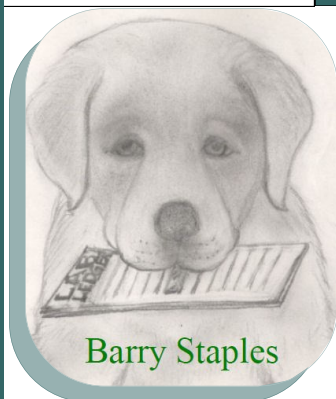


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Barry Staples

# LAB LEDGER

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## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

We will be having a program on the AKC BREEDER OF MERIT at our next meeting. We will be discussing the requirements benefits and possible drawbacks of being involved in the AKC as a breeder of merit.

Last week the Today show did an "investigation" of the AKC as a protector of puppies and puppy buyers. It featured their investigative reporter going to several people who had purchased AKC registered puppies from breeders only to find out they were sick or otherwise unhealthy. It showed several breeders being raided and diseased starved dogs being removed from their premises. Some of these had apparently been inspected by the AKC. The interview shifted from the visually disgusting to the intellectually disgusting while the AKC representative was interviewed. She could not say how many breeders there were in the U.S., she could not say what percentage of them were inspected, or how frequently. She revealed that there were 55 inspectors and when asked if she thought that was sufficient to do the job replied that is how many we have.

All in all the Today show made the AKC look like (in my opinion only) that they were only concerned with registration revenue and not with the protection of puppies and the protection of buyers. I had thought that non registered litters from unscrupulous breeders in puppy mills were a sufficient evil to be protected from; however NBC seems to be indicating that the AKC is not doing enough to insure that purebred registered puppies are healthy. The AKC was quick to respond that the Today show had misrepresented their positions, had not provided the whole story, and had left many statements out of their interview.

My only experience in this arena with the AKC came with a letter I wrote to the AKC to have them explain how silver labs were registered if they were not purebred or if they were purebred, why the AKC was not defending their registration against attacks from the Labrador Retriever Club. In a masterful effort to avoid the swirling controversy on this matter, the AKC simply refused to respond, or even acknowledge the question.

If the AKC is going to be just a registry of births of puppies, it is important that its member clubs such as ours do what they can to insure the health and well-being of (Labrador) puppies so that puppy owners can be well informed and educated when they come to make a selection. If the AKC is more than just a registry, then it would seem that its many programs such as their inspection programs and Breeder of Merit have real value to purchasers.

Barry Staples

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## MEMBERSHIP

### **Membership DUES Reminder**

Our membership dues for 2013 will be due starting 11/1/12.

Please completely fill out this form and return it with your check so that we can keep our records up to date.

\$20.00 individual \$25.00 family

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks out to GALRC and mail to:

Jim Griffin

130 Hickory Pointe Dr.

Athens, Ga. 30605

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### **Member's breeder directory**

To be included in the breeder's directory of the club's website, please e-mail the following information to our Website master: [Jean McLain](#)

Kennel name, Contact person, Website URL address, e-mail address, phone number and a brief description of your practices. You may include any updated information about current litters.

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### **New Members**

Our President, the board of directors, and the members of the club welcome the following new members:

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# BRAGS

## ELHID'S HELLO BEAUTIFUL

(CH DANBRIDGE INDIANA JONES WC & ELHID'S NEEDS A SPANKING)

Gorgie had a great weekend at the Watkinsville shows. On Saturday she went WB, BOB and then went to the groups to pick up a Group 4 ribbon under judge Dr. Carmen L. Battaglia. On Sunday she repeated Going WB under judge Ann D Hearn. Handler: Amy Wall.



Breed by Coleen and Bruce Kincaid from ELHID Labradors and Owned by Laura van Dalen.

Thank you to all the help out!

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Breeder of Merit

Join us the 21st for a Breeder of merit educational program.

I'm presently in Denver with my family and specifically my eleven year old grandson, Max. In October last he was diagnosed with what is known as an orphan disease (Langerhans cell hystiocytosis). Most of the time those who are found to have had this rare disease are already not breathing by the time it's diagnosed. But thanks to Max's eagle-eyed pediatrician and a dear neurosurgeon friend, it was discovered in Max's pituitary in time for Chemo/steroid treatment. Max has endured six months of that thru a port surgically inserted in his chest connected to his heart.

Today he had the definitive MRI telling us whether the treatment had done its work.

Many, many of my dear buddies in GALRC have been sending up prayers and positive thoughts on Max's behalf. For that reason, Max and his family (including his GeeGee, me) would like to thank all for their generous support and say IT WORKED!!!

Max has been cleared to have his port removed and will not have to have further chemo. He will need to take meds for the rest of his life to make up for the havoc the LCH has wreaked on his pituitary. And there will be continuous MRI's to make sure there is nothing still lurking in there. But we won't lose him like we thought we might, and for that we are eternally grateful....especially because it has been the added blessing of those prayers and positive thoughts that made the difference when combined with the good meds provided at Denver Children's Hospital.

Please include this THANK YOU from Max, my family and me in the next missal you send out to GALRC. MERCI, gracias, ASANTE'SANA...in all languages, Patty B and the Sumo Critters

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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

New point schedule is in effect

AKC Point Schedule	1 point	2 points	3 points	4 points	5 points
States	Dogs Bitches	Dogs Bitches	Dogs Bitches	Dogs Bitches	Dogs Bitches
DIVISION 3 District of Columbia, Maryland, North Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia.	2 2↓	8 11↓	13 19↓	28↓ 40↓	56↓ 80↓
DIVISION 4 Florida, Georgia, South Carolina	2 2	11 14↑	19 24↑	27↓ 36↑	38↑ 55↑
DIVISION 14 Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi.	2 2	6↑ 7↑	12↑ 14↑	14 17↑	19↑ 22↑





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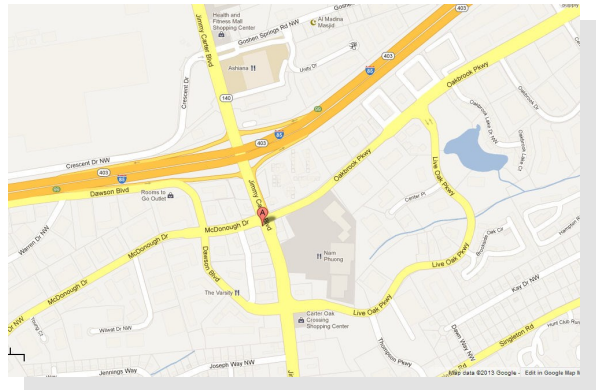
## MAY CLUB MEETING

OUR NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON MAY 21<sup>st</sup>

Location: Denny's restaurant at Jimmy Carter Boulevard (exit 99) off I-85.

Directions: Going North on I-85 it is to the right and coming south you turn left cross over 85 and it is on the right.

Address: 5534 Jimmy Carter Blvd, Norcross, GA (770) 448-8762



The regular monthly meeting of the Club will be held on the third Tuesday of each month. Board members will commence their meeting at 7:00 p.m. and membership will meet immediately following at 7:30 p.m. As always members are invited to the Board meeting.

We hope to see you there!

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## AVAILABLE

### **Young Adult Available - Yellow Male w. 12/21/2011**

"Roo" is a 17 month old yellow male that we purchased from Inselheim Labradors (Barb Reseig) as a puppy to be an outside stud dog. We're looking to place him at this time as a "pet". Roo would do best with a single person, family with older children or empty nesters. He is current on all preventive and vaccinations. He is great with other dogs, but would do best in a home without cats (he loves to chase them). Folks can see a picture of Roo on our website at <http://www.carriagehilllabs.com/>. Contact Neil at (404) 713-7116 for more information. Referrals appreciated.





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## AKC OWNER HANDLER SERIES

Did you know that more than 80% of show dogs are handled by their owners? To celebrate the dedication and enthusiasm of owner-handler exhibitors the American Kennel Club has created the new AKC National Owner Handled Series. This non-titling competition will be held at select dog shows across the country.

The AKC National Owner Handled Series will be conducted following Best of Breed judging in each breed ring. All dogs in the BOB competition (including WD & WB) will stay in the ring after the judge makes their placements in BOB competition. The ring steward will ask all professional handlers, household members and current assistants to professional handler to leave the ring and then the judge will then select the Best Owner Handled (BOH). The dog and its owner will continue to accrue points for any group placements or Bests in Show.

The top-ranked dogs from the AKC National Owner Handled Series are posted on the [AKC National Owner Handled Series Points Ranking](#) page. Rankings of the dogs competing in the Series are compiled based on the Best of Breed, Group, and Best in Show placements in this specific Series competition (See [Point Schedule](#)). The inaugural end of year competition for the AKC National Owner Handled Series will be held in conjunction with the AKC/Eukanuba show in December 2013. Dogs that finished ranked in the top ten (plus ties) for their breed for the 2012 or 2013 qualifying years will be invited to compete in the competition. The qualifying period for the 2012 qualifying year is January 1, 2012 through October 10, 2012. The qualifying period for the 2013 qualifying year will be October 11, 2012 through October 9, 2013. Dogs owned or exhibited by professional handlers are not eligible for this competition. Dogs exhibited by current assistants and household members of a professional handler are not eligible to enter this class.

**Professional handlers** are defined as any person who belongs or has belonged to a professional handlers' organization, distributed rate cards, or otherwise advertised or represented themselves as handling dogs for pay.

### **AKC National Owner Handled Series Q & A**

**1. What is the purpose of the AKC National Owner-Handled Series?**

*A. To recognize and showcase the quality dogs being exhibited by owner/handlers and to provide a venue for the owner/handlers to compete against their peers.*

**How do I enter the AKC National Owner-Handled Series competition?**

*A. The entry form <http://www.akc.org/pdfs/AEN999.pdf> now has an Owner/Handled eligible "check box" located below the lines for signature and telephone number. There is no additional fee required to enter this competition.*

**How do I find a show that offers AKC National Owner-Handled Series competition?**

*A. AKC National Owner-Handled Series shows are listed at <http://www.akc.org/ohs/events.cfm>.*

**1. When and where will the end of year competition be held?**

*A. The inaugural end of year competition for the AKC National Owner-Handled Series will be held in conjunction with the AKC/Eukanuba show in December 2013. Dogs that finished ranked in the top ten (plus ties) for their breed for the 2012 or 2013 qualifying years will be invited to compete in the competition. The qualifying period for the 2012 qualifying year is January 1, 2012 through October 10, 2012. The qualifying period for the 2013 qualifying year is October 11, 2012 through October 9,*



2013. Inviting the top dogs from two different qualifying periods to the inaugural end of year competition will allow exhibitors extra chances for competition and time to qualify. Our intention for future end of year competitions is to invite the top ten dogs from only the immediately prior qualifying period.

**2. Is the AKC National Owner-Handled Series the same thing as the Amateur-Owner-Handler Class?**

A. The Amateur-Owner-Handler Class is a regular class and the winner of this class will compete in the Winners Class for AKC Championship Points. The AKC National Owner-Handled Series is a special attraction that selects an owner/handled dog from all eligible dogs in the Best of Breed ring including the Winners Dog or Bitch. However, no points towards a championship will be awarded in the Series.

**3. Since AKC National Owner-Handled Series competition occurs in the Best of Breed ring, how can owner handled class dogs compete?**

A. Eligible class dogs that are selected Winners Dog or Winners Bitch are included in the AKC National Owner-Handled Series judging.

**4. Can I change handlers during competition?**

A. Dogs must be handled by an owner/handler eligible for the AKC National Owner Handled Series throughout the breed level competition for the point show. This includes the class competition and subsequent competition in the breed ring. Additionally, dogs must be handled by an eligible owner/handler for all AKC National Owner Handled Series competition. If the replacement handler is an eligible owner/handler for that dog a change can occur.

**5. Can a professional handler's spouse or child exhibit a dog in this competition?**

A. No, household members and assistants to professional handlers in Conformation are not eligible to exhibit in this competition.

**I have shown dogs for friends and was given gas money. Am I now ineligible?**

A. You may compete in the AKC National Owner-Handled Series as long as you are not a professional handler as described at <http://www.akc.org/ohs/about.cfm>. Any type of remuneration associated with the service of handling a dog in the Conformation ring meets the definition of a professional handler in regards to eligibility for the AKC National Owner-Handled Series. Compensation for expenses outside of the Conformation ring does not meet this definition.

**Can a professional Handled co-own a dog in the AKC National Owner-Handled Series competition?**

A. No. Dogs cannot be owned or co-owned by a professional Handled (as described at <http://www.akc.org/ohs/about.cfm>) and be exhibited in this competition.

**1. If the Select Bitch is eligible is my Winners Bitch still eligible for further AKC National Owner-Handled Series competition?**

A. Yes, unless the Best of Winners was awarded to an eligible Winners Dog.

**My friend handles several dogs for people. Is she allowed to enter and compete in this series?**

A. Yes, as long as your friend is not or has never been in a professional handlers organization, distributed rate cards or otherwise represented themselves as a professional handler as described at <http://www.akc.org/ohs/about.cfm>.

**Are judges allowed to compete in the AKC National Owner Handled Series?**

A. Yes, if they have never worked as a professional handler as described at <http://www.akc.org/ohs/about.cfm>.

**1. What are the qualifications required to judge the AKC National Owner-Handled Series Groups?**

A. In order to assure the judge is experienced at this level of competition, AKC strongly recommends the judge be approved to

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*judge at least one group.*

**2. Can a judge steward and judge an NOHS Group on the same day?**

*A: If the only assignment a judge has for the weekend/cluster is an NOHS Group they must abide by the same restrictions as a sweepstakes judge. Therefore, they may not exhibit on the day of their assignment and may steward after their judging assignment is complete. If a judge has regular class assignments on the same day/weekend/cluster as an NOHS Group assignment they are held to the policy applicable to regular judges in that you may only steward after your entire judging assignment is complete.*

**3. How do I protest an ineligible exhibitor who competes in the AKC National Owner/Handled Series?**

*A. Speak with the AKC Executive Field Representative in attendance or send signed protests with supporting documentation that an exhibitor was ineligible to:*

*AKC Attn: Director, Event Operations.*

*PO Box 900051*

*Raleigh, NC 27675-9051*

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## Getting Down To Basics

By Dr. Al Grossman

The evolution of a breeder is marked by various stages of development. There is the first stage where interest and desire are born; the second stage is where this interest and desire are implemented by the acquisition of quality breeding stock; the third stage takes place when breeding plans are formulated to improve upon the original stock; and the fourth stage is launched when the breeder can first exercise his own selection in evaluating the results of his breeding program. For a more detailed explanation of the stages of becoming a top notch breeder the reader should consult *REACHING FOR THE STARS* by Mary Roslin Williams (Doral Publishing, 2000). We will deal with the last stage along with some highlights of the more important though often overlooked general principles of breeding.

Most beginning breeders feel twinges of self-doubt when it comes to choosing the best puppy or puppies from their early litters. Many articles have been written telling how to select the best puppy in a litter but most are merely a re-phrasing or re-working of the Breed Standard. In other words, one is told to pick the puppy with the best of this and the best of that, but saying or reading it and actually doing it are two different things. The beginning breeder usually makes every effort to learn about each and every little trait so that his selections will be the correct ones.

Many owners dismiss the possibility of using their dogs for the purpose for which they were originally bred. Primarily, such owners are just not interested, but even if they were. They would undoubtedly say, "Look at what it would do to his coat!" and not give the matter further thought. However, in order to appreciate your breed you need to know that every breed came into being to fill a specific purpose. This is what the authors of the breed Standards had in mind when writing the Standards. While breeders may not wish to follow through in this direction, they should, nevertheless, keep in mind the basic purpose for which the breed was created, else what is the point?

There are various reasons for the many existing breeding programs of today which run the gamut from an idealistic "improvement of the breed" to blatant desire to "breed a winner." Be that as it may, even those interested in breeding nothing more than dogs that can win in the show ring would find that they would be able to breed a better quality dog if they were able to understand some of the implications behind the Standard. Memorizing the Standard will not help in breeding a better dog, but understanding what it is attempting to convey will. All breeders would do well to view the dog in terms of what it was originally and what it was expected to do. By keeping these very basic principles in mind, it becomes quite clear why certain traits are emphasized more than others. It is definitely not meant to say that the glamour should be discarded or even overlooked, on the contrary, the glamour is a part of any breed, but it should be superimposed upon a sound, well-balanced dog.

Far too many breeders seem overly concerned with the individual parts of the dog. Many breeders subconsciously feel that when they know, to their own satisfaction, what a good head is, what constitutes good neck and shoulders, what a well-angled rear looks like, etc., that there is nothing more for them to learn. Their learning all but stops and they continually evaluate their dogs and those belonging to others as an assemblage of the various "parts." The concept of relating the various parts of the dog to each other and viewing this in relationship as a whole, rather than a series of individual good and bad traits, is the key that so many breeders never grasp. It is not possible to overemphasize the necessity of understanding this point, for this is the concept of balance and is so very basic, and so very necessary, to successful breeding.

Understanding the concept of balance makes it easy to understand that balance is the fundamental principle on which selection and breeding plans should be based. Any one part of the dog's anatomy being in proportion to any other part of the dog's anatomy is the clue to the concept of balance. The result is **THE DOG AS A WHOLE IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN ANY ONE OF ITS INDIVIDUAL PARTS.**

It is balance that breed Standards are all about. Yet there are breeders who inadvertently perpetuate faulty breeding pro-

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grams because they are not able to understand or accept this. If they are told their dog is steep shouldered and its excellent rear quarters are therefore ineffective, they will argue that most dogs have steep shoulders, which to a point, is true. However, they do not take into account that it is the degree that is important. When dealing with a dog's shoulder placement, one needs to be aware of the small but major difference between "excessively" steep and "acceptably" steep. What would have been an excellent rear on a balanced dog with the proper shoulder placement becomes an over-angulated rear for the steep shouldered dog and as a result must eventually cause serious problems. What these breeders can not seem to appreciate is the fact that they have created an artificial and extremely faulty dog. In its own way, a dog such as this is just as faulty as the dog with a very bad head, a very long back, a very poor front, a very weak rear, etc. The inherent danger in such a dog is that it does not look faulty - rather, it often looks quite spectacular. When shown under incompetent judges, a dog such as this CAN and often DOES win, thus making it even more of a menace to the breed as a whole, especially should it be a male promoted at stud.

Another popular misconception about what is good and what is bad pertains to neck and shoulders. Many breeders feel that "outstanding neck and shoulders" are only those that blend so smoothly and perfectly that it is difficult to tell where one ends and the other begin. Breeders who are concerned with this trait will not settle for anything less. The result is by having lost sight of the "whole dog," the invariably end up with light boned, shelly specimens which are "poor doers." It is true they usually obtain the very smoothest shoulder possible, but then they wonder why their dogs lack bone, substance and size. These breeders would be ever so much further ahead if they would allow themselves to think in terms of the WHOLE DOG and LEARN that it is the angle of the shoulder that is vitally important and that smoothness is "secondary."

While it is absolutely necessary to know about the various traits of your breed and appreciate them for what they are, it is more important to put them all together first and view the results as a whole. If they don't add up, they are basically worthless regardless of how outstanding any one of them may be by itself. In addition, it is just not possible to set down a list of the various characteristics to take heed of, and have them apply to every individual in the same way. There are differences among many of the bloodlines in a breed with respect to the growth of puppies, and the consequent development of their many traits. What might be considered as vital in one line need not be of great importance in another. For example, "heavy shoulders" in a puppy of one line need not be cause for great concern in lines where this is known as a stage of development. The same holds true for "low-on-leg puppies" and "plain-headed", to name a few specifics. When these traits occur, and they are the rule rather than the exception, they do not and should not loom as formidable threats. However, should these same developmental characteristics appear spontaneously in lines not noted for their appearance, they must then be regarded in an entirely different light.

Just about every trait a puppy possesses is subject to change. Beautiful plush heads can turn into plain, poor adult heads- a long neck with smooth shoulders can turn into a short neck with heavy shoulders- a short backed puppy can become a long backed adult- a well angulated rear can straighten, etc. While these developmental changes are not particularly rare, it is extremely rare that characteristics, which are originally faulty and undesirable, correct themselves and become desirable. It is for this reason that the outstanding young puppy has a far greater chance of achieving maturity as a good specimen than the so-so puppy has of maturing into an outstanding adult. Breeders who keep a mediocre puppy in the hope that maturity will bring about desired changes are merely kidding themselves.

It is because knowledge of the various developmental changes takes time to acquire that the experienced breeder has a big edge over the beginner. Through experience a breeder learns many of the idiosyncrasies that pertain to the line in which he is breeding. If he has been associated with one line over a period of time, it becomes quite easy for him to exercise his own selection with assurance and self-confidence in his choices. He knows what developmental changes to expect in his stock and at what times to expect them. It is fairly easy for him to predict the future of his young stock, as it is for him select them originally. When faced with a puppy from an entirely different line, a breeder's evaluation must be concerned only with the puppy, as it presently appears rather than its future potential. What pertains to one bloodline with respect to growth and development often does not apply to another. When evaluating a litter of puppies, it is only natural and desirable to pick each one up and attempt to stand it in a show stance so that the puppy's various traits can be admired faulted and compared. This is

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also done to acquaint the puppy with the ritual of “stacking” and to afford the opportunity of giving the puppy necessary handling and individual attention. While all these practices are necessary and worthwhile, it is a common mistake not to go beyond them. The stacked position is not natural to the dog when carried to the extreme, and too many breeders carry it to the extreme. A dog that is built properly will stack almost naturally. However, a dog that is not constructed properly can be made to create the desired effect by pulling it off the grooming stand by its tail, swinging its front legs out from under it, and tugging on its tail so it will crouch and lean forward. By starting early with a young puppy and applying enough force and repetition any dog may be manipulated so as to assume the desired look in the stack position and therefore satisfy the image in the breeders mind. It really doesn't change the dog's conformation, but it does tend to create an entirely false conception of the dog not only on the part of the viewer at ringside but all too often on the part of the breeder and /or owner as well. Thus the breeder may come to believe he has something other than what he really does have. Obviously, such self-deception does nothing toward creating a better specimen. When a dog such as this is owner-shown, the owner never does have the opportunity to view his dog out of the stacked position and in motion. Sometimes they really have no idea that his dog, which has been cranked to beautifully into an artificial pose, loses every bit of its manufactured outline as soon as it is left to its own devices.

There is an intangible quality possessed by some dogs and not by others. Some call this intangible quality “heart” others call it “spirit” and still others may call it “showmanship.” Whatever it is called, it is that extra something that makes one dog stand out from another, even though they may be of equal conformation. There are dogs that look breathtaking when viewed on the table; put the same dog on the ground and it is lost in a group. Then there is another dog, which, when viewed on the table, could use a bit more of this or a little less of that. This dog, however, when on the ground is a standout and calls all sorts of attention to itself. This is the dog who makes the most of what he has, which really does great things for itself and has the ability communicate this extra something to others. This inner core is more than showmanship, for showmanship is something that can be acquired through good training. This inner glow is almost a form of communication that takes place between the dog and the viewer, whether it is the breeder, judge or spectator. It comes through in the form of “look at me; I'm the greatest!” It is the same quality that every top winner of every breed possesses. Without this inner quality, the most perfectly put together dog is “just another dog.”

***Dr. Grossman judges all Sporting dogs and is the publisher of Doral Publishing, a dog book publishing house. Doral books may be viewed at***

***[www.doralpub.com](http://www.doralpub.com)***

Article appeared in the ***Newspupper, Vol. 3, #1***, permission for reprint granted.

Submitted by Cheryl Little.



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## Dog Show Definitions...

Author Unknown

1. Great stud dog ..... Mounts anything that can fog a mirror.
2. Excels in movement ..... If he gets loose, run like hell.
3. Personality Plus ..... Wakes up if you put liver up his nose.
4. Good bite ..... Missed the judge, got the steward.
5. Large boned ..... Looks like a Clydesdale.
6. Good obedience prospect ..... Smart enough to come in from the rain, but ugly.
7. Quiet and good natured ..... In his kennel.
8. Excels in type and style ..... However, moves like a spider on "speed".
9. Won in stiff competition ..... Beat four puppies and a 9 year old novice dog.
10. Multiple group winner ..... At two puppy matches.
11. Pointed ..... His head is shaped like a carrot.
12. Noted Judge ..... He put up our dog.
13. Respected Judge ..... He put up our dog twice.
14. Esteemed Judge ..... He puts up anything that crawls.
15. Specialty Judge ..... Puts up anything that looks like his own breeding.
16. Won in heavy competition ..... The other dogs were revoltingly overweight.
17. Shown sparingly ..... Only when we had it in the bag.
18. Show Prospect ..... He has 4 legs, 2 eyes, 2 ears, 1 tail.
19. Finished in 5 shows ..... And 89 where he failed to win a ribbon.
20. Well Balanced ..... Straight as a stick, front and rear.
21. Handled brilliantly by ..... Nobody else can get near him.
22. At stud to "approved" bitches ..... Those bitches whose owner's check is good.
23. Linebred from famous champions ..... Ch. Whoozitz appears twice 6th generation.
24. Terrific brood bitch ..... Her conformation is the pits, but she conceives big litters.
25. Wins another Best In Show ..... His second, under the same judge, our uncle.

Submitted by Cheryl Little.

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## Newsletter Disclaimer

The information contained in this Newsletter is for information purposes only and does not constitute a solicitation or an offer to sell products or services.

Although GALRC believes the information on this newsletter to be correct and attempt to keep the information current, GALRC does not warrant the accuracy or completeness of any information. The information is not advice, and should not be treated as such.

GALRC makes no representations whatsoever about the products or prices asked in the Lab Yard Sale section. The representations are exclusively those of the seller and have not been investigated by us for accuracy. The ads are for the convenience of our members. All transactions are solely between buyer and seller.

### TO: GOD, FROM: THE DOG

Dear God: Why do humans smell the flowers, but seldom, if ever, smell one another?

Dear God: When we get to heaven, can we sit on your couch? Or is it still the same old story?

Dear God: Why are there cars named after the jaguar, the cougar, the mustang, the colt, the stingray and the rabbit, but not ONE named for a dog? How often do you see a cougar riding around? We do love a nice ride! Would it be so hard to rename the "Chrysler Eagle" the "Chrysler Beagle"?

Dear God: If a dog barks his head off in the forest and no human hears him, is he still a bad dog?

Dear God: We dogs can understand human verbal instructions, hand signals, whistles, horns, clickers, beepers, scent IDs, electromagnetic energy fields and Frisbee flight paths. What do humans understand?

Dear God: More meatballs, less spaghetti, please.

Dear God: Are there mailmen in Heaven? If there are, will I have to apologize?

Dear God: Let me give you a list of just some of the things I must remember to be a good dog.

1. I will not eat the cats' food before they eat it or after they throw it up.
2. I will not roll on dead seagulls, fish, crabs, etc. just because I like the way they smell.
3. The litter box is not a cookie jar.
4. The sofa is not a "face towel."
5. The garbage collector is not stealing our stuff.
6. I will not play tug-of-war with Dad's underwear when he's on the toilet.
7. Sticking my nose into someone's crotch is an unacceptable way of saying "hello."
8. I don't need to suddenly stand straight up when I'm under the coffee table.
9. I must shake the rainwater out of my fur before entering the house—not after.
10. I will not come in from outside and immediately drag my butt.
11. I will not sit in the middle of the living room and lick my crotch.
12. The cat is not a squeaky toy so when I play with him and he makes that noise, it's usually not a good thing.

P.S. Dear God: When I get to Heaven may I have my testicles back?

