



PHA Reporter



Winter 2008

A Newsletter for Members of the Professional Handlers' Association

Volume 9, Issue 1

Setting Member Participation Goals



Michael Scott

It has been a year since I took this position, and I am looking forward to making my second year even more productive. An

important goal of mine is to increase member participation. Last year, our national raffle was a success even though a large percentage of members did not participate. In 2008, I hope all members will choose to be more active in the organization.

The Board is always brainstorming ways to publicize the PHA, and one way is the recent project to update and redesign the Web site. Thousands of people have visited the Web site this year alone. Member Michael Blanchard is doing a fantastic job with the Web site, so please give him some feedback.

The PHA is always moving forward, but we need to hear from our members. A lot of positive activity is going on in the organization, and I encourage you to make a goal to be more active.

Happy Holidays,
Michael E. Scott
President, PHA

Board of Governors Elects New Officers

The Board of Governors elected officers for 2008 at its October 9 meeting. The Board re-elected Michael Scott of Zone 2 to President; Michael Blanchard of Zone 5 to First Vice President; Genia Cox of Zone 5 to Second Vice President; and Nina Fetter of Zone 3 to Secretary/Treasurer.

In other business, the Board:

- Reinstated the membership of Andrew Doyle of Zone 1;
- Invited Joanne Charnik and Michelle Scott, both of Zone 2, to become members;
- Reviewed Darlene Bergan of Zone 2 for membership;
- Voted to approve Paul Catterson of Zone 5 for membership, pending a satisfactory kennel inspection;
- Noted that Melissa Hammond of Zone 1, Tony Vacha of Zone 3, and Colton and Heather Johnson of Zone 5

have requested Letters of Intent; and

- Noted that the redesigned PHA Web site will include Letters of Intent so that interested handlers can print out the file.

In miscellaneous business, the Board:

- Congratulated member Damara Bolte of Zone 2 for winning a 2008 AKC Lifetime Achievement Award (see story on page 2);

- Noted that Stephanie Riduch of Jefferson, Wis., won the *Dog News* ad raffle and will receive a two-page color advertisement. Member Cyndi Huckfeldt, who sold the winning ticket, will receive \$100; and
- Requested that comments concerning handlers seeking PHA membership be sent to:

The PHA Inc.
17017 Norbrook Drive
Olney, MD 20832

Lynda O'Connor Joins PHA Board

The thrill of competition keeps new Board member Lynda O'Connor of El Cajon, Calif., excited about handling. "It's the thrill of seeing the owners' faces light up when you win," she says.

O'Connor became involved in purebred dogs in 1969 when she began to train dogs for AKC obedience trials and Junior Showmanship in Grand Junction, Colo.

In 1975, O'Connor bought her first English Springer Spaniel from Gold Camp Kennels. She bought so many dogs from Gold Camp that the owners allowed her to use their kennel name when they retired. O'Connor continues today breeding English Springer Spaniels. While in Colorado, O'Connor also began a small business



Lynda O'Connor of Zone 6A, a new Board member, stacks one of her Gold Camp English Springer Spaniels.

called "Better Bowsers," teaching obedience and conformation classes.

In 1989, O'Connor moved to El

See O'Connor, page 4

Damara Bolte Receives AKC Lifetime Achievement Award

Longtime Basenji breeder and professional handler Damara Bolte was honored in December as the recipient of the 2008 AKC Lifetime Achievement Award in Conformation.

She and three other recipients were honored for their outstanding contributions on a national level to the sport of purebred dogs. Nominees were selected by AKC member clubs, and the three nominees receiving the most votes were selected as finalists. Bolte was selected from three finalists in the Conformation category.

Bolte's love for purebred dogs began as a child. At age 15, she chose a Boxer as her own first dog because she loved the breed's look and its short hair. "I just liked them. I studied their pictures in *Dog World*," she says.

In 1947, Bolte began showing her Boxer and "got bit by the bug," she says. "I loved looking at all the dogs; it was almost like going into an art gallery. I also enjoyed the competition because it was the dogs that were in competition."

Bolte attended Purdue University, majoring in animal husbandry. "Livestock judging really prepared me for assessing different animals," says Bolte. "When you have to get in front of a bunch of farm boys and tell them why you placed your class the way you did, you have to learn quickly, or you look like a fool."

After graduating from Purdue, Bolte moved to Germany with her parents. After her parents left Germany, Bolte stayed in Europe and studied animal sculpture in Paris.

When her studies in Paris concluded, she moved to Maryland to help a friend on a farm. After one summer of being a farm hand, she decided against that career path and went to work as a kennel manager for a breeder of Basenjis in Middleburg, Va. "I was the kennel manager, but I did it all," says Bolte. "I did the paperwork, breeding, training and showing."

The breeder, Bettina Belmont Ward, gave Bolte a Basenji, Bettinas Fedha,



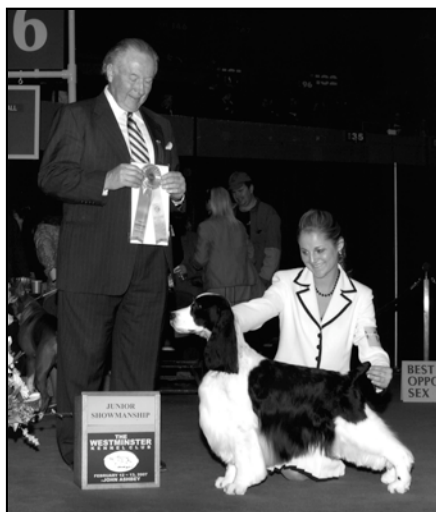
Damara Bolte, winner of the 2008 AKC Lifetime Achievement Award in Conformation, is the owner of Reveille Basenjis. She has been a professional handler for over 40 years.

and Bolte began breeding her own Basenjis under the Reveille Basenji prefix. "My Basenji lived to be 13 years old

See Bolte, page 4

PHA Sponsors Junior Handler at Westminster

Cassidy Jackson of Downey, Calif., represented the Professional Handlers' Association at the 2007 Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show. She was selected from Zone 6A and is one of



Junior Handler Cassidy Jackson was one of the last four contenders in her Group at the 2007 Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show. She is one of the PHA's 2007 Best Junior Handler Award recipients.

five winners of the PHA Best Junior Handler Award.

The five Junior winners placed first in 10 or more Open classes at AKC licensed or member shows in 2006. They received expense-paid trips to New York, as well as bronze statues created by PHA member Damara Bolte.

After qualifying for Westminster for nine years and attending four years, Jackson still describes the experience as exciting.

Memories From Westminster

By Cassidy Jackson

Traveling to the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show in New York City is always a highlight of my year. This year was the fourth year I attended. We flew in on Thursday and spent six wonderful days in "the city that never sleeps."

Much of my time was spent at the Meadowlands Specialties trying to earn the 10th win for the 2008 Westminster show. I turned 18 on

February 17, so I only had three months to get in all 10 of my wins. Luckily, I gained my last win and will be able to compete one last time.

My favorite part of New York is being able to see the dogs and handlers I read about in *Dog News* or *The Chronicle*. I love watching the competition in every breed.

This year in the Junior Showmanship competition, I made it down to the last four in my Group, but did not make the finals.

Although the dog shows took up a lot of our time in New York, I was still able to sightsee and eat at some amazing restaurants. My favorite restaurant, The View, is on top of the Marriott. I was able to experience fine dining while looking over New York City. The restaurant rotates every hour, so you are able to gaze out the window and see Times Square, the Empire State Building and many other famous buildings.

Thank you again for helping pay my expenses to Westminster. I had a very memorable time that will last for the rest of my life. 🐾

A Handler's Guide to Dressing Appropriately

When dressing for dog shows, handlers should remember the rules for proper attire. Although there are no written rules, handlers need to be aware that their appearance in the show ring affects the quality of the dog's presentation. Sometimes, it makes a difference between winning or losing.



PHA member Kaz Hosaka represents the professional look that is recommended for dog shows. Here, he is handling Toy Poodle CH Smash JP Win A Victory.

Looking the Part

Though the judges and audience focus on the dogs during shows, handlers should be aware they are being watched as well. In order to make a good impression on the judges, handlers should look professional and confident.

"If you want to look professional in the ring, it all begins with your attire," says professional handler Deanna Hanna of Nampa, Idaho. "You need to look the part in order to play the part." A handler for 50 years, Hanna has seen people lose points at shows because of their poor attire.

When choosing attire for competitions, handlers should choose outfits that are both professional and functional. For instance, a handler's outfit should have pockets for bait. "You need somewhere to hide your bait during

Attending to Details

Submitted by Genia Cox

The dryer is turned off, brushes and combs put away in the tack box, and finally everything is ready. You take off the grooming jacket and get into your show clothes, but there's a run in your nylons. And, then, there's that run-down heel on your unpolished shoes.

If you attend shows dressed like this, your beautiful four-legged friend will be presented by a dress code flunky! Would you go into the ring in flip-flops, tattered jeans or T-shirts hanging out? Remember, judges look

for the complete picture – you and your exhibit together. One unit, one photo, one impression. The first impression is the one that counts.

Dog show judges dress to participate in a classy sporting event. Photos taken at any show can be published, and you are showing your willingness to also be a classy exhibitor by attending to details. If you strive to be on a magazine cover, are a trendsetter with impeccable taste, or pay attention to the complete scenario, then you are a dress code standout!

You can help raise the bar by being the professional you are. 🐾

shows," says professional handler Dinah Baggenstos of The Dalles, Ore. Wearing a color that contrasts with the dog's coat color "helps to showcase the dog, and you won't blend together," she says.

Both handlers suggest that women wear a longer skirt or nice slacks, and that men wear slacks and a jacket. A handler should never take off his or her jacket unless the judge removes his.

"This shows respect for the judge," Baggenstos says. "Your client deserves to have someone in the ring who

respects the judge and is dressed nicely while doing a good job."

Handlers need to apply the same professional, yet functional, idea to their footwear. "You should wear shoes that are comfortable and have footing so you're not slipping on the mats," Hanna says. "Make sure the shoes are nice. Tennis shoes can make you look unprofessional.

"Clothing, though an integral part of your presentation, should not take center stage. You're showing off the dog, not your wardrobe." 🐾



Professional handler Lynda O'Connor considers professionalism and comfort in choosing clothes to wear in the ring.

News From PHA Zones Around the Country

Zone 1 from Fred Olson

Planning began to set up and monitor the grooming and benching area for the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show. Several kennel clubs asked for PHA assistance in setting up the grooming areas at their shows. Zone 1 helped set up at the Mohican Sun, the Farmington Valley Kennel Club, and the Springfield dog shows this fall.

Zone 2 from Sue Whaley

Zone 2 had a busy summer. Thanks to all the PHA members who helped make it a success.

At the May Soaring Gull Circuit in Hampton, Va., we held a seminar for 44 Juniors at the Gloucester and Langley Kennel Club shows. The seminar was such a success that we were asked to repeat it in 2008.

PHA members spoke to Junior Handlers at the Foothills Circuit in Salem, Va. It was a rewarding, well-attended session in a circuit that has many Junior activities during the five days of shows.

Bert Halsey, myself and other members set up the inside grooming area for the Labor Day circuit of shows in Raleigh, N.C.

Zone 3 from Nina Fetter

Our members set up at the

Columbus, Ohio, and Lansing, Mich., shows this fall.

Overall, it has been quiet in our Zone since the last Board meeting.

Zone 4 from Carol Green

The "Meet and Greet" pizza party with the Ocala, Fla., cluster was canceled because of conflicts. Another activity will be scheduled.

We have approached several clubs about assisting with grooming

and parking areas, and are waiting on responses.

We inspected reinstated member Lois Horan's kennel.

Zone 5 from Genia Cox

Member Karen Newman has responded positively to chemotherapy. She is in our thoughts and prayers.

Several handlers have submitted Letters of Intent and are sending in applications.

Our Zone does not have the opportunity to assist with setups for area kennel clubs because we do not have enough members. Thus, we are always searching for new members.

Zone 6 from Dinah Baggenstos and Deanna Hanna for Ollie Click

Zone 6 taught over 200 juniors and adults in handling classes at the Blackfoot shows in June.

Members set up grooming at the Portland, Ore., shows for the first time. Many Junior Handlers also assisted us prior to the show. Our Zone also will be setting up grooming at the Salem shows.

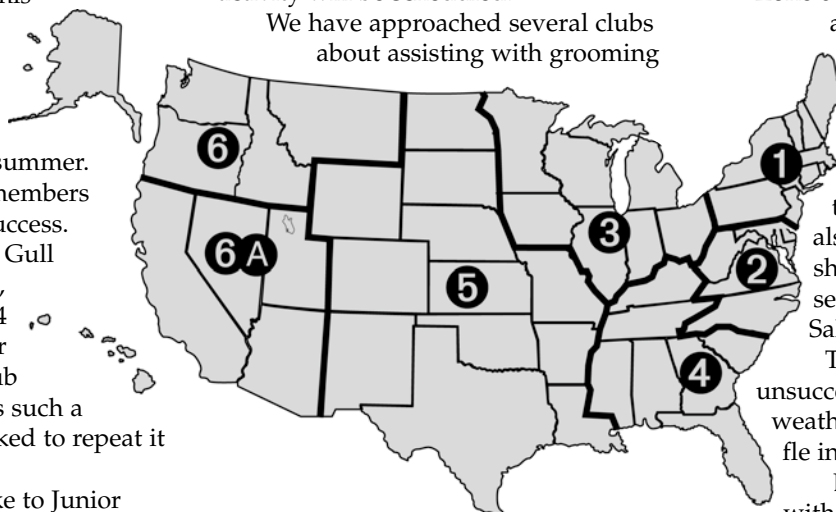
The fun match in August was unsuccessful because of inclement weather, but we hope to do a raffle in lieu of the match.

Dinah Baggenstos assisted with a Junior seminar in Atlanta.

Zone 6A from Lynda O'Connor

There was low attendance at the organizational meeting in July. Since I am a new member of the Board, I am working to make our Zone more active. One of our next activities is a raffle that will take place in the first part of next year. Charlotte Ventura is gathering the raffle items.

Grooming setups are not done in our Zone. 🐾



O'Connor

Continued from page 1

Cajon, Calif., to be close to a plethora of dog shows. She began professionally showing Sporting, Non-Sporting and Hound breeds. She became a member of the Professional Handlers' Association in 1995. O'Connor has finished more than 75 English Springer Spaniels of her own breeding; the first to win a Best in Show was Multi-BIS/BISS CH Gold Camp Point Break.

O'Connor stays in the business because she enjoys "showing dogs and helping other people." She hopes that more PHA members will follow her

lead and get more involved in the organization.

"I always get asked what the PHA can do for people, and I always ask them what they can do for the PHA," she says. "You have to give back to the organization." 🐾

Bolte

Continued from page 2

and had some nice babies, but in order to support my hobby of showing, I showed a few dogs for other people, which grew into a modest little business," she says.

With her sprouting handling career,

Bolte was asked to join the Professional Handlers' Association in the 1960s. When she retired from her job as a supervisor of animal husbandry at the National Institutes of Health, she moved out of her parents' home and built a house and a kennel for her business in Leesburg, Va.

Not only has Bolte been a longtime board member of the Basenji Club of America, but she also is the current president of the Dominion Kennel Club of Northern Virginia. She was the AKC Gazette Basenji breed columnist for 30 years and was honored in 2002 as the first recipient of the AKC Breeder of the Year Award in the Hound Group. 🐾

A Handler's First-Aid Kit

Michael Peterson, D.V.M., co-editor of "Small Animal Toxicology," spoke to PHA members this year at dog shows across the country about his recommendations for a handler's first-aid kit.

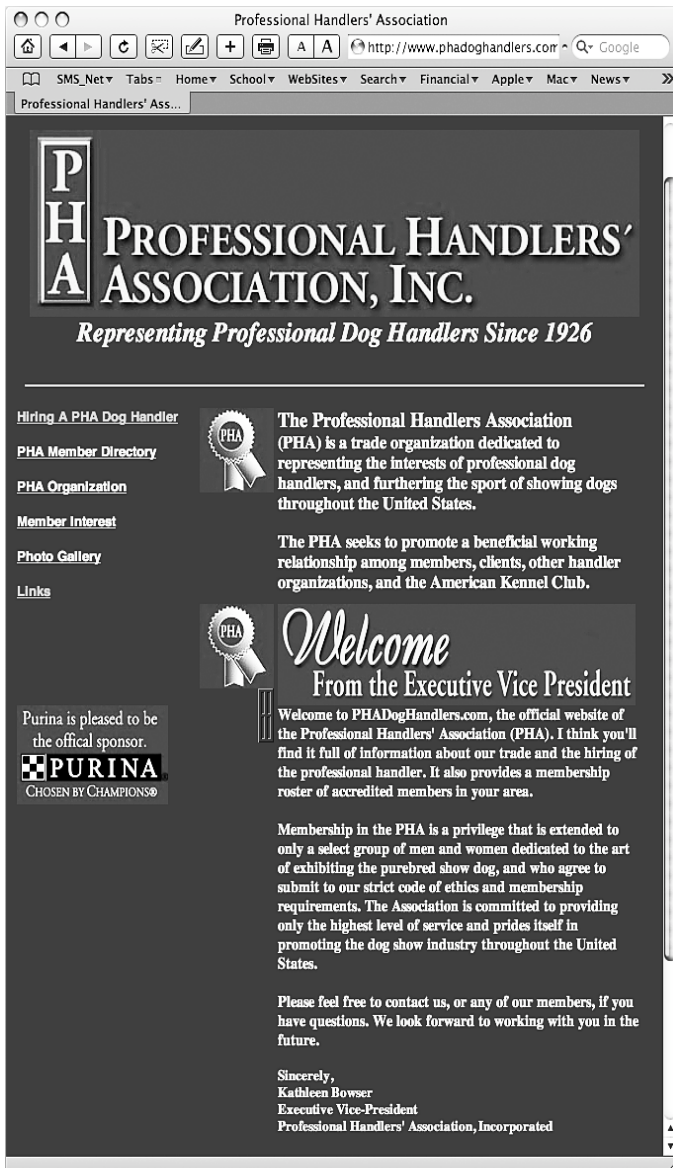
He suggests using this list as a guide, but tailoring it to what works best with each breed. He also suggests that handlers take this list to their veterinarian and ask for recommendations. Peterson encourages handlers to label and date each item in the kit, and to pay attention to expiration dates.

Here are Peterson's suggestions of items to include in a useful first-aid kit:

- Gauze sponges;
- Triple antibiotic ointment to reduce scarring;
- Rubbing alcohol and prep pads for cleaning the skin around an injury;
- Ear syringe or a bulb syringe for flushing the ear or wound;
- Ace® Self-Adhering Athletic Bandage;
- Vaseline to keep drainage from sticking to skin and hair;
- Eye wash and eye drops;
- Sterile non-adherent pads that prevent scabs from sticking to the bandage when wrapping a wound;
- Liquid Pepto-Bismol® for stomach pain;
- Antihistamine 1 & 2 (Benadryl® or Tavist®) for allergic reactions;
- Sterile stretch gauze bandage;
- NSAID (such as Deramaxx® or Metacam®) for pain relief;
- Dermicil hypoallergenic cloth tape so dog hair will not stick to dressing;
- Hydrogen peroxide;



- Kaopectate® tablets for diarrhea;
 - Bandage scissors;
 - Custom splints;
 - Veterinary wrap bandage that stretches and does not cling to hair;
 - Betadine®, an antiseptic to clean wounds;
 - Antibiotics for bacterial infections;
 - Bran flakes that are helpful managing loose stools;
 - Reglan® for stomach pain;
 - Stomach tube that can be used for treating bloat if handlers are properly trained;
 - Maalox®;
 - Ice;
 - Tweezers;
 - Prednisone, an anti-inflammatory medication;
 - Topical cortisone spray (Gentocin® or Genesis®), an anti-inflammatory medication;
 - Neosporin® for pain relief;
 - Otic ear wash/flush (Dermapet®) for ear cleaning;
 - Physiologic saline, such as eye wash, that can be used to flush or clean wounds;
 - Skin stapler;
 - Styptic, an anticoagulant;
 - Cotton balls; and
 - Sterile gloves.
- Other Items to include are:
- Blanket;
 - Towels;
 - Muzzle;
 - Hemostats that may be used to pull thorns or clean wounds;
 - Rectal thermometer;
 - Sandwich bags for storage; and
 - Paperwork such as health records, vaccines, current medications, veterinarian's phone number, locations of local emergency clinics, owners instructions on treatment, and other pertinent information. 📄



PHA Web Site Is Redesigned

Have you visited the PHA Web site lately? Michael Blanchard of Zone 5 is redesigning the Web site for easier navigation and accessibility.

The Web site contains valuable member information, such as a Zone map, member directory and photo gallery. The Web site also is a great source of information for prospective members, with links to kennel requirements and membership benefits.

Since August 2, 2004, 395,000 people have visited the PHA Web site, and 41,000 people have explored the Web site beyond the home page. A significant drop in Web site traffic occurred last May, but by September, visitors had nearly doubled the number in May. The Professional Handlers' Association Web site address is www.phadoghandlers.com.

Request for Articles

Kathy Bowser requests that PHA members send her articles for the next issue of *The PHA Reporter*. Please send them to:

Kathy Bowser
17017 Norbrook Drive
Olney, Md. 20832

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