Published six times per year.

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

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219-627-3521

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313-772-3897

Contributions of appropriate articles, news and viewpoints are welcomed and will be published as space permits. We reserve the right to edit articles to conform to space limitations.

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608-846-4630
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212-224-5275

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HALF PAGE: $7.50 (plus $5 per photo)
"Looking for Puppies": no charge

SUBSCRIPTIONS: $9.00 per year (6 issues). Back issues, when available from the Editor, are $2.00 per copy.
Photos of New Champions and Obedience Degrees, show wins of winners or better from Major shows, printed without charge as space permits.

SUMMER REPORT 1983
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members,

Those of you who were at the Specialty were saved (due to a lack of quorum) from hearing a speech by me. I'd like to share some of the important thoughts with you now.

Since I've been President of BCA, a number of criticisms and complaints have been levied against the Club along with a litany of demands, wants and needs. Some of the complaints have been justified and contain good advice, and I realize that we (Officers and Board Members) always need to improve.

Many of the criticisms, however, fall into two other categories:

First, demands and expectations are levied for political reasons, with the intent of putting people in office on the defensive.

Secondly, and more pervasive, are demands and expectations emanating from the expectations in our society created by the business world. "I pay my money and I expect a good product or service in return."

But, the Briard Club of America is not a business. It has no employees; no profit motive. Sure, the Club needs money for survival. But, think for a moment what you get (as an expectation) for your dues. Except for an opportunity to meet others who share a love for our special breed — and to share knowledge and information — and to have a facility for the process of improving the Breed, you actually get nothing. You have an opportunity to give. You can give a lot. Giving is the motor which makes the BCA go. Volunteers. Helpers. Contributors.

Look back on our Specialties and Rassemblements. They've all been rare and meaningful experiences. Packed with memories.

And they happened because people gave and gave and gave; countless hours, energy, organization, and money.

I hope that when you think the Club is letting you down — or that you're not getting what you think you deserve — GIVE, volunteer, make suggestions; make the Club better.

At times it appears our Club has a way of eating its Officers, Directors, and Chairpeople — and it seems unfair that people have to take abuse for giving. So, I'd like to pay tribute to two people who took their share of the latter — but gave us more than any organization has a right to expect.

Diane McLeroth has recently retired as our Secretary. She has devoted her life to the Briard Club of America. She has not only worked full time for the Club and the Breed — she has given us overtime for ten years.

It would take pages to list her achievements — but most of us know our Club is bigger, better and healthier because of her. She has spoiled us, raised our expectations and given us more energy than we deserve. Diane is the ultimate giver, and I know her contributions to the Briard are far from over.

Pat Long is retiring as Treasurer. Over the years Pat has contributed immensely to the Breed — as a breeder and competitor. Beyond competition, though, Pat has a long record of giving help, advice and information to other Briarders.

Her work for the BCA has been less visible, but extremely important. She has kept our Club's financial house in meticulous order for the last six years.

Please join with me in thanking these two people for all they've given us and for the example they set — by giving rather than taking.

Bob Boelte
President

BCA SUMMER REPORT 1983
SECRETARY'S REPORT

WELCOME TO THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS

William & E.J. Bailey, Havertown, PA
Gerard & Martha Baudet, Providence, RI
Linda & James Biesecker, Bethlehem, PA
Judy Boff, Beavercreek, OH
William & Linda Braun, Burlington, CT
Jeanne Fillipak, Norristown, PA
Roy & Mary Lou Gardner, Fountain Valley, CA
Karen Hitt, Tuscaloosa, AL
Phillip & Nancy Horsewood, Millersville, MD
Paul Kerschner, Columbia, MD
John Lavire, Wallingford, MB
Susan Mack, Atlanta, GA
Tamar Martin, Canandaigua, NY
James & Carole Mazurek, Mt. Clemens, MI
Joyce C. Smith, Crofton, MD
Eloise Spiegel, Canandaigua, NY
Randy Van Syoc & Allen Ransome, Orinda, CA
Jan & Robert Wallace, Alexandria, VA
Beth Weissman, Monterey, CA
Donald & Linda Wilson, Troy, MI
Jeanne Zahniser, Severna Park, MD

Memberships Renewed

Jayne Phillips (previously Jayne Feller) Jekyll Island, GA
Barbara & Robert McCarthy, San Antonio, TX
Janice Millis, Crawfordsville, IN
Mary Jane & Randy Grandinetti-Rader, Passaic, NJ 07055
Carol & David Van Duzer, Washington, DC

REPORT OF THE B.C.A. ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting in Connecticut failed to draw a quorum. There being 411 members at the time, 41 members were required for the 10% quorum. Only 29 members signed in. President Bob Boelter waited for an hour and 5 minutes for the quorum and held an informal discussion after closing the meeting.

BOARD ACTION AT THE ANNUAL BOARD MEETING

The Board discussed and approved a new ruling, that the names of new members and reinstated members will not be sent out on the Club's breeder referral list for a period of one year from the date of membership or date of reinstatement of lapsed memberships. This ruling goes into effect on Jan. 1, 1984.

The Board discussed and approved a motion that a newspaper type publication be developed, to be sent to members only, for the purpose of keeping the membership better informed on club business. The newspaper would be sent every other month, alternating with The Dew Claw. It not only will provide much more detail on club business, which is not possible in The Dew Claw, it will increase communication within the Club.

The Board voted to develop a budgetary process for B.C.A.

Board Action, continued

It was voted that the Novelty Shop Chairman be bonded.
It was voted to raise the charge for Dew Claw advertising to $30 per page including one photo ($15 per half-page, including one photo) effective Jan. 1, 1984.

The Board made the following appointments:

June Shew, AKC Delegate
David Behrens, Statistician
Linda Wells, Education
Gloria Merder, Brochures
Sue Gresco, AL Novelty Shop
Heather Schrott, Aid & Rescue
Diane McLeroth, Historian
Dan Tolerton, Obedience
Mercer Field, Medical
Barbara Lynch, Herding

A more detailed report of Board voting and discussion will be published in the new, BCA newspaper.

REPORT ON CLUB VOTING

RESULTS OF VOTING ON A PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE B.C.A. BY-LAWS. The amendment was not approved.
223 returns were received
173 voters opposed the proposed amendment
48 voters approved the proposed amendment
2 returns were invalid
(1 return unidentified with voter's name)
(1 return did not carry a ballot)

RESULTS OF ELECTION BALLOTING:

270 ballots were received

FOR VICE-PRESIDENT
170 votes - KEN BEHRENDT
94 votes - Ron Schramm
6 abstained

FOR SECRETARY
176 votes - MARY ANN BLOOM
90 votes - Meg Weitz
4 abstained

FOR TREASURER
171 votes - BOB GROSS
94 votes - Mike Greenberg
15 abstained

FOR DIRECTORS - Class of 1985 (3 elected)
200 votes - DIANE McLEROTH
160 votes - PAT MORALE
159 votes - DOREEN WYLIE
135 votes - Dave Behrens
112 votes - Manny Littin
49 votes abstained
3 invalid write-in votes

One ballot, sent by registered mail, was returned by the Post Office before the Notary Public picked up the ballots. Registered and certified letters are only held at the Post Office for a limited time, after which they must be returned.

SUMMER REPORT 1983
NOTES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

THANKS TO RICH AND GLORIA MERDER - who made and donated all the walnut plaques for the B.C.A. awards again this year.

PAT LONG AND DIANE McLEROOTH WOULD LIKE TO THANK each and every one of you who shared in giving them each the beautiful, sculptured pendant of a Briard head and the framed certificate. The gifts are unique and treasured, as are the many friends who presented them upon Pat's and Diane's retirement from office.

WHAT IS YOUR KENNEL NAME? If you have selected a kennel name and are not sure B.C.A. has a record of it, please notify Diane McLeroth as to what it is. We hope to publish a list of Briard kennel names in the near future and we would like to include yours on the list.

CANCER, BLOAT, AND OTHER CAUSES OF DEATH OF BRIARDS will be the subject of a study initiated by Andrea Fochio, DVM. We are proud of Andi, who has been a BCA member for the past 8 years and has now achieved her DVM!

A NEW BCA MEMBERSHIP LIST will be issued in the near future, possibly in the new club newspaper.

NEW CLINIC OPENS - A clinic for the diagnosis and study of inherited eye diseases opens on Nov. 1, 1983 at the School of Veterinary Medicine, Univ. of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia. The clinic is headed by Dr. Gustavo D. Aguirre and is totally devoted to inherited eye diseases in dogs, cats, horses and other species.

Dr. Aguirre reports, "We provide various levels of examinations, ranging from ophthalmological exam to electroretinogram. We can do pedigree analysis, laboratory studies for detailed examination of cells of the eye, and tissue cultures, as well as electron microscopy." This new clinic will be of great help to veterinarians and breeders. It will be open on Tuesdays; appointments can be made by calling (215) 898-4680.

"BRIARD MUSTARD"?? Carol Ann Guidi has sent a copy of the label from a jar of French mustard. It states that the ancient religious order of Meaux transmitted the secret recipe of their specialty, Moutarde des Chanoines, to the Pommery family in 1760. This mustard has been served at the tables of the kings of France since 1632. - and on the label are the words, "Les Assaisonnements Briards". Can anyone tell us why?

Don't let time run out on you!

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO SEND IN A CHRISTMAS AD FOR THE DEW CLAW BUT DON'T DELAY!

FULL PAGE: $15.00
HALF PAGE: $7.50
ONE-THIRD PAGE: $5.00
plus $5 per photo

DEADLINE: DEC. 7, 1983

Plan your ad as you want it to appear and send it to Diane McLeroth.

Photos can be reduced or enlarged to fit. (Do NOT glue to your copy - just indicate where you would like the photo to be.

Use ONLY black or red ink if you are making up your own copy.

A simple greeting - or an ad with photos will bring your good wishes to Briarders, judges, and all who enjoy Briards.

The Dew Claw reaches 700 addresses so a Christmas ad is a true bargain!

Send your Greeting, artwork, and photos so they can be included.

Make checks payable to the Briard Club, plan out your Greeting - and SEND IT TODAY!

Send Greeting Ads to:
Diane McLeroth
P.O. Box 15587, Ft. Wayne, IN 46885
TREASURER’S REPORT

May 1, 1983 through June 30, 1983
(to the end of the Club’s fiscal year)

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<th>EXPENSES</th>
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<tr>
<td>Dew Claw Subscriptions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dew Claw ads</td>
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Opening balance
Income
Expenses
New balance

(See Annual Report, next page)

July 1, 1983 through Aug. 31, 1983

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</table>

Opening balance
Income
Expenses
New balance

Patricia Long, Treasurer

Annual Treasurer's Report
Fiscal Year of 7/1/82 through 6/30/83

INCOME
Dues $5,809.00
Dew Claw Subscriptions 551.00
Dew Claw ads 291.00
" ad overpaid 81.00
Novelty Shop 700.00
" " ad overpaid 1,124.08
" " postage 44.35
Calendar 17.61
" " printing 709.02
Brochures 29.00
" Club insurance 135.00
Rescue fund 100.00
" ADOA dues 25.00
Eye study 50.00
" AKC dues 25.00
Bank interest 158.55
" " Dog World Ad 168.00
" Rit. Spec/Rass 8,239.63
" '83 Spec. donat. 19.35

Opening balance $5,864.43
Income 15,975.14
expenses 2,365.28
New balance $3,666.24
Operating fund $2,319.55
Medical fund 48.30
Rescue fund 447.08
Charity fund 851.31
Total $3,666.24

Patricia Long, Treasurer

SUMMER REPORT 1983
VIN-MARQUE DE GRAND COEUR
December 9, 1972 - July, 1983

Owned by Lee & Bob Longfield
Bred by Barb McQuillan

These beloved and very special Briards are deeply missed.

CH. IAIME WIDGETTE DE LINDEAU
January 11, 1973 - September 19, 1983

Owned, bred and loved by
Linda Wells, Dr. & Mrs. F.V.C. Wells, & Rob Ferber
NEWS & VIEWS

The Specialty is over for another year and was a great success. Although the final financial report is not yet in, the weekend was so successful the income will put BCA back into good working order. If you had to miss the Specialty, watch the report in the next Dew Claw.

Congratulations to the Specialty Committee on a job well done. Although there was a deluge from mother nature on Sunday, everyone dug in and did a great job.

We all made the long trek home and have recovered. When I reached home late Monday night, I swore I wouldn't enter another show for at least a month! I had a bad case of dog show lag. On Tuesday, the mailman arrived - and low and behold, I discovered I had entered Meggie in three Canadian dog shows on the upcoming weekend?! I now firmly believe dog show people are crazy!

A new BCA publication is planned which promises to help build better communication within the Club. This will be a club newspaper to be published between issues of the Dew Claw to provide members with more information on club work. It will also provide a place for discussion of opinions and ideas. At first the newspaper will be published on a test basis and if it is well received, will become a regular service of BCA.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW CHAMPIONS

CH. SUZETTE TOUCHE MON AMI

Touche, owned by Chris Legowski & Sue Gresko, finished his championship on July 23rd at the Medina K.C. show under Mr. Slay. His sire is Ch. Pa'Chick's Limited Edition and his dam is Ch. Troupeau Pretzelle Orielle.

CH. DROMORE'S POPPY COCK, AM/CAN C.D.

Poppy, owned by Kam Pelham and handled by Sue McCormick, finished her championship on July 24 at Sugarbush K.C. under Dr. La Ham. Her sire is Am/Can Ch. Sirhan Drover and her dam is Ch. Pa'Chick's Ms-Be-Haven, Am/Can. CD.

CH. STASHU PAT'S PROTECTOR

Stashu, owned and handled by Pat Dondalski, finished his championship at the Berrien Springs K.C. show on June 26 under Mrs. Fisher. His sire is Ch. Nestor de l'Eminence and his dam is Ch. Tigresse de Patriche.

CH. BON AMI OLIVIA NEWTON-JOHN, CD

Ardeche, owned by David & Carol Van Duzer and Faye Sloan, finished her championship at York K.C. on July 24 under Mr. Gately by going BW. She was handled by David and was bred by Faye. She is sired by Ch. Eagle of Alpen and her dam is Ch. Bellesprite Lucretia.

CH. BIGTREE TAPESTRY

Oscar finished his championship at Genesee Valley K.C. on July 9 under Mr. Woolf. He is owned by Barbara Lynch and Eloise Spiegel and was bred by Barbara. His sire is Ch. Nestor de l'Eminence and his dam is Bigtree Phaedra. This young fellow received several breed wins on the way to his championship, as well as being considered in Group.

CH. QUE SERA SERA DU LE LOUP D'OR, AM/CAN CD

Sera, owned by Theresa Lee & Ginni Schaefer, and trained by Theresa, finished her championship, her American and Canadian CD this year. She finished her championship on July 30; her American CD on March 13; and her Canadian CD on September 5. Her sire is Am/Can Ch. Phydeaux Windfall, CD and her dam is Ch. Era le d'Or de Beauxjolais, UD.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW OBEDIENCE TITLE HOLDERS

SUZETTE'S TOUFFE ROSE RUBAN, CD

Ruby, owned by Mark & Ann Hawley and bred by Sue Gresko, finished her CD at Stone City KC on June 5 under Mr. Charles Gear at ten months of age. Her sire is Ch. Pa'Chick's Limited Edition and her dam is Ch. Troupeaux Pretzelle Orielle.

AIGNER SNEAK PREVIEW, CD

This young dog owned by Dave Calvert, received his CD title recently. His sire is Ch. Phydeaux What's Happenin' out of Ch. Phydeaux Linda Lovelace. He was bred by Regina Keiter.

CH. KALIE TOO DE PAOLETTE, CDX, AD

Kalie, owned and trained by Ted Krystosek, finished her CDX on June 5 at Stone City by taking 4th place. On June 4th, she qualified for her 2nd leg at Fox River Valley taking 2nd place. She took 5th place when she earned her first leg.

CH. BRIE-ZEE PRINCESS TRIBBLE, AM/CAN UDT

Julie Treinis and her Tribble have been busy this past spring and summer, qualifying for Tribble's Canadian and American U.D. On May 7 she qualified for her 2nd leg with 183 and Fourth Place at St. John Obed, Club; and she also qualified for her 3rd leg with 191 and Fourth Place that same day. On May 8 she earned a bumper leg with 185 and another Fourth Place.

In Open B, at Ladies D.C. on June 4, she took Third Place with a 194½ and on June 19 at Concord DTC she qualified with a score of 190½.

On July 8 at Kenilworth KC, she finished her Am. UD with a First Place in her class, scoring 187.

At Greater Lowell K.C. on Aug. 21, she took Second in Open B with a score of 196½. Newton KC on Aug. 27 brought a Fourth Place in Open B with a score of 191½.

At the BCA Specialty, Tribble took First Place in Utility with a score of 190.

DELANEY SYSTEM BRIAIRS for 1982

1. Ch. Perrier d'Occasion TDX (101 pts.) - D. Behrens
2. Ch. Brie-Zee Princess Tribble, CDXTD (13 pts.) - P. Morale
3. Ch. Brie-Zee Princess Tribble, CDXTD (13 pts.) - J. Treinis
4. Ch. Kali-too De Paollette, CDX, AD
5. Ch. Brie-Zee Princess Tribble, CDXTD (13 pts.) - J. Treinis
6. Ch. Kali-too De Paollette, CDX, AD
7. Engle's Black Turk (15 pts.) - C. Dvorsky
8. La Tres Belle Chien Brianna (5 pts) - D. & G. Gilmore
9. Engle's Black Turk (15 pts.) - C. Dvorsky
10. Ch. Manny's Magnificent Ruby (5 pts) - M. Pearson
NEW BREED RECORD - Dansr Taliesin (Tall) placed in Group the day before she turned 7 months old. It was her first point show and the Group judge was Mr. Louis Harris. Tall is owned by Ron & Sheri Daniel, bred by Ron, Sheri and Mary Lou Tingley, and handled by Ron.

DEW CLAW ADVERTISING RATES INCREASE AS OF JANUARY 1, 1984

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MATCH NEWS

Dromore's Up 'N Adam owned by Sue McCormick & Jane Gritter, took a Puppy Herding Group 1 on 8/14 under j. Judy Ziozios at the WGPS Club Match. Adam is handled by Jane.

TEXAS NEWS

Barbara McCarthy reports that Texas had 5 majors over two weekends!

The first two, Aug. 6 and 7, were in Corpus Christi where the auditorium was cool but the parking lot was hot. It was literally melting!

The next three, Aug. 12, 13, & 14, were held in the Astrohall in Houston - a very grand affair, indeed. For Group and Best in Show judging the women were in evening dresses and the men were in tuxedos. There was an entry of about 3,500 dogs. Everything was well organized. The grooming area was so large, they turned it into "townships", with the "towns" and "streets" named after the different kennel clubs in Texas. Briarders moved into "Faith City", which seemed appropriate. Exhibitors around them had settled quickly into the "towns". Some had brought makeshift beds, food, and there was the homey smell of perking coffee in the early morning.

The rings were large with good footing and the Astrohall is so big itself they literally walked for miles. Briarders had a great time and each had won something to make the events even more special:

"Twister" (Phydeaux Twist and Shout) owned by Don Allano took 3 points and BW at Corpus Christi under J. J. D. Jones. He then took 2 pts. at Baytown under Mr. Mueller and 2 more pts. at San Jacinto under Mr. Hartinger. At Houston, Mr. Ayers gave him his second 3 pts. major.

"Charlie" (Beardsanbrown's Uptown Charlie) owned by Bob McCarthy, took a 3 pt. major and B.W. under J. Mr. Booxbaum at Palm Valley.

"Kelly" (Ch. Richlen's Sweet Carolina) owned by Kim McNaney took 3 pts. & BOS at Palm Valley under Mr. Booxbaum; 3 pts. at Corpus Christi; and 3 pts and BOS under Mr. Jones. She then took 3 pts. under Mr. Mueller at Baytown and 4 pts. & BOB at San Jacinto under Mr. Hartinger. She topped it off with a BOB at Houston.

"Touche" (Richlen Woodbine Touché) owned by Judy Odom took a 3 pt. major and BW at Houston under Mr. Ayers.

"Barbou" (Ch. Phydeaux Luvem N' Leaveem, CD) owned by Judy Odom took BOB at Palm Valley, Corpus Christi, Baytown; and BOS at San Jacinto and Houston.

Sue McCormick, News Editor

CHRISTMAS GREETING ADS

MUST BE RECEIVED BY DECEMBER 7.
SEND YOURS TO DIANE McLEROOTH TODAY.

What will we do now -- you tell me --
The hour glass is all out of sand,
How could this love slip through our fingers
An leave nothing but time on our hands,
And how will we live now -- you tell me --
With parts of our hearts torn away
Just existing makes dyin' look easy
But maybe tomorrow --
Done enough dyin' today.

And how will I sleep now -- you tell me --
With only my arm by my side
Perhaps I'll learn sleeping all over
Just maybe without dreaming this time
And who'll make us laugh now -- you tell me
Since our clown has been called on his way
Don't think we'll cry -- just die laughing
Maybe tomorrow --
Done enough dyin' today.

And how will we live now -- you tell me --
With parts of our hearts torn away
Just existing makes dyin' look easy
Maybe tomorrow --
Done enough dyin' today.

Am./Ber. Ch. Chateaubriard L'Oreal Un

BANDIT
(Stealer of Hearts)

June 15, 1975 - August 30, 1983

SUMMER REPORT 1983
FOR SALE

CH. PRIX WEASELLE D'OCCASION UTILITY DOG

Sired by Ch. Chateaubriard Vermouth C.D.
Out of
Am/Can Ch Beardsanbrows N'est Pas,
Am/Can UDT

Tawny male, whelped 10/2/79 - 27" at withers
OFA good, eyes clear, proven sire
Rated EXCELLENT at 1982 Rassemblement
Only Briard in recent history to win the
Dog World Award for obedience
#1 obedience Briard in U.S.
1982 Shuman System

Trustworthy with children, gentle with all animals and dogs, dependable watchdog, excellent house manners, or content in a kennel, great potential as a special.
See photo in Winter 1981 LeMagazine

For pedigree & pictures contact:
Amy Zaretzke
3000 Mayfield Road
Jackson, WI 53037
(414) 677-53037

Buy him now and you won't have to compete against him next year!
- AN INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE -

IN

BCA 1st NATIONAL QUILT

TO BE RAFFLED AT THE 84 SPECIALITY

MAY BE DONE IN ANY MEDIUM, 12" X 12"

EARTH TONE COLOR THEME

MAILED BY 4/1/84

TO

PAT MORALE

502 NOTTINGHAM

RICHARDSON, TEXAS 75080

214 690-8447

---

DO I REALLY HAVE A SHOW DOG?

John M. Cramer

A young student brings home his first report card from the new school. Dad rips open the envelope, looks at the card, and immediately lets out a loud yelp. "What the #*%@?!" he screams. Mother looks up. "Not in front of the children, dear, please. What's the matter?"

Quite a lot is the matter. The school report merely states that following the end-of-term exams, this lad has finished in fourth place among the seventeen boys in his class. Dad is justifiably mystified. There is no mention of the grades of the three boys who finished ahead of his son, or of any of the unplaced thirteen. There is no information concerning the grades for the individual subjects in the exam, or of the marks for the girls in the same class. Simply fourth among the boys. There is not the slightest indication whether the boy was narrowly out-pointed in an above-average collection of near-geniuses, or if he was only saved from the stigma of being dubbed a semi-literate by the fortuitous presence of thirteen dullards of greater stupidity.

Our enraged father turns a purpling face to heaven and wildly waves his arms. He shouts his intentions of seeking out and challenging the School Board, the PTA, his alderman and the editor of the local newspaper. He growls darkly of an ominous confrontation with the school principal. The impression is given that in an earlier era, Dad would have mentioned horse-whipping.

Fantastic? Of course it is. A possibility? By no means; pure make-believe. Any educational system that gave out such meager information to those whose funds support it, would quickly founder on the rocks of public indignation - probably with all hands. But, however far-fetched this little anecdote may seem to be, let us not forget that this is basically how the opinions of a conformation judge at a dog show are communicated to the exhibitor. Rather than grading or rating dogs, we tend to compare them. While scholastic competition is based on knowledge and performance and that of animals on anatomical and temperamental values, a comparison between the two is not without a certain validity.

FLUCTUATING VALUES

First, Second, Third and Fourth placements merely indicate the comparative merits, according to the judge of the day, of the exhibits within a given class. They give little information of the actual quality of the dog in question, for the simple reason that the award has wildly fluctuating values. The significance of a blue ribbon, a winners award or even a Best of Breed rosette, on one day in one area, often bears not the slightest comparison to a similar award on a different day in another part of the country.

A further complication is inserted into the situation when we note that even at similar shows within the same area, within a short period of time, the competition may vary.
Do I really Have a Show Dog?

greatly, due to the attraction of other events on the same weekend. The result is that the plaintive cry, "Is my dog show quality?" and the more frequent, "Do you think that I can finish him?" is being increasingly heard; questions that are just as valid as the exasperated parental query, "Can my kid make it through college?"

There is always the possibility that a comprehensive evaluation of the dog may be obtained from the judge. Unfortunately, circumstances often render this difficult to bring about. The judge is reluctant to delay the incoming breed in order to give a run-down on a recently-judged dog. He is not too happy to give up five or ten minutes of his half-hour lunch period, after judging non-stop for four hours, in what may well have been demanding conditions; and if the seeker after knowledge thoughtfully delays his questions until the judge has finished his stint in the afternoon, he may well find that the man behind the carnation has only a very hazy recollection of the dogs he saw three or four hours previously.

Quite apart from these obstacles to fact-finding, there are those judges, who for one reason or another, do not communicate readily. We have - thank Heaven! - made substantial progress in the public relations department, since the early fifties, when some of our more autocratic judges were disposed to loftily dismiss inquiries with the infuriating comment, "You'll have fun with that dog!"; and the slightly less frustrating, "He's not my type."; but with all the best intentions in the world, some of our judges do not seem to have the knack of bringing enlightenment to the puzzled owner.

THE INVISIBLE IDEAL

At a dog show we are, in theory, judging each individual dog against an invisible ideal, as described in standards of perfection, which vary from the meticulously descriptive to the vague. To a certain extent this technique is followed, but in many cases it receives mere lip service. In many more instances the stratagem appears to be more a secondary aid to the end, that is the end itself. It is very tempting for a judge to select his best four by the "mental image" method and then to make his final placings by "simple comparison" techniques.

When more than one dog is being scrutinised at the same time, which is usually the case during the final and crucial selection process, a comparison being made between the animals on view, rather than between each individual dog and an invisible ideal, is difficult to dispel. The question, "Why did you prefer the other dog to mine?" is heard much more frequently than, "How does my dog stack up against the Standard?"

But, at least in the classes, there is some indication of the placing of one exhibit over another. When we come to the seeded, "Best of Breed only" dogs (which we old timers still refer to as "Specials") we find a confusing and diverse group which may, and frequently does, range from breed specimens worthy of Hall of Fame admittance, to journeyman performers, which have laboriously plodded from show to show for many a

moon in the hopeful search for weak competition and apathetic judges, en route to their titles. If we graded our champions from one to ten, we would come up with a polyglot collection in every digital bracket; and in this class, the ultimate in the concealment of a rating is reached. Whatever the entry, only one exhibit of each sex is placed - and sometimes only one, or even none, are considered worthy of an award.

CONFUSING STATISTICS

An American or Canadian champion may be compared to the Victoria Cross, the Congressional Medal, or the Legion d'Honneur; it can also be the Good Housekeeping Seal of Approval. We do not have a system of awards that is an accurate indication of the true quality of a dog. This is rather regrettable, considering that all over North America, there is an abundance of dog-owners who have made great financial and emotional investments in the world of dogs.

They could, of course, frantically study the dozens of ratings systems and discover that their current pride-and-joy was the third cousin, twice removed, of that month's holder of the number-nine spot in his breed. This might, or might not, indicate that the distinguished and highly-publicised kinsman, had taken on the victors of classic shows and emerged triumphant. It might, or might not, mean that the distant relative had been ruthlessly campaigned from mini-show to mini-show, having been driven long hours to chalk up victories over predictably push-over opposition in rural parks under favorable judges.

The fact that one system's number nine spot might well be another's number two, and a third's number twenty, doesn't help a great deal. It may be due to an increasing cynicism regarding ratings systems, and Disraeli's famous comments on statistics, are being increasingly re-printed in dog magazines. ["There are three kinds of lies: Lies; Damned lies; and Statistics." Benjamin Disraeli.] Another such quotation, which comes to mind, is that some people use statistics as a drunken man uses a lamp-post - for support, rather than illumination.

ABUSED OPINIONS

It is extremely unlikely that in the foreseeable future a class will be judged with one dog coming into the ring at a time, and after examination, leaving with a rating to stand on the dog's record until the next show, or until the dog moves into the next age group, which would be graduated, for instance, into three-month periods. Apart from giving the owner a clearer picture of his dog's quality, there would be two distinct advantages to such a method of adjudication. The bane of all exhibitors - the broken major - would be eliminated; and a group of people to whom I have long felt sympathetic, would benefit. These are the owners of quality specimens of rare breeds, who all too often are faced with unpalatable choices under the present system.

In their quest for major points, or indeed, any at all, they can either hope that fortune will smile upon them at the one or two large events at which sufficient opposition might
DO I REALLY HAVE A SHOW DOG?
(or might not) be found; or at their breed's national specialty, if one is held. These slim chances may be encountered only three or four times a year, and might prove to be very costly. They may resort to the "manufactured" major, if a sufficient number of the breed can be rounded up with the cooperation of friendly fellow-fanciers and perhaps puppy customers. Finally, they may throw themselves on the tender mercies of those group judges, who are either knowledgeable or adventurous, or both. For the rare breeds, this last method has not been found to be particularly dependable. Under a system of ratings, the Sussex Spaniel with, for example, a grade of 9.7 would be equal in every respect to the Doberman Pinscher with a like mark.

It may be truthfully argued, that any competition that is decided by a human being's opinion, is open to abuse. An essay, painting, or music contest is decided by what sports commentators refer to as a "judgement call". In the evaluation of animal exhibits, there are no physical targets; no goal-posts, goal lines, bases to be touched, or finishing tapes with electronic monitors and timers. In all such "deciding-opinion" contests, there is obviously a possibility of abuse. There must also be an element of trust.

PRACTICAL VIRTUES

The current method of evaluating and reporting the quality of show dogs, with all it's shortcomings, has been quite successful, if we observe the development of many breeds. It has come up with many of the right answers, but perhaps it's greatest virtue is a practicality. The best argument for the present system is that it is the only method by which large numbers of animals may be judged in a short time. Any individual inspection would take considerably longer than the traditional 25 dogs per hour, severely reducing the number of dogs which could be accommodated at a one or two-day show. The obvious result would be either financial disaster for the show-giving club, or a massive increase in entry fees (not to mention a complete revolution in the secretarial work of reporting the show and checking the awards).

We must, therefore, regard the grading of conformation dogs in a traditional manner to the grading of their obedience brothers' performances; as being speculation, interesting, perhaps, but still very much speculation. But, while we may never see the method of rating used to determine the winners of shows, there is a means of helping to satisfy the persistent curiosity of those who would learn more about their dog's quality.

In 1974, the Briard Club of America staged an American version of an event which has been popular in Europe. It is the "rassemblement" (or "gathering") and is based on the similar events sponsored by the B.C.A.'s French counter-part in the breed's homeland. For the convenience of North American fanciers, the ['74] event was held in two, widely separated parts of the U.S.

Each dog is evaluated singly, by a noted authority on the Breed. (I believe that in France, three such adjudicators are used). The dog is examined on the leash and then allowed to run free within the ring, so that a perfectly natural gait may be observed. Photos are taken, parts of the body, such as the skull, the muzzle, the hocks, and the back, carefully measured. All data was recorded on an official, rassemblement report form, together with grades for individual sections of the animal. This completed report form, is given to the owner at the conclusion of the testing. It is interesting to note that dogs, not of show quality, were welcomed in order that a comprehensive evaluation of a given breeding program could be arrived at.

The report on this event states that the examination of each dog was accomplished in the surprisingly short time of ten minutes. Even so, this further demonstrates that a similar method would be quite unsuitable for the competitive, conformation ring.

The rassemblement participant is not given a [placement] as such, and there is no question of a dog competing with another - merely with the Standard. However, with each section of the dog [and the dog as a whole] being rated as "excellent", "very good", "good", or "fair", an idea of comparative quality could be arrived at, if this were wanted.

The Briard Club of America has since held another successful rassemblement, and I am informed that a third such event is planned for 1982 - an event which I hope to attend. While such events may never replace the conventional conformation class and would, of course, have no official connection with the established show scene, they could be intriguing additions to the calendar of events for imaginative clubs. And - who knows? - with the traditional North American knack of improving the other fellow's idea, we might even see a rassemblement combined with an appropriate working trial.

As many of you know, Mr. Cramer was able to attend our 1982 Rassemblement, and provided us with his delightful review of the event.

This article originally appeared in the December, 1981 issue of The Dog Fancier, P.O. Box 160, Williamstown, Ontario K0C 2J0.

SUMMER REPORT 1983
BRIARD HEALTH AND WELFARE

CANCER STUDY

Cancer in pets is the focus of an unusual anti-cancer program at Purdue University. It is not unusual to use animals to study human cancers, but the goal of the Purdue study is the welfare of the animals themselves.

Over 100 Indiana veterinarians are cooperating in the program, providing referrals, biopsies and follow-up data for an animal tumor registry, making this the only project of its scope in the country, and a clinical program in oncology (the study of tumors).

Dr. Ralph Richardson of Purdue's School of Veterinary Medicine reports that they are elated over what has been happening since the program's inception three years ago. The input to date has not only made it possible to develop a comprehensive tumor-treatment program for pet animals, but has also provided a solid base of data for an animal tumor registry. There are also potential benefits for human cancer.

The project is comprised of three elements: the tumor registry; treatment, primarily for dogs and cats with tumors; and cancer research.

Veterinarians taking part in the project keep records on their tumor patients and provide diagnosis and follow-up care. In return Purdue provides diagnostic services, continuing education relating to cancer, and treatment materials. The Purdue team also keeps track of each case after treatment, writing owners periodically to request information on the pet's condition.

As a result, a good picture is coming into focus on the types of cancer most common in pets. Dr. Richardson points out that there is evidence that the causes of naturally occurring tumors are similar in man and animals. Because of the shorter life-span in animals, cancer caused by environmental factors would appear sooner than in man and could represent early warning of certain environmental problems.

BLOAT

The A.K.C. Gazette reports on a talk by Wayne Wingfield, DVM, MS, in the June 1983 issue. Dr. Wingfield is Professor of Medicine and Chief of Intensive Care at Colorado State Univ. Veterinary Teaching Hospital. The talk on bloat (gastric dilatation and volvulus or GDV) revealed the latest research being done on this baffling disease.

Dr. Wingfield reported that large breeds have the greatest incidence of GDV. Of course, GVD is known to be a major killer of Briards and every Briarder should be alert for the symptoms.

Results of a patient questionnaire were discussed by Dr. Wingfield. These indicate that patients which are hyperactive or under some type of stress (e.g. noise, estrus, training, being away from home) are most likely to bloat.

There also seems to be seasonal predilection, with November the worst month and April next on the list. This may coincide with seasonal estrus.

Among the other findings discussed by Dr. Wingfield:
1) Dogs who bloat vomit frequently with increasing frequency;
2) The majority of victims are middle-aged, or older, house dogs;
3) Diet and feeding management does not appear to be a factor in the predisposition to bloat;
4) Bacteria is not a primary cause, although bacteria may be seen as secondary invaders;
5) Normal dogs and GDV dogs have the same somach bacteria;
6) GDV dogs experience aerophagia, an abnormal swallowing of air.

With regard to diagnosis of bloat, Dr. Wingfield said that the ability to pass a stomach tube does not mean that the stomach isn't rotated. To accurately determine whether any twisting has occurred, the dog must be radiographed - and even that does not pick up every case. The best way to determine volvulus is with a barium x-ray.

Remember that dilation without volvulus is unusual. The stomach tube can decompress the stomach, but should not be used as a diagnostic tool. Caution when using the tube is essential: Spontaneous rupture of the stomach is rare, but puncturing the stomach with the tube is not as rare.

Medical management of bloat from the onset is of major importance. Dr. Wingfield recommended that veterinarians not do surgery acutely. He said a veterinarian can wait 24-28 hours before surgically repairing a stomach after decompression. He reported that mortality is higher when surgery is done within 24 hours, because the dog is more likely to go into shock from the anesthesia. He also advised against letting the stomach reposition itself, because it usually will redilate and rerotate.

Perhaps the most critical concern when the dog is brought in for treatment is decompression and treatment for shock. If resistance is encountered when attempting to pass a tube, stand the dog with rear feet on the floor and front feet on the table. Tranquilization is usually not necessary.

Lavage of the stomach is important. Pass warm water down the tube until a clear solution is obtained, which may take as long as half an hour. Do not use bicarbonate, as the blood gases are usually normal. Treat for shock at the same time. Other decompression measures that can be used are pharyngostomy or gastrostomy.

Dr. Wingfield also described a new procedure for surgically repositioning the stomach, circumcostal gastropexy; and also described new theories about bloat being studied at Colorado State, which may be published later this year.

Finally, with regard to post-operative care, Dr. Wingfield recommended frequent, small feedings, avoiding excitement and use of low-volume, concentrated, moistened food.

OFA UPDATE

Dr. E.A. Corley has released figures about hip dysplasia in Briards, as part of a statistical analysis of all breeds. When completed full information will be published in the Veterinary Journal.
Briard Health and Welfare...

Dr. Corley's tables are data through 12/31/82. Remember that the percent of dysplastic dogs is a conservative figure since OFA does not receive many films on obviously dysplastic dogs. Therefore the true incidence of dysplasia in any breed is unknown and the OFA figures represent the minimum percent. 

The 1982 data on Briards is as follows:
33 evaluated - 6% Exc. - 69.6% Good - 9% Fair - 0% Borderline
- 6% Mild - 3% Moderate - 6% Severe

The frequency of hip dysplasia in Briards drawn on data after more than 100 of the breed had been evaluated (1974 - 1982) indicates:
21.0% of the 180 Briards evaluated were dysplastic.
or
9.4% had Excellent hips
53.3% had Good hips
15.5% had Fair hips
0.5% had Borderline hips
9.4% had Mild dysplasia
6.1% had Moderate dysplasia
5.5% had Severe dysplasia

Only 9.6% of the Briards registered from 1972 through 1980 were x-rayed for evaluation by OFA.

A number of members have requested that we again publish the complete list of OFA certified Briards. This will be done in the near future.

***************
B.C.A. DUES ARE DUE ON JANUARY 1, 1984
***************

B.C.A. DUDE ARE DUE ON JANUARY 1, 1984
ITS ALL IN THE FAMILY
IN TEXAS

KELLI now CHAMPION RICHELEN'S SWEET CAROLINA took in six straight shows:

GROUP III Judge, Mrs. Wittrig
3 points & B.O.S. Judge, Donald Booxbaum
3 points & B.O.S. Judge, J.D. Jones
3 points & B.W. Judge, Kurt Mueller, Sr.
4 points & B.O.B. Judge, Roger Hartinger
B.O.B. Judge Roy Ayers, Sr.

CHARLIE BEARDSANBROW'S UPTOWN CHARLIE took 3 points and B.W. at his first point show, under judge, Donald Booxbaum at just 6 months and 10 days old.

KIM and her father "KELLI"

BOB with "CHARLIE"

Bob and Barbara McCarthy
7855 Wild Eagle
San Antonio, Texas 78255
NEW CANADIAN O.T. CHAMPION & AMERICAN U.D.

AM. CH./CAN. O.T. CH. BRIE-ZEE PRINCESS TRIBBLE,
AM/CAN. U.D.T.

Owner: Julie Treinis
Breeder: Dave Behrens
Can. O.T. CH: May 7, 1983
Am. U.D: July 8, 1983
Whelped: November 2, 1979
Sire: Ch. Chateaubriard Vermouth, C.D.
Ch. Phydeaux Theda Bara
A/C Ch. Phydeaux Windfall, A/C CD
Dam: A/C Ch-Can. O.T. Ch. Beardsanbrow's N'est Pas,
UDT, Can. TD, AD, Sh.I
A/C Ch. Uther Bijou de Strathcona

NEW CHAMPION

CHAMPION DROMORE'S PANTOMIME (bitch)

Owner: Gwen Shook
Breeder: Susan McCormick
Championship: July 25, 1982
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. C.D.
Am/Can. Ch. Pa'Chick's Jezebel
Judge: Mr. Vandeventer
Handled by Bergit Coady

SUMMER REPORT 1983
L'OURSON SOLEIL DU MATIN, C.D. (dog)

Owner: Penny Johnson  
Breeders: Mary & Bob Bloom  
C.D. Degree: April 25, 1983  
Whelped: November 30, 1981  
Sire: Ch. Nestor de L'Eminence  
Ch. Tracy des Elfes de Malouse  
Dam: Ch. Chateaubriard Risqué  
Ch. Chateaubriard Joyride  
Handled by owner

CH. ENCHANTING INDEE J, C.D. (bitch)

Owner: Donna Fink  
Breeder: Janice Millis  
C.D. Degree: May 8, 1983  
Whelped: February 22, 1981  
Sire: Ch. Nestor de L'Eminence  
Ch. Tracy des Elfes de Malouse  
Dam: Ch. Tigresse de Patriche  
Ch. Vixen de Patriche  
Handled by owner
NEW COMPANION DOG

SIRENA DU LE LOUP D'OR, C.D.
Owner: Ginni Schaefer
Breeder: owner
C.D. Degree: May 21, 1983
Whelped: Dec. 29, 1980
Sire: A/C Ch. Phydeaux Windfall, A/C C.D.
Ch. Phydeaux Usheba des Berger
Ch. Phydeaux Quoin de Cuivre
Dam: Ch. Era le d'Or de Beauxjolais U.D., Can. CDX
Ch. Cecely of Northumberland
High in trial with 198
Handled by owner

NEW CHAMPION

CHAMPION CHATEAUBRIARD SUPPLY SIDER (dog)
Owner: Benjamin J. Cohen
Breeders: Cece Collins & Jane Mathews
Championship: May 28, 1983
Whelped: December 6, 1981
A/C Ch. Silvermoon la Joie de Vivre A/C UD
Sire: Ch. John's Pashtu de Strathcona
Ch. Uziz Akshanit de Strathcona
Ch. Phydeaux Usheba des Berger
Ch. Phydeaux Quoin de Cuivre
Dam: Ch. Chateaubriard Joyride
Ch. Chateaubriard Vichysoise
Judge: George E. Nichols
Handled by owner

SUMMER REPORT 1983
CHAMPION SIRENA DU LE LOUP D'OR, C.D.

Owner: Ginni Schaefer

Breeder: owner

Championship: June 4, 1983

Whelped: Dec. 29, 1980

Sire: A/C Ch. Phydeaux Quoin de Cuivre
Ch. Phydeaux Windfall, A/C C.D.
Ch. Phydeaux Usheba des Berger

Dam: Ch. Era le d'Or de Beauxjolis U.D., Can. CDX
Ch. Cecely of Northumberland

NEW CHAMPION & AM/CAN. COMPANION DOG

CHAMPION QUE SERA SERA DU LE LOUP D'OR, AM/CAN. C.D.

Owner: Theresa Lee & Theresa Judge

Breeder: Ginni Schaefer

Championship: July 30, 1983

Am. C.D: March 13, 1983
Can. C.D: September 5, 1983

Sire: Am/Can. Ch. Phydeaux Quoin de Cuivre
Ch. Phydeaux Windfall, A/C C.D.
Ch. Phydeaux Usheba des Berger

Dam: Ch. Era le d'Or de Beauxjolis U.D.
Ch. Cecely of Northumberland

Judge in photo: Mr. Roy Ayres
Handled by Teresa
1984 B.C.A. CALENDAR

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MICHIGAN:
Linda Wells & Rob Ferber, 6175 W. M-36, Pinckney, MI 48169
black pups whelped mid-August 313/498-2509

NEW YORK:
Barbara Lynch, 7480 Big Tree Road, Livonia, NY 14487
tawnies whelped in August 716/367-2721

OHIO:
Susan Smith, 2226 S. Linda, Bellbrook, OH 45305
tawny male whelped in May 513/848-4206

PENNSYLVANIA
Lana Sheer, R.D. 2 Box 17, Chadds Ford, PA 19317
Tawnies whelped early October 302/774-8282 (pm)

CANADA:
Karen Downey, 296 Wolfe, Peterborough, Ontario
black pups expected late October 705/742-1948