



***Merry Christmas***

**Welcome to the**

**Welsh Dobermann Club**

***Christmas* News Letter 2008**

## SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Club's Open Show drew an excellent entry and the show had a good atmosphere. The judge, Ian Norman (Nearctic), kindly presented Dobermann coasters from America which were well received. Critique is included in the Newsletter. Many thanks to all members who sponsored classes at the Open Show.

It is good to see that breeders are now carrying on with their breeding programmes and the numbers in the puppy classes are now rising. The WDC Championship Show in April saw the WDC's first BPIS with a tail – Cox's Zeloviak Inquisition. The BPIS at WDC Open Show, Connerley's Jaegeron Hell N Ready, made breed history at the South West Dobermann Club's Championship Show in being the first UK Dobermann with a tail to win a Reserve CC – Well Done.

Further to my request in my last report I am still waiting to hear from all those on e-mail. Could you please provide me with your e-mails so I can let you know if there is new information on the club's website ([www.welshdobermann.co.uk](http://www.welshdobermann.co.uk))

The web site will be featuring champions from the 2009 WDC calendar in the near future (subject to agreement of the owners). The Calendars are still on sale at a cost of £5.00 + p&p £1.50 – cheques made payable to Welsh Dobermann Club and sent to myself. The Judges List for 2009 (£1 plus sae) and the list of Previous Judging Appointments (£2 + sae) available from myself all cheques payable to Welsh Dobermann Club – all proceeds to Dobermann Welfare.

Please check dates in the calendar as some of the championship shows have changed i.e. South Wales Ch. Show has now moved to October and Drifffield is hoping to move to their date in July. The judges for the club's championship show (19/4/09) are awaiting approval from the Kennel Club and schedules will be available as soon as this is received from the KC (mid January). The KC will be launching the KC Breeders' Competition at Manchester in January and the WDC will be scheduling the breeders stakes at the championship show.

Please note subscriptions are due on 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2009. Following instructions from the Kennel Club the General Code of Ethics provided by the Kennel Club have been adopted and all previous codes have been rescinded. I therefore enclose herewith an updated membership form and ask that all members sign and return same to Mrs. Avril Stewart, Membership Secretary, with their renewals confirming they accept these. The WDC AGM will take place on Saturday, 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2009 (details enclosed).

I've enclosed the Club's Christmas Card – designed and printed by Jean Quigley and the Club wishes to thank Mo **Bilclarie Dobermanns** for the use of the photograph and the story.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Successful 2009.

JUNE PIPER  
Hon. Secretary

Tel: 01443 813604 E-mail: [junewelshdobermann@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:junewelshdobermann@tiscali.co.uk)

## **Crufts 2009 Goes On Without the BBC**

Today the Kennel Club confirmed that it and the BBC will be unable to continue working together in 2009 for the broadcast of the world's greatest celebration of dogs, Crufts, which in previous years has attracted over 14 million viewers in the UK and additional audiences worldwide. This position was reached after the Kennel Club regrettably had to refuse to comply with the unreasonable demands insisted on by the BBC, to exclude certain breeds of dog from the group competition at the show. These demands took no account of the measures the Kennel Club has in place to improve the health of pedigree dogs, or of the fact that judges will be trained to help ensure that all dogs being awarded prizes at Crufts will be healthy representatives of their breed. More than ever, Crufts 2009 will set the standard for all future Kennel Club licensed dog shows and the Kennel Club will be running a comprehensive education programme for judges to ensure that only the healthiest dogs are rewarded in the show ring at Crufts 2009 and beyond.

Ronnie Irving, Kennel Club Chairman, said "I am very sorry that BBC audiences around the world will not be able to join us in celebrating all dogs in 2009 and to see the remarkable diversity of dogs and activities on show at Crufts; ranging from the show classes to agility displays, the Friends for Life competition and the unsung heroes who take part in breed rescue.

"However, we have been forced to reject the insupportable conditions imposed by the BBC, who have told us they will only televise the show in 2009 if certain breeds are excluded from participating. We are unable to agree to these demands, as it would compromise both contractual obligations and our general responsibility to dog exhibitors and our audience and we believe it would be inappropriate and counterproductive to exclude any recognised breed from Crufts.

"We are obviously disappointed and confused with this outcome as we hoped the broadcast would have supported our focus on health and welfare issues, given advice about caring for and training dogs and showcased the charitable work that we support. This TV exposure would have benefited all dogs and given viewers a well-rounded picture of what the new Crufts in 2009 is all about." In October 2008 the Kennel Club announced a clear strategy to show how it is further focusing its activities on the health and welfare of all dogs. It announced mandatory compliance with its strict code of ethics for all breed clubs registered with the Kennel Club.

Earlier this month, it completed its review for each of the 209 pedigree dog breeds in the UK and announced revised standards that will have far-reaching benefits for the health and welfare of dogs. These new breed standards and health plans will benefit from the extensive research that has been funded by the Kennel Club in conjunction with renowned veterinary research centres over a number of years. The overall aim is that all pedigree dogs should be fit for function and that breeders and judges should not reward dogs with obvious conditions or exaggerations, which would be detrimental in any way to their health.

Ronnie Irving added, "Crufts is the world's best platform to talk to dog owners about how we can work together to ensure their dogs' health and well being and veterinary and scientific experts will be on hand to explain how research has developed over the last 10 years which can help us to resolve genetic issues generally.

"Dogs and their owners world wide, look forward to Crufts every year and I can promise all dog lovers, anywhere in the world, that the show will go on. I ask all those that care about dogs and animal welfare to support us and to flock to the show to make it the biggest and best ever.

"Crufts 2009 in particular, will focus on thanking the unsung heroes of the dog world, such as breed rescue volunteers who work tirelessly to ensure that unwanted and abandoned dogs find a good home."

# Welsh Dobermann Club Open Show

5th October 2008

On the 5th October I found myself at the Welsh Dobermann Club at the invitation of the very hospitable committee who had provided me with an excellent size ring and two very able stewards who looked after me all day, thanks again. Also thanks to the exhibitors who gave me a good entry at my first breed club show. It was nice to see more entries in the younger classes again after the advent of the tails nearly all exhibits carried their tails proud, up and over their back which is my preference as it still gives that alert, noble dobie look. All the dobermanns showed good characters and not one backed off or shyed away well done. After breeding them, handling them and now judging them with tails I am convinced that young movement on tailed dogs is affected and it takes a bit of maturity to control that tail and therefore we must be patient with this.

MPD..1ST.. JARJARJINX DIAMOND GEEZER.Stood alone in this class,maybe a bit tall for age but could thicken out, short strong back and good tailset.BPD

PD..1ST..AMIOUS RUFF DIAMOND..Big lad for age and a bit long in leg for me which cost him in later challenges, liked his head though..

JD..1ST..ZELOVIK INVINCIBLE..Nice young boy just out of puppy, good angles front and rear, strong short back,long dry neck,and a good tailset carried nicely over his back keeping that noble dobie look, moved out well for a youngster.

2ND...ZELOVIK INCANTATION WITH SHERREBENCA...Litter mate to 1 and has very similar attributes just preferred shorter couplings on 1..

GD..1ST..ZELOVIK INVINCIBLE.

2ND..ZELOVIK INCANTATION WITH SHERREBENCA.

3RD..AMIOUS RUFF DIAMOND.

PGD 1ST..EBRILL GIMMEABREAK .JW. .Nice allround dog, good round bone slightly over angulated on rear. Best mover in the class.

2ND.SWNYDWR SKULDUGGERY..very square in outline with strong short back and tailset however his angles were very tight which did not allow for the good lay back of shoulder I have admired this kennel for over the years..

3RD.EBRILL BROWNIE POINTS FROM MERRYDOBE .JW.

LD.. 1ST.MARTIFERS THE JOKER .JW. Nicely put together dog with good angulation would like a slightly harder topline. A good steady mover.

2ND LEIBWACHE AL CAPONE..Good overall profile square strong and powerful. Short back, good strong head,I thought that he would eat up the big ring on the move but he just would not move out for his handler leaving his front reach short and his rear stilted.

OD..1ST..CH JOJAVIK THE GIGOLO.JW. The type I had been looking for, correct front, ample forechest,, short back compact and strong looking. Nice short forearm with good length of upper arm giving him good front angulation and depth of brisket,lovely arch neck looks noble and proud good reachy movement as you would expect. Just stopped driving a little on rear as the day went on and cost him in the final two challenges Best Dog.

2ND.. ALMEIRA SHADRAK AT TOMAR JW.ShCM. Taller than I would prefer but this dog is well balanced with good proportions. Like 1 he has good angulation with excellent depth of brisket and good spring of rib, lovely character and plays his handler a bit but nothing is spoiled and all is there to see, good reachy movement, Res Best Dog.

3RD. CH SIBOVELDS SAURON AT ROCKSANDS.JW.Sh CM.

MPB..1ST..KITADO KNIGHTSTORM..Good topline and tailset carried her tail up and tightly over moving and stood, on the move she moved out well for a youngster but her overall body shape needs time to mature.

2ND..JARJARJINX ARMED N FABULOUS..Similar attributes to 1 looked very imature.

PB..1ST. JEAGERSON HELL N REDDY.. very mature looking puppy, not overdone in any way and presents a very clean outline, nice sculptured head, good front angulation,excellent straight front legs nice and close to her rib cage and her length of upperarm gives her a good depth of brisket,good strong back into up and over tail which was held on the move strides out well for age, bright future no doubts !

Pleased to award her best puppy in show.

.....2ND..JARJARJINX DIVINE SECRETS..a bit taller than 1 and unlucky to meet her in this class, another good tail carriage and moved ok for age.

3RD.AMIOUS DIAMONDS R FOREVER..

JB..1ST...ZELOVIK INQUISITION.. Really caught my eye super ring presence, lovely outline, clean wedge head, moved well and handled well, one for the future noticed afterwards she is litter sister to 1st and 2nd in Junior dog the breeder can be well proud of this mating.

SYB..1ST..LYNFRYDS RASBERRY BERET..Headed this quality class of young bitches,outstanding body shape near perfect front which allowed her in my opinion to show the best reach of the day, lovely rear angulation which she used to drive her around the ring with ease.BB. On the move she demanded the top award BIS.

2ND...JOJAVIK HELLUVA DANCER OF TARCHAN..Another quality bitch lovely square outline sound front and rear, good strong head and archy neck, movement ok.

3RD... LEIBWACHE SUNSET STRIPPER..

GB....1ST JOJAVIK JEZEBEL..Nice strong girl a little up on size but in proportion good round bone strong head, good lengthy muzzle a bit unsettled but showed good movement when she got into her stride well handled. Close descision between 1st and 2nd.

2ND..ZELOVIK INQUISITION...

3RD JOJAVIK SEDUCTRESS..One I must mention, quality bitch that kept catching my eye in this and previous class but handler must get some more training and allow the bitch to be more animated if she is to achieve at this level, her movement was basically none assesable and shown well overweight.

PGB..1ST..MAVSON PLUM LADY. Real nice honest bitch lovely flowing neck into good hard topline angles for me were a little tight to challenge the top bitches but her movement was fluid and free.handed very well.

LB...1ST AMAZON SWEETEST FEELINGS FOR JARJARJINX.Good overhall shape and good angles,well shaped head. moved OK

2ND EBRILL DOLLY MIXTURE AT MERRY DOBE. 6yr old lady just showing her age a bit but enjoyed her day , and strode out with a good pace .

OB..1ST AMAZON DEVIL WEARS PRADA..Top draw bitch, love her type, short, square, strong but still elegant and feminine, just what you would expect from this kennel and on close inspection she does not dissappoint excellent front and depth good strong movement just lost out to a bitch in top form RBIS.

2ND..JAEGERON HOT GOSSIP.. Quality bitch good strength and good bone, nice depth and strong rear, loved her head.but did not quite move out for handler, and slightly longer than 1

3RD..COLTREGAN CANDELIRA.

VETERAN D/B.. 1ST.REMENSCA BEST KEPT SECRET. 10 Yr old male, hard to split these two and a pity the dog and bitch class was together as they both represented their sexes well,hard to believe he is 10 yrs old lovely bone and super front and moved around the ring like a 3 year old he just loved it. Best Veteran.

2ND..SHERREBENCA AMERETTO JW..Top quality bitch and pushed 1 hard all the way Hardest decision I had all day did not want the class to end and had to stop myself from moving them around and around again to enjoy two lovely ambassadors of our breed in their later years. Both I think can feel aggrieved they did not gain their titles.

Ian Norman (Nearctic),

# **The Kennel Club General Code of Ethics**

All breeders who register their puppies, and new owners who register ownership of their dogs with the Kennel Club, accept the jurisdiction of the Kennel Club and undertake to abide by its general Code of Ethics.

## **Breeders/Owners:**

1. Will properly house, feed, water and exercise all dogs under their care and arrange for appropriate veterinary attention if and when required.
2. Will agree without reservation that any veterinary surgeon performing an operation on any of their dogs which alters the natural conformation of the animal, may report such operation to the Kennel Club.
3. Will agree that no healthy puppy will be culled. Puppies which may not conform to the Breed Standard should be placed in suitable homes.
4. Will abide by all aspects of the Animal Welfare Act.
5. Will not create demand for, nor supply, puppies that have been docked illegally.
6. Will agree not to breed from a dog or bitch which could be in any way harmful to the dog or to the breed.
7. Will not allow any of their dogs to roam at large or to cause a nuisance to neighbours or those carrying out official duties.
8. Will ensure that their dogs wear properly tagged collars and will be kept leashed or under effective control when away from home.
9. Will clean up after their dogs in public places or anywhere their dogs are being exhibited.
10. Will only sell dogs where there is a reasonable expectation of a happy and healthy life and will help with the re-homing of a dog if the initial circumstances change.
11. Will supply written details of all dietary requirements and give guidance concerning responsible ownership when placing dogs in a new home.
12. Will ensure that all relevant Kennel Club documents are provided to the new owner when selling or transferring a dog, and will agree, in writing, to forward any relevant documents at the earliest opportunity, if not immediately available.
13. Will not sell any dog to commercial dog wholesalers, retail pet dealers or directly or indirectly allow dogs to be given as a prize or donation in a competition of any kind. Will not sell by sale or auction Kennel Club registration certificates as stand alone items (not accompanying a dog).
14. Will not knowingly misrepresent the characteristics of the breed nor falsely advertise dogs nor mislead any person regarding the health or quality of a dog.

Breach of these provisions may result in expulsion from club membership, and/or disciplinary action by the Kennel Club and/or reporting to the relevant authorities for legal action, as appropriate.

**Last updated - September 2008**

## FAQs - New Code of Ethics

### **1. Is the Code mandatory?**

Yes - all breed clubs are required to adopt it.

### **2. Can clubs delay the adoption of the Code?**

No they must adopt the Code without delay.

### **3. Do we need a SGM or AGM to seek approval of members to agree to these changes?**

No, this is a KC directive so therefore you do not need to call a SGM or AGM in order to agree to this. The Code must be adopted immediately and advised at the next opportunity.

### **4. Will the Code form part of annual returns for clubs in future?**

Yes

### **5. Can Breed Council's adopt this Code?**

Yes. They have not specifically been told to, as all breed clubs are adopting it, but if they wish to do so that would be a good idea.

### **6. Our Club has its own specific clauses in its Code – what happens to these?**

You can apply to add any clauses of your own club's Code of Ethics to the KC one, but you must not change the Kennel Club's Code itself. If you want to add some of your club's clauses, it would make sense to append these to the relevant section of the Code where it fits best. However, you must get permission from the Kennel Club to include additional clauses.

### **7. Our Club needs time to discuss this – can we add items to the Code later?**

Yes, this can be done. But you must send confirmation that your club will adopt the Kennel Club's Code of Ethics now and then at a later stage send your request to add clauses as directed.

### **8. Why was there no mention of testing for inherited diseases in the new Code?**

The Code is still to be considered a 'Guide to Best Practice', and health testing is not enforceable under KC Rules and Regulations, unless the breeder is a member of the Accredited Breeder Scheme. Whilst the Kennel Club continually promotes health testing in all breeds, not all breeds suffer from inherited diseases where the Kennel Club has a health scheme in place. This position may change in time however, as health testing becomes the norm for all.

**9. Does the statement “breach of these provisions may result in expulsion from club membership, and/or disciplinary action by the Kennel Club and/or reporting to the relevant authorities for legal action, as appropriate” relate to all items on the Code?**

As with all the provisions of the Code of Ethics, an element of common sense and realism should be applied, as appropriate, both for the observance of the provisions and/or for any necessary enforcement. The key is always a proportionate reaction should be given to any complaint of breach of any provision of the Code.

There will be a number of factors such as repetition of a breach despite warning, impact of the breach upon any particular dog, breed or the club concerned, the appropriateness of other bodies to deal (eg RSPCA, Trading Standards), which will dictate the response and reaction to any particular complaint being made.

**10. Some of our Club members re-home older dogs but prefer not to re-home them with a registration certificate? Would they get into trouble?**

The Code of Ethics is still a “guide to best practice” and we fully understand that some older dogs may be re-homed without paperwork. If this is the case, we would recommend that the breeder puts something in writing to the new owner to confirm that no papers will be given and giving the reason for this. This should be acknowledged by the new owner.

**11. The Code asks breeders/owners to “abide by all relevant aspects of UK Animal Welfare Act”. However, this legislation does not cover all of the UK.**

We believe the Animal Welfare Act reference is clear enough for all constituents, whether they be in Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland.

**12. The Code requires dogs to wear a collar and tag when away from home, reflecting the legal requirement for collars and tags to be worn in public places. What happens when we take our dogs to shows or field trials/working tests?**

The provision relating to wearing properly tagged collars and kept leashed or under effective control when away from home, is in order to provide a requirement that the dog is always kept under effective control when away from home (in any context) and expressly says so..

The Kennel Club deals with control of dogs at licensed events generally with regulatory provisions; providing that dogs should be kept in control and on the lead at all times when not competing. Control is the mutual responsibility of the owner/handlers and the societies to enforce this requirement. It is obviously and always extremely important to put a dog back on the lead immediately after competition and never to leave dogs unsupervised if not adequately restrained.

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AX MXJ VCX WAC Can RN DD AGI ADC ROMC HIC CGC LC-11



## **Jayman**

Well her "glory days" may be behind her but today my old girl Jayman finished her CKC Rally Novice title, having earned three consecutive qualifying legs with scores of 99,95 and 94. She lost her points mostly for slow sits but when you are a senior who really cares. I don't and neither did Jayman. She had fun and brought down the ring, literally, after finishing her second leg yesterday and joyfully launched herself at a clapping Carol Hauta who was ring stewarding and cheering everyone on. Thanks Carol for your long days' work. Anyway, Jayman took out the drapes and a stantion trying to get to Carol and then wanted her treat. Way to go Jayman. You are a great dog and you are a fantastic partner.

Jayman completed her new title at **eleven years six months and twelve days old.**

**Carla Mai Nissen**, so glad to be at the end of her leash.

**Congratulations**  
**To all our members**  
**who have done well in**  
**Working, Conformation and Obedience**

**Jackie & Victoria Ingram's Ponk CC at NECDS**  
**It is now**  
**Champion Jojavik Wurlitzer**  
**Judge Mrs. Maureen Rice**

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**Fred and Linda Wilkes Megan's CC's at the SDC & MDC**  
**Judge Mr. David Mitchell**  
**Judge Mr. Spencer Houghton**  
**Lynfryds Raspberry Beret**

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**Jackie & Victoria Ingram's Izzy CC at LKA**  
**Jojavik Gangster's Moll**  
**Judge Mrs Linda Wilkes**

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**Sue Day's, Jean Quigley's and June Piper's Baxter's**  
**RCC at SWDC**  
**Judge Mrs. Jane Davidson**

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**Ms Tali Creme's BPIB at Driffield**  
**Izralight Story Teller**  
**Judge Mr. Frank Wildman**

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## **Kennel Club Announces New Changes To Safeguard Health Of Pedigree Dogs**

The Kennel Club is launching a complete review of every pedigree dog breed in the UK in a move that will have far-reaching benefits for the health of many breeds. It has also called on the government to give it the statutory powers to clamp down on breeders who fail to make a dog's health their top priority.

A breed health plan will be coordinated for each of the UK's 209 pedigree breeds and will benefit from the extensive research that has been funded by the Kennel Club in conjunction with renowned veterinary research centres over the past 40 years. This will include updated breed standards to ensure that no dog is bred for features that might prevent it from seeing, walking and breathing freely. Judges will be fully briefed on the new breed standards so that only the healthiest dogs are rewarded in the show ring.

The Kennel Club is releasing the first of these new breed standards today, for the [Pekingese](#), and has taken a tough line with the breed following extensive and abortive consultations. This is set to radically improve the health of the Pekingese which for nearly a hundred years was bred to have a flat face; a feature which can lead to breathing problems; under the new health plan the breed will be required to have a defined muzzle.

The breed health plans, which are scheduled to be completed by early next year, will also incorporate the results of a thorough, ongoing analysis of the health status and genetic diversity of each breed, drawing on results from the world's largest dog health survey, conducted by the [Animal Health Trust](#) and funded by the [Kennel Club Charitable Trust](#) in 2004. This will ensure that breeders and buyers are aware of the health tests that should be carried out for each breed. The final part of the plans will look at ways breeders can expand the gene pool of the breed.

In order to ensure that the plans are effective and reach all dogs, the Kennel Club has called on the government to give it statutory powers to make its established [Accredited Breeder Scheme](#) compulsory throughout the country. If successful, this would mean that all breeders who are not part of the scheme and who have not officially confirmed their willingness to follow the health standards set by the Kennel Club would be unable to produce or sell puppies within the law.

Additionally, breed clubs are now required to adopt the Kennel Club's Code of Ethics, to ensure that their practices fall in line with Kennel Club policy for putting the health and welfare of puppies first. This includes a clause that explicitly forbids the compulsory culling of healthy puppies.

To complement these steps the Kennel Club is developing plans for a new Canine Genetics Centre. This will be run in conjunction with the [Animal Health Trust](#), confirming the Kennel Club's commitment to research into inherited diseases and the provision of DNA testing programmes which identify the genes underlying inherited health problems.

Caroline Kisko, Kennel Club Secretary, said: "The groundswell of public attention on the very important matters surrounding dog breeding is a welcomed momentum that will enable us to drive through, with added urgency, new and extended initiatives that will help to safeguard the health of our pedigree dogs. We have been listening and agree with the general public's view that more needs to be done.

"Steps such as our breed health plans will enable us to ensure that the health of every dog is the number one priority and we are taking a tougher line with breed clubs by adjusting those breed standards that fail to promote good health. By asking the government for statutory powers we will be able to take a tougher line with all breeders and breed clubs that fail to abide by our high standards. This in turn will enable us to extend the reach of our Accredited Breeder Scheme, which is the quality control mechanism within our registration process, so that all dogs will be bred by people who abide by our stringent rules and regulations for the breeding of healthy, happy dogs.

"We have been working hard in recent years to identify and address health problems that exist in dogs, and we are taking advantage of the opportunities that advances in science have given us to improve dog health. We look forward to continuing our work with various institutions and organisations that share the same objective: to protect the health and welfare of all dogs."

## Dog Show Terms Defined

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

## Yesterday At The Dog Show

Yesterday, I experienced a very unusual thing indeed. It might restore someone's faith in humanity! I know it did mine.

As with all forms of competition, there comes a certain amount of ambition, goal grabbing, disappointment, anger and even revenge in extreme cases. Some of it is just the nature of the competition, the majority of it is just malice. Dog showing is no exception. Unfortunately, all too often I have stood at ringside and heard malicious comments, bitching and bickering. Dog show people can be very cruel to each other sometimes. I have on occasion been the brunt of these comments, but that's another story. Well, yesterday I had a breath of fresh air, as it were I was stewarding at the Rough Collie Club of Ireland's Championship show. It's a relatively popular breed here in Ireland. Always a big entry. They had a wonderful judge from the U.K. This lady has been in the breed since 1949. So, it goes without saying, I was pretty privileged to steward for her. Anyway, just before the Novice class, one of the club officials came into the ring and, I overheard her tell the judge about the one entry in the class, I thought it was unusual that there was one entry in the class, but later found out the reason why! I called the class, and in walked an old man and his Rough Collie. I've only ever seen this man at our St. Patrick's Day show. He's an old man, rough around the edges and, well, his dog is really unkempt by show standards. He marched proudly into the ring with the dog on a great big, thick rope lead! While the judge was going over the dog, I was filled in on his story. I was told that he lives in an old folks home in Galway (the other side of Ireland). He has no family left living and no visitors at the old folks home. He's been showing this dog for eight years only ever on St. Patrick's Day or the Club show. He'd traveled 50 miles on a bus yesterday morning, which takes about 5 hours in Ireland. The nurses in his home usually phone the club to tell of his departure, and the club usually phones back when they spot this old man at the show. He has only ever shown the dog in Novice, and people over the years never compete against him. The nurses told the club officials that when he wins a rosette at a show, he wears it for weeks at home in the old folks home. The dog lives with him at the home and is quite a celebrity "**A Show dog**" with all the residents. **The pride and joy of this man's life.** He spends half the year telling people about the last dog show and the other half of the year looking forward to the next one! Anyway, the judge was so considerate to this man. And, boy, was he proud to show his dog off. When the judge asked could he look at the dog's teeth, "Oh yes," the man replied and instructed the dog to "Smile." With that, the dog showed off a perfect set of choppers! The judge replied, "Aren't you a clever dog?" With that, the man said "Oh, he is very clever, he'll shake your hand, too, if you like." I couldn't help smiling when I heard this, and full credit to the judge, she shook hands with the dog. The dog won first in the class and every exhibitor at the show, gave this old man and his dog a standing ovation. He was cheered and clapped as he did his own lap around the ring. People came over to the ringside to congratulate him and pat the man on the back as he left the ring. Talk about Elvis leaving the building, this man was certainly the king when he won his class. He was just so proud of his accomplishment. He lapped up every minute of it. It was the first time, I'm sad to say, that I've seen people being genuinely nice at a dog show. They really made this old man's day. Possibly year! Heaven help the residents at the old folks home when he returned home last night. Not only did he win a rosette but also won a great big trophy. I'm sure it will take pride of place on the mantel piece. Isn't this what dog showing should be about? Giving people like this old man a day out to enjoy the only family he has. His best pal, his dog. A memory for an old man to hold on to, to brighten his day, something to share with his friends at the old folks home? Something to be proud of, however small the achievement. Anyway, that's the story, just a thought, an observation and possibly an inspiration to us all? I know it's one of the happiest memories I have of a dog show."