

MARCH -
APRIL
1989

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11008 Milky Way
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AND ALL CLUB OFFICERS

FROM THE EDITOR

First, thanks to all of you who sent cards or letters expressing your approval with the way I handled the last Newsletter. I appreciated that. And, also, thanks to any of you who did not especially like the Newsletter but did not fire bomb my house or send me hate mail to express your dissatisfaction. I appreciated that, too.

Looks like the issue of changing the standard really got everyone's attention. Several "Letters to the Editor" deal with this issue. That's good news--your Newsletter is exactly the place to state your opinions.

More members are starting to contribute articles on a variety of subjects. I think you'll enjoy Walt Steward's tracking article. And, of course, Sam Skoog and Sandy Adams' articles are always a treat to look forward to. Members responded to Nan Burket's request for interesting news and that's great. You know, if we keep going at this pace, we may just end up having a first rate, information packed Newsletter--one where everyone takes an interest and contributes something.

Now, snuggle up on your sofa with your Sussex and read on.

Judy

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

I hope that all of you had a pleasant Easter holiday and that spring has finally reached you. With the arrival of spring comes the traditional Club activities. I want to use this space to alert you to a couple of upcoming events. Foremost among these is the May 3 videotaping date in New Jersey with AKC. By now all of you should have received an invitation from AKC regarding this. If you have

not, please contact me. It is very important that all of you attempt the trip, if at all possible. We need a minimum of 15 Sussex there and it would be preferable to have 20-25. This will be possible only if we get a good response from you. The breed video will be our best tool to educate judges and the public about our breed. This will be our definitive statement as to what a Sussex is and how it should be presented. All of us that have done even the least amount of conformation showing have probably wondered often if the breed judge really knew what he/she was looking at. The video will fill a big vacuum of Sussex information. I realize that many of you will not find it easy to travel out East in early May, but this is a very important endeavor and I hope that you will give it your best shot. There are two things to remember regarding the dogs for this. Number one is that there is not guarantee that your dog will end up in the final product. This will be decided after an extensive viewing of the raw video tape by the Club committee and representatives of AKC. Number two is that we are not only looking for "ideal" Sussex. Dogs that make it to NJ may be used to demonstrate both positive and negative faults. No dog will be used strictly to show the "ideal" or the opposite, and no dog will be identified in any way. We will have a neutral handler to handle all of the dogs present and this person will not be identified either. So--there will be no positive or negative advertising to be had out of this; only a better understanding of the breed. If you are thinking of coming or sending a dog(s) with someone else, please contact me ASAP. This is very important so that we can plan. I thank you for your help and hope to see some of you in a month.

Other important news stems from our upcoming national Match. There should be information elsewhere in here concerning the details, but I want to: 1. Encourage you to attend, and 2. encourage you to support the event by donating to the trophy donation fund and by submitting an ad for the catalog. I can not stress #2 enough. Those of you who have been in this Club for any time have seen me beat this topic to death before. I don't know how to generate a better response. Every year I have been generally disappointed in the number of members that have advertized in the catalog. The response for the trophy fund has always been good. Both of these activities are important to the Club, and this year in particular. The Club will have some major expenses this year, and these are our best revenue sources. The catalog will be carefully done and will be a great record of our dogs as they are in 1989. Please take the time to get a picture together. And even if you don't have a picture or a Sussex, you can support the Club as Lib Kuruce has done these past three years by taking out a nonphoto ad.

Finally, I want to point out to you that the Joy Freer Committee is now asking for nominations from the membership. The Joy R. Freer Award is presented annually to the member who has been deemed to have contributed the most to the Club and Sussex. This is primarily a "service" award. Please support the continued existence of this honor by nominating someone within the Club that you feel is most deserving.

Craig Huegal
990 5th Ave. NE
Largo, FL 34640

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

Thank you for the inquiry, but I knew when I sent the ad it was too late for the Jan./Feb. issue. As an editor for four of my eight years as a member of the Marquette Kennel Club I understand deadlines. But, when I send an ad it isn't necessarily meant to sell puppies, but to say I had a litter and advertise my dogs.

Now, let me put in a little complaint, I feel there are several members of the SSCA who are using the Newsletter to advertize their dogs without paying. I see over and over again several letters in each Newsletter from members bragging on what their dogs did or litters they have had. This is the first publication out of several I get that allows this without paying.

Eadweard Kennel
Mrs. Linda Shannon
115 West Branch Rd.
Marquette, MI 49855

Dear Editor:

First of all, allow me to congratulate you on the very impressive job with the Newsletter and Susan Wagenhals on the standards comparison. Both items showed a lot of class and hard work. I am afraid I have no gossip for Nan as yet. It appears as though "Ernie" is the only Sussex in the State (I'm getting tired of this!) and will have to rectify the situation by getting another in the near future.

I must report that I almost lost "Ernie" to a raging prostatitis infection that spread like wildfire within forty-eight hours. Fortunately, I have an excellent vet who aggressively treated and cured, after one of those "fly by night" emergency clinics assured me that all it was was a Giardia infection.

A tip for owners of all intact males; if you see your dog hobbling, with no apparent leg or pad injury and/or he's very sensitive in the area just forward of the pelvic girdle, get to your veterinarian! By the way, it will now be at least three months before I can even consider using my dog at stud, and that is only after he has had testing to ensure there is nothing contagious that can be passed.

I am not a breeder, so my comments regarding the standard have only limited validity, but I feel rather strongly about a few points:

1. This is not a lap dog and not a toy. That is to say the breed must be capable of working in the field. If those of you who are breed experts decide on a certain height, make damn well certain the breed can still do what it was intended to do. Don't B.S. me and don't B.S. yourselves. Unless the conformation you suggest for the Sussex allows it to spend a full day in the field flushing Pheasant, your input is absolutely incorrect. I call upon every great Sussex breeder and authority as my ammunition and justification. I don't want us to go the way of the Springer or English Setters. A Sussex must have the ability to work in the field. Right now in this club we have outstanding people who are busting their butts to prove to the world that our breed can hunt. Don't crap on their efforts, by some trumped up theory that you think a smaller Sussex is cuter, or gaits better, or looks better with your new leisure suit.

2. In the beginning, right after the Lord created, etc., the AKC somehow managed to overpower and pass all the other existing kennel clubs. They were smart, powerful, very rich, and very political. They have dictated terms to everyone ever since that time. I am not quite sure why this happened. The AKC as far as I can see, hasn't done very much for us and for most other breeds, except maybe to make them more fashionable and hence more popular. Clever. The AKC makes its money from registrations. You can see the end result of their smart, powerful, rich, and political philosophy in every animal adoption shelter in the country. However, I shall call upon, or rather use another biblical reference, and tell everyone to render unto the AKC...etc. At the same time, I also suggest we establish our own club registry and look into the possibility of dual AKC/UKC registration. Let us proceed with a cut and paste standard if that is what they want, and then let us pull together and become our own registering body as well.

Our rarity in many ways, is our salvation. We have the ability to pick judges who are knowledgeable, to control our breeding programs, to become the model every other club strives for. We can do this on our own and within the framework of our own terms.

3. Our triumphs and our failures are shared with the rest of the club. If you want to change things, recognize that your voice, up against this powerful organization (the AKC) is like a grain of sand against a wind-shield. Let us have one voice. Remember, we're one of the AKC's oldest recognized breeds. We have a history. Other clubs will listen when we speak, and our whisper may echo into a roar.

Passing through the great State of Colorado? Give a call.
Telephone: 303/443-9457.

Bruce Wolk
3823 Birchwood
Boulder, CO 80304

Dear Editor:

How can we expect the judge to judge our Sussex if they do not have guidelines as to what the Standard of the Sussex Spaniel is. There are so many judges who have never seen a Sussex.

What is AKC requiring that we haven't got in the Standard already written up? We can see that we haven't got height, temperament and characteristics. Why not? Are these not important?

This beautiful little dog originated from England so why can we not use the English Standard?

Are we not proud of our dogs that we do not want AKC to recognize us as a Club? So in the future we can have our own Specialty shows like most other breed clubs.

Thank you.

Betty and Michael Coltham
317 Lindwood Road
Savannah, GA 31419

Dear Editor:

I purposely waited to respond to the question of standardization until the previous Newsletter was in my hand.

As a member of other breed clubs, as well as the SSCA, I've been faced with the standardization question several times. Currently, I am working with the Clumber Spaniel standard. In my contact with the AKC representatives, and as a board member of the CSCA, I have found them most cooperative and receptive to our (the Clumber Spaniel Club's) ideas about the standard.

Differing from many club members, on the average, I attend well over 50 shows a year. I can tell you that judges are looking at our breed in terms of movement (front construction, rear movement, and topline) and bite. All dogs move and have teeth--that's about where the commonality ends. However, if you don't know type or don't understand what Sussex type is--you will judge on the criteria I have stated above. Movement and bite are easy to judge. This is especially true of bites. You either have a scissor bite or you don't. There are no gray areas about it. Type, on the other hand, is based upon the individual. Don't get me wrong here. I in no way would discourage a person from showing an otherwise good specimen if the dogs bite was not scissor. Granted, the standard doesn't say anything about bites, but let's look at reality--aren't we always hoping for scissor bites? I know I am.

As many of you responded previously, I also, would like to see a committee formed to work on the standard reform. I believe that their wish is easily complied with and could be done without any major "changes" to the standard.

While I have the time and perhaps some of your attention, I would like to talk a little about size in our breed (everyone's favorite subject).

It is difficult for me to keep quiet about size in our breed because I've seen it happen before. Therefore, I know that outcome and it's not pleasant.

The Clumber Spaniel has gotten out of control! Breeding for massive bone and head has resulted in huge, leggy dogs of enormous proportions. Just because the English dogs are bigger by no means does it mean they are better. In America, we have this need for big things. Big is better--so, too big is just right. Well, I'm sorry folks--I strongly disagree. It is very easy to breed dogs bigger but very difficult to maintain a size or get a smaller size.

To continue, now that I'm out on a limb, I might as well jump...here goes...

The article of Joy Freer's speech was interesting to me. It didn't sound like a Joy who I would have had a lot in common with. While I'm grateful to Joy for her work in saving our breed, I think too many of us always look to Joy to prove any point we might be trying to make about the Sussex. She, like all of us, is just one breeder with one opinion of the Sussex Spaniel.

Douglas A. Johnson
Clussexx Kennel
10689 Spring Oak Court
Burke, VA 22015

JOY R. FREER MEMORIAL AWARD

The committee is now accepting nominations for the 1988 Joy R. Freer Memorial Award and Trophy. The Joy R. Freer Memorial Award and Trophy will be given to the person that has been judged to have most benefitted the breed and Club in 1988. Our committee selects the recipient only from those people nominated by the membership. That is why it is important for you to nominate someone if you feel they are deserving of this honor. The Award and Trophy presentation will be at the Annual Match in July.

Please send your nominations with a brief narrative explaining why he/she most benefitted the breed and Club in 1988 by June 17th to:

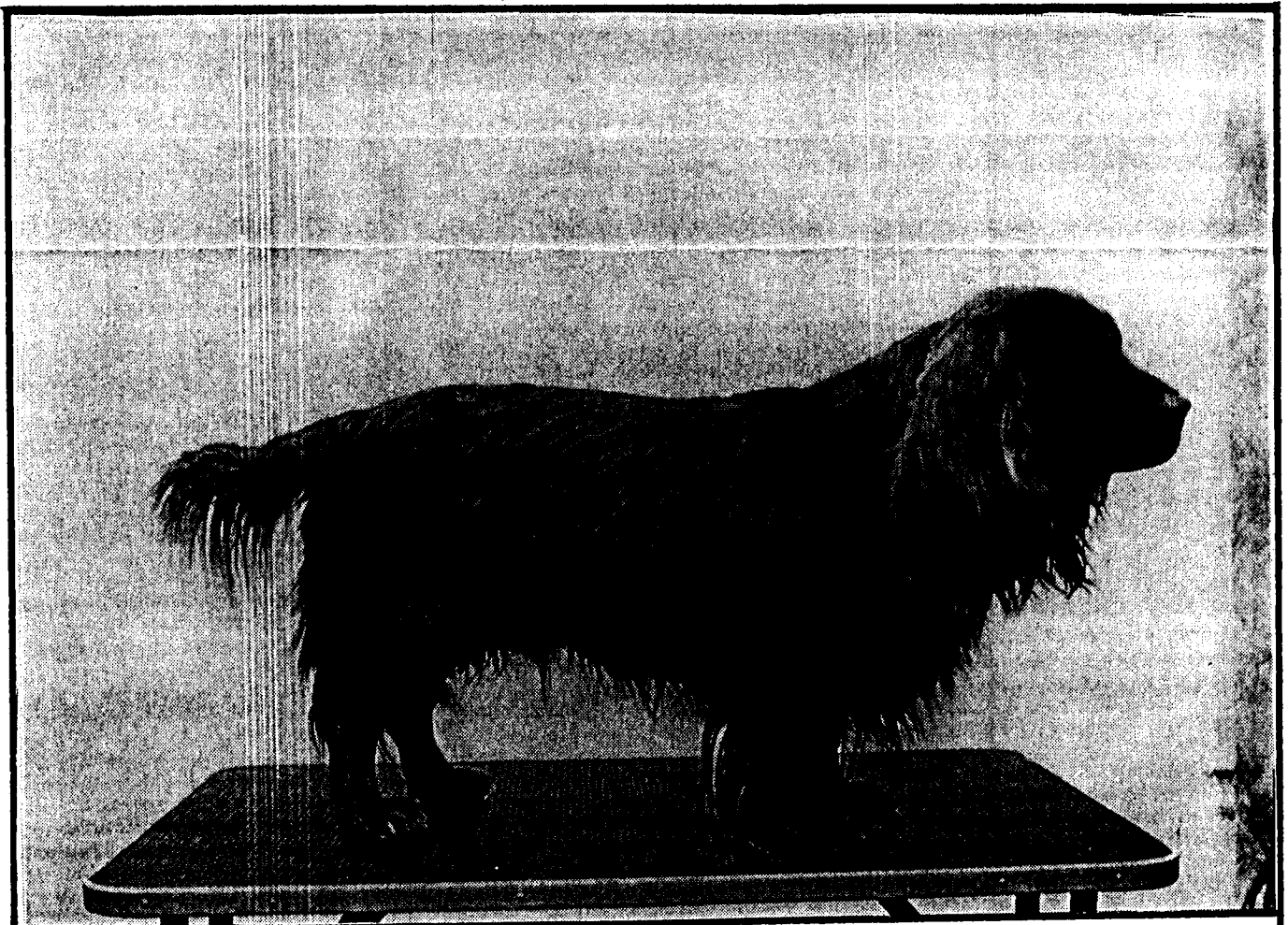
Valarie Huegel
9905th Ave. NE
Largo, FL 34640

P.S. If you have any questions, please call me (813/584-5143). Thanks.

HIGHLIGHTS

OF

'88



CH. THE ROVER OF LEXXFIELD

In the spring of 1988 "Bare" was named Kal Kan Sussex of the Year for 1987 and was inducted into the Kal Kan Hall of Fame.

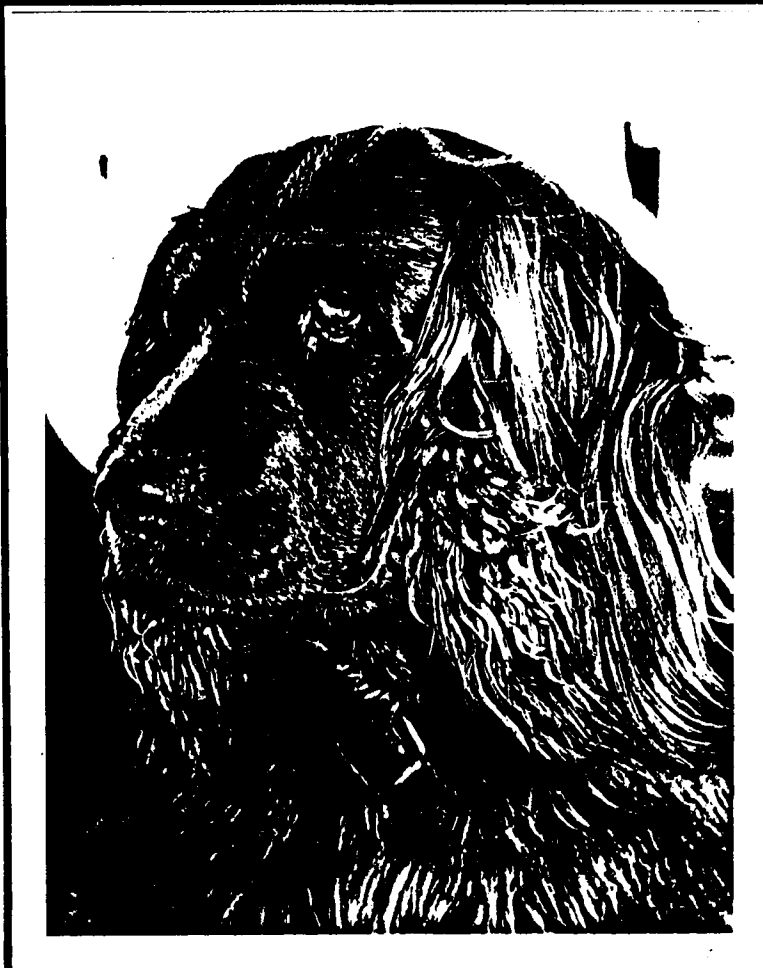
"Bare" is owned by Michael T. Dunn, shown by his wife Joan Dunn, Delafield, WI. Bobby Lewis, Natural Bridge, VA., is the breeder.



CH. THE VICAR OF LEXXFIELD

In June of 1988, Miss D. M. MacDonald awarded "Vicar" a Group I placement, making him the first Sussex in U.S. history to ever win a group.

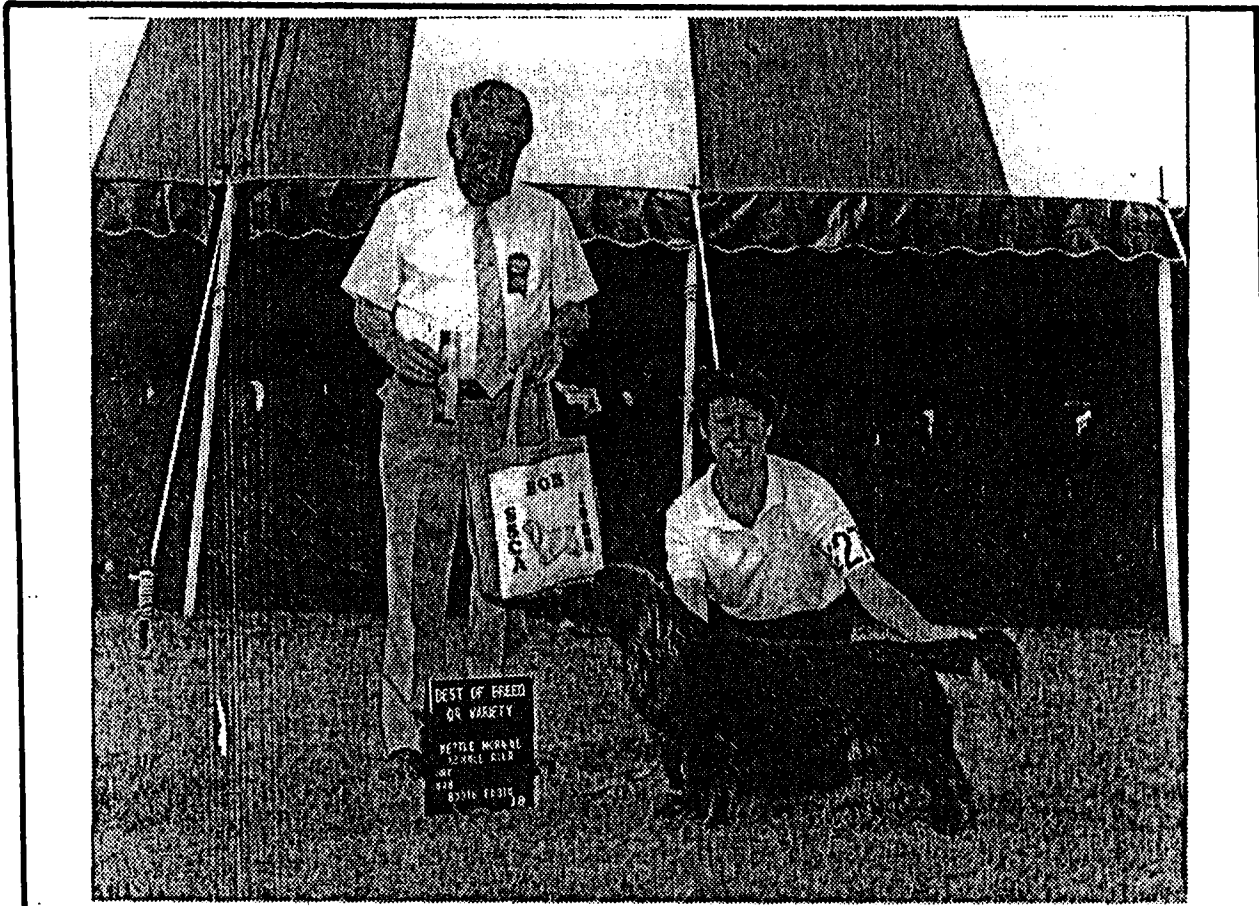
"Vicar" is owned by Erin L. Emmons and shown by Plus Davern, both of Santa Cruz, CA. Bobby Lewis, Natural Bridge, VA is the breeder.



LEXXFIELD QUEEN MOTHER B. TD

In July, "Elizabeth" was selected by judge Dr. Robert Brown as "BEST IN MATCH" at our annual National Match.

"Elizabeth" is owned by Carolyn (better known as Nan) Burket & Sylvia Schlueter & J. R. Lewis, Jr. & Jason Docherty and shown by Jason Docherty. Bobby Lewis, Natural Bridge, VA is the breeder.



CH. DOMAR'S SIMON McGEE

Judge E. R. Klinckhardt selected "Simon" as Best of Breed at the national supported entry at the Kettle Moraine K. C. in July of '88.

"Simon" is owned, bred, and handled by Doris and Mark Hosmer, Lansing, MI.

BETTY & MICHAEL COLTHAM
317 LINDWOOD ROAD
SAVANNAH, GA 31419

My wife and I were born and raised in Southeast England, Betty was raised very near to the place of origin of the Sussex Spaniel.

We met while we were training as nurses in London, and we are still in that field today. We have four daughters and one son and five granddaughters.

Our first dog was a Pembroke Corgi named Rusty which I bought with all it's papers from a pet store in London, carrying it onto a bus as a surprise gift. Sometime later, we emigrated to Australia, having to leave our Corgi behind with friends.

It was not very long before Corgi #2 arrived. The breeder of this one introduced us to dog showing. Betty and I with the children would all go to the show.

Dog shows in Tasmania are all benched, using permanent fixed benches. Australian show grounds provide for dog shows with a facility for the purpose. Some of these were in conjunction with Agricultural Shows, including sheep, cattle, horses and everything. We later changed our breed to the Labrador Retriever, showing Labs the same way. We had a litter of pups, one of the pups we kept and used for obedience training.

It was about this time we decided to look for new pastures. In answer to a newspaper advertisement, we accepted employment in Dallas, Texas. Sometime later after all of the paperwork was ready, Mum, Dad, children and the dog; yes, this time we did not leave the dog behind. We all went to Melbourne and flew to Texas.

We arrived at Dallas-Love Field Airport late one night and left our Lab at the airport. The next morning back to the airport to claim our Labrador. After much searching through books and papers, our dog was back with us. There seemed to be some difficulty in customs clearing with something which barked and could bite rather than a suitcase or box. Betty and I stayed for a year in Dallas prior to moving to Georgia.

While in Dallas, I would take Benjamin (the Lab) to the store, leave him outside, who on command would "Turn to Stone" until told to move by me. The dog had usually drawn a crowd as he was so still and when I came out of the store on command would get up and follow me. Some years later, Betty said that as she is from Sussex, she should have a Sussex Spaniel. Our first Sussex Spaniel was bought in Georgia, not far from Atlanta. Last year in 1988, our Sussex Ch. Colbenn Pevensy Sussey (or Sussey) went Best of Opposite Sex at Westminster. We have since bred her and kept a puppy named Amber. In June of this year, we will be travelling to England to get another #3 Sussex. Truly a Sussex Spaniel from Sussex for Betty.

SUSSEX SPANIEL MATCH

MARCH, 1989

Preparations for the "B" Match in Wisconsin are again underway. This year we will be holding the Match at the Sun Valley Motel. Last year when Mike and I volunteered to have the Match again we did not realize that they would be tearing up Hwy. 83, in front of our house, for approximately 7 miles. We will be loosing about 30 feet in our front yard and we didn't want our Sussex to look like dust balls so we decided to take up the offer from the motel and hold the match there. If the weather is extremely hot, like last year, the dogs can remain in the rooms 'til show time and then put back into the rooms when they are finished. We will be serving a late lunch after the match, so please all join us--the caterer is planning a super menu. This will be followed by our Annual Meeting. The following three days should prove to be exciting with three shows with hopefully majors for both dogs and bitches.

- 1) Saturday - July 29th - Kettle Moraine Kennel Club
- 2) Sunday - July 30th - Waukesha Kennel Club - supported entry
Judge for Sussex will be Col. Jerry Weiss from Long Island
- 3) Burlington, Wisconsin Kennel Club on Monday, July 31st

Linda Legare is doing the trophies for the Match and the supported entry show. She promises some very lovely awards for these shows.

If anyone needs additional information please give us a call or drop us a line.

Mike & Joan Dunn
N3 W31535 Twin Oaks Dr.
Delafield, WI 53018
414/646-4202

MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM by Mike Peters



ZIPPY by Bill Griffith

"TOKEN ACCEPTANCE"

GONE TRACKING

PART I

By
Walt Steward
174 S. Meridian
Mason, MI 48854

I am sure everyone has heard stories about tracking people up before the crack of dawn or out mushing around the fields in a pouring rain; or in snow up to who-knows-where, and engaging in many more questionable activities all for the sport of tracking. These stories are probably all true and I, personally, am guilty of some of them as charged. However, these activities are not mandatory for the individual seeking the thrill and adventure that comes from having the elusive title of "Tracking Dog" bestowed upon a canine companion. Any handler, be they nine or ninety, who has the desire, enthusiasm, time, and the patience to develop the natural ability of their dog should be able to capture the "TD" title in about 14 weeks.

Before beginning your tracking training I suggest the reading of several publications and articles on the subject. My own personal list of required reading would have to include Tracking Dog, by Glen R. Johnson, Arner Publications; Inc.; and Chapters 7 and 8 of The Obedience Regulations, and Chapter 6 of Guidelines For Obedience Judges. The last two publications are free of charge in single copies from The American Kennel Club. In addition to this list, one should read and study any other articles and materials on tracking which may come to your attention.

The equipment needed for tracking is simple. First, you will need a harness of which there are several types. It should be non-restrictive, that is, no straps across the shoulders and chest that would restrict the movement of the dog. It can be constructed of nylon, canvas, leather or some other lightweight material. It should fit snugly and be designed to withstand the outdoor elements. If you choose a leather harness, keep it oiled with Neatsfoot Compound to insure softness and flexibility.

Second, you will need a lead which is a minimum of 20 feet in length and a maximum of 40 feet. It can be made of any material, i.e. cotton webbing, nylon rope or what have you. The lead should be strong yet light and flexible and in keeping with the size of dog being worked, it should have a small hook at one end for attaching to the harness.

Third, you will need stakes or flags. Most of the time, these terms are used interchangeably since they are for the most part one and the same. Most of the stakes have some type of bright material attached to them for indicating different part of a track and easy spotting. Different colored flagging on the stakes can be used to distinguish between these parts. Sometimes the stakes may not have flags attached but instead are painted in bright colors. Several stakes are needed in training with more being used in one phase of training than another. For TD level (Tracking Dog) work, two stakes with flags are used to indicate the start and direction of each track. In TDX (Tracking Dog Excellent) work, only one stake with a flag is used to indicate the beginning of each track. The extra stakes with flags can be used for additional tracks or in combination with the plain or painted stakes to mark turns in the early stage of training. Later, in the TDX level training, they can be used to mark cross-tracks. Stakes can be made of metal, wood or whatever else might suffice, and preferably have some kind of point on one end for easier setting in the ground. Consideration should be given if you make your own, as to the "how-to" attachment of the flagging material. The stakes should be at least 30 inches high to allow easy spotting once they have been set in the ground, and lightweight for easier carrying. Some handlers paint the stakes white for easier sighting from a distance. When I began my training, it would have been great to have metal pointed stakes with flags attached and ready to go; however, not knowing where these could be purchased I decided to use wooden dowels. I bought some 1/4 inch and 3/8 inch dowels to start. I was able to find some plastic in the bright orange color and proceeded to cut the plastic in strips of about an inch wide and at least a foot long. These strips were simply tied to the dowels in a double knot leaving the ends to flap about.

Fourth, a various array of personal articles constructed of leather, cloth and plastic. Such things as gloves, socks, key rings (with keys), hats and belts are good articles. The article should not be too large, but should be well scented by the track layer when being used.

Fifth, if you have a strong tracker you may want to wear a pair of gloves to prevent rope burns as the line moves through your hands.

Lastly, such items as a watch, clipboard with paper and pencil, all weather gear, insect repellent, water jug (human and K-9) as well as snacks for you and your friend will make the outings ever more fun.

There are two things that cannot be stressed too strongly:

- 1) ALWAYS obtain permission to use property before entering. There are trespass laws.
- 2) Take care of your equipment, keep leather well-oiled (except articles) and allow all equipment to dry thoroughly before putting it away should it get wet.

Barb and I recently captured our eighth TD collectively. Our training program has developed into the following schedule which has become the foundation of our tracking training. Of course, any given dog may require additional work in specific areas or may progress at a slightly slower rate, therefore, the lesson plan can and should be adjusted to meet the specific needs of the dog in question.

WATCH FOR PART II in the May/June Newsletter. ed.

CATALOG AND ADVERTISING

The advertising will be incorporated into the catalog this year. If you would like to advertise 1) your kennel, 2) your up and coming litter, 3) your puppies, 4) your dog related business, or, 5) all of the above, the advertising rate is:

FULL PAGE \$25.00



Catalog advertising monies will be used to defray the cost of the printing. The remainder will go to the Club.

The catalogs will cost \$3.00 the day of the Match. Those advertising will receive a free catalog.

Breed Judge and Jr. Showmanship Judge for our Match will be Mrs. Virginia Paine, from Ashville, NY. Obedience Judge will be Shirley Patin.

If you have any questions or need further information please feel free to call Mike or myself (Joan) at 1/414/646-4114.

I would like to thank all the members who have supported us in the past and am asking you to do it again. Next year will be our first "A" Match being held at Peggy Tollison's. There will be more information on that in future issues.

 DEADLINE FOR CATALOG ADVERTISING IS JUNE 15, 1989 

Please send your advertising to:

Mike & Joan Dunn
N3 W31535 Twin Oaks Dr.
Delafield, WI 53018

Hope to see you all at the Match.

FUN STUFF FROM SUSAN WAGENALS

We have just returned from our annual, pre-mosquito visit to the vet - Hudson and Sam, Emma and me. In a marathon of one-stop shopping, the Sussex were poked, prodded, jabbed, scraped, cultured, inspected, and leeches. Nothing was sacred. Even their innards were photographed in lifesize white on black. Such indignities. The Sussex haven't spoken to us for 36 hours.

Mr. H., tipping the scales at a lean 48 pounds, received a clean bill of health. He is as sound as a dollar, save for ears that would put limburger cheese to shame. Nightly doses of Panalog panacea are in order until we see healthy, pinky-white, dry skin when we peer inside. So far, all we've seen is the usual light coming through from the other side, but we're optimistic.

Ms. Emma's checkup was less encouraging. Her heart murmur, diagnosed a year ago as "innocent" and non-genetic by our former veterinarian, may have worsened. She has been referred to the University of Minnesota veterinary cardiologist for further evaluation. By the next newsletter, we'll know more.

We also hope to have the two OFA evaluations back by then. The vet's initial reaction to Hudson's hip x-ray was positive. All appears to be in good order. Since Hudson is being actively trained for obedience competition, we want to be sure that his jumping apparatus can withstand continued use.

Easter certainly was a hit this year with the dogs. The Big Rabbit brought them the long-awaited spring thaw, a new retrieving dummy, complete with eau de pheasant, and bunny ears from Burger King. The Sussex decided that they looked singularly stupid with those big, pink paper antennae flopping around, so they folded them down, painted 'em brown, and created Sussie ears. Now they want all the humans at the Milwaukee match to wear them. If the dogs stop laughing long enough, it would make a very dignified group portrait for posterity. I'll bring the ears if someone else brings the wide-angle lens.

That reminds me. Our favorite video tape these days is the 1989 Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show, courtesy of the USA network. Everyone in our house cheers and howls madly when Ch. The Vicar of Lexxfield CD struts his stuff. Congratulations Erin and Pluis! You did us proud.

The Westminster tape has also been an interesting tool for the study of overall canine movement, structure, soundness, and gait. Ever-sharpening my powers of observation, I find I learn something each time I watch it. The biggest disappointment is that there is only one specimen of the Dog of Dogs. Since I don't believe that any of the networks will be carrying the Milwaukee match this year, Sam and I intend to rent a camcorder, finances permitting, so we can tape the entire thing. That way, we can have hours of viewing pleasure.

If anyone out there already has a videocamera, please let us know. We will happily work as the production (and post-production) crew--and out pocketbooks will thank you.

Well, enough for now. Tuesday is toedday, and the dogs are clamoring for their weekly pedicure. (If you believe that, you don't own a Sussex.)

Susan Wagenhals
118 W. 44th St.
Minneapolis, MN 55409

P.S. Congratulations and thanks are also due to one Ms. Judy Murff for a superlative job on the new SSCA Newsletter. The size is a little weird (except maybe to Bobby Lewis) but the added illustrations are great! Thank you for your fine contribution to the Club.

SUSAN AND EMMA



(borrowed from
Front & Finish)

January 19, 1989

Sussex Spaniel Club of America
c/o Linda Legare
4488 280th Street
Randolph, MN. 55065

Sussex Spaniel Club:

I have examined the financial statements of the Sussex Spaniel Club of America as of December 31, 1988. In my opinion, the financial statements present fairly the financial position of the club at December 31, 1988.

Duane W. Westlander

Duane W. Westlander
28630 Dickman Ave.
Randolph, MN. 55065

"Diana Yarchin, longtime Club member and Sussex owner, died in February. Diana co-owned several Sussex with Peg Reid. Her one remaining Sussex has gone to live with Peg, and she has left much of her Sussex memorabilia to Bobby Lewis. Diana was an asset to the ranks of Sussex owners and will be sorely missed by all of us who knew her."

Marcia Deugan

OPUS FROM OREGON

by

Sandra Adams

P.O. Box 116

Alvadore, OR 97409-0116

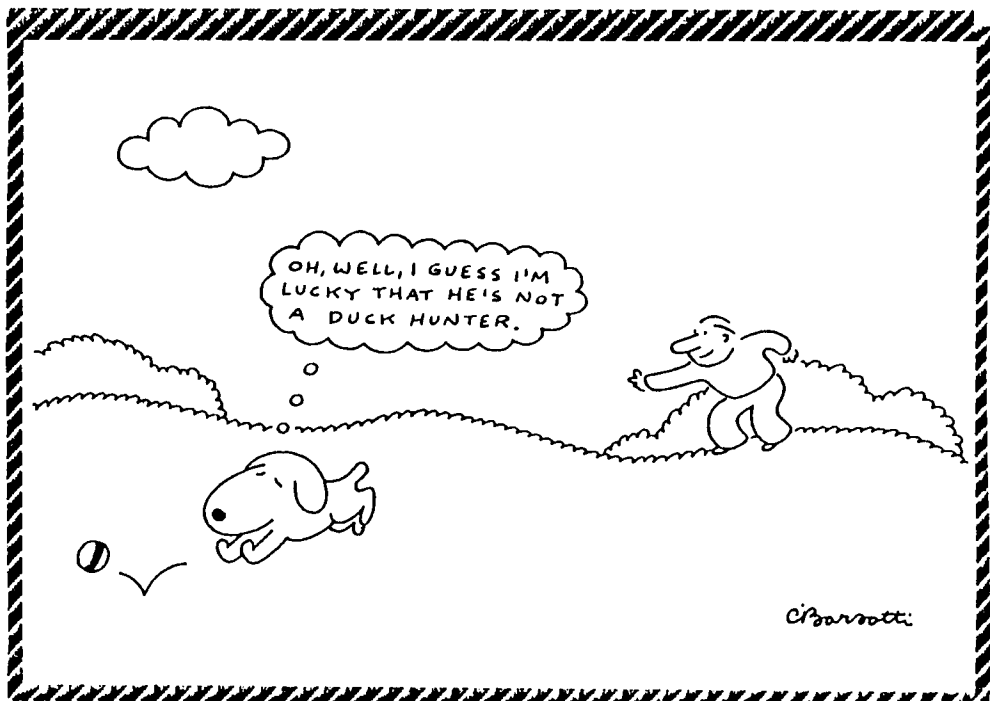
It has been rainy and cold here, but despite it all the daffodils are blooming and the daphne is pungent on the air--sure signs of an Oregon Spring.

Last issue outlined an official hunting test and its procedures. In February the pups were fortunate enough to attend a real, live Sanctioned A Hunting test not twenty minutes from here, held by the Washington Clumber Club, Jane and Darrell Reeves in charge. It had been postponed two weeks due to the Siberian Express. Berkeley was entered, so Buck, Rosy and Fanny felt obligated to tag along and see what all the commotion was about.

Such a commotion, too--Jane called ten days prior to the test (took her awhile to locate the phone number here), and Berkeley was entered via telephone. Since all training had been on hold since Fall, a flurry of phone calls finally found some help in the emergency training department. That Saturday Berk and Subordinate went to the GSH friend's place and tried out Berk's potential. It wasn't too awfully bad--with a little guidance and Pigeon, the new guest to the Farm, there might be some hope. Worked pretty well, too, until Clumsy dropped the Pigeon before it had its harness on. By Wednesday the snow and ice arrived, by Thursday no Pigeon, no pasture, by Friday no road and no test, by Saturday not water, hot or cold. And so we sat another week. Still no training by test time, but the pups packed up their collars and Clumsy packed up the potluck salad and off the troops went, hopefulness in hand.

Test Day was absolutely wonderful. There were numerous Clumbers and English Cockers, some Springers and two American Cockers, plus the pups. There were entries in Master, Senior and Junior. It was well-organized and run smoothly. Jane and Darrell did a great job. Debbie King, the hostess for the test at her Rockhill Cocker Kennels did a great job and offered a perfect location. The huge pasture was well away from any roads, the water area was a large dammed pond and the covered hospitality area offered a big kettle of beefalo chili to go with the potluck foods and plenty of hot coffee. The weather cooperated and it didn't rain, the snow had melted and it wasn't icy cold. The judges and entrants came from as far away as northern Washington and California's Bay Area. It was great!

The testing itself went pretty much as outlined in last issue's Opus. We drove a short mile to the field work area. Each dog approached the starting line as its number was called. Two bird planters had dizzied and hidden two pigeons at a time per dog. The dogs were sent out, pigeons flushed, one of two gunners shot, birds retrieved and judges scored them. They all did well except Berkeley. He flushed his pigeons all right, but if they weren't shot down under his nose he noticed that the planters smelled a whole lot like pigeons



too, and glued himself to them. Ah, well.

We all then drove back to the water work area. This was really exciting! The Master and Senior dogs went first and Oh! to see the handlers and dogs work by hand, voice and whistle command, searching left or right or up or down the banks-- it was truly inspiring. The pond was deep, dark and cold, but none of the dogs hesitated (except, of course, Berkeley). The dogs were seated on the starting line. On signal the gunner across the 40 foot plus pond shot in the air and threw a dead pigeon (or pheasant) along the far side of the bank. Each dog was sent out in the water to either search out the bird or go directly to it, pick it up and swim back to complete the retrieval. Berkeley quite nicely saw the pigeon go down, trotted right down to the water's edge and then couldn't quite find the exact right most perfect spot to enter the water-- in which length of time he forgot about the bird, started back to me, saw a pile of dead birds on the bank twenty feet away, went over to them and was sorting through them to select the choicest dead pigeon or pheasant to pick up when the judge called us "failed". Ah, well. Such is life with a Sussex, eh?

And so folks, the Inexperienced Novice chalks up Experience Number One. But the chili was good, the company exciting, the dogs inspiring, the day beautiful and the pups had fun watching. Next issue's Opus will begin to cover (and probably never conclude) the problems encountered in bird training which will forever more be referred to as Berkeley Boobos.

It is still raining, but not as cold. The grass is popping out a little at a time and the squirrels have come out of hibernation. The pheasants are roosting outside my bedroom window in the woods. Their 5:30 AM squawk-whir wake-up call is not quite as delightful as last Fall's long distance sightings. But, in the blink of a Sussex it will be Summer and all you folks will be out field training, right? See you then

Thundering Sussex sends our

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to

Stonehenge

Kim and Jim Tackers

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TUMBLWEED**

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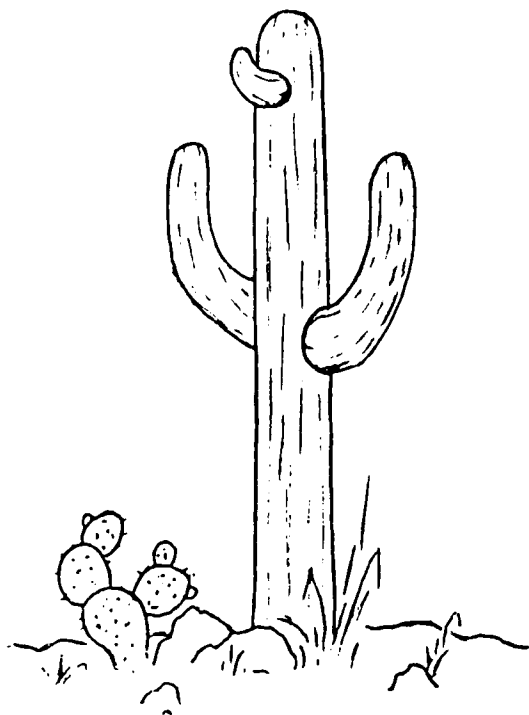
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**Kim and Jim have done a beautiful job
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EADWEARD

KENNEL

After nearly four years of trying to have a litter of Sussex Spaniels we finally hit the jackpot. Light presented us with one male and three bitches on January 25, 1989.

Sire: Ch. Domar's Simon Ch. Happy of Lexxfield
McGee
Bucaneers Dreamy BoomBoom

Simon is the sire of Best of Breed and major pointed offspring out of his first litter. He is, also, OFA'ed and CERF ok'ed.

Dam: Ziyadah I Saw The Light Ziyadah's Boyd Tarletan
Ch. Quintic Gold Ziyadah

Light is a sweet, gentle soul. She has a reserve on a three point major. A litter sister to Ziyadah Ramblin Man, who is pointed. Linebred on Boyd and Tom Tarletan.

The male and maybe one female will be for sale.

Pictures and pedigree on request.

MRS. LINDA M. SHANNON
115 WEST BRANCH ROAD
MARQUETTE, MICHIGAN 49855
906/249-9056

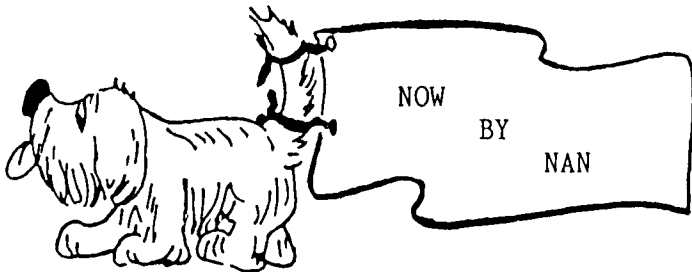
LYME DISEASE

Lyme disease, not Rocky Mountain spotted fever, is now the most prevalent tick-borne ailment in North America. Initially thought to be restricted to the southern New England states, the disease is now a problem from coast to coast. The first symptom is usually a slowly expanding circular red rash that surrounds the point at which a tick has punctured the skin. The most common later symptom is what is known as Lyme arthritis, in which pain occurs in a single joint, goes away and then either recurs. Dogs can experience similar symptoms. One should consider the possibility of Lyme disease if the dog is lame in one leg for a day and then lame in another. Fortunately, dogs and humans can usually be cured with antibiotics. Tetracyclines are the treatment most often recommended.

Lyme disease should be treated immediately but can be dealt with effectively at any stage. The longer it goes untreated, the longer the patient may take to become cured.

Lyme disease, like AIDS and Legionnaires' disease, is scary because it seems to have come out of nowhere and is spreading like wildfire. For a free color brochure on Lyme disease, write to Lyme Disease Booklet, Dept. SA, Pfizer Central Research, Eastern Point Rd., Groton, CT 06340-9988.

(From an article by George Harrison in Sports Afield)



Nan Burket
16401 Knoxville Rd.
Orion, IL 61273
309/787-6719

NEWS ITEMS

Vicar Does It Again! Erin Emmons wrote that the Vicar of Lexxfield won his championship with BOB at Westminster--what a way to win a championship! CONGRATULATIONS to Erin, Vicar and also to Plus Davern, Vicar's new co-owner, who handled Vicar's Westminster appearance.

Then Douglas Johnson called to say he'd gotten his first Group win at Asheville KC in South Carolina--you deserve a gold star, Doug--and guess which dog he showed to that wonderful Group win? Yup, you guessed--it was Ch. The Vicar of Lexxfield.

It may be the Chinese Year of the Snake but it seems to be the Sussex Year of the Vicar. At least, so far.

PLAY BALL!

Laura Lee of Lithia Springs, GA writes that her whole family looks forward to baseball season. She enclosed a picture of Calvin Lee looking straight and proud in his Little League uniform and next to him is a Sussex Spaniel named Oliver who is mascot for the Phillies Minor in Lithia Springs. Oliver wears a team T-shirt and also looks straight and proud.

CRUFTS, ANYONE?

Barbara Behrendsen writes that she, along with Barb Steward and Sue Rose, went to Crufts and found that "the Sussex were beautiful in England: they have bone and substance. Long and low is what they prefer." Barb also reported that Walt Steward's Sunrise at Askonandy (Sunnie) went BOB and Poppy went WB the American Spaniel Club show. Unfortunately, I don't know Poppy's breeding, but hearty congratulations to the Stewards!

THE SPANIEL MAGAZINE

The Spaniel Magazine died. Last issue I recommended that you subscribe but I now retract the recommendation. Too bad--it was good. If it reincarnates, I'll let you know.

ELIZABETH'S FAMILY

Last issue I told you about Lizzie's four pups born by Caesarian Section due to Primary Uterine Inertia on January 23. Here's the follow-up: Lizzie never took to the pups. The instinct seemed to be there but the hormones weren't and we had to hold her tightly to nurse the pups for five days.

At that time, Lizzie looked just terrible. Her face was drawn and she looked 100 years old in the head and neck. I took her to the vet and said, perhaps a mite overdramatically, "Elizabeth is dying." The vet pondered for maybe five seconds and gave Lizzie a shot of calcium. In 20 minutes, as we arrived home, Elizabeth was a different dog.

Eclampsia, f'heaven's sake! We removed her from the pups altogether and she was sick enough not to care.

In two hours the vet called and said Elizabeth had a rare form of eclampsia that she had never seen before. (Our vet is female which makes writing about Elizabeth and the vet a true exercise in antecedent attention.) This form of eclampsia begins before the pups are born and causes primary uterine inertia. This is important since PUI is sometimes listed as a characteristic of the Sussex as a breed. Maybe it isn't PUI that's the problem--maybe it's this rare form of eclampsia. If you have a pregnant bitch or are about to breed your bitch, talk to your vet about this and see if keeping track of her calcium level all during pregnancy would be a good thing.

Our vet is calling about to universities and other vets in order to collect the facts about this problem and I'll write the details when I get them. Meanwhile, watch the calcium in your pregnant bitches. Incidentally, increasing her calcium intake during pregnancy is not the thing to do. It seems strange but it won't help this problem--the problem is PROBABLY in the parathyroid glands which govern the calcium distribution.

Meanwhile, back at the whelping box, Sylvia and I had suddenly become foster parents to quadruplets and they took to the bottle readily and with good appetite.

We had previously been warned not to use canned formula for Sussex pups since it dehydrates them and they die. We didn't experiment to see if it were true--we made our own formula by this recipe:

- 1 can evaporated milk (12 oz.)
- 8 oz. plain yogurt
- 2 egg yolks
- 6 oz. boiled water
- If constipated, add 1/4 cup Karo Syrup

The pups loved it and didn't lose any weight with the sudden switch from Mom to bottle. We didn't expect any problems, though, because we have a book titled SUCCESSFUL DOG BREEDING by Bonnie Wilcox, DVM, and Chris Walkowicz. It was the 1985 AKC Dog Book of the Year and if you ever expect to breed a litter of pups, this book is required for your bookshelf.

The next thing I am going to tell you is that Bonnie Wilcox, DVM, is our veterinarian and Chris Walkowicz, co-author, lives down the road apiece. I am therefore prejudiced toward this book but we have four healthy, vigorous pups to prove its worth. If we never learned anything else about raising puppies except that formula it would be well worth its price. It has other formulas for supplementing Mama's Milk Bar in case you have a large litter, etc. It's chock full of help. If you can't find the book anywhere else, write to me and I'll find out how to get it for you. But before you have another litter, read this book.

Sylvia and I have been very busy. I thought I gave up midnight feedings thirty years ago, but here I am again. In the puppy room, Sylvia slept on the couch and I wrapped myself in down and slept on the floor. We were up at least twice every night and our schedule went like this: make formula, feed pups, clean pups, clean pen, disinfect other pen, take a nap and repeat. We lived through it, though and when the pups were just over seven weeks old, we piled the pups, Elizabeth and my Sheltie, Solo, into the van and drove 600 miles to Cleveland, Ohio, to show off the pups to their sire, Ch. Long Jon Deeptrees Lexxfield. He did seem proud.

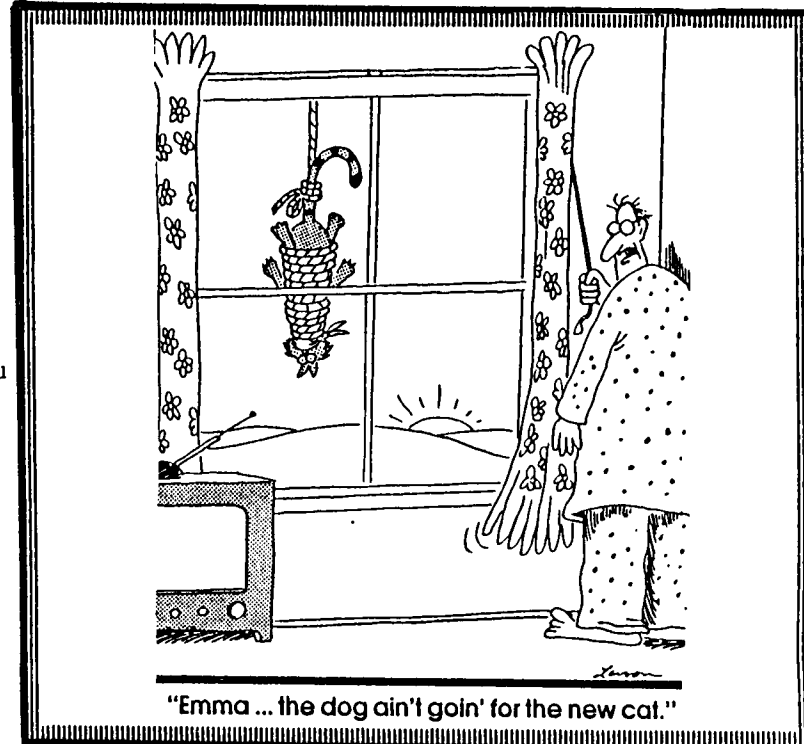
Mary Lilly, Long Jon's owner, wasn't any more kennel blind than we are. She thought they were possibly the best Sussex Spaniels ever born just like we do.

The next day we drove another 400 miles to New Jersey to deliver the only male pup to Chris Lohmeyer who ordered him last Christmas Eve. We expect Chris to be at the speciality and since she's new to the breed, please make her feel welcome. Mind your manners, okay?

The next day Bobby Lewis from Virginia came up to New Jersey to pick up his little girl puppy. We had some lovely conversation, a bit of wine, and Bobby was his usual understated self about this magnificent litter of Sussex Spaniels. He did take his little girl home, though.

My thanks to those who wrote and called with news for the column. I need more of you to do the same.

Happy Spring, Everybody.



GOLDEN LIVER OBEDIENCE



By

Sam Skoog

118 W. 44th St.

Minneapolis, MN 55409

First obedience title for a Sussex in 1989 award goes to Ch. The Vicar of Lexxfield C.D. Vicar finished his Novice title at the American Spaniel Club in January. He also finished his conformation title at Westminster a few weeks later. That's really getting your titles at prestigious shows. Congratulations to Erin and Vicar.

Minor Westminster grumble: I noticed when dogs' names were shown on the Westminster broadcast, working titles weren't shown. And a number of dogs, especially in the Sporting Group, had obedience or field titles.

One of the less pleasant aspects of writing this sort of column is that if I'm going to report my dog's good scores, I also have to report the, um, less good. Here goes: Hudson's first match in Open class--out of a possible 200 points, our score was 156. This, or course, is non-qualifying, and to do it, he had to miss an entire exercise (retrieve over high jump.) Not the start to his Open career we hoped for, but something that happens to every dog. Maybe it's best that we got it over with early in the season. Normally, we spend our time trying to pick up half a point at a time: it's quite different trying to gain 44 of them.

Hudson came through a week later, and finished at 193 in spite of some ferocious lags. Even so, it will be a while before we're ready to show for real.

There was an editorial addition last issue about entering Hudson in one of the Gaines competitions. Several SSCA members have urged this on me, so he is entered in Des Moines June 2-4. Entries in Novice, where he will be competing, are limited to 70 dogs, but each one is of the highest caliber. We'll report, good or bad.

I suppose I should offer an explanation of the Gaines obedience competitions. Basically, they follow the rules of an AKC trial, although they are not AKC sanctioned. There are three regional events, each consisting of three trials. The object is to lose as few points as possible over the three trials.

Competition is pretty fierce: to enter a regional a dog must have three scores over 193 at sanctioned trials. Prizes are awarded through tenth place. The top ten dogs at each regional are eligible to enter the national competition, the Gaines Classic. It is also possible to qualify for the Classic by having three scores over 195, although regional winners get priority. Generally, you don't want to lose more than 10 points over the three days if you wish to place.

Last issue, I tried to give an overview of an entire trial. The next two times, I'll be focusing on the Novice class. This class is the most difficult to train for, and is the foundation for all the rest of the work the dog will do. While performing well in Novice is no guarantee that a dog will do well in Open and Utility, a dog that cannot do Novice work will be unable to do the more advanced classes.

As with the other levels, Novice is divided into Novice A and Novice B classes. Novice A is for handlers who have never owned or co-owned a dog with an AKC obedience title. Dogs shown in this class must be owned by the handler or a member of the handler's immediate family. More experienced trainers must compete in Novice B.

FRANK & ERNEST

Bob Thaves



"COME IN," SHE SAID,
"OF COURSE YOU CAN
TRACK MUD ALL
OVER MY CLEAN
KITCHEN FLOOR.."

© 1984 THAVES 10-4

Both Novice classes are restricted to dogs who have not received a C.D. title. Once a dog receives the title, by qualifying three times, it remains eligible for Novice for 30 days after the third leg. Ten to fifteen shows is the usual maximum at Novice level.

It should be said that there are some who argue that entering a lot of shows at Novice is unsporting, depriving others of a chance to win. On the other side are those who try to get in 20 or more shows during the eligibility window. For myself, I think that the dogs deserve to be shown off as much as possible. It's hard work getting a dog ready, and it should be rewarded. And the rules are the rules: we all agree to play by them, and if a dog is eligible for 30 days, he can be shown for 30 days.

Novice level competition consists of six exercises:

- 1) Heel on leash with figure eight
- 2) Stand for examination
- 3) Heel off leash (no figure eight)
- 4) Recall
- 5) 1 minute sit-stay
- 6) 3 minute down-stay

Three of these exercises are stationary, that is, the dog must remain in place to receive the points. The stand for examination is performed after the heel on leash exercise. The leash is removed, and is taken by a ring steward. The dog is put into standing position. The handler is allowed to physically move the dog into a standing position, but it is unwise to pick the dog up as some judges penalize this. Once the dog is in position, he is commanded and signalled to "stay," and the handler walks six feet forward, turns, and faces the dog. The judge moves to the dog and very lightly examines him, touching only head, back, and hindquarters. After this examination, the handler returns to heel position by the dog, until the judge says "exercise finished."

Penalties for stand for examination:

Non-qualifying:

- displays shyness, aggression, or resentment at any time
- sits or lies down before or during examination
- moves away before or during examination

Substantial--typically 3-5 points, may be less or much, much more:

- sits or lies down after examination
- moves away after examination
- rough handler or resistance during positioning

Minor--typically 1/2 to 1 point, may be more:

- moves feet after "stay" command (doesn't move whole body)
- handler returns to other than heel position
- handler moves less or more than six feet from dog
- handler touches dog when commanding "stay"

Unlike the stand, the sit-stay and down-stay exercises are done in a group. The class is divided, if needed, into groups of 12 or fewer dogs. After all the dogs in the group have completed exercises 1-4, they are all brought back into the ring (on leash) for the stay exercises. They are lined up, leashes are removed, and armbands placed in back of the dogs to identify them.

Sits and downs are performed and judged in the same manner. Once everyone is lined up, the judge says "sit (down) your dog." You are allowed to use whatever commands are needed, but may not touch the dog. On the order "leave your dogs," handlers may give both command and signal to "stay," whereupon they walk (forward) to the other side of the ring, turn, and face the dogs. One minute (sits) or three minutes (downs) after the order to leave the dogs, the handlers are asked to return to their dogs. As in the stand, this means to heel position.

Penalties for long sits and long downs:

Non-qualifying:

- moving a substantial distance from the place it was left
- changing position (e.g. sit to down) before handler returns
- repeated barking or whining
- bothering a neighboring dog

- excessive resistance to efforts to position dog

Substantial:

- moving a minor distance
- one or two barks or whines

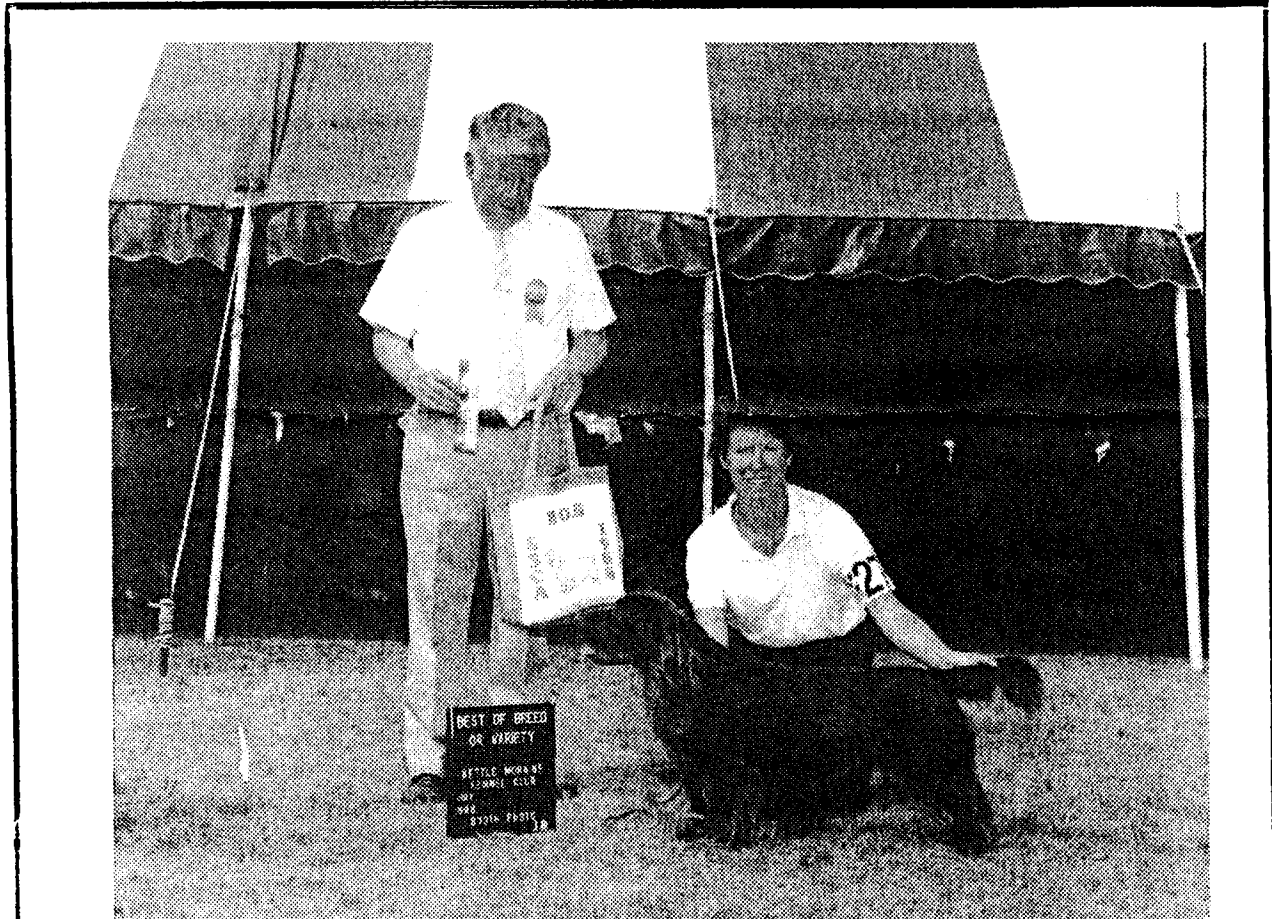
Minor:

- changing position after the handler returns
- touching dog or collar to position it

Judges expect perfection in these 3 exercises, and any flaws are heavily penalized. The only parts of the dog to move should be head and tail. It is also inconsiderate to show the dog before he is ready. If my dog bothers yours, and causes yours to break the stay, you are also non-qualified unless the judge decides to re-test your dog. Many will, but they do not have to. And who wants to do the exercise twice?

One last detail. In each of these exercises, you may give both command and signal to the dog to "stay." That is, you may say "Vicar, stay!" and give a signal at the same time. The only time command and signal may be used is when you are asking the dog to stay, it is penalized at other times.

Heeling is usually the only thing separating a 195 point performance from a 199 point one. Because it's so important from a number of viewpoints, I'll save it, and the recall, for next time.



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CH DOMAR'S SIMON McGEE

NOVEMBER 15, 1984

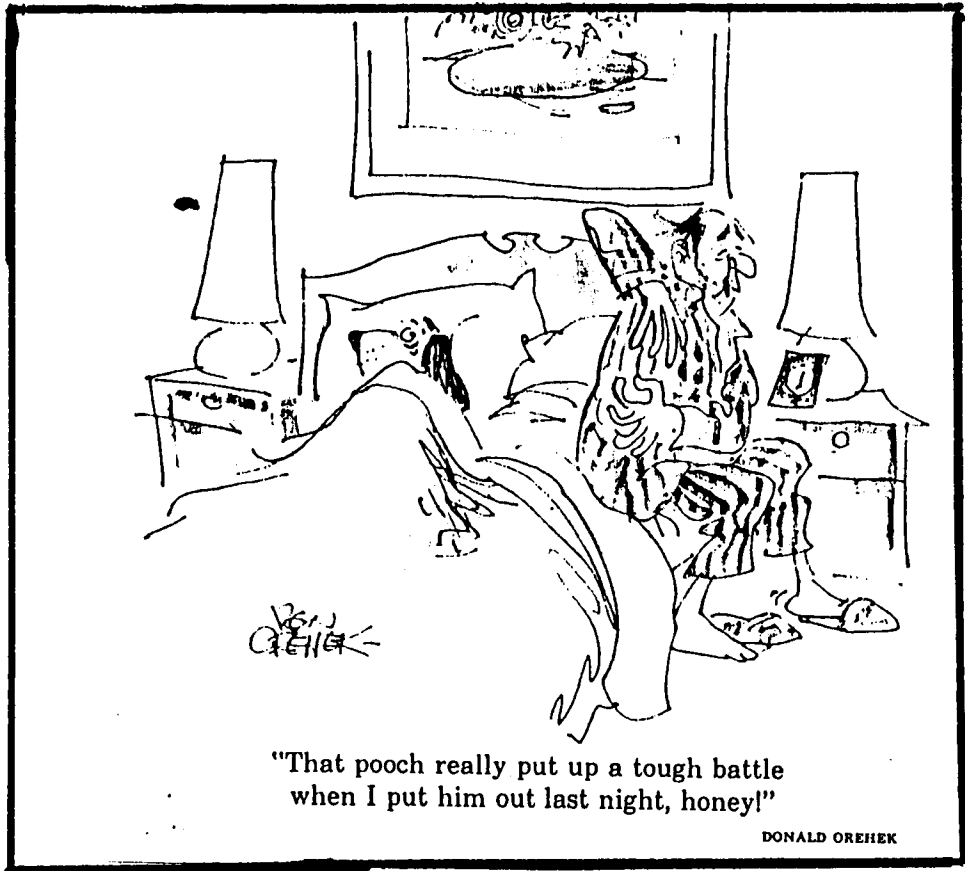
(CH HAPPY OF LEXXFIELD X BUCCANEER'S DREAMY BOOM BOOM)

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January/February Newsletter. .deadline February 1st
 March/April. April 1st
 May/June June 1st
 July/August. August 1st
 September/October. October 1st
 November/December. December 1st

Materials received after these deadlines will be held for the next Newsletter.
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