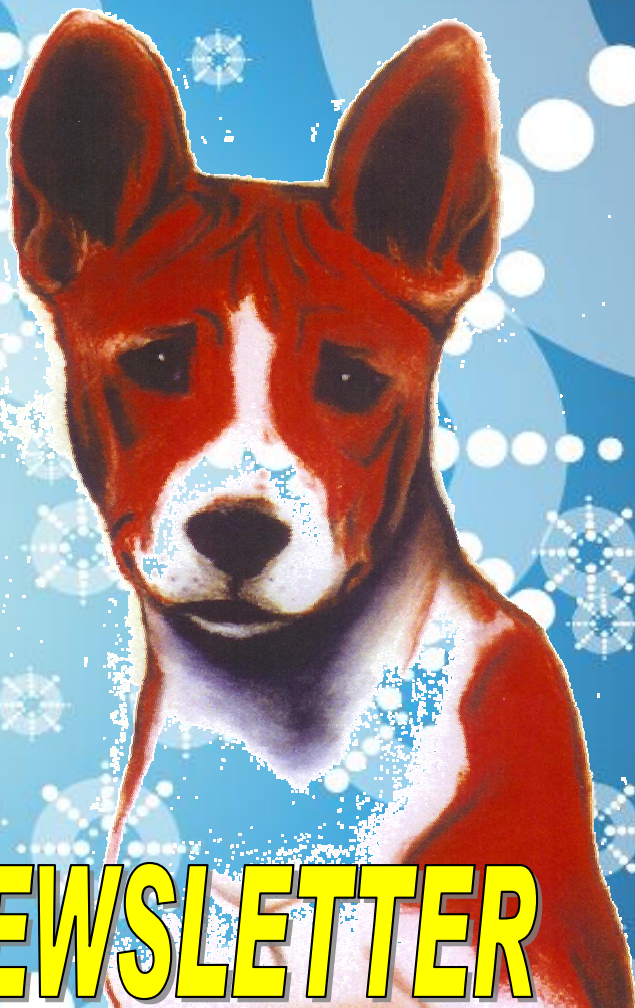




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NEWSLETTER



www.northernbasenji.org.uk

President/Patron: Mrs. C. M. Graham

Chairman: Mr. M. Gibson

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Newsletter Editor: Mrs. I. Horner

Cup Secretary: Miss M. Mills

Secretary: Mr Les Siddall

6 Brier Hey Mill, Mytholmroyd, Hebden Bridge, West Yorkshire HX7 5PR

Telephone: 01 422 886728 or 01 422 844393

E-mail: basenjiuk@yahoo.co.uk

or: sezlesathebden@yahoo.co.uk

or: lessiddall@btinternet.com

Committee:

Mr. R. Drummond,

Mr. M. Gibson, Mrs. I. Horner, Miss M. Mills.

Life Members:

Mrs. C. M. Graham, Mr. J. Malcolm,

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FROM THE EDITOR.....

Once again I have to thank those who submitted articles and photos for this edition especially our Sec Les who trawls everywhere to get the stories and photos for our amusement. I had a chuckle at the story of the tired dog.

It has been a sad year again with the demise of one of our oldest and longest members, Harry Bamber. Connie and I went to his funeral and spent a few hours with his son and delightful family. Connie nearly missed the funeral as, asking someone where the cemetery was located, was pointed in the direction of the PET

CEMETARY – I think Harry would have seen the funny side of that. I remember Harry way back in 1974 judging at Todmorden with our first Basenji Pharaoland Phoebe and we exchanged Christmas cards ever since. We were so pleased that he could make it to our Jubilee show that he enjoyed so much. Well 2009 is on its way out and a new year beckons – this, as Les remarked, has been the year of the puppy and nice to see so many in the ring again. A “must” dog book to buy for Christmas “One dog at a time” – by Sgt Pen Farthing of the Royal Marines, fighting in Helmand province tells his story of some of the dogs he rescued and the charity “Nowzad dogs” he set up. I guarantee you will need tissues for this.



Some of my usual snippets “The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated” – Mahatma Gandhi, “We give dogs time we can spare, space we can spare and love we can spare and in return, dogs give us their all. It’s the best deal man has ever made.” (M. Facklam).

And here are a few dog proverbs that could be useful (if someone can explain them please): “The dog’s kennel is not the place to keep a sausage” –Danish proverb; “The barking of a dog does not disturb the man on a camel” – Egyptian Proverb; and this one I DO approve – “If you are a host to your guest, be a host to his dog also” –Russian Proverb.

John and I wish everyone a Happy Christmas and a successful New Year 2010.

Editor...Irene Horner.

SECRETARY’S COMMENTS.....

In her editors piece is a photo of a rather fetching and cute Irene Horner, taken about 30 years ago, with her two bitches. On the left is “Phoebe” (who she mentions in her column) and to the right is “Pintapotty” (Bokoto Nile Tigris). It hardly seems but a few years since Phoebe and Pintapotty were around and that I was fit, young, trim and whilst not so cute as Irene I at least still had my hair, a slender waist and definitely less creaky joints. Unfortunately time flies.



In this Newsletter is a piece about Top Movie Star Guy Pearce who owns two Basenjjs. I have tried to get hold of a photo of these Basenjjs but without much luck. I do hope to get a piccie and if I succeed will include this in the next issue.

Unfortunately we have had to hold over a number of pieces until the next issue due to shortage of space - quite a bit which is taken up with, what I believe are, some cracking photos in our new NBS winners gallery.

Also beginning in this issue is a new feature of ‘personal letters sent by Veronica Tudor-Williams’ to myself some of which contain pretty contentious comments about Basenjjs & people. She wrote many letters to myself so I hope you enjoy the sample in this edition which are mild compared to some yet to come.

My Very Best Wishes and a Happy New Year to all members.

Secretary...Les Siddall.



A View From The Bridge

By Les Siddall

S

ometime ago I wrote about judging critiques - either the lack of them, their quality, or their lack of quality and I make no excuses for returning to the subject once again.

This year I have read the critiques for two Basenji club shows one of which I thought was brilliant and the other that I thought was a waste of space.

Beautifully Written

The first was speedily produced for inclusion in the dog papers by a very experienced and long served all rounder, although these days they are more often referred to as all breed judges, and was extensive and beautifully written. The reader was left in no doubt that the judge not only knew the breed inside out but exactly why they had selected the dogs they did for the award they received.

Matter of Opinion

Judging is a matter of opinion and one may not have been of the same opinion as the judge who had written the critique but reading the piece one had a complete and detailed pen picture of each dog from that judge's point of view and no exhibitor or

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(Continued from page 5)

enthusiast could ask for more.

Dreadful - not Worth the Paper it was Written on

The second critique took weeks before being produced for the dog papers and frankly was dreadful. In my opinion it wasn't worth the paper it was written on. The writer was a hound judge, and new to a breed club show, it is also fair to say they had nothing like the experience of our all breed judge who produced the expert critique but this aside it was a meaningless written mish-mash and the reader hadn't a clue why dogs were chosen for their awards with most exhibits pretty well getting the same critique as each other.

Drawn out of a Hat in any Order

One could have separated all the dogs names from their respective critiques then thrown them into a hat, jumbled them up, then drawn them out of the hat in any order and it wouldn't have made the slightest difference which dog was paired with which critique and it certainly wouldn't have made any difference to the overall critique. Frankly I thought that the critique was an insult to the club who after selecting a judge to preside at their show were then let down by that judge then showing an apparent lack of interest in the exhibits.

Not everybody can write and critiques are not easy things to put together but in this instance it wasn't just a lack of writing ability that came across in the finished critique it was disinterest or at least I prefer to think of it as that rather than believe it was just a complete lack of knowledge of the breed by the judge.

Preferred no Critique at all

The KC are now insistent on judges producing critiques and penalise them if they don't but frankly if their insistence results in a critique like this I am not sure I favour KC interference. I would have preferred there to be no critique at all than what was produced on this occasion.



**MEMORIES OF OUR
BELOVED EDI.**
By Erica Dowey

Sadly we lost Edi on 23rd September 2009 after a tragic accident.

He brought such joy to us. It was instant love and understanding from both sides. As many of you will know he had a bad start but certainly had a loving home with Mike and myself.

He got to go caravanning around the country, even went swimming in the sea. It took him a little while to go into the water but once in, he loved it.



He was a joy to be with and we will miss him so very much. He is now at rest up with his canine family at Butterfields.

Thanks to everyone for their kind messages but especially thanks to Helena and Terry for bringing this wonderful little Basenji into our life.

(Editor – I knew this little lad and saw him quite often. He came to a few of the NBS shows. He just loved everyone he met and was loved in return. Sympathy and hugs to Mke and Erica – we all know how they feel when losing a dear and much loved companion.)



Famous Basenji Owners by Les Siddall

Guy Pearce - Movie Star

Based on interviews by Chrissey Iley(Observer) & Peter Mitchell (ABC)

Guy Pearce is revered as one of the great acting talents. His Hollywood breakthrough came in LA Confidential in 1997 alongside Russell Crowe and he has never stopped working since with a variety of applauded roles.

The easy going 41 year old from Melbourne is a movie star who doesn't want to be a movie star He is not convinced he is a movie star saying "I think of myself as just an actor."

Despite not often remaining in Tinseltown he is continually offered jobs and he is never short of work.

He prefers to live in Melbourne with his wife of 11 years Kate Mestitz and his two beloved Basenjis Lulu and Zelda

Most people carry pictures around with them of their children but not Guy Pearce who prefers to have a picture on his mobile phone of his two Egyptian hunting hounds, with pointy, cat-like ears. Pearce says 'I'm a cat person actually, and my dogs are a lot like cats because they don't bark, they hate water and they climb trees. They are aloof and very feline. I adore the way that they think and operate.'

Pearce and his wife Kate, a psychologist knew each other when they were 12, lost touch and then fell back into familiarity and edginess all at once. He says "they are not happy shiny people; we are emotionally honest with each other. We can be hard work. Other couples always say, Let's not invite Guy and Kate, they're not much fun to be around. We're not very bouncy. Sometimes we don't even live in the same house - and we don't want children either. I don't even need them. There are enough babies in the world. Besides, I don't think I would be good for babies. I'd be on and off. I think they need more consistent affection than I would be able to give."

They do not want children and are adamant about it. "People always say are you married?" We Say: "Yes." They say : "Do you have kids? We say: "No." Then they say: "Well you don't have them yet." We say: "No, we're not having kids" Then they say: "No you can't say that." We then say: "Yes we can, Kate doesn't want kids. I don't want kids."

"I just couldn't give them enough attention, I could not spend nine hours in my music studio because I'd have to tell my kids some stories."

"We've got the Basenjis. They're happy to sit on my lap while I'm doing my music. Kids probably would not be so happy."

He paints himself as something of a unique man. "I don't have many friends," he insists. "Most of them are gay and I get on much better with women. I don't really relate to certain blokey men who just want to talk about blokey things. I never really know what to say and I always feel I have to act blokey in order to have them not say, 'You're a weirdo.' I am geared towards communicating on a female level."

For someone so seemingly self-contained, caring for people come naturally to Pearce. He was born in Ely, Cambridgeshire. His mother was a needlework teacher from County Durham, his father a test pilot from New Zealand who took the family (including eldest sister Tracy, a Down's syndrome child) to Geelong, near Melbourne, when Pearce was three. There his mother ran a deer farm. Pearce was shy but happy and all

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was sunny and good.

One day in August 1976, when he was eight, Pearce came home from school to find all his relatives there. His mum took him to his room and told him his dad had been killed at work. He remembers his mother breaking down. It was the first and last time he would see this - his mother was from the northeast of England, a no-nonsense woman with a dry wit. Pearce was told he was now the man of the family and responsible for them all. He believes that this was a huge catalyst in his subsequent drive to become both that and yet the opposite of that.

On the one hand he spent a lot of time drawing and painting and singing in an imaginary world in his room. On the other, the once self-conscious boy who had always dreaded school assembly - where someone was picked to read the day's news - threw himself excitedly into the drama society, where he sensed a sudden extrovert quality lurking behind his guarded exterior. Later, as a teenager, he turned his slightly built frame into a body builder's, winning the Mr Junior Victoria weight-training competition aged 16. "I relished any opportunity to do something on my own, and weight-training is pretty lonely," he admits. At 18 he started in Neighbours. Eight years later, Pearce starred in his breakthrough role as a drag queen in Priscilla, before hitting mainstream audiences in LA Confidential, alongside Russell Crowe. But he took a different trajectory from his co-star and tried to avoid big blockbusters in favour of credible artistic work. There were several reasons for this. First, his father's death meant he felt nothing so bad would ever happen to him again, so he could brave a 'rockier road' of edgier movies such as Memento. He didn't believe in films that cost \$80m and paid for someone like Tom Cruise to just stand around. He was uncomfortable about his role in The Count of Monte Cristo (2002) and scathing about his part as the military lawyer opposite Tommy Lee Jones in Rules of Engagement (2000). That movie was changed to please audiences because it tested badly. "Most studio films don't end up being a pure experience because you're not working with the director. You're answering to producers who have a lot of money at stake. Corners will be shaved off to make something slightly safer so they can make back their \$100m."

Pearce said, "I'd rather make a film for nothing because it's going to take you to a place you've never been before." Pearce says he is slightly dyslexic. "I think that's a valuable thing," he comments. "We shouldn't think in defined ways. We should think laterally."

When he's not acting or philosophising, Pearce plays and writes music. He sings with a friend's jazz-funk band, the Unconscious Brothers. He doesn't think they would ever release an album. "I don't want to make music to get into the pop charts and make a career out of it. I just want to play music with other people. Sometimes I record it. I think there is a value in recording it in the same way that you might write a diary. Writing a diary does not mean that you want to publish it. If this is my diary, I'm not sure that I want it to be read. And anyway, I think there is an automatic disdain for somebody who is too ambitious," he reflects. "People think as an actor you are gifted and don't have any troubles in life. You are lucky to be doing this thing where all you have to do is go around telling lies and you get to kiss beautiful women. So how dare you want to be able to do this other thing. I am not interested in releasing music to a sceptical audience."

Pearce was going back to Melbourne the next day and the one thing in his life he was straightforward about. "I can't wait to see Basenjis Zelda and Lulu. I miss them so much."

OBITUARY - HARRY BAMBER

By Les Siddall

I was deeply saddened when I heard that Harry Bamber had died on 9th November 2009.

Harry, age 82, was best known for the Perelyn affix and bred a number of Basenjis in the 60s and 70s. He along with his late wife Doreen obtained their first Basenji in 1960 from John Eachus of Basbox Basenji fame and their two main brood bitches were to be Basbox Shani who had litters in the 60s and a bitch, purchased from Ron Thackrah, Roina Silver Sakiri who had litters in the 70s. The Perelyn line was made up of a number of other famous blood lines too, including Littlebreach, Courtlands and Redesgarth.



Harry with Perelyn Persuader

Harry exhibited regularly, with considerable success, in the 60s and 70s and during the 70s his regular winner was a tri-colour dog Perelyn Persuader who was used at stud on a number of bitches.

In 1966 Harry and Doreen attended an Open meeting of Basenji enthusiasts in Huddersfield, which met to consider the formation of a Northern Basenji Society and where it was agreed to set up the new Northern club. At the inaugural meeting that was held in April 1967 Harry and Doreen became members of the newly formed steering committee. Later Harry was to hold a number of offices on the NBS committee most notably that of treasurer a post that he held for a number of years.

I had the privilege of serving on the NBS committee, for several years, at the same time as Harry and found him to be friendly, humorous and always ready to help any one. Eventually I was to take over the reins as treasurer from him in the 70s and was grateful for all the help he gave me to ensure a smooth transition into the job.

In the 80s Harry voluntarily retired from the NBS committee and from judging and was made a life member of the NBS in recognition of his work for the Society.

In later years Harry was not often seen at shows but kept in touch with his friends including Connie Graham and myself and was always interested in all things Basenji. He was able to attend the 40th anniversary championship show of the NBS, as one of the guests of honour, where we were delighted to see him and had a good laugh together reminiscing about old times.

Harry was "a real Lancashire gent - a true dog man" the like of which we don't see so often these days. He played an important role in the early formation of the NBS and will long be remembered by the society. RIP Harry.

Our President Connie Graham and Irene Horner attended his funeral both as old friends of Harry's and as representatives of the NBS.

TITTLE - TATTLE

Dog Tired

An older, tired-looking dog wandered into my yard; I could tell from his collar and well-fed belly that he had a home and was well taken care of. He calmly came over to me, I gave him a few pats on his head; he then followed me into my house, slowly walked down the hall, curled up in the corner and fell asleep. An hour later, he went to the door, and I let him out.

The next day he was back, greeted me in my yard, walked inside and resumed his spot in the hall and again slept for about an hour. This continued off and on for several weeks.

Curious I pinned a note to his collar, "I would like to find out who the owner of this wonderful sweet dog is and ask if you are aware that almost every afternoon your dog comes to my house for a nap."



The next day he arrived for his nap, with a different note pinned to his collar, "He lives in a home with 6 children, 2 under the age of 3 and he's trying to catch up on his sleep. Can I come with him tomorrow?"

Dog given Parking Ticket

An Australian traffic warden fixed a parking ticket to a dog's lead after it was 'parked' illegally outside a shopping centre.

The dog was tied to a fence outside Darwin's Rapid Creek market when it was approached by two city council traffic wardens, the Northern Territory News reports. One of the inspectors wrote out a ticket - and taped it to the dog's lead.

Witness Ray McEvoy said he couldn't believe his eyes. "I watched an elderly lady and her very faithful blue heeler roll up at the market. The lady tied the dog to the fence and gave him a bowl full of water. And off she went into the markets," he said. "Then two traffic inspectors came along. They had a bit of a talk and, to my amazement, wrote out a warning infringement notice for the dog and taped it to his lead rope."

Council spokesman Grant Fenton said a dog was considered to be "at large" if the owner was not there. "You can't tie up a dog and leave it," he said.

Unusual Dog Facts -Number 3

Life Saving German Shepherd

Chris Trott was on duty answering the emergency phone line, when a call came through from a dog. Nobody would have blamed her for hanging up, but something about the urgency of the barking and the whimpering made Chris stay on the line. On checking the Incoming phone number Chris realised that the line belonged to Joe Stalnaker, who is known to be susceptible to seizures.



The background to this phone rescue was that Joe had pre-programmed the buttons on his phone to dial 911, so all his dog “Buddy” had to do was to pick up the phone in his mouth. One of his teeth was almost certain to hold down one of the keys for 3 seconds and thus trigger the dialling.

The very same thing had happened twice before, unfortunately, Joe is prone to seizures as a result of suffering a brain Injury while serving in the army. Buddy first arrived aged 8 weeks courtesy of 'Paws With A Cause', which trains miracle dogs like Buddy to help people like Joe.

Surprisingly, there have been other similar cases of miracle rescues, for example, Leana Beasley’s Rottweiler called “Faith” summons help by pressing a speed dial button with her nose. Then when the operator answers, Faith barks down the phone so that the emergency services realise Leana needs medical assistance.

Newly Banned ‘Ratty’ Changes his Local

A dog owner is having to chain up his pet to stop him hopping on to the bus and going to the pub. Gary Kay's terrier “Ratty” regularly got on the bus on his own to go to the Black Bull pub, in Hull Road, York. Ratty made the trip to the pub, where he was fed sausages by a barmaid, twice a week, reported the York Post. His outings came to an end when the pub went upmarket and banned animals from the premises. But now Gary, from Dunnington, York, says Ratty has found a new local - the Rose And Crown Pub, in Lawrence Street. He believes Ratty has been getting off the bus at the Black Bull on his own, crossing the road and turning up at the Rose and Crown.

“I’ve had to start chaining him up because, although he can get to the pub on his own he can’t get home,” said Gary. “I’ve no Idea how he is doing any of this or how he crosses the road. This dog just has a mind of his own.” He added.

Miracle Dog's 60 Mile Car Odyssey

A dog clung to the front of a car for almost 60 miles. The dog recovered after managing to cling to the grille of a car and then travelling on a 60 miles journey. The dog's journey took him all the way from Coleraine to Belfast, wedged in the front of a Peugeot 306.



The driver thought he had struck something on the dual carriageway outside Coleraine after hearing a thud, but when he saw nothing on the road, he continued unaware of his "passenger." It was only when he got out at the Odyssey Arena in Belfast that he heard a barking sound coming from the front bonnet.

After such an ordeal, the dog was understandably grumpy, and this attitude has earned him the nickname Father Jack, in honour of the cantankerous priest in the sitcom Father Ted.

Angler Dog Catches Attention

A Chinese man says his dog has become something of a local celebrity after taking up fishing.

Mr Lin, of Wuchang in Central China's Hubei province told reporters that the dog "Ding Ding" had always loved water.

"I often swim in Donghu Lake, and used to leave him on the bank to take care of my clothes and valuables. But he wouldn't stop jumping into the water and swimming with me," he said.

"When he was swimming, he would bite anything floating in the water, like bottles, foam rubber, or dead fish, and bring them back to the bank. But then he suddenly started catching live fish from the lake. Within 10 minutes he had brought back three big fish, weighing more than 3kg."

Lin says Ding Ding now regularly leaps into the lake and comes back with a live fish in his mouth - to the amazement of passers-by.

"He can tell where the fish are located by seeing the bubbles coming from the water," he added.



A surprised local angler Mr Zhao commented: "I've been fishing in Donghu Lake for decades but this is the first time I've ever seen a fishing dog."

Dog and Cat Share Childcare.

A dog and a cat which have recently given birth in China are taking it in turns to 'child-mind' for each other.

Both animals are owned by Gao Shunhong, of Fushun, Liaoning Province, who adopted the dog two years ago and the cat one year ago.



“They get along together incredibly well for a cat and dog,” he told reporters. “the cat gave birth to a litter of two kittens, and three days later, the dog produced a litter of six puppies. Both mothers put their cubs together in the same box, and rotate in nursing them.” said Gao.

“When the dog is out, the cat will lie down and nurse the kittens and puppies, and when the dog comes back, the cat would go out, leaving the nursing job to the dog. If both mothers are in, the cubs can get quite mixed up, with the cat nursing the puppies, and the dog nursing the kittens. It's really odd - but a great picture of harmony.”

Deaf Puppy Learns Sign Language

An eight week old puppy is learning sign language in Australia after it was discovered that she is profoundly deaf.

Pixie the border collie is currently being taught to recognise hand commands by trainer Liz Grewal in Coffs Harbour. Liz has been an owner of deaf dogs for six years and so far she has taught the clever youngster to sit, drop and come forth.



“Dogs understand your body language, your hand gestures, they read all of that. They know,” Liz comments.

“Consistency is the key to training any dog but you have to emphasise it more with a deaf dog. You've to train them in a different way, they train quicker than a hearing dog as there are no noise distractions.” In order to get the attention of her four deaf dogs, one of the techniques that Liz uses is to squirt them with a little water bottle. She adds: “I want these dogs to have a fantastic life, and I know they can do it.”

“Walkies” Once More for Paralysed Dog

A dog who was paralysed has taken his first steps after pioneering treatment by scientists at Cambridge University. Experts hope the procedure could eventually be used to help humans with severe spinal injuries after its success in getting Henry, a smooth-haired Miniature Dachshund, back on his feet.

Henry, was unable to walk after discs ruptured in his spine. Now the six-year-old dog is walking and wagging his tail after scientists at Cambridge Veterinary School took cells from his nose and injected them back into his spine.



“It’s incredible, I didn’t think Henry would ever be able to walk again, but over the last few months he has been wagging his tail and taking small steps,” said owner Sarah Beech, 34, from Birmingham.

“The vet told me to put him to sleep because he wouldn’t have a very good quality of life and he was very depressed. But this treatment has really helped. Henry had always enjoyed going for walks but suddenly lost the use of his legs about a year ago. One day he yelped when I picked him up and two days later he couldn’t walk,” she added. Henry was given an operation to ease the pressure on his spine, but it didn’t work.

Then Sarah heard about the new treatment for severe spinal cord injuries and decided to enlist him in the trial.

Dog Is True Upright Citizen

A dog has become a local celebrity in a Chinese city for its ability to walk upright on its back legs while wearing fancy dress.

Two-year-old Miniature Pinscher “Chou Chou” is better known in Chongqing city than his owner Jiang Siquan. Every day when they go out for their morning walks together, friends and neighbours pour on to the streets to see their routine. Jiang says he discovered Chou Chou’s talent of walking upright by chance two months ago and has trained him to do it ever since. “I only need to raise my hand and he stands up on his back legs and walks with me. He seems to love it, and when I let him wear his clothes and special cap he walks with even more spirit. Sometimes he poses with a cigarette to look cool but of course I never light it.”



NBS AGM Winner's Gallery

Annual Awards Winning Owners at AGM 2009



Left to Right (Veteran of the Year - Ch Akmar Amenhotep) Danny Gullen, (Owner Newcomer of the Year) Beverley Adams, (Dog of the Year - Ch. Embeau Blade Runner) & Owner of the Year Rusty Grayson, (Outright Winner Junior Trophy - Ch. Benkura Take A Chance On Me ShCM) Vicky Miller, (Puppy of the Year - Jethard Dusk Til Dawn at ElSCO) Scott Wright.

In the light of the lack of interest shown by most exhibitors in not wishing to take trophies; at the AGM in 2008 the NBS opted to no longer present cups to the annual top winners and instead, at the AGM this April 2009, the winners received magnificent rosettes to commemorate their successes.

The new awards were very well received by the winners pictured above.

In future years such rosettes will continue to be awarded, at the AGM, to winners and not trophies.

NBS Ch. Show 2009, Winners Gallery

July 12th at Mypetstop, Tingley, Judge : Paul Singleton



**The BCC, BPIS & BIS was
Allen's Zordia's Wazzala**



**DCC, BOS & RBIS was
Baldwin's Robelroy Real Smart**



**The RBCC was
Hardy & Hallam's
Tokaji American Beauty**



**The RDCC was
Hardy, Hallam & Webb's Ch. & AM.
Ch. Kazor's Make Way For Riley**



Photos by Ian Raper of Photo Call, Nort East. Telephone 0191 4135697

The N B S Breeders Directory.....

ABAZINJA

Mr. & Mrs. J. Castellani
78 Lebanon Gardens
E. Putney,
London SW18 1RH
Tel: 07761 608763



BUSHWACKER

Miss C. Frost
Langmoor
Symonds Green Road
Stevenage, Herts SG1 2HB
Tel: 01438 234837



AFRICAN MYSTERY'S

Hanneke Bijker
Deniastate 13
9074 ME Hallam (NL)
Tel: 0031 518 432 822
e -mail: info@africanmysterys.com



COURTLANDS

Mrs. C. M. Graham
May Cottage
Fletchers Lane, Lymm
Cheshire WA13 9PP
Tel: 01925 756622



AKMAR

Ms. P. S. Steele
2 Plover Walk, De Aston Pk.
Market Rasen, Lincs. LN8 3WD
Tel: 0753 5721012



CUSTOS

Mr. F. Williams
167 Wigan Road
Leigh, Lancs. WN7 5DF
Tel: 01942 671866



ANTEFAA

Mrs. H. Lane
Bergam Farm, Chapel Lawn
Bucknell SY7 0BX
Tel: 01588 640353



DJOSER

Mr. & Mrs. R. Drummond
24 Meadowfield Grove
Cumbria. CA20 1HL
Tel: 01946 725264



BENKURA

Mrs. Victoria Miller
Treetops
Taynuilt
Argyll PA35 1HU
Tel: 01866 822423



DOMEWOOD

Mrs. E.A. Bowers
Bounty End, Nether Lane
Nutley,
E. Sussex TN22 3LA
Tel: 01825 712387



BOKOTO

Mr. & Mrs. J. Horner
1 Meadows Avenue,
Thornton Cleveleys,
Lancs. FY5 2TN
Tel: 01 253 868830



ELSCO

**Mr. S. Wright &
Mr. J. Wilkinson**
Carmicheal,
Biggar, ML12 6PL
Tel: 01 555 660684



(Continued from page 20)

Breeders Directory

EMBEAU

Mrs. E. Grayson
4 Sam Road, Diggle,
Oldham,
Lancs. OL3 5PU
Tel: 01457 878747



MEMETUKA

Mrs. V. L. Gaskell
High Manor
Bassenthwaite Lake
Cockermouth, Cumbria CA13 9SH
Tel: 01768 776269



GIANTSWOOD

Mr. M. Gibson
26 Giantswood Lane
Congleton,
Cheshire CW12 2HQ
Tel: 01260 276725



MERKURI

Messrs. Adams & Weedon
35 Valley Road
Dovercourt
Harwich, Essex CO12 4RS
Tel: 01 255 502498



HOOPER, Mrs. F.

26 Giantswood Lane
Congleton
Cheshire.
CW12 2HQ
Tel: 01260 276725



MONDURI

Mrs. C. M. Nuttall
9 Home Drive
Alkington,
Middleton M24 1NB
Tel: 0161 6433108



INDUNA

Mrs. C. A. Carlyle
5 Mere lane
Pickmere, Nr. Knutsford
Ches. WA16 0LB
Tel: 01565 733954



SAVANNASTORM

Miss J. Addis
9 Maybank Road
Netherton
Dudley DY2 0AE
Tel: 01384 637143



MARIDADI

Mrs. A. R. Smith
Rue Gabriel Charretier
47260 Castelmoron-sur-Lot
Lot & Garonne. France
Tel: 00 33 553 209557



ZANDE

Mr. & Mrs. M. G. Wallis
Quernmore, Cowbeech,
Hailsham
BN27 4JL
Tel: 01323 833293



Happy tails to you !





The Dog Newspaper inside a Newsletter

The Bulletin is
the Paper Edited
by Basenjis
for all dogs:

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PUPPY SWALLOWS 10 INCH ARROW

This Summer saw a lucky escape for one inquisitive puppy when she survived after swallowing a 10.5-inch plastic arrow almost as long as herself.

Betty, a Staffordshire bull terrier, was forced to undergo emergency surgery to remove the arrow after it became lodged halfway through her body from the oesophagus to the small intestine. Her owner Emma Watson, 38, from Swanley in Kent, believes her pet gobbled up the item after wandering into her seven-year-old daughter Lilly-Jay's playhouse when a gust of wind opened the door. She recalled hearing coughing and spluttering and rushed in, but saw nothing untoward after the incident in May.

However, the following day her pet, who is eight months old, began being sick and went off her food. Miss Watson said: "Betty started to vomit and wasn't eating or drinking, which is totally unlike her. Normally she is very boisterous and playful but she was very quiet and didn't want to be around anyone, not even my daughter." Betty was taken to Thamesmead PDSA Pet Aid hospital where she was



X-rayed after vets identified an object lodged in her intestine.

Veterinary surgeon Chris Pollard, who operated on Betty at the charity's centre which provides free care for those in need, said:

"The X-rays were surprising to say the least. The arrow was so long it virtually ran through Betty's body but it also explained why she was so ill. The main



concern was the length of the arrow and where it ended - in the small intestine. This could have penetrated the stomach wall and proved fatal. We had to operate immediately. The operation proved incredibly intricate as Betty was so young and her internal organs were still not yet fully developed. We opened up the abdomen and made an incision in the stomach to pull the arrow out with great care. Considering Betty's size as a puppy, it really is amazing that she managed to swallow a 10.5 inch long arrow."

Betty was kept in overnight and fed tiny portions of food and water to ensure the stitches did not come apart.

Miss Watson added: "I simply can't believe what Betty did. She was so small and the arrow so long. I'm amazed that it was physically possible for her to swallow it. She doesn't appear to have learnt her lesson because as soon as she got home she tried to eat the TV remote control so we're keeping a very close eye on her now to prevent anything like this from happening again."

WORLD NEWS

WOMAN SPENDS \$600,000 BUYING DOG

This Autumn a woman from Northern China took delivery of what is reportedly the world's most expensive dog for which she paid 4 million yuan, or about \$600,000.

On September 9th the woman and her new pet, an 18 month old Tibetan Mastiff dog named "Yangtze River Number Two," flew into Xi'an, capital of Shaanxi province, which is to be the dog's new home.

Landing at Xi'an airport the pair were greeted by a large crowd of dog lovers holding up a long red banner welcoming the mastiff.

The dog's owner, identified only as Ms. Wang, a millionaire, posed with her four-million-yuan (\$600,000) black Tibetan Mastiff before being met by a convoy of 30 black Mercedes-Benz cars, led by two sports utility vehicles, who it is reported had been arranged by Ms. Wang to drive to the airport to pick up the pair upon arrival from the Tibetan-populated province of Qinghai in China's northwest.

To guarantee that Ms. Wang's massive expenditure was not overlooked by her social circle, reports say that she contacted her wealthy friends after making the purchase, spreading word of the exact cost of her new pet and her arrival time in Xi'an. The dog's welcome crowd was so large and lavish, that passers by gathered round thinking a human celebrity was arriving.

The millionairess has reportedly been searching for the perfect dog for years. Ms. Yang said: "Gold has a price, but this Tibetan Mastiff doesn't."

In China, this ancient breed goes by nicknames such as "Miraculous Beast," "Number One Dog" and "Antique Dog." Buddha and Genghis Khan kept them as companions. They are an ancient breed and served as guard dogs in China as early as 1000 B.C. With fewer than 160 pure bred descendants of the original Tibetan mastiffs, currently in existence, these dogs are certainly rare in their native habitat, the Tibetan Plateau.



Chinese dog-watchers are a new phenomenon in a land where keeping dogs as pets was banned under the reign of Mao Zedong who described dog owners as time-wasters. Large dogs are still

outlawed in Beijing where it is illegal to register a dog larger than 35 cms (13 inches). Dog ownership in general is reserved for the wealthier population in cities like Beijing, where the annual license fee can run as high as 1,000 yuan or (\$150) - an astronomical sum for China's blue collar workers (textile workers' salaries averaged less than 20,000 yuan or \$3,000 per annum in 2008),

Perhaps China's dog-loving elite, who now enjoy a level of wealth previously reserved for non-Chinese, will help shift the reputation of the lowly dog from a restaurant entree, to the position the animals enjoy in the rest of the world - that of man's (or woman's) best friend.

N.B. At the time of writing 4 million yuan is equivalent to £375,000 sterling

Other News from
NEWSHOUND

'FLUSH PUPPY' SURVIVES WASTE PIPE ORDEAL

This summer a puppy flushed down a toilet by a four-year-old boy survived a waste pipe ordeal lasting several hours before being pulled to safety none the worse for wear.

The one-week-old cocker spaniel was trapped in a waste pipe for nearly four hours after four-year-old Daniel Blair decided he "needed a wash" and put him in a toilet before pulling the chain.

After attempts to find the pet, drainage firm Dyno-Rod was called in and used specialist camera equipment to locate him in a pipe 20 yards away from the house, in Northolt, Middlesex. He was then carried to safety.



Puppy located.

The dog has since been named Dyno after his rescuers, who were contacted when members of the fire brigade and RSPCA were unable to get him out.

Daniel's mother Alison, 40, said the dog's ordeal began after Daniel's twin brother Nicky took him out for a walk in the garden. "Daniel told me it had got muddy so they put it in the toilet and pulled the chain to give it a wash. I ran to the bathroom but the dog was nowhere to be seen. I assumed it was dead," She added: "I went into the garden, managed to lift up the drain cover and was amazed to hear him crying."



"Dyno" being gently pushed along pipe.

Dyno-Rod's Will Craig, 22, from Harrow in Middlesex, was eventually called in, admitting he thought it was a practical joke at first. He said: "At first I didn't want to do it because I was scared of hurting the dog. But the RSPCA said I was his only hope. Eventually I pushed him far enough for the firemen to grab him."

Following his ordeal "Dyno" was completely oblivious to all the fuss surrounding his rescue and is seen here unconcernedly having a snooze in the palm of one of his owner's

hands.



What is Barkless?

by Susan T. Harbison
& Mary Lou Kenworthy

In order to understand barkless we must first understand barking.

Barking is a neurotic habit caused by civilization. Canines (including domestic dogs) that are running loose seldom bark. If they are stimulated by something they will either run or go investigate it. But if tied up or penned in they can't do anything about the stimuli so they bark. It is a form of stress relief.

With the exception of a short warning bark, canines in the wild do not bark because they do not want to give away their location to game or predators. In early dogs, not barking was a learned survival response. This is probably part of the reason why Basenjis don't bark.

In the Bar Harbor research (1950s) J. P. Scott compared barking behaviour between Basenjis and cockers under stress. While cockers tended to continue high-pitched yaps for dozens or even hundreds of times, Basenjis managed only a low woof with much effort and gave up after two or three barks. Crossing and backcrossing the two breeds suggested that the tendency to bark under social stress is due to a genetic effect on the threshold of response. Backcrosses to the Basenjis resulted in less barking than backcrosses to the cockers. Scott suggests that the Basenji may have evolved as a result of selection under circumstances where barking would be a non-adaptive trait.

Basenjis are different.

Anyone who has lived with Basenjis for any amount time knows that they are different from other dogs in many ways. Evidence of this is apparent in the evolutionary tree constructed for dogs using DNA markers. According to recent DNA research (Parker et al, 2004) it is believed that the branch from the wolf split in two. One of these splits contains the Asia spitz-like Shar-pei, Shiba inu, Akita and Chow Chow.

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The other branch directly from the wolf splits in two with a branch going on to many modern dogs. But the second split from that branch, just two splits away from the wolf, has only one breed of dog on it - - the Basenji! This puts the Basenji in a class by himself and accounts largely for the differences between the Basenji and other modern breeds of dogs. The Basenji is on a branch by himself just two splits from the wolf!

Why are basenjis barkless?

Being barkless is the main difference that sets the basenji apart from other breeds. They are barkless for several reasons. One reason is that it is a learned response that protects them in the wild. In addition they have a higher threshold for excitement than most domestic dogs. But the main difference is the structure surrounding the larynx.

A postmortem of two Basenjis and a terrier was carried out by Dr. Ashdown. This was done in the presence of Mr. Richard Fiennes, Head Pathologist of the London Zoo, and several other notable veterinarians. A comparison was made to other dogs. Following is the part of the postmortem treatise pertinent to vocalizations:

"The cavity of the laryngeal ventricle is shallow, also the cavity leading out of the laryngeal vestibule. The laryngeal sacculle is markedly reduced in the Basenji. I have however compared this larynx with specimens from a Great Dane and Foxhound, there is no doubt about the shallowness of the ventricle and the poor development of the sacculle in this Basenji compared with other breeds."

In Forrest Bryant Johnson's book *BASENJI Dog from the Past* he reported another comparison. Two well known American anatomists, Dr. Erwin Small and Dr. L. E. St Clair examined the larynx of a basenji and compared it to that of other dogs. The vocal folds and muscles did not appear different but they found that the ventricle was very shallow. This prevents the vocal cords from being free on its lateral side limiting the vibration of the vocal folds. Based on their findings, the Basenji does not bark because of physical structures that differs from other dogs.

Basenjis are not mute.

Basenjis can, with great effort, make a short warning (Fox) bark much like wild canines but they can not sustain it for more than a couple of 'boofs'. The sound comes from a deep exhaling of breath that usually puffs out the flues. If

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you watch closely you can see and hear the result. A Basenji barking is like shooting a single shot shotgun – you have to reload between shots and after two the game is out of range. When other domestic dogs bark it is like shooting a rapid fire automatic with a very large clip.

Neophytes usually misinterpret any sound a Basenji makes as a bark. Barkless is often mistakenly thought of as not making any sound. Basenji owners know this is far from true. Basenjjs can growl, howl, wine, scream and make all the other doggie noises although they don't vocalize in these ways very often.

Most often they communicate with their humans by yodeling. This is a very pleasant sound used for greeting - or when they have pulled a fast one on you.

But their inability to bark like other dogs is because of their inherited difference in the structure

surrounding the larynx. This difference likely originated with their singular split-off from Wolves.



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Boxer is Kid's Foster Dad

A Paternal Boxer from Buckfastleigh, Devon has made an abandoned baby goat his surrogate offspring acting as dad and protector to the kid.



“Billy” the Boxer has been the constant companion of “Lilly” the kid since she was a few hours old and had been abandoned by her mother. He sleeps with Lilly

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and protects her from any dangers at Pennywell Farm Wildlife Centre.



Billy and Lilly have formed a close bond after he adopted her when her mother abandoned her and owner Elizabeth Tozer began hand rearing the kid.

The pair's unusual bond developed and they became inseparable.

Elizabeth said: "Lilly follows Billy around which is really quite amusing to watch and he sleeps with the goat and cleans her mouth.

Lilly was the smallest of a litter of three kids and her mother abandoned her because she would only care for the two stronger ones.

Billy and Lilly attract quite a crowd at the animal centre and staff at the centre follow their relationship with keen interest.

Aren't dogs just the most wonderful of creatures?

The photographs in this piece are by Richard Austin.

Veronica Tudor-Williams' Letters to Les Siddall

& The White Jacketed 1976 Version of
BASENJIS The barkless dogs

Just recently I've been reading a lot about the late Veronica Tudor Williams and I am none too sure that some of the folk writing about her really did know her that well.

It may not be common knowledge but in the 70s and 80s VTW and I were in regular contact by letter and almost daily by telephone and during these years we became close personal friends. She revealed a really different personality to me than that which she usually paraded before most folk.

In recent writings VTW is regularly portrayed as a sweet, charming little lady and it is certainly true that she could lay on the charm with a treacle spoon but in reality that was only one side of her and she was far from being just that. In fact I saw her as more of a feisty, wily character with strong opinions on Basenjjs and on their owners too. At times she was opinionated but who isn't? She could also be verbally vitriolic about those who crossed her or who she thought crossed her and I myself was on the receiving end of scathing criticism on more than one occasion. I didn't mind that because in VTW I saw a personality that was a female mirror image of my own with one difference - with me what you see is what you get and charm is never turned on for effect. If I feel I must say something, no matter how disparaging it may be, I'll say it no matter who I'm saying it to. Bearing that in mind the reader of this piece should not be surprised to learn that in any confrontation I had with VTW I certainly gave her as good as I got and often more than I got. But we remained close friends and if you cannot be straight talking and honest with a close friend then who can you be honest and straight with?

To give readers of this magazine an insight into the other world of VTW that I knew I have decided in the next few issues of the NBS Newsletter to publish extracts from some of her letters. I have chosen letters written in the 70s and sent to me during the frantic three years that she spent writing the white jacketed version of her book, BASENJIS The Barkless Dogs, published by David and Charles in 1976.

VTW was not a natural writer and it did not come easy to her to produce a manuscript for the book which she felt was far more of a chore than a pleasure. Her letters give a glimpse of the difficulties she faced in creating a book that she hated but that is still considered by many to be the best book on the Basenji ever written. At the same time her letters are interspersed with other things that Veronica thought would interest me.

After Fula died in 1974 Veronica became very depressed and I got the feeling from her many telephone calls that she was also lonely. It was this lonely depressing time that I believe prompted her to work furiously to complete the book she had started updating whilst Fula was still with her. During her "depression period," as I called it, she continued with judging appointments abroad and at Crufts.

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June 27th 1975

Dearest Les

It was June 30th last year that Fula died. So you can imagine how I feel. Right now I wish I was there to help with your Basenjjs it would take my mind off things.

Thank you for everything. I sent your colour photos of Swan off as I was scared you had no b & w and she just must be in the book. (just got them back and they look terrific). I know you don't like to see pedigrees in this sort of book and didn't want Swan's in so the caption is as we agreed, but no pedigree. But Les, I hope you will forgive me, poor Delia wanted to be in the book but could not afford it. I know you said she should be in. If only she bred better dogs & behaved and housed them better, I would let her in the book for free, But I did not want her in the book -- what if Americans went to see her kennels because they were in the book? However I feel sure you will agree with me -- because I've put that Swan is by Red Deer out of Antefaa Petra. (I have not spelt it the silly way she does!) It is her only mention in the book, it does not hurt you, not liking pedigrees in books, any way as there is no extended pedigree & I do feel she should get a wee bit of credit? I think we would both feel guilty if in a few years when we read the book, when time has mellowed it all & we felt we had left poor old Delia out? If you disapprove in any way I know you will let me know by return.

I thought this book was off my back, complications pile up every day, also my house looks like a dress shop everything I buy for America has to be remade by me as I have no shape and cannot seem to lose weight.

At the moment I've lost the Darwin book you sent to me. You'd never believe it but I sent them £63 and have never had a word of acknowledgement — and it ruined my Crufts.

A lot of love to you dear one..

Veronica

Feb 7th 1976

My dearest Les

Bless you for your letter I needed its comfort. I wonder why I ever wrote this book. This morning I had a most abusive letter from the "walkies" woman Barbara Woodhouse saying she got my letter apologising for the wrong heading to her article with "amazement & anger. You had no right to let D & C (*David & Charles*) publish my work, I gave them no rights and have not been paid for my work." I hold two letters of hers saying she had written the article for my book & another approving alterations I had suggested for her article for my book. Over payment, I consider really she should have paid me, I am advertising her and her books for free. All this is now in Solicitors hands (B. Woodhouse has presumably written furiously to D & C & I hope that scares them, I am not going to tell them I have letters of permission, am going to let them sweat.)

B Woodhouse's letter adds to the strange rather unpleasant letters from Jayne (*Jayne Stringer.*) & Mrs. Ford. I thought I had been complementary to Jayne. However I did cut the Liberian pages to bare facts which anyone can see in the "Basenji" & the Kennel Gazette, rather dull but I am sick of abuse.

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How is your Fula Panther (*A Fula Black bred from Swan and unique as he had no red on him whatsoever and VTW loved him*) doing I must know how he is turning out? I found the enclosed picture of one of the first Fula Blacks (he was Fula Black Penny OTC). Why do they ban the Fula Blacks yet accept the lop-eared, poor tailed short legged Liberian B & Ws?

If you are going to be at Crufts early, around 10 am, could you be a dear and hang around where you think I will arrive, either main entrance or entrance to Empire Hall, as I am bringing 100 books, weight 150 lbs & I don't see how I could carry them. I may have help, but I guess I can do with all the help possible.

My very best love

Veronica

March 7th 1976

Very Dearest Les

Thank you for wanting another copy of the book, it's a great help, & I'd be so grateful if you could ask your Aussie friends if they want the book, to buy the book from me and not go to a shop in Aussie-land and ask them to stock it.

Over Crufts, I was tickled pink, couldn't think why you were so pleased. I'd no idea who Chantilly was (*Blackpits Chantilly of Kingsway R/W bred by me & VTW's BOB*). Simply could not place her in my mind & now I am glad I could not. When I asked Kath Russell her name I said oh that's the puppy I might have had, I am so glad I didn't, we want Basenjjs like this in England." The dog was spectacular, but a bit big & also I did not care too much for his head, though it passed. With Chantilly, I'd have liked her a bit reachier and then she would have been perfection. I am glad I did not have her, she is so like Fula I would have kept her, and it's wise for me not to have a dog at present. Kath wrote me such a nice letter afterwards.

I bet Jayne (*Jayne Stringer..who's dog was unplaced*) was mad, but her dog was completely cow-hocked & I cannot understand how people can put up such dogs, short - legged in front with enormous feet. Notice how she holds them under the chin, I glared at her hand, & after 2 glares she moved it & then the dog went right down with short legs & flat feet. Wish now I had made her go in a straight line would have been good for the ringsides benefit.

I wish I could have had a really long chat with you, at Crufts, so many things that I would like to ask you. I value your opinion such a lot.

I am sad about Swan's photo in the infernal book, she is so lovely and should have been on the right hand page, I like the best photos on the right hand side, they show up more and her page is far more attractive than Phyllis Cook's pedigree and rather pop-eyed head study (don't tell her I said this).

Very best love to you

Veronica

April 16th 1976

My very dearest friend Les

Thank you for your wonderful Easter card, I'm very touched, it's so beautiful. I was so very happy to see you and looking so well at the AGM.

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I am delighted you feel as I do over the BTs (I had one once from Ch. R. Rhinestone). I just could not make out the back ending at the last rib, then I thought I will confirm this with my expert friend, Les.

What a lot of (to put it politely) balderdash the Yanks and Canadians write about dogs. How different the Aussies are, they are real stock breeders. Do you remember the drawing of the Amer. Trotter and the over extended Ch. Kajajs Gay Excalibur? Wish I'd had Swan to show true movement, but of course it was all fixed up too much at the last moment to get her in the right place. You will notice neither Shirley Chambers nor Excalibur are in the book because I didn't want them in and not because we had a fall out as rumoured by jealous gossip mongers. You know who I mean.

Every day I find more appalling errors in that book till I can't bear to read it.

I want to speak to you about two or three Basenji things that I do not want to put in writing. Can you phone me one evening after 6 pm? *(haven't a clue what the gossip was about - I will have made the phone call - but I cannot remember what we spoke of)*

I fear Jack *(VTW here refers to Jack Fleming)* hates me now, I think something to do with the S. Sudan. After the meeting I dropped him a quick line to say we had been friends for too long to let anything like the affair of the meeting *(a disagreement between them at the AGM about VTWs book on the Crufts club stand...Les)* come between us & let's forget it. If he agreed, send me a P.C. or give me a brief call. Not a word. I only put some un-autographed books in one pile, one book wide, ditto autographed. Approx 1foot by 2 foot area & had paid £8 out of the £20 or the Club would not had the stall. It was others who spread the book & opened it at Queen J. & so on, as they said we must make a show. Lynn, who was to do the stall was ill & did not arrive till 2 p.m. & Jeanie's car broke down. Thank God for the pastels you brought for me. But they will never have a book from me on any stall again.

My very best love & a happy Easter
Veronica

October 76

Very Dearest Les

Just a quick post card wishing you every happiness and success in your new home How I wish that I could be there to help you sort things out and mind the dogs but I am sure you know I am there with you in spirit.

I am told the book is still selling well but I still have many of my 1000 copies left so nobody is buying mine now.

I know you always read the breed notes and I am fed up with the writers constantly referring to 'the famous Falcon' or 'Zen' instead of giving their full CONGO names. Even Mary *(This refers to Mary Herring)* does it and as a dear old friend I wish she wouldn't. Congo now seems a dirty word and Fula a four letter word. Such is life.

Mary said you thought that I would wish you to stop showing your beautiful Ch. Lionstair Fula Black Swan now she has more CCs than any other Tri but I say carry on she could soon have more CCs than any other bitch and deservedly so.

A whole lot of love..
Veronica

In the same way that dogs in the UK have been under attack well so they have in the USA albeit to a lesser degree than the vitriolic attacks of the BBC and RSPCA and their biased vets have been here. Nevertheless in the USA the same hatred towards dogs and the Westminster Show has been demonstrated by the organisation "People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals " (PETA an animals rights group.) Below is a statement by a USA veterinarian, Libbye Miller, who speaks up for the dog and the Westminster Show. Her arguments are brilliant and exactly the right ones to use in defence of our dogs and their breeders here in the UK...Les Siddall

A Veterinarian Speaks Out

By Dr. Libbye Miller
Elizabethtown, KY. USA

"Adorable mixed breeds" get cancer, epilepsy, allergies, heart disease, and orthopedic problems just like purebreds. I see it every day in my veterinary practice but mixed breed dogs aren't tracked like the purebreds so they have a reputation as "healthier" that is actually undeserved in many cases." It is so sad that a lot of folks, including young veterinarians these days, buy into the "hybrid vigour" baloney. The vet schools have been infiltrated by the Animal Rights Extremists, who are teaching them this junk science in order to push their agenda.

All animals have a certain amount of genetic load, which is to say there is absolutely no animal without some genetic problem of some sort of another. Know anyone who wears glasses? Has allergies? Thyroid problems? Weak knees? Flat feet? A skin condition? Arthritis? A gap between their front teeth? These are all genetic imperfections.

No human is genetically "clean." Neither is any individual of any species on earth. So this idea that dogs should not be bred because they might have a genetic problem, and that breeders are somehow "evil" for breeding them, is ridiculous. Every single individual of every single species has at least a few genetic conditions.

To use PETA's logic, all breeding of all kinds (including having human babies) should halt immediately. And to be honest, Ingrid Newkirk (the woman who founded PETA) does believe exactly that. She thinks that humans should become extinct, along with dogs, cats, etc. This ridiculous scenario is precisely what she would like to see happen. So folks, if that is what you want...if you agree with Ingrid Newkirk's whacky views, send your hard earned money to PETA. They will help to ensure you are not able to own a dog or cat or hamster or any other pet in the future. They will see to it that you can't eat meat or fish or eggs or any type of animal-based nutrition. They will work to shut down places like Sea World,

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the zoos, etc. so you cannot observe the many wonderful animals on the Earth. Eventually, once they accomplish these things, they may turn their efforts to making it illegal for humans to procreate. If you don't agree with their extremist views, wise up and start supporting those who truly do love, care for and enjoy interaction with other species here on our little blue planet.

The fanciers of the breeds, those you see exhibiting their dogs at Westminster and other dog shows, work very hard to eliminate serious genetic conditions. They screen their breeding stock with every available test. They research pedigrees before breeding into other lines, to check for similar clearances in those animals. They contribute money to research organizations to further the work being done to track down genetic problems. They contribute blood, cell samples, etc. from their own animals to help with DNA and genome studies. They have made great progress so far, and they continue to work hard at it.

Are there unethical breeders? Certainly, there are. Just as in any group of humans, you will find the good and the bad. United States VP Elect Joe Biden, for example, managed to find a not so good one when he got his new German Shepherd puppy. I don't know who did his research for him, but they obviously didn't do their homework if they were looking for a responsible breeder. Joe has the right to get his dog from whomever he wishes, but if he was trying to set an example of purchasing from a responsible hobby breeder he went off the track this time. That's too bad, but it was his choice. Unfortunately, breeders like that may be a lot easier to find because of their high volume and high profile. If you are looking for a nice family pet from a breeder who will be there for you forever, you need to do due diligence. You won't get that from a pet store. You won't get that from the guy selling dogs out of his pickup truck in the WalMart parking lot. You won't get that support from a high-volume breeder, either. Yes, it takes a little more time and effort to find someone who really cares and does all the work to breed the healthiest, happiest puppies possible and then stands behind those puppies. This is a living being that will be part of your family, hopefully, for many years. Isn't it worth a bit of effort to find a breeder who will be there for you and that puppy forever?

And guess what? Shows like Westminster are a very valuable resource for finding breeders who do care and who use the best possible practices, as well as for learning more about the various breeds. Bravo to USA Network for broadcasting the Westminster Kennel Club show all these years. May they enjoy continued success through the ongoing inclusion of such programs.

OFCOMCAPITULATION TO BBC PRESSURE IS FARCE

Oh No! All around us Fools!



An investigation into a vile BBC documentary condemning pedigree dogs descended into farce on 9th November after the BBC forced Ofcom to postpone publication of its report.

The watchdog had been ready to uphold three complaints against *Pedigree Dogs Exposed*, ruling that the programme had treated the Kennel Club and dog breeders unfairly.

However, the BBC's lawyers persuaded the regulator to cancel publication of the ruling hours before it was to have been made public because they claimed that the corporation had been misled about the nature of the inquiry.

The original row had sparked so much controversy that the BBC dropped its coverage of Crufts.

The Kennel Club said that it had lost confidence in the watchdog. KC Chairman Ronnie Irving, said that he was bewildered and aggrieved that the BBC had intervened. He added: "We have to admit a loss of confidence in the Ofcom complaints process."

It is reported that Ofcom upheld 3 complaints against the programme, broadcast in August last year, but has not quashed its central allegation that

breeding techniques have led to puppies being born with disease and deformities.

The regulator is understood to have concluded that the programme was unfair to the KC when it likened the body's stance on pedigree breeding to the eugenics movement and the Nazis. It also upheld complaints made by breeders of Rhodesian Ridgebacks and Cavalier King Charles spaniels that they too, had not been treated fairly.

Relationships between the Kennel Club, the BBC and Ofcom disintegrated when Ofcom notified all parties of its provisional findings this summer, a leak appeared on a dog website suggesting the Kennel Club were vindicated but this was deleted after Ofcom complained that its confidentiality rules had been breached.

It is reported that the BBC believe that Ofcom asked "misleading" questions when it began its investigation. and sources said that the corporation became aware of the path Ofcom was following only when it released provisional findings. The BBC submitted new evidence but claims that Ofcom refused to consider it.

The ruling is understood to require the BBC to broadcast a summary of Ofcom's findings, which the corporation is desperate to avoid.

The allegations of links between Nazism and the Kennel Club resurfaced again on November 9th after it emerged that Chris Kisko, the husband of Caroline Kisko, secretary of the KC, is on the list of alleged British National Party members recently published on the internet. M Kisko refused to comment, but M Irving said: "Ms Kisko is not and has never been a member of the BNP."

MISCELLANY

Look what the dogs brought in: Hand Grenades.

Germany is still littered with unexploded Allied munitions more than six decades after the war, leading frequently to major evacuations when they are discovered in densely populated areas.

This summer in Berlin a dog out on a walk happened upon a live US grenade from World War II and eagerly delivered it to his master, police said Monday, but authorities were able to defuse the explosive before it went off.



In a separate incident a 40-year-old woman let her dog off its leash near a stream on a summer walk on the outskirts of the town of Erkrath in Western Germany's Neander Valley. The animal found the grenade on the ground, picked it up in its jaws and trotted back to its owner. "She recognised immediately that it was probably an old, rusted hand grenade," police said. "On the orders of the woman, the dog obediently put his find back next to the stream."

She then alerted the authorities who blocked off the area and dispatched a munitions expert who identified the object as a still live American hand grenade from World War II. It was destroyed in a controlled explosion.



The Odds and Ends Page.....



It's Check Mate to the Puppy in 4 Moves.



Ear Muff.



Great Dog-Bird, Useless Bird-Dog.



~~GREAT~~ Grate Raccoons.



A Side Salad of Kitten.



I Do Solemnly Swear that I Didn't Do It.

NOTICE BOARD.....



The opinions, views and/or statements expressed in NBS Newsletters, Schedules and/or Catalogues are individual and not necessarily the opinion of the Committee of the Northern Basenji Society.

*

The Editor has the final decision on whether or not to publish items and also reserves the right to edit for suitability the content of those published.

*

Contributions to our Newsletter are always welcome and should be sent to our Editor Mrs. Irene Horner. Let us have your cartoons, stories, articles and comments.

*

You can become a member of NBS at a cost of £6 single, £5 overseas, £5 Concessionary (non voting), £9 joint, and £1 junior. Full membership entitles you to cheaper entry fees for shows and at least 2 Newsletters a year. Contact our Secretary for details.

*

Why not advertise in future issues of the Newsletter at a cost of £4 for a full page, or £15 for a full page with ONE colour photograph, or in the Breeders Directory for only £1.50 for initial set up and then free for as long as you want? Further details from our Editor or Secretary.

*

The NBS thank all contributors to this issue and in particular for items from Irene Horner and from the archives of Les Siddall. Due to lack of space a number of items have had to be held over until the next issue

*

The next NBS Show is the Championship Show on July 18th 2010 at Mypetstop, Junction 28 M62, Tingley - Judge - David Cavill.

*

BASENJI RESCUE

The Basenji Rescue co-ordinator in the North of England is:

**MRS E. GRAYSON
4 Sam Road
Diggle, Oldham
Lancs. OL3 5PU
Tel: 01457 878747**

or alternatively you may contact

**MRS CONNIE GRAHAM
May Cottage
Fletchers Lane
Lymm, Cheshire
WA13 9PP Tel: 01925 756622**

The NBS are keeping a list of any members or their friends who, having lost their own Basenji, would consider giving a home to an older dog. We can then pass on their names to the Rescue co-ordinators.

So please let us know if you would like your name to be included on this list.

We would also appreciate it if you will pass this information on to any of your non-member friends.

One good point about taking an older dog is that they are more than likely to be house-trained so, no little puddles to come down to in the morning!

You would also be performing a very necessary service for our breed.

*

Members who have anything, other than an advert, they wish to post on the notice board can make use of the free space on this page at no cost. Send your brief copy to the Editor.



WINTER



EDITION