



AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB



# IN SESSION

## AKC'S CONGRESSIONAL NEWSLETTER

The American Kennel Club's Newsletter for Members of Congress and their Staff

### PERSPECTIVES

#### 125 Years of Responsible Dog Ownership and Expanding ...

The American Kennel Club is proud to be the voice of responsible dog ownership and breeding in the United States, a trust we've held for over 125 years. As a not-for-profit, non-partisan organization, we are pleased to be the nation's primary resource for expertise, education, and advocacy about responsible dog ownership, responsible breeding, the role of dogs in our communities (from military dogs to family companions) and the benefits of dog ownership.

We thank you for your recent recognition of our efforts with the passage of H. Con. Res. 160 and S. Res. 393. We also gratefully acknowledge sponsors Rep. David Price (D-NC), Sen. Kay Hagan (D-NC) and Sen. Richard Burr (R-NC), and the many co-sponsors who supported these resolutions.

In this issue of *In Session*, Sen. Blanche Lincoln has taken time from her busy schedule to share stories with us about her beloved Chocolate Lab, Coco. We also look at some of the AKC's charitable programs, including AKC Companion Animal Recovery, which recently announced a \$25,000 donation to assist search and rescue dogs working in Haiti, and the AKC Humane Fund's new grant program for

Continued on next page

### INSIDE

Congressional Canine Spotlight-	
Senator Blanche Lincoln.....	1
AKC Thanks Congress .....	1
AKC Recognizes Search	
& Rescue Dogs.....	5
Issue Analysis: Conformation Shows .....	6
AKC Humane Fund.....	8
AKC Inspections .....	9



The Lincoln family and Coco. Top Row: Senator Blanche Lincoln and Dr. Steve Lincoln. Bottom Row (L to R): Reece Lincoln, Coco, Bennett Lincoln.

### Congressional Canine Spotlight- Senator Blanche Lincoln & "Coco"

*In each issue of In Session, AKC profiles a dog-loving member of the Capitol community. This issue features Senator Blanche Lincoln (Arkansas).*

For many people, a dog is more than just a pet. This is certainly true for Senator Blanche Lincoln, Chair of the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition, & Forestry Committee, who states that her AKC-registered Labrador Retriever Coco "is absolutely a big part of our family."

The Lincolns obtained Coco, who will be four years old in November, from a breeder. She has become an integral part of her family's life, and travels back and forth with the Lincolns between Washington, D.C., and their home in Arkansas. She also accompanies the Senator to the grocery store and sometimes helps take the Lincolns' twin sons Reece

and Bennett to school.

Labrador Retrievers are classified as a Sporting breed by the American Kennel Club. Dogs in the Sporting Group (which also includes spaniel, pointer, and setter breeds, among others), are known for their high energy and respected for their instincts in water and the woods.

They greatly enjoy outdoor activities, and Coco is no exception. "She loves to duck hunt with us in Arkansas," Senator Lincoln explained. "[She also loves] to swim and play."

Labs are known and loved for their friendly, but active temperaments. The Lincoln family wit-

(Continued from page 1)

purebred rescues. AKC clubs have played a long and historic role in purebred dog rescue –going back to an era long before the establishment of official rescue groups or humane societies.

Have you ever wondered why Poodles in dog shows have such strange haircuts? In *More Than Just a Pretty Face* (page 6), we share the inside scoop on AKC dog shows. You'll learn what's behind all that fluff, as well as the basic principles of dog shows. You'll also learn why dog shows remain a key component of responsible breeding programs today, and even how they boost the local economy in your community.

Did you know that the AKC is the only registry that runs its own kennel inspections program to ensure the well-being of dogs registered with us? In our final article, you'll get an insider look on how the AKC Inspections & Investigations Department works to ensure that breeders who register dogs with the AKC provide top quality care and conditions for their dogs.

Thank you for letting us share our story with you. Please consider us your resource for all issues related to dogs. We look forward to working with you.

All the best,

Sheila Goffe  
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**AKC MISSION STATEMENT**

The AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB is dedicated to upholding the integrity of its Registry, promoting the sport of purebred dogs and breeding for type and function. Founded in 1884, the AKC and its affiliated organizations advocate for the purebred dog as a family companion, advance canine health and well-being, work to protect the rights of all dog owners and promote responsible dog ownership.

Continued from page 1, "Senator Lincoln & Coco"

nessed this first-hand when they took Coco to church for a celebration of the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint for animals. The feast day is an annual religious event where animals are brought to receive a special blessing. The minister first dips a laurel branch in holy water and then

places the branch on the dog to administer the blessing.

Fun-loving Coco was very active at the event. She even decided to try to eat the laurel branch, an incident that the Senator calls "a particularly memorable occasion."

Senator Lincoln has always loved animals.

Her first dog was a pug named "Bill Bailey", and she claims she will "never forget watching Bill Bailey chase his tail around in a circle."

She also knows that animal ownership comes with a great responsibility. Lincoln took her sons' Cub Scouts troop to a local shelter "to teach them what happens when pets

aren't cared for properly."

This is a responsibility that she personally takes very seriously. To Senator Lincoln, being a responsible dog owner means three things: "To take good care of your pet, remember their needs, and love them."

**"Take good care of your pet, remember their needs, and love them."**

**DID YOU KNOW?**

- Labrador Retrievers are the most-popular breed registered with the AKC. They are also the most popular breed in both Washington, D.C., and Little Rock, Arkansas, and in select several other cities. To see the most popular dogs in the country as well as cities throughout the United States, visit [www.akc.org/reg](http://www.akc.org/reg).
- The Labrador Retriever is a member of the Sporting Group, one of seven groups for AKC-registered breeds. The group designation is based on the dogs' characteristics, skills, and the abilities for which they were originally bred. The other groups are Terriers, Hounds, Non-Sporting, Working, Herding and Toys. For more information on these groups and all AKC-registered breeds, visit [www.akc.org/breeds](http://www.akc.org/breeds).

**AKC Thanks Congress for Unanimous Support of H.Con.Res.160 and S.R. 393**

In recognition of the 125th anniversary of the American Kennel Club, Rep. David Price (NC-4) and Senators Kay Hagan and Richard Burr of North Carolina demonstrated their leadership and support of responsible dog ownership by sponsoring House Concurrent Resolution 160 and Senate Resolution 393.

The resolution, which passed the House of Representatives by a vote of 419-0 and the Senate by unanimous voice vote, honors the AKC's anniversary and recognizes the essential role the AKC continues to play in promoting and protecting responsible dog ownership in the United States. To view a full list of those who supported the resolution in the House, see page 3.

For more information on AKC's legislative, educational, research, and outreach efforts to support and promote responsible, healthy dog ownership, visit [www.akc.org](http://www.akc.org).

*The American Kennel Club thanks the Senate for its unanimous voice vote in support of Senate Resolution 393, as well as the following 419 members of Congress who supported House Concurrent Resolution 160 (Co-sponsors are noted in bold):*

Abercrombie, Neil (HI-1)  
Ackerman, Gary (NY-5)  
**Aderholt, Robert (AL-4)**  
Adler, John (NJ-3)  
Akin, Todd (MO-2)  
Alexander, Rodney (LA-5)  
**Altmire, Jason (PA-4)**  
Andrews, Robert (NJ-1)  
Arcuri, Mike (NY-24)  
Austria, Steve (OH-7)  
Baca, Joe (CA-43)  
Bachmann, Michele (MN-6)  
Bachus, Spencer (AL-6)  
Baird, Brian (WA-3)  
Baldwin, Tammy (WI-2)  
Barrow, John (GA-12)  
Bartlett, Roscoe (MD-6)  
Barton, Joe (TX-6)  
Bean, Melissa (IL-8)  
Becerra, Xavier (CA-31)  
**Berkley, Shelley (NV-1)**  
Berman, Howard (CA-28)  
Berry, Marion (AR-1)  
Biggert, Judy (IL-13)  
**Bilbray, Brian (CA-50)**  
Billirakis, Gus (FL-9)  
Bishop, Rob (UT-1)  
Bishop, Jr., Sanford (GA-2)  
Bishop, Timothy (NY-1)  
**Blackburn, Marsha (TN-7)**  
Blumenauer, Earl (OR-3)  
Blunt, Roy (MO-7)  
**Bocieri, John (OH-16)**  
Boehner, John (OH-8)  
Bonner, Jo (AL-1)  
**Bono Mack, Mary (CA-45)**  
Boozman, John (AR-3)  
Boren, Dan (OK-2)  
**Boswell, Leonard (IA-3)**  
Boucher, Rick (VA-9)  
Boustany, Jr., Charles (LA-7)  
Boyd, Allen (FL-2)  
Brady, Robert (PA-1)  
Brady, Kevin (TX-8)  
**Brale, Bruce (IA-1)**  
Bright, Bobby (AL-2)  
Broun, Paul (GA-10)  
Brown, Henry (SC-1)  
Brown, Corrine (FL-3)  
Brown-Waite, Ginny (FL-5)  
**Buchanan, Vern (FL-13)**  
**Burgess, Michael (TX-26)**  
Burton, Dan (IN-5)  
**Butterfield, G.K. (NC-1)**  
Buyer, Steve (IN-4)  
**Calvert, Ken (CA-44)**  
Camp, Dave (MI-4)  
**Campbell, John (CA-48)**  
Cantor, Eric (VA-7)  
Cao, Anh "Joseph" (LA-2)  
Capito, Shelley Moore (WV-2)  
Capps, Lois (CA-23)  
Capuano, Michael (MA-8)  
Carnahan, Russ (MO-3)  
Carney, Christopher (PA-10)  
**Carson, Andre (IN-7)**  
Carter, John (TX-31)  
Cassidy, Bill (LA-6)  
Castle, Mike (DE)  
Castor, Kathy (FL-11)  
Chaffetz, Jason (UT-3)  
Chandler, Ben (KY-6)  
Childers, Travis (MS-1)  
Chu, Judy (CA-32)  
Clarke, Yvette (NY-11)  
Cleaver II, Emanuel (MO-5)  
Clyburn, James (SC-6)  
**Coble, Howard (NC-6)**  
Coffman, Mike (CO-6)  
**Cohen, Steve (TN-9)**  
Cole, Tom (OK-4)  
Conaway, Mike (TX-11)  
Connolly, Gerald (VA-11)  
Conyers, Jr., John (MI-14)  
Cooper, Jim (TN-5)  
Costa, Jim (CA-20)  
Costello, Jerry (IL-12)  
Courtney, Joe (CT-2)  
Crenshaw, Ander (FL-4)  
**Crowley, Joseph (NY-7)**  
Cuellar, Henry (TX-28)  
Culberson, John (TX-7)  
Cummings, Elijah (MD-7)  
Dahlkemper, Kathy (PA-3)  
Davis, Artur (AL-7)  
Davis, Danny (IL-7)  
Davis, Geoff (KY-4)  
Davis, Lincoln (TN-4)  
Davis, Susan (CA-53)  
Deal, Nathan (GA-9)  
DeFazio, Peter (OR-4)  
DeGette, Diana (CO-1)  
Delahunt, Bill (MA-10)  
DeLauro, Rosa (CT-3)  
Dent, Charlie (PA-15)  
Diaz-Balart, Lincoln (FL-21)  
Diaz-Balart, Mario (FL-25)  
Dicks, Norman (WA-6)  
Dingell, John (MI-15)  
Doggett, Lloyd (TX-25)  
Donnelly, Joe (IN-2)  
**Doyle, Mike (PA-14)**  
Dreier, David (CA-26)  
Driehaus, Steve (OH-1)  
Duncan, Jr., John (TN-2)  
Edwards, Chet (TX-17)  
Edwards, Donna (MD-4)  
Ehlers, Vernon (MI-3)  
Ellison, Keith (MN-5)  
Ellsworth, Brad (IN-8)  
Emerson, Jo Ann (MO-8)  
**Engel, Eliot (NY-17)**  
Eshoo, Anna (CA-14)  
Etheridge, Bob (NC-2)  
Fallin, Mary (OK-5)  
Farr, Sam (CA-17)  
Fattah, Chaka (PA-2)  
Flake, Jeff (AZ-6)  
Fleming, John (LA-4)  
Forbes, J. Randy (VA-4)  
Fortenberry, Jeff (NE-1)  
Foster, Bill (IL-14)  
Fox, Virginia (NC-5)  
Frank, Barney (MA-4)  
Franks, Trent (AZ-2)  
Frelinghuysen, Rodney (NJ-11)  
Fudge, Marcia (OH-11)  
Gallegly, Elton (CA-24)  
Garamendi, John (CA-10)  
Garrett, Scott (NJ-5)  
Gerlach, Jim (PA-6)  
Giffords, Gabrielle (AZ-8)  
Gingrey, Phil (GA-11)  
Gohmert, Louie (TX-1)  
Gonzalez, Charlie (TX-20)  
Goodlatte, Bob (VA-6)  
Gordon, Bart (TN-6)  
Granger, Kay (TX-12)  
Graves, Sam (MO-6)  
Grayson, Alan (FL-8)  
Green, Al (TX-9)  
Green, Gene (TX-29)  
Griffith, Parker (AL-5)  
Grijalva, Raul (AZ-7)  
**Guthrie, Brett (2-KY)**  
Gutierrez, Luis (IL-4)  
Hall, Ralph (TX-4)  
Halvorson, Debbie (IL-11)  
Hare, Phil (IL-17)  
Harman, Jane (CA-36)  
Harper, Gregg (MS-3)  
**Hastings, Alcee (FL-23)**  
Hastings, Doc (WA-4)  
Heinrich, Martin (NM-1)  
Heller, Dean (NV-2)  
Hensarling, Jeb (TX-5)  
Herger, Wally (CA-2)  
**Herse, Stephanie (SD)**  
Higgins, Brian (NY-27)  
Hill, Baron (IN-9)  
Himes, Jim (CT-4)  
Hinchey, Maurice (NY-22)  
Hinojosa, Ruben (TX-15)  
Hirono, Mazie (HI-2)  
Hodes, Paul (NH-2)  
Hoekstra, Pete (MI-2)  
Holden, Tim (PA-17)  
Holt, Rush (NJ-12)  
Honda, Mike (CA-15)  
Hoyer, Steny (MD-5)  
Hunter, Duncan (CA-52)  
Ingalls, Bob (SC-4)  
Inslee, Jay (WA-1)  
Israel, Steve (NY-2)  
Issa, Darrell (CA-49)  
Jackson, Jr., Jesse (IL-2)  
Jackson-Lee, Sheila (TX-18)  
Jenkins, Lynn (KS-2)  
DeLauro, Hank (GA-4)  
**Johnson, Sam (TX-3)**  
Johnson, Timothy (IL-15)  
Diaz-Balart, Mario (FL-25)  
**Jones, Walter (NC-3)**  
Jordan, Jim (OH-4)  
Kagen, Steve (WI-8)  
**Kanjorski, Paul (PA-11)**  
Kaptur, Marcy (OH-9)  
Kennedy, Patrick (RI-1)  
Kildee, Dale (MI-5)  
Kilpatrick, Carolyn Cheeks (MI-13)  
Kilroy, Mary Jo (OH-15)  
Kind, Ron (WI-3)  
King, Pete (NY-3)  
King, Steve (IA-5)  
Kingston, Jack (GA-1)  
Kirk, Mark (IL-10)  
Kirpatrick, Ann (AZ-1)  
**Kissell, Larry (NC-8)**  
Klein, Ron (FL-22)  
Kline, John (MN-2)  
Kosmas, Suzanne (FL-24)  
**Kratovil, Jr., Frank (MD-1)**  
Kucinich, Dennis (OH-10)  
Lamborn, Doug (CO-5)  
Lance, Leonard (NJ-7)  
Langevin, Jim (RI-2)  
Larsen, Rick (WA-2)  
Larson, John (CT-1)  
**Latham, Tom (IA-4)**  
LaTourrette, Steve (OH-14)  
Latta, Robert (OH-5)  
Lee, Barbara (CA-9)  
Lee, Chris (NY-26)  
Levin, Sander (MI-12)  
Lewis, Jerry (CA-41)  
Lewis, John (GA-5)  
Linder, John (GA-7)  
Lipinski, Daniel (IL-3)  
LoBiondo, Frank (NJ-2)  
Loeb, David (IA-2)  
Lofgren, Zoe (CA-16)  
Lowe, Nita (NY-18)  
Lucas, Frank (OK-3)  
Luetkemeyer, Blaine (MO-9)  
Lujan, Ben (NM-3)  
Lummis, Cynthia (WY)  
**Lungren, Daniel (CA-3)**  
Mack, Connie (FL-14)  
Maffei, Dan (NY-25)  
**Maloney, Carolyn (NY-14)**  
Manzullo, Donald (IL-16)  
Marchant, Kenny (TX-24)  
Markey, Betsy (CO-4)  
Markey, Ed (MA-7)  
Marshall, Jim (GA-8)  
Massa, Eric (NY-29)  
Matheson, Jim (UT-2)  
Matsui, Doris (CA-5)  
McCarthy, Carolyn (NY-4)  
McCarthy, Kevin (CA-22)  
**McCaul, Michael (TX-10)**  
McClintock, Tom (CA-4)  
McCollum, Betty (MN-4)  
**McCotter, Thaddeus (MI-11)**  
McDermott, Jim (WA-7)  
McGovern, Jim (MA-3)  
McHenry, Patrick (NC-10)  
**McIntyre, Mike (NC-7)**  
McKeon, Buck (CA-25)  
McMorris Rodgers, Cathy (WA-5)  
McNerney, Jerry (CA-11)  
Meek, Kendrick (FL-17)  
Meeks, Gregory (NY-6)  
Melancon, Charlie (LA-3)  
Mica, John (FL-7)  
Michaud, Mike (ME-2)  
Miller, Brad (NC-13)  
Miller, Candice (MI-10)  
Miller, Gary (CA-42)  
Miller, George (CA-7)  
Miller, Jeff (FL-1)  
Minnick, Walt (ID-1)  
Mitchell, Harry (AZ-5)  
**Mollohan, Alan (WV-1)**  
**Moore, Dennis (KS-3)**  
Moore, Gwen (WI-4)  
Moran, Jerry (KS-1)  
Murphy, Chris (CT-5)  
Murphy, Patrick (PA-8)  
Murphy, Scott (NY-20)  
Murphy, Tim (PA-18)  
Myrick, Sue (NC-9)  
Nadler, Jerrold (NY-8)  
Napolitano, Grace (CA-38)  
**Neal, Richard (MA-2)**  
Neugebauer, Randy (TX-19)  
Nunes, Devin (CA-21)  
Nye III, Glenn (VA-2)  
Oberstar, James (MN-8)  
Obey, David (WI-7)  
Olson, Pete (TX-22)  
Olver, John (MA-1)  
Ortiz, Solomon (TX-27)  
Owens, Bill (NY-23)  
Pallone, Jr., Frank (NJ-6)  
Pascrell, Jr., Bill (NJ-8)  
Pastor, Ed (AZ-4)  
Paulsen, Erik (MN-3)  
Payne, Donald (NJ-10)  
Pence, Mike (IN-6)  
Perlmutter, Ed (CO-7)  
Perrillo, Tom (VA-5)  
Peters, Gary (MI-9)  
Peterson, Collin (MN-7)  
Petri, Tom (WI-6)  
Pingree, Chellie (ME-1)  
Pitts, Joe (PA-16)  
Platts, Todd (PA-19)  
Poehner, Ted (TX-2)  
Polis, Jared (CO-2)  
Pomeroy, Earl (ND)  
Posey, Bill (FL-15)  
**Price, David (NC-4)**  
Price, Tom (GA-6)  
Putnam, Adam (FL-12)  
Quigley, Mike (IL-5)  
**Rahall, Nick (WV-3)**  
Rangel, Charles (NY-15)  
Rehberg, Denny (MT)  
Reichert, David (WA-8)  
Reyes, Silvestre (TX-16)  
Richardson, Laura (CA-37)  
Rodriguez, Ciro (TX-23)  
**Roe, Phil (TN-1)**  
Rogers, Hal (KY-5)  
Rogers, Mike (AL-3)  
Rogers, Mike (MI-8)  
Rohrabacher, Dana (CA-46)  
Rooney, Tom (FL-16)  
Ros-Lehtinen, Ileana (FL-18)  
Roskam, Peter (IL-6)  
Ross, Mike (AR-4)  
Rothman, Steven (NJ-9)  
**Roybal-Allard, Lucille (CA-34)**  
Royce, Ed (CA-40)  
Ruppersberger, Dutch (MD-2)  
Rush, Bobby (IL-1)  
Ryan, Paul (WI-1)  
Ryan, Tim (OH-17)  
Salazar, John (CO-3)  
**Sanchez, Linda (CA-39)**  
Sanchez, Loretta (CA-47)  
Sarbanes, John (MD-3)  
Scalise, Steve (LA-1)  
Schakowsky, Jan (IL-9)  
Schauer, Mark (MI-7)  
Schiff, Adam (CA-29)  
Schmidt, Jean (OH-2)  
Schock, Aaron (IL-18)  
Schrader, Kurt (OR-5)  
**Schwartz, Allyson (PA-13)**  
Scott, David (GA-13)  
Scott, Bobby (VA-3)  
Sensenbrenner, Jim (WI-5)  
Serrano, Jose (NY-16)  
Sessions, Pete (TX-32)  
**Sestak, Joe (PA-7)**  
Shadegg, John (AZ-3)  
Shea-Porter, Carol (NH-1)  
Sherman, Brad (CA-27)  
Shimkus, John (IL-19)  
**Shuler, Heath (NC-11)**  
Shuster, Bill (PA-9)  
**Simpson, Michael K. (ID-2)**  
Sires, Albio (NJ-13)  
Skelton, Ike (MO-4)  
Smith, Adam (WA-9)  
Smith, Adrian (NE-3)  
Smith, Chris (NJ-4)  
Smith, Lamar (TX-21)  
**Snyder, Vic (AR-2)**  
Souder, Mark (IN-3)  
Space, Zack (OH-18)  
Spratt, John (SC-5)  
Stark, Pete (CA-13)  
Stearns, Cliff (FL-6)  
Stupak, Bart (MI-1)  
**Sullivan, John (OK-1)**  
Sutton, Betty (OH-13)  
Tanner, John (TN-8)  
Taylor, Gene (MS-4)  
Teague, Harry (NM-2)  
Terry, Lee (NE-2)  
Thompson, Bennie (MS-2)  
Thompson, Glenn "GT" (PA-5)  
**Thompson, Mike (CA-1)**  
Thornberry, Mac (TX-13)  
Tiahrt, Todd (KS-4)  
Tiberi, Patrick (OH-12)  
Tierney, John (MA-6)  
Titus, Dina (NV-3)  
Tonko, Paul (NY-21)  
Towns, Edolphus (NY-10)  
Tsongas, Niki (MA-5)  
Turner, Michael (OH-3)  
Upton, Fred (MI-6)  
Posey, Bill (FL-15)  
Velazquez, Nydia (NY-12)  
Visclosky, Pete (IN-1)  
Walden, Greg (OR-2)  
Walz, Tim (MN-1)  
Wamp, Zach (TN-3)  
**Wasserman Schultz, Debbie (FL-20)**  
Waters, Maxine (CA-35)  
Watson, Diane (CA-33)  
Watt, Mel (NC-12)  
Waxman, Henry (CA-30)  
Weiner, Anthony (NY-9)  
**Welch, Peter (VT)**  
Westmoreland, Lynn (GA-3)  
Wexler, Robert (FL-19, resigned)  
Whitfield, Ed (KY-1)  
Wilson, Charlie (OH-6)  
Wilson, Joe (SC-2)  
**Wittman, Robert (VA-1)**  
Wolf, Frank (VA-10)  
Woolsey, Lynn (CA-6)  
Wu, David (OR-1)  
Yarmuth, John (KY-3)  
Young, C.W. Bill (FL-10)  
Young, Don (AK)

*The AKC also thanks co-sponsors James Moran (VA-8) and the late Rep. John Murtha (PA-12)*

## House Concurrent Resolution 160/Senate Resolution 393

*Recognizing the contributions of the American Kennel Club.*

Whereas the American Kennel Club (AKC), headquartered in New York City, with an operations center in Raleigh, North Carolina, was founded in 1884, operates the world's largest registry of purebred dogs and is the Nation's leading not-for-profit organization devoted to the advancement, study, responsible breeding, care, and ownership of dogs;

Whereas the American Kennel Club approves, sanctions, and regulates the events of its 609 member clubs and monitors more than 4000 licensed and sanctioned clubs throughout the United States who hold events under American Kennel Club rules and regulations;

Whereas in 2008, the American Kennel Club sanctioned or regulated 22,630 sporting events that included breed conformation, agility, obedience, earthdog, herding, field trial, retrieving, pointing, tracking, and coonhound events;

Whereas the American Kennel Club honors the canine-human bond, advocates for the purebred dog as a family companion, advances canine health and well-being, works to protect the rights of all dog owners and promotes responsible dog ownership;

Whereas the American Kennel Club promotes responsible dog ownership and breeding practices and supports thousands of volunteers and teachers from affiliated clubs across the country who teach responsible dog ownership and safety around dogs;

Whereas the American Kennel Club founded and supports the AKC Humane Fund, which promotes the joy and value of responsible pet ownership by supporting breed rescue activities, educating adults and children about responsible dog ownership, and assisting human-services organizations that permit domestic abuse victims access to shelters with their pets;

Whereas the American Kennel Club trains and employs kennel inspectors and conducts over 5,200 kennel inspections each year;

Whereas the American Kennel Club promotes responsible dog ownership, care, and handling of dogs to over 21,000 youths ages 9 to 18 years old enrolled in its National Junior Organization;

Whereas the American Kennel Club is the largest purebred dog registry in the world and the only registry that incorporates health screening results into its permanent dog records;

Whereas the American Kennel Club offers the largest and most comprehensive set of DNA programs for the purposes of parentage verification and genetic identity to ensure reliable registration records;

Whereas the American Kennel Club created and supports the Canine Health Foundation (CHF), which funds research projects focusing on the genetics of disease, the canine genome map, and clinical studies, and has donated over \$22,000,000 to the CHF since 1995;

Whereas the American Kennel Club created and operates DOGNY: America's Tribute to Search and Rescue Dogs, which supports canine search and rescue organizations across the United States;

Whereas the American Kennel Club annually awards \$170,000 in scholarships to veterinary and veterinary technical students;

Whereas the American Kennel Club has reunited more than 340,000 lost pets and their owners through the AKC Companion Animal Recovery (CAR) program;

Whereas the American Kennel Club established the AKC Canine Good Citizen program, which certifies dogs with good manners at home and in the community;

Whereas the American Kennel Club maintains the world's largest dog library and the Museum of the Dog in St. Louis, which houses one of the world's largest collections of dog-related fine art and artifacts, both of which are open to the public; and

Whereas the American Kennel Club celebrates its 125th anniversary this year: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress honors the American Kennel Club for its service to dog owners and the United States public.*

# AKC and AKC Companion Animal Recovery Donates \$25,000 in Honor of NY-Based Search & Rescue Dogs in Haiti

*United States Police Canine Association Region 7 to further Search and Rescue Training for Law Enforcement K-9s with Donation*



The American Kennel Club® and AKC Companion Animal Recovery (AKC CAR) are pleased to announce a \$25,000 donation to the not-for-profit United States Police Canine Association Region 7 (USPCA), which includes New York City, to enhance ongoing search and rescue (SAR) education of law enforcement K-9s and their handlers wanting to further their training in detecting and locating lost, missing or injured persons.

The donation is made in recognition of the efforts New York Task Force One, sponsored by the NYC Office of Emergency Management and staffed by NYPD and FDNY personnel, which deployed to Haiti with four search and rescue K-9 teams in early January to assist with earthquake recovery and relief efforts. After a more than a week-long deployment in Port Au Prince, the dogs and handlers returned with six rescues under their belts, including freeing 10 and 8-year old siblings from the rubble.

"We are pleased to give this donation locally to the USPCA Region 7 in

recognition of the good works of the NYPD K-9 search and rescues teams sent to Haiti," said AKC CAR CEO Tom Sharp. "USPCA Region 7 is an organization with a dedicated history of supporting law enforcement K-9s and their handlers with ongoing training and educational seminars. We look forward to this donation furthering and creating new opportunities for SAR training for their members."

"Many times during natural disasters law enforcement K-9s are the first on the scene," said Lt. John Kerwick, President of the USPCA Region 7. "We look forward to using the generous donation to improve their ability to respond and help locate lost, missing or injured persons."

The AKC and AKC CAR have a long history of supporting SAR teams. The AKC CAR Canine Support and Relief Fund was created in the wake of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks in response to the exemplary work and dedication of the search and rescue dog first responders. Since its creation, the Fund has provided \$3 million in search and rescue grants as well as disaster

relief in response to hurricanes, floods and wildfires.

The fund accepts both donations and applications for grant money at the following sites: [www.akc.org/donations](http://www.akc.org/donations) and [www.akc.org/dogny/grants.cfm](http://www.akc.org/dogny/grants.cfm).

*Reprinted from AKC.org*

#### **EDITOR'S NOTE:**

AKC Companion Animal Recovery (AKC CAR), an affiliate of the American Kennel Club®, is the nation's largest not-for-profit pet identification and 24/7 recovery service provider. With millions of pets enrolled, hundreds of thousands of pets have been recovered through this service.

Founded in 1995, AKC CAR makes donations annually for veterinary student scholarships and manages the AKC CAR Canine Support and Relief Fund, which provides grants for search and rescue teams and donations for natural disaster relief. For more information, visit [www.akccar.org](http://www.akccar.org).



# Issue Analysis: Conformation Shows – More Than Just a Pretty Face

**D**id you ever wonder why a poodle has such a strange haircut? It's an inevitable question for many dog show spectators. Contrary to popular belief, it's not the artistic whim of the dog's handler or groomer, but rather a cut dating back centuries that helps the poodle be a better swimmer.

The word "poodle" likely originates from the German word *pudel*, meaning "to splash in the water". Poodles are excellent swimmers. Their original purpose was as a hunting dog that would retrieve birds in the water. Owners would shear portions of their coat to help facilitate movement in the water, but leave sections of their fur around the top of their head, their ankles, and hips to help them stay warm in cold water.

Facts such as these help illuminate what an AKC conformation dog show is all about. The shows highlight the amazing diversity of purebred dogs and the broad variety of tasks they can perform.

## Understanding Conformation Shows

The purpose of conformation shows is simple – to determine how well dogs conform to the established breed standard. In this way, dog shows are not unlike horse shows or other animal stock shows, where there is intense competition among breeders to prove both the quality of an animal and that it possesses the temperament and physical characteristics required to perform the



NORFOLK TERRIER - LISA CROFT-ELLIOTT ©AKC

duties for which it was bred.

Since conformation dog shows ultimately judge the quality of breeding stock, the AKC requires that all dogs competing in these shows be intact. If a dog cannot be bred, it cannot participate in a conformation show. A dog show celebrates and rewards high-quality breeding, while substandard breeding and quality either receive poor marks or are disqualified.

**“Dog shows highlight the amazing diversity of purebred dogs and the broad variety of tasks they can perform.”**

In an all-breed show such as the AKC/Eukanuba National Championship or the Westminster Kennel Club show, the competition begins with the judging of each individual breed. The winners of each breed advance to their *group* competition. AKC breeds are divided into seven groups (Terrier, Sporting, Hounds, Non-Sporting, Working, Herding, and Toys) based on recognized breed characteristics and the purpose for which they were originally developed (For example, a Beagle is a member of the Hound

Group and a St. Bernard is a member of the Working Group). The seven dogs that win group competition then go on to compete for Best in Show.

Points are awarded based on the number of dogs the winner of each breed competition defeats and the number of competitors in the show. A *Champion* (Ch.) title is obtained once a dog obtains a cer-

tain number of points (wins) from a required number and type of shows.

## A Noble Tradition

The exhibition of dogs is a sport with a long, proud heritage. The sport as we know it today has many of its roots in Victorian England, where in the 19th Century, aristocratic English gentlemen

would gather together at local public houses and taverns and proudly exhibit their dogs. The first organized dog show as we know them today was held in Newcastle-on-Tyne in 1859.

According to The Kennel Club (UK), 60

breeds were entered in this first show.

The popularity of the sport continued to expand (as did the number of breeds included), and dog shows began in the United States just after the Civil War. In 1877, Queen Victoria entered a Scottish Deerhound at the first Westminster Kennel Club dog show at Gilmore's Garden (now Madison Square Garden) in New York City.

Even as the sport expanded, special care was taken to ensure the quality of



BLOODHOUND-©ANIMAL PLANET

shows are one of the few events in which professionals and amateurs regularly compete directly with one another. These exhibitors, regardless of whether they are professional handlers or owner-handlers, ensure that their dogs are in the best health, of the best quality, and exemplify the best of their breed.

Dog show exhibitors are also excellent resources for spectators who are considering purchasing a dog. Most are breed experts and once they are finished showing for the day, are happy to talk about their dog's breed, temperament, and care requirements.

Purebred dogs benefit from dog shows, too. Shows provide a level of accountability for competitors to make sure their dogs are properly bred and raised. The competitive aspect encourages the breeding and raising of better dogs and better pets. They are also educational opportunities for competitors and spectators alike to learn about the various AKC-registered breeds and proper dog care. Experts on dog breeding, care, health and genetics abound at dog shows.

Conformation dog shows are a family-friendly way to spend time with dogs and interact with fellow dog lovers. The AKC's Junior Showmanship program

reaches out to young people 9-18 years of age.

Juniors competitions provide the opportunity for young people to learn about dogs, develop dog handling skills, and learn good sportsmanship.

The AKC also conducts a competitive scholarship program for Juniors who have competed in the sport. Each year, approximately 30 scholarships are awarded. Applicants must provide details about their experience in the sport, work they have done in the community in support of responsible dog ownership, and an essay on the influence that purebred dogs have had on

the dogs and that proper, safe breeding was maintained. Major James M. Taylor, the first President of the American Kennel Club, emphasized the need for a standard set of rules. The AKC maintains a strict set of rules governing AKC dog shows to this day.

In addition, the parent club of each breed recognized by the American Kennel Club maintains a very specific

**“The competitive aspect encourages the breeding and raising of better dogs and better pets.”**

breed standard to ensure the quality of the dogs and preservation of the characteristics that enable them to perform the tasks for which they were originally bred.

### Outside the Ring

Participation in conformation dog shows requires an extensive amount of work, travel, and an immense depth of expertise in the breed being shown. Dog

## It Pays to Support AKC Dog Shows!

The American Kennel Club hosted its first dog show in Philadelphia in 1926 in conjunction with the celebration of the 150th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Since that time, the popularity of dogs and dog shows has grown exponentially in the United States.

In 2009, over 3,800 AKC conformation dog shows took place in communities in every state. Local clubs and organizations host thousands of additional AKC obedience, agility, field trial, and other competitions throughout the country.

Each of these events generates significant revenue for local businesses including hotels, restaurants, shops, transportation, and event venues, among others.

This revenue is in addition to the millions of dollars responsible dog owners spend on their pets at local businesses each year on such items as dog food, grooming, veterinary care and boarding.

When considering whether to support a piece of canine legislation, consider the effect it may have on dog competitions and dog ownership among your constituency. Supporting dog shows and responsible dog ownership has a ripple effect that benefits a community's residents, local businesses, and overall economy.

***For more information about the economic impact of AKC shows and dog ownership in your state, visit [akc.org/canine\\_legislation](http://akc.org/canine_legislation) and click on the “2009 State Economic Impact Statistics” link.***

their lives.

Dogs have made a positive impact on the lives of millions of Americans. Conformation shows are a fun way to celebrate some of the most exquisite dogs in the world, the dedication of their breeders, and the wonderful purpose and characteristics that make each AKC-registered breed unique.

# AKC Humane Fund Introduces Rescue Grant Program



STAFFORDSHIRE BULL TERRIER-ISABELLE FRANCAIS FOR AKC

**W**e are more than champion dogs. We are the dog's champion is more than just a motto for the AKC. Our numerous charitable, educational, and legislative efforts make this a reality for dogs and dog owners throughout the United States.

In January 2010, the AKC Humane Fund expanded its commitment to promoting the welfare of all dogs with the development of a grant program to assist rescue programs affiliated with AKC national breed ("parent") clubs and to

ensure that no dog is ever abandoned or forgotten.

The AKC has a parent club for each breed it recognizes. These national clubs develop and maintain the breed standards and are the premier experts on their breeds. They are comprised of thousands of responsible breeders and owners who devote their lives to the betterment of their chosen breed.

Rescue programs are nothing new to the AKC and its parent clubs. Throughout their existence, AKC clubs have been involved in dog rescue. All parent clubs have rescue organizations that take in abandoned dogs from shelters and owners who are unable to continue caring for them. Rescue volunteers then ensure the dogs receive proper veterinary care and are placed in loving foster and permanent homes.

**“Rescue volunteers ensure dogs receive proper veterinary care and are placed in loving foster and permanent homes.”**

The AKC founded the not-for-profit AKC Humane Fund in 2008 to “promote responsible dog ownership and celebrate the bond between people and pets” through education, outreach, and grant-making to community organizations that help raise awareness about responsible pet ownership and provide for the well-being of all dogs.

The Fund also oversees the AKC’s annual Awards for Canine Excellence (ACE) which honor dogs and their owners who have made exemplary contributions in the areas of law enforcement, search and rescue, therapy, service, and companionship.

This new rescue grant program is just one of the ways the American Kennel Club gives back to dogs and local communities. The AKC is proud to support these rescue groups that ensure every dog is loved, cared for, and provided with the home it deserves.

## **In the last year, the AKC Humane Fund has provided grants to the following local and national rescue groups:**

Akita Club of America, Inc.

American Belgian Malinois Charitable Trust

American Bouvier Rescue League

Arizona Basset Hound Rescue

Australian Cattle Dog Rescue, Inc.

Magnolia Gordon Setter Club Rescue

The Silky Terrier Rescue Charitable Trust (“Silky Rescue”)

Tibetan Terrier Health and Welfare Foundation

# AKC Inspections Program Helps Educate Responsible Breeders

The American Kennel Club (“AKC®”) is passionate about dogs and believes that their care and welfare is of paramount importance. We pride ourselves on the integrity of our registry and the quality of the care afforded the dogs registered with us. The AKC is the only all-breed, non-for-profit registry that has a significant kennel inspection program to ensure the health, safety and welfare of dogs of the dogs it registers.

In 2009, the AKC’s Investigations and Inspections Department (“I & I”) conducted over 5,300 inspections of breeders across the United States who register dogs and litters with the AKC. A typical inspection includes an examination of the care and conditions of the dogs and kennel facilities, an inspection of the breeder’s record-keeping and dog identification practices, and random DNA testing. While most inspections are conducted based on the number of litters registered each year with the AKC, any breeder may be inspected if the AKC receives a written, signed, and substantiated complaint.

A critical component of AKC’s Investigations and Inspections Department is enforcement of the AKC’s Care and Conditions Policy. The policy has been established to make certain that dogs that comprise the registry have access to adequate food and water, are in good physical condition, and have access to daily exercise. The Inspector also makes certain that the facility is constructed in such a way as to maintain the safety of the dogs and that it is clean and of a sufficient size that overcrowding does not exist. If inspection determines that an individual is not maintaining their dogs or facility in an acceptable manner, in accordance with AKC’s Care and Conditions Policy, I & I will notify federal, state, or local agencies of unsanitary and/or unhealthy conditions found during the inspection.

The purpose of the I & I Department



ROBERT YOUNG FOR AKC

**“Our inspectors’ approach is to be proactive and positive...The overall result is an improvement in the lives of dogs.”**

goes far beyond inspections and issuing penalties. The AKC believes strongly that education is in the best interest of both breeders and the animals in their care. Therefore a typical inspection will include more than just a checklist of approved items and areas requiring improvement. Each inspector assesses the overall situation of the kennel being inspected and provides helpful advice, suggestions, and relevant information about the numerous beneficial programs

AKC offers—all as a way to help educate breeders and continuously strive for even better breeding standards and practices. This attention to the care and well-being of dogs goes a long way to maintaining the high standards and integrity of the AKC’s registry.

Recently, a long-time breeder contacted the AKC Government Relations Department (GR) regarding pending legislation in their state. The breeder had just been inspected by the AKC and enthusiastically relayed to GR how they were incorporating into their breeding program the many helpful tips and recommendations that they had received from their Inspector. This breeder knew the thoroughness with which an AKC inspection is conducted and they took great pride in the positive report they received.

AKC Inspectors also take great pride in their work and the vital role they perform for dogs in communities throughout the United States.

"Our focus over the last couple years has been increasingly to educate people more about the AKC, better breeding and breeding practices. We focus on helping people improve," said AKC’s General Counsel and Assistant Vice President of Compliance Margaret Poindexter. "Our inspectors’ approach is to be proactive and positive, and they have seen breeders embrace this change in attitude. The overall result is an improvement in the lives of dogs."

## DID YOU KNOW?

- The AKC employs 13 inspectors spread throughout the United States
- The AKC Inspections & Investigations (I&I) Department conducts over 5,000 inspections/year
- I & I Department management and field agents carried out a major disaster relief program effort after Hurricane Katrina, including visiting animal shelters and meeting with shelter coordinators and government leaders in Louisiana, Alabama, and Mississippi to provide expertise and hands-on support.
- The AKC has adopted a detailed Care and Conditions policy by which all breeders must abide. To read this policy and learn more about AKC’s Investigations and Inspections Department, visit [www.akc.org](http://www.akc.org) and type “inspections” in the search box.