



GROWL

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FEBRUARY 2011

THE AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB'S OVERALL ENTRIES INCREASE IN 2010

Records More Than 3 Million Entries

New York, NY—The American Kennel Club leapt over the 3 million entry mark in 2010, recording a total of more than 3,014,000 dog entries across all conformation, companion and performance events. The growth over the number of entries received in 2009 was sparked by the ever-growing interest in the sport of Agility, where entries increased by 9%. The new "Grand Champion" title assisted shows by providing an increase of over 40,000 additional entries in Best of Breed. This equates

to more than \$1.2 million in additional entry

fees to Conformation clubs.

"We were very proud to see the uptick in entries," said Dennis B. Sprung, AKC's President and CEO. "The increase is a promising step forward for our clubs in the

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VIEW FROM THE OTHER END OF THE LEASH

Who knew ya had to be able to dance to compete in rally?...my handler seems to think that she has to communicate with her feet...ya should see the contortions she goes

through...she's definitely not Dancing with the Stars material...

"Brake, plant, alt"...HUH?...she's standing up straighter and her stride is shorter...of

course we're gonna stop soon...and what does she expect me to do, stand there like an idiot?...not me, I'm gonna sit down until she dreams up something else to do...

We're doing this 3-step halt sign and she's busy chanting "1 step sit, 2 steps sit, 3 steps sit"...geesh, I can tell what's next 'cause we've been doing it in the kitchen for weeks...

She's nutty about left pivots, telling me "butt in, butt in" when her left hand is like

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VISIT US ONLINE AT WWW.RAMAPOKENNELCLUB.COM

President's Message



Jeffrey David Ball

I am sure most of you have had enough of this winter, I am sorry to say that we have at least six more weeks to deal with. Hopefully, it will clear up enough so that we can hold our February membership meeting. I am sorry we needed to cancel January's meeting, but it was the right thing to do for everyone safety.

On January 22, the New Jersey Federation of Dog Clubs held their Legislative Seminar at the Rutgers Labor Education Center in New Brunswick. It was extremely interesting and well attended, especially by Ramapo

Kennel Club members. Kim Luikert, Gerrie Oliver, Sharon Fremer, Rose Ann Tucker and myself were in attendance. I will ask those who attended to share a detailed report with everyone. Speaking of the NJFDC, 2011 Dog Show calendars are still available; please see Sharon Fremer or myself if you are interested in one. They cost \$5 each and the money goes to NJFDC.

It has been confirmed that our Match Show will be held Saturday, June 4th, 2011 at the New Jersey Veterans Home in Paramus. Sharon Fremer is the Match Show Chair and is looking for volunteers to assist. There are jobs for everyone. Even if you have never been involved and are not sure how you

big part of this club involves obedience, and it is in that area that we need the most assistance. Please volunteer, we need you, remember, this is your club and it is only as good as the members in it and the work they do!

Speaking about volunteering—officer and board elections are coming up in May. After elections, all the committee chairpersons for the club are appointed for the year. This club has always been one of the best around and it is based on membership and their participation. We have always had great members, but over the years, the overall membership has gone down, as it has in all clubs. Volunteerism has gone down due to the life styles we all now live. Everyone is just so busy with their lives. But to keep this club going and have the success we have had, we need everyone's help. So please volunteer in some manner, be an officer, a board member, committee chair, or a committee member. If you don't know what to do, please ask questions about jobs and or titles. If you take on a position, you are not alone. We have members who are a tremendous resource and they are always willing to help and work with you. You are part of a great club, be a part of keeping it great!

RKC handling and obedience classes are ongoing at the VFW Hall in Butler. The handling classes are drop-in and new obedience classes start shortly. You can check the RKC website <http://ramapokennelclub.com> for more details.

For anyone going to Westminster this month, we all wish you the best of luck!!! I hope to see everyone at the next meeting.

Jeffrey

can help, the club can use your assistance. A

Ramapo Kennel Club Officers

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AKC'S ENTRIES INCREASE, *continued from page 1*

face of a persistently challenging economy. We will continue to research ways to enhance the fun and value of competing in each of our sports."

In addition, Sprung said, "We salute the finest Agility competitors in the nation who continue to set records; the entire AKC

community appreciates their skills."

The 2010 entry total includes entries from all-breed and specialty conformation shows, obedience, field trials, hunt tests, coonhound events, herding tests and trials, lure coursing, agility, earthdog, tracking and rally.

AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB LAUNCHES NEW COURSING ABILITY TEST

New Test Allows All Dogs the Chance to Experience the Fun and Excitement of Lure Coursing

New York, NY The American Kennel Club is pleased to announce the launch of a new titling event—the Coursing Ability Test—on February 24, 2011 in Calhoun, GA. Open to all dogs, the Coursing Ability Test is an introductory event fashioned after the sport of lure coursing and meant to be a fun, healthy activity for dogs and their owners. Coursing Ability Tests may be held by all licensed lure coursing clubs. Eligible dogs must be at least 12 months of age and individually registered/listed with the AKC (registered purebred, Foundation Stock Service (FSS), Purebred Alternative Listing (PAL) or AKC Canine Partner). In order to pass the test, a dog running alone must pursue a lure, completing the course with enthusiasm and without interruption within a given time.

"The Coursing Ability Test can provide a wonderful community outreach opportunity, an enjoyable experience for dogs and owners and a way to expose a wider audience to the sport," said AVP Performance Events Doug Ljungren. "Most dogs will chase a lure and have fun in the process."

Dogs that pass the Coursing Ability Test three times will earn a Coursing Ability (CA) title. Ten passes and a dog earns a Coursing Ability Advanced (CAA) title and 25 passes results in a Coursing Ability Excellent (CAX) title.

Upcoming events include:

- Bluegrass Coursing Club, Feb. 24-25, Calhoun, GA
- Greyhound Association of North Georgia, Feb. 26-27, Calhoun, GA
- Alamo Area Whippet Club, Mar. 5-6, Hutto, TX
- Northwest Arkansas Kennel Club, Mar. 19-20, Rogers, AR
- Mid-Atlantic Hound Association of Central North Carolina, May 21-22, Rocky Mount, NC

These Coursing Ability Tests are being held in conjunction with the Club's normal Lure Coursing trial. Coursing Ability Tests may be held with a trial or as stand-alone events.

A summary description of the test, the regulations governing the event and a Coursing Ability Test application form, as well as a list of upcoming events can be found on the AKC website at www.akc.org/events/performance. Click on "Coursing Ability Test" on the left side of the page.

If your club is interested in holding a Coursing Ability Test, please complete the application form and submit to the Performance Events Department. If you have questions, please contact Bob Mason at RAM@akc.org or Lisa Carroll, Manager of Performance Events at LAC@akc.org.

VIEW FROM THE OTHER END OF THE LEASH

continued from Page 1

a turn signal...she should worry about pulling her own "butt in"...

Jumps are just like flying over logs and streams in the woods only I have to wait for her to catch up so we can move to the next sign...it's much more fun to jump over fallen trees while chasing squirrels...

I don't know why she thinks rally is so challenging...she talks to me "blah, blah, blah"...



"Friday" (oh yeah, and Anne Hulsizer too!)

doesn't she know Superdog can read her mind?...now I just have to get her through entries at First Dog in March...a dog's gotta do what she's gotta do...

Casbar Glen Wild Weekend RN, B&B, CGC, STAR (but you can call me "Friday")

HOW TO DECIPHER YOUR DOG'S BARK

Have you ever wondered what Fido was trying to say to you when he began barking incessantly? Dogs use a variety of sounds—barking, howling, baying, and growling—to convey different things. Your pup may be barking for attention, or growling to protect his bone. Whatever noise Fido is making, he's trying to tell you something. The American Kennel Club® offers the following tips on how to decipher your dog's bark.

- *Is anyone out there?* Dogs can communicate with others far away by howling. When dogs travel in a pack and one gets separated, the lost dog will begin howling and wait for the others to respond. That way, he will know which way to travel to be reunited with his pack. Sometimes, dogs hear sounds such as a siren that they perceive to be another dog calling to them, and they'll start howling in response.
- *Stranger Beware!* Fido will defend himself and his space against strangers by emitting a deep, explosive series of barks. This signals to the approaching person to stay away.
- *Hey, I'm over here!* Barking is also used to get attention. Smaller dogs that are doted on by their owners tend to bark more for attention, since they are used to being the center of everything. Attention barking consists of a long series of loud yaps. Once you give him what he's looking for, he'll stop. If you ignore him further, he will most likely keep going!
- *Keep away!* Growling is designed to keep opponents away, especially if your pooch has a treat he is protecting. He will let out a deep growl that signals to anyone coming close that it is dangerous to approach.
- *The hunt is on!* Baying is a deep, prolonged sound that dogs would let out during the hunt to signal that the quarry is near. This sound is unique to most hounds.

PREVENT, TREAT AND CURE HEART DISEASE

February is American Heart Month. The AKC Canine Health Foundation needs your help to make sure that dogs have healthy hearts too.

The AKC Canine Health Foundation has funded over \$1.4 million in canine cardiology research.

Research is on-going to find the genes responsible for tricuspid valve displasia and dilated cardiomyopathy, to determine the causes of congestive heart failure and to evaluate a therapy for preventing the progression of mitral valve disease.

Through research funded by the AKC Canine Health Foundation, Dr. Mark Oyama has already made a connection between mitral valve disease and elevated levels of serotonin in the mitral valve cells of affected dogs. Now Oyama is evaluating a pharmaceutical that appears to successfully block activation of serotonin receptors in dogs as a potential therapy for the heart condition.

Our work is making a real difference for dogs with heart disease. Please take a minute to read the story of how Marley, a hound-mix, and Moe, a Golden Retriever, are living happy and healthy lives thanks to a new procedure to treat severe subaortic stenosis done by Amara Estrada, DVM of the University of Florida, funded by the AKC Canine Health Foundation.

When you make a donation of \$10 or more to support our efforts this month, you will have the option to send one of eight different Valentine's Day eCards to a fellow dog lover.

Please donate today so we can keep working to prevent, treat and cure canine disease! And thank you for your support!

To make a donation go to www.akcchf.org.

A Heart-To-Heart on Severe Subaortic Stenosis

12/01/2010

Marley was barely eight-weeks old in 2008 when his veterinarian heard a severe heart murmur in the hound-mix's chest. Marley's owner, Debbie Suttles, adoption team leader at the Gainesville (Florida) Humane Society, was referred to Herbert Maisenbacher, VMD, at the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine, also in Gainesville.



AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB
**CANINE HEALTH
FOUNDATION**
PREVENT TREAT & CURE

After Maisenbacher confirmed the diagnosis of severe subaortic stenosis (SAS), a congenital heart disease, the veterinary researcher told Suttles about a new 2008-2010 study funded by an AKC Canine Health Foundation grant.

The 12-dog study had three aims: (a) to test the safety of a double balloon valvuloplasty (similar to an angioplasty) on dogs with SAS; (b) to significantly decrease the heart's pressure gradient post-operatively; and (c) to determine if the cutting balloon reduced the pressure gradient and prevented re-stenosis, or re-narrowing of the area below the aortic valve. Although the study's success partially depended on no re-stenosis for at least one year after surgery, Cardiology Chief Amara Estrada, DVM, intended to track the dogs for the rest of their lives.

Common in larger-breed dogs such as Dobermans, Golden Retrievers, Boxers, Dogue de Bordeaux and German Shepherds, SAS has, in the past, been treated with beta blocker medications or a low-pressure balloon valvuloplasty. With either protocol, the dogs lived an average of only 55 months. Doctors speculated that a more aggressive approach with earlier intervention might increase longevity and improve the animal's quality of life.

On July 2, 2009, veterinary researcher Mandi Schmidt, DVM, performed the mildly invasive two-hour procedure on Marley. Under general anesthesia and via the carotid artery in the neck, she inserted a cutting balloon with 2mm blades followed by a strong, part-Kevlar, high-pressure balloon. The object was to inflate and dilate the abnormal area of the heart below the aortic valve.

"He still has a murmur," says Suttles about Marley, "but his systolic pressure gradient (the indicator of the heart's effort to pump blood) was over 300mmHG (before surgery), and it dropped to around 190mmHG."

To qualify for the study, SAS-affected dogs had to

PREVENT, TREAT AND CURE HEART DISEASE, *continued*

have a minimum Doppler systolic pressure gradient of 80mmHG, be less than two years of age and not have a systemic or metabolic disease. "At between 8 and 30 months," Estrada says, "each dog had a fully developed lesion, but not a lot of secondary effects. You could see the stenotic ridge on the echocardiogram."

Although study dogs were treated gratis, the experimental procedure—if privately done—would cost around \$5,000, says Estrada. Furthermore if a pediatric surgeon repaired the abnormality, the surgery could easily cost \$10,000 to \$15,000. "That would be prohibitive for most owners," Estrada says. Finding a safe, effective, affordable treatment is important—one reason Estrada is planning a second study to see if the high-pressure balloon alone can decrease the pressure gradient. Since the cutting balloon costs \$1,000 and can be used only once (while the \$600 high-pressure balloon can be used repeatedly), the savings would be significant. "We want to get the cost down to \$2,000 to \$3,000," says Estrada.

SAS is so common that breeders regularly screen for it in their puppies. But owners who "really do their homework" often are knowledgeable about it, says Estrada. "Dogs can be asymptomatic, but it depends on the severity of the individual case." Although Marley, for example, behaved like a typical, frisky puppy, some dogs with high pressure gradients can act lethargic. That was Moe's problem.

After Frank and Janet Diaz purchased golden retrievers "Moe" and "Max" on the Internet, they discovered that compared to her littermate, Moe appeared less energetic and short of breath. "She did not run around like her sister (who has a less severe murmur)," says Frank, who knew Golden Retrievers might develop hip dysplasia but was not warned of SAS. "In hindsight, if I'd known of the condition, I would have checked the breeder more," he says. "Goldens are such sweet wonderful dogs, it's sad they're cursed with this problem.

"Without any intervention," he says, "her life expectancy and quality of life would be compromised..., so we wanted to do something if it was possible." The couple was apprehensive about the 2009 surgery ("there's always a chance of not

making it through," says Frank), but Moe tolerated it well and her pressure gradient dropped 30 percent. According to Moe's owners, her "night and day" improvement enables her to complete a one-mile walk every day and play with Max in the house and backyard. "It was not guaranteed," says Frank, "but it was what we hoped would happen if it were successful."

Since the valvuloplasty procedure produced no complications in all 12 dogs, they went home the next day. Six months later, they showed an average decrease of 33 percent in pressure gradient with no re-stenosis. Estrada thinks there's a "good chance" the stenosis won't return; long-term maintenance of the improved pressure gradient is still an unknown. If stenosis reforms, the team would probably repeat the valvuloplasty. Says Estrada, "I'll know more when the dogs come back for their 18-month check."

The University of Florida's commitment to translational medicine and cooperation between the medical and veterinary colleges means the SAS study results will impact the pediatric interventional cardiology team. Says Estrada, "It (the procedure) will probably be done in newborns (with SAS) as a bridge before surgeons do open heart surgery to repair the heart or replace the valve." In July of this year the study was presented at the Pediatric Interventional Cardiac Catheterization Symposium in Chicago.

Meanwhile doctors prescribe the beta blocker atenolol and moderate exercise (no running or jogging) for the study dogs, including Marley and Moe, whose one-year checkups indicate neither re-stenosis nor an increase in pressure gradient. "I would have paid for a procedure to prolong her life and its quality," says Frank. "I count my blessings."

AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB ANNOUNCES MOST POPULAR DOGS IN THE U.S.

January 27, 2011

Lab Celebrates Its 20th Anniversary in the Top Spot, While the Bulldog Continues Its Ascent to Reign Supreme in the Dog World

The American Kennel Club announced its nationwide registration statistics today, revealing that for the 20th consecutive year, the Labrador Retriever is the most popular breed in America.

This year's list included some shakeups in the top 10 – the Beagle overtook the Golden Retriever for the 4th spot and the Bulldog, who has been steadily rising up in rank, took 6th place away from the Boxer, who dropped to 7th in 2010.

"Not since the early 20th Century has the Bulldog enjoyed such sustained popularity," said AKC Spokesperson Lisa Peterson. "Bob' was the first AKC registered Bulldog in 1886, and today the breed enjoys its highest ranking in 100 years at number 6."

Most Notable Dog Trends On This Year's List Include:

- The most popular breeds with the biggest increase in rankings over the past year include the Wirehaired Pointing Griffon (from 108th to 93rd), the Greater Swiss Mountain Dog (from 101st to 88th) and the Smooth Fox Terrier (from 123rd to 110th).
- The French Bulldog made the largest leap in the past decade, jumping 50 places from 71st to 21st. Other breeds with the biggest increase in rankings over the last decade include the Havanese (from 86th to 31st) and the Cavalier King Charles Spaniel (from 54th to 23rd).
- Closing the gap this year, a couple of breeds that had been on the decline over the past decade made double digit increases over the past year -- Keeshonden (from 102nd to 87th) and Anatolian Shepherd Dogs (from 115th to 109th).

- "Bully" breeds have been steadily increasing over the past decade, including the Bull Terrier (from 78th to 53rd) and the Staffordshire Bull Terrier (from 97th to 74th).
- Among smaller dogs that rose in the rankings were the Yorkshire Terrier (from 7th to 3rd), the Cavalier King Charles Spaniel (from 54th to 23rd) and the Havanese (from 86th to 31st), proving that they are top of the Toys.

2010 Most Popular Dogs	2009 Ranking
1. Labrador Retriever	1. Labrador Retriever
2. German Shepherd Dog	2. German Shepherd Dog
3. Yorkshire Terrier	3. Yorkshire Terrier
4. Beagle	4. Golden Retriever
5. Golden Retriever	5. Beagle
6. Bulldog	6. Boxer
7. Boxer	7. Bulldog
8. Dachshund	8. Dachshund
9. Poodle	9. Poodle
10. Shih Tzu	10. Shih Tzu

- A trend toward larger breeds is seen with the rise of the Great Dane (from 28th to 17th), Mastiff (from 39th to 28th), Newfoundland (from 53rd to 44th), Bernese Mountain Dog (from 58th to 39th) and the Greater Swiss Mountain Dog (from 104th to 88th).
- Three new breeds entered AKC's registry in 2010, and the larger the breed, the higher they appeared in the rankings. The Leonberger, the largest of the new breeds, was ranked 33rd; the Cane Corso ranked 51st; and the smallest of the new breeds, the Icelandic Sheepdog, came in at 82nd.

In addition, the AKC expanded its litter of registered breeds on January 1 to welcome the Norwegian Lundehund, the Xoloitzcuintli and the Entlebucher Mountain Dog—growing next year's list of Most Popular Breeds to 170 dogs.

THE GARDEN STATE NORWEGIAN ELKHOUND CLUB
INVITES YOU TO SPEND AN AFTERNOON WITH US
FOR THE PROGRAM
"FROZEN SEMEN—HOW IT'S DONE AND HOW TO USE IT"

PRESENTED BY
DR. MARY STANKOVICS D.V.M. AND HER ASSISTANT
DEBBIE LEACH, LVT
(WWW.STRAWSTOPAWS.COM)

WHEN: SATURDAY, MARCH 19TH

TIME: 2 P.M.

LOCATION: CLARENCE DILLON PUBLIC LIBRARY
2336 LAMINGTON ROAD (ROUTE 206)
BEDMINSTER, NEW JERSEY 07921

THE COST IS FREE, SO
BRING ALONG BREEDER FRIENDS AND WE PROMISE YOU
WILL LEARN FROM THIS FASCINATING PROGRAM!

PLEASE RSVP TO CAROL WATT
AT (203) 329-8289 OR RUGGMOR@AOL.COM
BY MONDAY, MARCH 14TH
SO THAT WE CAN GET A HEAD COUNT

SEE YOU THERE!

Upcoming programs

February meeting: "NOSEWORK" - Scent Discrimination for Fun presented by Jennifer Basile. 4 of our members will be volunteering their dogs for the demonstration workshop.

April meeting: "PROBIOTICS" in the pregnant bitch, and dogs, in general. Marcia Garstin, MS., District Veterinary Manager-East Central, who was to be the speaker at our January cancelled meeting.

As the Chair of the Programs Committee, I'd like to invite all of you to please e-mail or call me with new ideas and suggestions you might have for programs at our club meetings. Any and all will be considered and appreciated.

Thanks so much for your help and look forward to hearing from you!

You can get in touch with me through my e-mail address, cantails@optonline.net, or phone which is 201-529-2714.

Phyllis Rosinsky, Programs Chair

GOT STUFF?

Send your news, suggestions, comments and photos to either Tilly Grassa, tgcreative@aol.com, or Sharon Fremer, teneo@mac.com. Remember the *Growl* comes out about a week before each monthly meeting. Check the calendar on the last page for submission deadlines. The *Growl* is by and for the members so we need your help.



GROWL

Published by the Ramapo Kennel Club
11 Pershing Avenue
Ridgewood, NJ 07450

Design: Tilly Grassa

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Dates to remember:

All membership meetings are held at

**VFW HALL
45 PLYMOUTH STREET
FAIRFIELD, NJ AT 8:00 PM**

February 9

Membership Meeting. Program: "Nosework",
Scent Discrimination for Fun presented by Jennifer Basile
Deadline for March *Growl* submissions

February 25

March 9

Membership Meeting—Program to be announced

April 1

Deadline for March *Growl* submissions

April 13, 2011

Membership Meeting—Program: Probiotics for Dogs

June 4th, 2011

RKC Match Show, New Jersey Veterans Home, Paramus, NJ



GROWL

11 Pershing Avenue
Ridgewood, NJ 07450

FIRST CLASS MAIL