

# HERDING GROUP

nate annually. I believe that owners whose dogs have had repeated infections of Giardia, as mine have had, and have contaminated their own environment or are subject to substantial risk on the show circuit, will significantly reduce the risk of disease and environmental contamination by the use of this vaccine.

As more dog owners become knowledgeable about the availability of vaccine, it may become commonplace for breeders and show dog owners to vaccinate for Giardia to control this common cause of diarrhea. Again, you should discuss this option with your veterinarian.—G.A.

Thank you, Ginny. —Lanalee Jorgensen, P.O. Box 330, Greencastle, IN 46135; Wallace LL@ffsa.state.in.us ♦



**Old English Sheepdogs**

## MUCH ADO

I doubt there is anyone in the OES world who is not aware of the disqualification and rescinding of Bruce's win of the Pastoral Group at Crufts 2004. I have read most every account and commentary on this matter, both published and privately submitted. To describe it as mean-spirited and altogether a nasty bit of business is an understatement. What struck me most was the way in which the Kennel Club [England] was literally stood on its head with the resolution gymnastics. This would never have happened in America.

*[Editor's Note: Bruce (Barkshire Born in the USA With Brinkley) was entered in the Post Graduate class at Crufts. This class is defined as "for dogs which have not won a Challenge Certificate or five or more First Prizes at Championship Shows in Post Graduate, Minor Limit, Limit and Open classes, whether restricted or not." After Bruce won the Pastoral Group, a complaint was lodged based on the Kennel Club's regulation defining a Challenge Certificate as including "any show award that counts towards the title of Champion under rules of any governing body recognized by the Kennel Club." Because Bruce*

*had been shown previously in the United States where he had won several majors, he had won awards that counted toward a championship title and should have been entered in the Open class. He was therefore disqualified, and Best in Group was given to the winner of the Reserve Challenge Certificate, an Australian Shepherd.]*

I have been personally involved with OES for some 34 years and have attended innumerable dog shows. I have tales of my own to tell that reflect our attitude and that of the AKC toward unsportsmanlike conduct, complaints, withdrawals, and sometimes just plain tomfoolery in our competitions. No names, dates, or places, but many of you were there when the following occurred.

An open bitch from out west was not sent due to her going into heat. Her handler had already picked up his OES armbands and a replacement client. The new lady took a 3-point major and BOW, but with the wrong armband. The award was given by catalog number to the lady back home, whom I personally called long-distance with congratulations. This situation was straightened out without a ripple.

Then there was the OES specials class with only two bitches entered. One went BOB, the other BOS. A compromise was worked out, and the mistake was fixed.

My favorite story involves

conspiracy. (I was there, and this is the truth.) In this case, as a judge prepared to consider his Toy Group, the little BOB Lhasa bitch was substituted for the BOB Shih Tzu. She was examined, moved, did not place, but was never disqualified or excused. The steward had to be in on it, as were many at ringside. The sniggering was audible. No harm done.

I'd like to suggest to the Kennel Club that they take a page here and lighten up. This is supposed to be fun.

—Kathleen Rafferty, 300 Water St., #310, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 ♦



**Pulik**

## \*THE ISSUE OF COLOR

An episode of the NOVA program broadcast last February on PBS ([www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/transcripts/3103\\_dogs.html](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/transcripts/3103_dogs.html)) dealt in part with the fascinating and totally unanticipated outcome of an attempt to breed a tame red fox. According to the program's narration, foxes at a commercial fur farm were selected for breeding based on temperament characteristics defined as gentle, friendly, and social in nature. Foxes



MARY LUDINGTON

**Puli**



that were viewed as having more aggressive, vicious, antisocial temperament characteristics were carefully excluded from the long-term breeding study conducted by Russian geneticist Dmitri Belyaev.

After only 10 generations, parti-colored foxes began to be born. Eventually, foxes in a broad range of solid colors and pattern variations other than the traditional red coat began showing up. Finally, even size and shape variations began to manifest in the new "friendly fox." It turned out there is a connection between adrenaline, an aggression hormone, and melanin, the chemical responsible for coat color.

The Hungarian Kennel Club revised its standard in 2002 to recognize and allow the colors fako, apricot, and masked (*maszkos fako*), and will undoubtedly add more—based on demand for additional variously colored Pulik—as additional markets in more affluent western countries develop and emerge. The question is, Will these color mutations herd stock? Based on the "friendly fox" experiment, my guess is probably not, because it's been scientifically proven that a change of color is a marker indicating that something else significant, fundamental, and tied directly to a given breed's heritable behavior and temperament has also changed.

The AKC Puli breed standard is based primarily on the earliest written records identifying the breed, some dating to the mid-1700s according to "Puli Color History," an article by AKC judge and Puli breeder Les Benis in the June 2004 issue of *The Puli News*. Those early documents stated that the colors of the Pulik are "sun-beaten rusty black," black, and gray. (According to old Hungarian dog magazines, the white Puli—the first "man-made" alternate color—was developed in the early 20th century by a fancier who was also a baroness.)

Those of us in Pulik who also have livestock expect our black, rusty black, or gray Pulik to take to the herding of our livestock instinctively, as a duck takes to water. (I am not knowledgeable about the white dogs.) We are not surprised, as the man-made friendly fox has demonstrated, to learn that *function may follow form*, rather than

the other way around. How ironic that we American breeders have emerged as the keepers of the Puli flame!

For additional information on the history behind color in the Puli breed, please contact Susi Szeremy, editor of *Puli News*, at [szeremy@mho.net](mailto:szeremy@mho.net) and request a reprint of Les Benis's article on this subject. Mr. Benis is also the author of one of the definitive books on the breed, *This Is the Puli*. —Thomas F. Motter, 13725 S. Fort St., Draper, UT 84020; [tmotterksj@msn.com](mailto:tmotterksj@msn.com) ♦



**Shetland  
Sheepdogs**

Our guest columnist this month is Sheltie breeder-judge and American Shetland Sheepdog Association president Cathi Gorman.

#### \*MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Seven years ago I had the good fortune to finish three bitches within a very short period of time. Unfortunately, two of the three experienced whelping problems and had to be spayed. Although happy to be retired housedogs at such a young age, both Melissa and Judy were rather demanding "alpha" types and before long a power struggle ensued. Just as I was despairing of ever being able to keep the peace, providence intervened in the form of a prim, middle-aged lady from Lubbock, Texas.

Nell was looking for a young dog, she said, not a puppy. A lapdog, I assumed. Oh, no, she told me earnestly. She wanted a dog that would make a difference in the world. Suppressing a giggle, I imagined this proper, well-bred woman with an equally well-bred Sheltie clambering over piles of rubble as part of a search-and-rescue operation. With all the seriousness I could muster, I asked, "Just how are you and this dog going to make a difference?"

Nell explained that she and many of her friends volunteered to visit patients at rest homes and hospitals in Lubbock. They had seen articles about therapy dogs, and Nell

thought it seemed like a natural extension of the volunteer work they were already doing. She had searched out the nearest registered therapy dog classes, and now she was looking for the perfect dog. It was at that very moment that Melissa got up, went over to Nell's side, and sat down next to her.

Later that afternoon, as I was closing the door behind the two of them, I still couldn't believe I had just given my champion bitch to this lovely woman. But I strongly felt it was meant to be. A few months later, the mail brought a photo of Melissa's graduation from therapy dog school and a copy of her diploma. I proudly hung both on my corkboard.

Several years have passed, and yesterday I received a huge envelope in the mail. Inside were a number of items, including a certificate designating Melissa as a Therapy Dog International Active Outstanding Volunteer—the highest honor awarded by TDI—along with a number of newspaper clippings. It seems Melissa has made the local television morning show, is a celebrity in every hospital and nursing home in Lubbock, and was even featured on the Children's Miracle Network Telethon last June. A second envelope inside the first contained copies of many moving letters from people whose lives Melissa had touched.

Since the afternoon I first met Nell, I have never for one moment doubted that Melissa somehow knew this was where she should be. More than all the ribbons and trophies she earned in her life as a show dog, I believe Melissa is doing what she was meant to do from the start—making a difference in the world.—C.G.

Thank you, Cathi. —Kim Schive, 493 Westford St., Carlisle, MA 01741; [kschive@post.harvard.edu](mailto:kschive@post.harvard.edu) ♦



**Cardigan  
Welsh Corgis**

Our guest columnist this month is Kathy Harper, DVM, Ph.D., longtime Cardigan breeder-exhibitor,