sirhan Cadeau de Noel
Ch. Pa'Chick's Rebel Deux

Dam: Ch. Pa'Chick's Ms-Be-Haven, Am/Can. CD
Am/Can. Ch. Pa'Chick's Jezebel

Judge: Mr. Lawson Williams
Handled by Sue McCormick
By the time you receive this issue of The Dew Claw our 81 Specialty will be history, and it will be featured in our October issue. Plans are underway for 1982 in Toledo, OH with an independent specialty and a rassemblement type event. The 1983 Specialty is being planned for the East Coast and in 1984, it will be on the West Coast. Next summer the Specialty dates are August 6, 7 & 8, so mark your calendars for this special event.

HELPFUL HINTS

Ear cleaning can be a very important part of grooming, which is sometimes overlooked. Briards with cropped, as well as drop ears, should have the hair pulled out of the ear periodically, to help avoid infections. If you start when your dog is a pup, pulling a few hairs at a time, it will become easier as the dog grows.

These are the supplies I use:
1) blunt edge forceps; 2) R-7 ear lotion; 3) cotton balls; and 4) panalog.

Have the dog lie on his side on the grooming table or the floor. Gently bend the ear back, smoothing the long feathering out of the ear. Then, take a cotton ball and daintily massage the excess fluid from the ear. Clean the ear out carefully as instructed above and squirt a small amount of Panalog into the ear, twice daily, and massage gently. Panalog can be purchased from your veterinarian and can be kept for use in case of any emergency. If the problem does not clear up in a few days, make an appointment with your vet, immediately.

Ear infections can grab hold and sometimes take up to six months to clear up so keep a sharp eye out for this problem. Common sense grooming and health care can keep your dog in top-tip shape.

Suggestions or questions for “Helpful Hints” are happily received. Please drop me a note or give me a call if you would like to see something printed on a problem, or have a helpful hint to share.

NEW CHAMPIONS

CH. MONET’S POLONAI S AVE N Panach Polo, owned and handled by Richard Doner, finished his championship at Licklnd River K.C. under Mr. Kendrick, going WD and SW for a 4 point major. His sire is Ch. Manny’s BLackbeard, and his dam is Luire Roue de Monet.

CH. LE BEAUCHIEN’S RYE CHAPARRAL, CD Radge, owned and trained by Pat Morales, finished his companion dog degree this Spring and also his championship over Easter weekend. His sire is Ch. Pa’Chick’s MY le Beaufichien, and his dam is Le Beauchien’s Majolique.

CH. M & M SUGARCREEK JANIVAN
Jana, owned and handled by Susan Smith & Janice Millis, finished her championship at Northeastern Indiana K.C. under Mrs. Gunterman. Her sire is Ch. Nestor de l’Eminence and her dam is Ch. Tidress de Patriche.

CH. MANNY’S CHUCKLIN PEACH
Peaches, owned and handled by Manny Littlin, finished her championship at Mad River K.C. on May 10 under Mrs. Bosold. She was 23 months old. Her sire is Ch. Chateaubriard Jokerswilde CD and her dam is Ch. Lorraine de la Croix.

CH. DROMORE’S PERRIER
Perri, owned and handled by Linda Beall, finished her championship at New Castle K.C. on May 25 under Mr. Taylor. Her sire is Am/Can. Ch. Sirhan Drover and her dam is Ch. Pa’Chick’s Me-Be-Haven Am. & Can. CD.

CH. PRIDE & JOY DE SOULIEADA
This young dog finished his championship at San Gabriel K.C. on May 25th. He is owned and handled by J. & D. Buttry & J. Stewart.

CH. TROUPEAUX PRETTEZEL DRIELLE
Pretzelle, owned by Sue & Mike Gresko and handled by Sue McCromick finished her championship at the Monroes K.C. show on May 31 under Mr. & Mrs. Melior. Her sire is Pa’Chick’s Man O’War and her dam is Ch. Belle-sprit Licol Mon Bonheur.

NEW A.K.C. RULING

If the dog designated Winners Dog or Winners Bitch is also awarded Best of Breed, the dogs of both sexes, which have been entered in Best of Breed competition have and have been defeated in such competition, shall be counted in addition to the dogs that competed in the regular classes for its sex in calculating championship points.

If the dog which is designated Winners Dog or Winners Bitch is also awarded Best of Opposite Sex to Best of Breed, the dogs of its own sex which have been defeated in competition for Best of Opposite Sex shall be counted in addition to the dogs which competed in the regular classes for its sex in calculating championship points.

This is a fairly new ruling which was brought to my attention by Stephanie Katz. We were aware of the addition of points if a dog too Best of Breed over specials, but we were not aware that it also applied to dogs taking Best of Opposite over specials of its own sex.

GROUP PLACEMENTS

Ch. de Beauchielor Mon Ami, owned by Mary Lopez, took a Group 4 under Dr. Philips at the Oakland K.C. show on 5/22/81. He also took a Group 2 at the San Joaquin K.C. show on 5/31/81 under Mrs. Witrite.

Ch. Rejou Turquoise de Capucine owned by Bob Kessler, took a Group 4 under Mr. Vandeventer at the Antelope Valley K.C. show on 5/23/81.

Ch. Pa’Chick’s Mr le Beaufichien, owned and handled by Marie and Monroe Kokin, took a Group 3 at the Rochester K.C. show on 5/10/81 under Mr. Stanek.

Ch. Phydseus Polly Poulet, owned by Fran Taylor and handled by Cindy Meyers, took a Group 4 on 2/21/81 at the Clinton K.C. show under Mrs. Helen Miller Fisher. On April 26th she took a Group 3 under Mrs. Fisher at the Sheboygan K.C. show.

O.F.A. NEWS

The fee to have a dog O.F.A. certified is now up to $15.00 on September 1, 1981. Here are the new numbers.

FB-117 T Beardsansbrows Blac Ooal (P. Madlady)
FB-118 Stonehills I’m Maude (Donna Aiello)
FB-120 Ch. Chien de Sole Optical Illusion (Pelham/Russell)
FB-121 Ch. Fleur de Grenade du Loup d’Or (Pelham/Russell)
FB-122 Ch. Chamaeae Cinnamon Breeze (Linda Carpenter)

SYMPATHY

Bob & Marie Herd lost their Ch. Bellesprit Licol Mon Bonheur (Licole) at the age of 5 years. She was Bob & Marie's first Briard which is always something special. She will be deeply missed by all.

We were also sorry to hear about the death of Am/Can. Ch. Underdog (Licole) at the age of 10. They miss him a great deal.

BRAG SECTION

Manny Littin received a letter from Kennel Review Magazine stating that Ch. Chateauabriard Jokerswild, C.D. (Jack) was top stud dog for 1980 and also tied for 1st place in the Working Group Top Sires. He has five champions out of one litter.

Linda Hysell also received a letter from Kennel Review stating that Ch. Lorraine de la Croix (Rainy) was tied for 3rd position in the bitch division for Briards and Place in the Top producing brood that Ch. Pa-Chick=s Ms-Be-Haven, C.D. (Jack) was top stud dog for 1980 and she was tied for 1st place in the Working Group Top Sires. He has 5 champions out of one litter.

Susan McCormick received a letter from Kennel Review stating that Ch. PamChick=s Ms-Be-Haven, Am/Can. C.D. was tied for 3rd place in the top producing brood that Ch. Underdog (Licole) at the age of 10. They miss him a great deal.

FAN MATCH NEWS

Jim Martinez, owner of Manny’s Robson Lennon was in a puppy match at the age of 5 months and took a Group 2.

Linda Hysell, owner of Manny’s Chucklin Rebel who is 6 months old has been to 2 matches. At 4 months he was Best Puppy in Match and at 5 months he took another Best Puppy in Match.

Manny Littin and Manny’s Roch & Roll took Group 3 at a survey match.

B.C.A. Eye Clinic is being planned in conjunction with the Great Lakes Briard Booster’s Fall Fun Fling. The date is Sunday, October 18 in the Monclova/Toledo, Ohio area.

Dr. Aguillie, who will have just returned from England, will be on hand to check your Briard’s eyes and bring you up to date on his research on this genetic disease.

To make the day complete, The Great Lakes Briard Boosters are planning an event for all to enjoy topped off by a pot luck dinner. ALL ARE INVITED and flyers will be sent out to everyone within a reasonable driving distance of Toledo. If you plan to be in the area and do not receive your notice of the event, please contact Sue McCormick, Diane McElroy, or Jean Heft for details.

This will be a perfect opportunity to bring your Briard’s eye exam up to date and enjoy a day of Briard fun.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has been sending in news of their Briards. Please don’t hesitate to include some of your favorite stories along with your show reports. We like to include them.

Susan McCormick
25743 Culver
St. Clair Shores, MI 48081

YOUR AD IN THE DEW CLAW REACHES THE ENTIRE BRIARD FANCY!

THE DEW CLAW SENT TO ALL JUDGES

Over the Specialty Weekend it came to our attention that many of you did not know our Dew Claw is sent to all the AKC judges of our breed and a number of them in other countries. Your news and advertising in The Dew Claw reaches them all, plus all BCA Members, hundreds of subscribers, a number of major libraries and the foreign clubs.

After reading of Alice Bixler’s experience at Walt Disney World, I thought I’d point out a similar Happening to me.

Like Alice, I had done to Florida with a contingent of Briards to visit my parents. I had taken Meriah (of course), Boone (Sirhan Campanonc), Rainy and Hobbie my two puppies. When I went to Disney World, I took Meriah and Boone alone to spend the day at the Disney Kennel and left the two pups to play with my Dad.

To get from the parking lot to the main entrance & kennels, you ride an open “bus” about a mile or so. Meriah thought this was great! Boone was another story! He hates moving vehicles unless he is securely tucked in his crate and will ride on the floor of my truck with his head pushed under the seat.

When I first got him at ten months of age, I discovered his aversion to riding 10 minutes into the trip home. We’d just gotten Boone along to spend the day at the Disney Kennel and left the two pups to play with my Dad.

At noon, during our tour of the Magic Kingdom I decided to stop for lunch. After picking up my tray and heading to the outside pavilion I again saw my French friends and lunched with them.

It was a comical conversation combining poor French and poor English. Between the five of us, we managed to understand each other (at least I think we did) and helped each other translate some idiomatic productions in the USA tour book they had purchased. It was a very pleasant meal and they related a few tales about the Briard they all knew well. His antenna sounded a bit familiar and I traded a few stories about my eight shaggies too.

In any event, it seems that Disney World has become a hang out for Briarders from both sides of the Atlantic.

Not to leave you with the impression that I left Meriah and Boone in the kennel, I returned expecting to find two loudly complaining dogs, but when I went to get them, I found them sleeping in their run and they only got up when I called their names. Anyone who knows Meriah may find that hard to believe, but it’s true - she really is mellowing in her middle age!

Takin’ the shuttle back to my truck was a bit difficult. At 8 a.m., we had a car all to ourselves, but going back, there was quite a crowd and four girls jumped into the back seat.

LIFE WITH BRIARDS - DISNEY WORLD

Barbara Lynch

After reading of Alice Bixler's experience at Walt Disney World, I thought I'd point out a similar Happening to me.

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(continued next page)
The Briard is above all a herding dog. He doesn’t owe his sheep dog name to chance, but rather was chosen, from the beginning, by shepherds and sheep raisers among the working dogs. Those who utilized him baptized him Berger de Brie, or Briard. The dogs of those times were slightly longer than those of today and were, all things considered, less handsome. Selective breeding has brought about an undeniable improvement in all respects.

Breeders have produced stock, which is continually better and more attractive, but they have perhaps also created bloodlines which, in certain cases, are too refined for herding dogs. They have, perhaps by wanting too much to be successful, created weak spots. Some have wanted to make the Briard more popular or to turn him into a painter’s model. These dogs have been pruned for show by persons of undoubted sincerity, but who know absolutely nothing about the work of the shepherd’s dog.

I intentionally say, shepherd’s dog because the term sheepdog doesn’t guarantee that the dog so named possesses the conformation and characteristics of the dog working with the flocks. We have seen dogs which don’t want to go out in the rain, or which go out of their way to avoid stepping in a tiny bit of water. These animals, fragile as non-working dogs, no longer have the characteristics of the dog which works with the sheep.

The Briard is, at first glance, notable for his harmonious construction. The different parts of the body, comparable to a building game in which the different parts fit into each other smoothly, present a solid and harmonious structure. The coat is very dry and rather long, and the construction one which permits a lively movement and suppleness, without showing any weakness or clumsiness.

The first standards were established in 1897 by a committee from the French Briard clubs. The members of the committee all raised dogs to work. (M. Montenot was a highly respected French Briard specialty judge, who wrote the article above in 1962.)

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The car we were in. Boone flopped around like a fish out of water, even though I had him on an inch of lead. He eventually hid his head behind the girl next to him. She did not move, but had a slightly shocked look on her face.

I politely explained that he was afraid of riding but that he would not hurt her. She seemed to uncomfortably accept it, but when she reached her stop, she turned to me before stepping off and said, “I really prefer cats!” I couldn’t help laughing, even though it clearly wasn’t meant as a joke.

The rest of our stay in Florida was uneventful if you don’t count falling off my Dad’s bike while teaching two pugs to bike in brace.

On the trip back north I spent a couple of nights with John & Toni Cookson who own Bistre’s Pied Piper. Toni and I went to the Old Dominion dog show and then visited with Karen Farkas and her Briard, who had a lovely litter of 4-week-old puppies.

When I returned to my husband and the rest of my menagerie I had had a fabulous, much needed vacation, but it was just great to be back home, surrounded by furry kisses from everyone, including my bearded spouse.

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THE CONFORMATION OF THE BRIARD

by Monsieur Robert Montenot

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COMBINED ISSUES OF THE DEW CLAW - By now, most of you realize that there was no June Dew Claw, again this year. Inflation takes its toll and the BCA Treasury low enough that the Club had to combine our June and August issues for the second year in a row! and this year, we also had to print it during September, instead of August.

It is hoped that this is a short-term problem which will be solved by the recent increase in dues, approved by vote of the membership, and the possible additional income from the Specialty. These additional funds should bring a substantial increase in the Club’s operating balance.

Subscribers will be sent an additional issue so they receive a full six issues for their subscription, of course.

VOLUNTARY ASSESSMENT - The Club has asked for a voluntary assessment of $5 from each member. Although some have sent this to the Treasurer, there are still a number of members who have not. If you have sent your assessment, Thank You - if you have not, please do so.

RESULTS OF BALLOTING - The dues increase and the change to a 10% quorum were approved. Of 394 ballots mailed, 222 were cast (2 of these were not valid).

Dues Increase: 204 or 92.7% approved the dues increase to $15 per individual and $25 per joint membership, 16 disapproved.

10% Quorum: 182 or 82.7% approved a reduction from 15% to a 10% quorum for meetings, 37 disapproved.

A.K.C. has now approved this amendment to our By-Laws.

1981 Elections: 239 ballots were cast

For President: 129, Ed Monrath
59, Dallas Meggitt
34, Sheri Daniel
4 abstained

For Vice-President: 179, Bob Beuter
93, Ruth Monast
10 abstained

For Secretary: 188, Diana McInerney
50, Marie Kokin
1 abstained

For Director, Class of ’83: 136, Greg Collins
108, Ron Schramm
107, Susan McCormick
102, Bob Gross
102, Jerry Katz
77, Pat Morale
53, Peggy Ravandal
32 abstained

ADDRESS AND NAME CHANGES

FAITH BIGRAS (formerly MeCeKhern) Box 229, R.R.9, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1G 3N5

SUSAN ERICKSON, Rt. 4, Box 209, Mankato, MN 56001

STAN & LYNN GUY, Box 357, Tulia, TX 79088

SHARON MADSON, 1819 Oregon St., Bakersfield, CA 93305

SUSAN TAGUE, 5310 Mission Woods Terr., Shawnee Mission, KA 66205
SECRETARY'S PAGE

WE WELCOME THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS

Donna Aleijo, 5137 Leland, Amarillo, TX 79110 - owner of Stonehill's I'm Maude

Dave & Jean Bushman, 26680 Knief Rd., Rock Falls, IL 61071 - owners of Manny's Rock Falls Rascal

John & Shirley Cassaubon, 6677 Hazeldell Dr., Toledo, OH 43612 - owners of Manny's Rippin' Pippin

Melissa Denman, 4725 Columbus Ave., Sherman Oaks, CA 91403 - owner of Odin de Bon Chance Renaissance & R. Ferrari Monet Renaissance

James & Jan Cullen, Box 158; Tusket, N.S. B0N 3M0 Canada - owners of Country Castle Athos Lafeete

Pat Dondalski, 2023 E. Grove; Arlington Heights, IL 60004 - owner of Stashu Pat's Protector

Craig & JoAnn Faucett, 2746 S. 45th St., Milwaukee, WI 53219 - owners of SugarCreek's Shadrach

William & Marlene Herd, 2261 Kinesford, Rochester, MI 48063 - owners of Troueaux Olga Nicole and Troueaux Proper Lady

Phillis Hubert, 2896 Valencia Rd., Palm Springs, CA 92262 - owner of Bonnie Chance Sue Sera Sera and Chateauobriard Rumors R.

Karen Lorenz, 6 Dusty Rhodes Ln., Columbia, MO 65201 - owner of Bonnie Chance Bruit Joyeux and Bruit Joyeux Fue de Jole

Louise Ottensman, 2936 Rosedale, Dallas, TX 75205 - owner of Hey You Buddy Boy

Bob & Marcia Pearson, RD 1; Fezell Rd, Freedom, PA 15042 - owners of Manny's Magnificent Ruby

Mary Jane & Randy Grandinetti Rader, 73 Penninaton Ave., Passaic, NJ 07055 - owners of Almier Raatime Annie and Almier Steppin' Out

Dennis & Denise Raszk, 1944 Richmond Rd., Toledo, OH 43607 - owners of Manny's Rasza Brandy

Homer & Jean Zuver, 155 Mud Hen Road, Crescent City, CA 95531 - owners of Snowcastle's Fleur de Djindjier

RENEWED MEMBERSHIPS

Adrienne Altman, 8972 Shoreham Dr., Los Angeles, CA 90069

Bob & Fran Taylor, 2612 Starkweather Rd., Rockford, IL 61107

Ellen Shea, Rt. 1, Eleva, WI 54738

Dale Swift; 1018 Fall River Ave, c/o Seekonk Auto Sales, Seekonk, MA 02771

KEEP IN TOUCH - Officers & Directors are listed on page 2 of every issue

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MORE STUDIES ON NUTRITION ARE NEEDED

While there is much information on how to feed healthy dogs, there is still very little about feeding sick dogs. There is evidence that over-nutrition is detrimental during infection, yet a high level of nutrition after infection will invariably speed convalescence. The proper balance must be found. Incidence of cancer and degenerative diseases in older dogs are being increasingly reported. The contributive effects of nutrition in these diseases must be studied. In fact, a comprehensive study of the effects of nutrition on the overall aging processes in dogs is vital, not only for the direct benefit of dogs, but for their masters as well.

STUD DOG COLUMN


LOOKING FOR PUPPIES?

California:

Jackie Drozinski, 236 Lorna Verde, Colton, CA 92324- (714/783-1985) tawnies whelped late July

Mary Lopez, 3352 Vincent Dr., Santa Clara, CA 95051 (408/554-8880) blacks whelped in July

Georgia:

Susan Mitchell, 3732 S. Whippoorwill St., Duluth, GA 30136 (404/476-2718) tawnies whelped in July

Illinois:

Dave Behrens, 1309 S. Hord, Lombard, IL 60148 (312/620-5036) tawnies/blacks expected in November

Maine:

Lynn Lowell, RFD 2 Box 221, E. Corinth, ME 04427 (207/285-7929) tawny males whelped late March

Michigan:

Susan McCormick, 25743 Culver, St. Clair Shores, MI 48041 black male whelped in August (313/772-3897)

Missouri:

Karen Lorenz, 6 Dusty Rhodes Ln., Columbia, MO 65201 (314/474-8165) tawnies whelped late May

Ohio:

Susan Smith, 2226 S. Linda Dr., Bellbrook, OH 45305 (513/848-4206) tawnies whelped early July

Texas:

Pat Morales, 502 Nottingham, Richardson, TX 75080 (214/690-8447) blacks whelped in early July

(39/38)