



the
**A
R
K**

The Official Newsletter of the American Rottweiler Club



Volume 60
2nd Quarter
2025

RONAN

New Champion

CH AMWOOD'S RONAN OF LUCENE



BEST OF BREED
APPLE VALLEY
KENNEL CLUB
APRIL 2025
© *Bettina*
BEST IN SHOW PHOTO

OWNED BY ROBERT & MICHELLE GALUSHA · BRED BY MEHELLE STALL
HANDLED BY ROBERT GALUSHA

Let my Heart be Still...
Nevermore



BUDDIE



GCHB VON DER STAHL NEVER-ENDING REMEMBRANCE OF LUCENE

Bred and owned by Michelle Garmer & Mechelle Stall
Exclusively presented by Susie Olivera



THE ARK

The Official Publication of the American Rottweiler Club

In This Issue...

President's Letter.....Page 5
Specialty Shows.....Page 9-10
Membership.....Page 11

General Meeting Minutes.....Page 15-37
Gazette.....Page 32-33

Advertisers

Cover..... Robert Galusha
Full Page.....Garmer-Stall
Back Cover.....Purina

Michele Misurelli-Gillis- Editor & Ad Design -SouthDixieChis@att.net

Editorial Opinion/Disclaimer: The contents of the ARK do not necessarily reflect the policies or attitude of the American Rottweiler Club, its members, officers, Board of Directors, or Editor. ARC and this publication are not responsible for errors and/or misrepresentation in advertising .The Editor reserves the right to reject or edit all material submitted for publication.

Notice: Letters to the Editor will not be printed in the ARK; the membership is welcome to address their concerns to the Board.

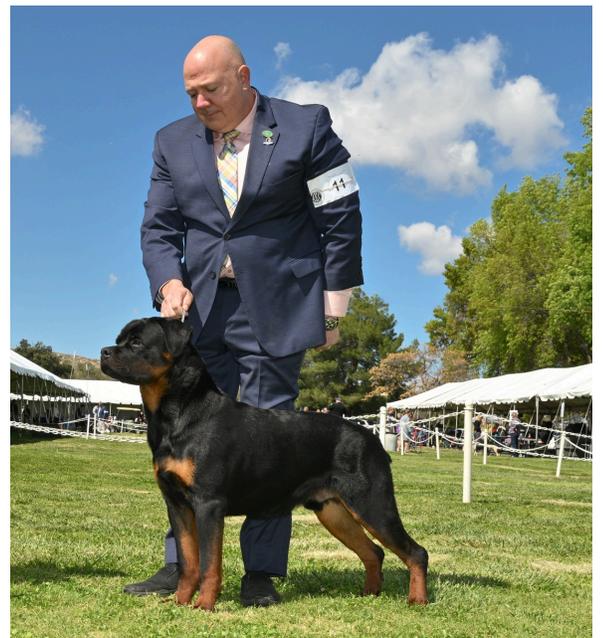
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ON THE COVER

CH Amwood's Ronan of Lucene
Owned by: Robert & Michelle Galusha
Bred by: Mechelle Stall
Handled by: Robert Galusha

Sire: GCH Amwood's Ares Von Adlerhaus BCAT
Dam: CH Lucene's Flyin' Getaway Car V Bonnie

At just 9 months and 1 day old, “Ronan” achieved his AKC Championship title, an incredible feat accomplished in only four weekends! Competing in Palm Springs, Ventura, Del Mar, and Perris, he secured one 3-point major and three 4-point majors along the way. As a promising young champion, Ronan will be selectively shown until he has had time to fully mature. Despite his age, he has already secured a major win and multiple points toward his Grand Champion title, along with several Best of Breed ribbons. What an impressive start to his career.





Puppies! The Whelping Box

Whelping Box Listings \$10

If Both Parents Have Working Titles
the Listing is Free
No Additional Charge for Photos

Contact Michele for More Details
SouthDixieChis@att.net

Against
Agony

Libby

GCH CH Armata's
Liberty For All
CGC TKN ATT

CHIC #198300
WS73880708

SIRE: GCHB Andel's
Spirit of America CGC
DAM: GCH Armata's
Hold The Line
ATT, FCD, TDI, CRC



Zion

GCP CH Chancellor's
Hi Flyin' MT Zion
TT, CGC, CGCA

CHIC#108199
HIPS EXCELLENT

SIRE: GCHP2 CH Chancellor's
Flirt's Hi Flyin' Gladiator
DAM: CH Chancellor's Divine Theia

FROZEN SEMEN AVAILABLE

ARMATA

ROTTWEILERS

Welcoming SIX Boys and TWO Girls



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear American Rottweiler Club Members,

Hopefully, you are receiving your newsletter before attending the ARC National Specialty in Wilmington, Ohio. I hope many of you will be in attendance this year, and for those who can't make it, I look forward to seeing you at the 2026 ARC Nationals at Purina Farms in Gray Summit, MO.

There are two important items I'd like to bring to your attention:

ARC Breed Standard Evaluation (ARC BSE). I'm pleased to share that the ARC BSE is now approved by the AKC as a Parent Club title! For those interested, please reach out to me so we can explore opportunities to bring a BSE event to your area. My goal is to have judges approved in various regions across the United States so that BSE evaluations can be offered at many events.

Digital Publication of the ARK Newsletter. The Board has recently approved the digital publication of the ARK Newsletter on the public-facing side of the ARC website.

While we will remove member-specific information (such as Treasurer Reports, Financial Statements, Board Minutes, etc.), visitors will now have access to the Club Newsletter as an educational and supportive resource. This initiative highlights the incredible contributions of our membership to the Rottweiler community and encourages members to advertise their Rottweilers to showcase their great achievements.

Lastly, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone who has supported the ARC National Specialty. Organizing an event of this scale takes incredible dedication, and it would not be possible without the hard work and support of all of you.

Thank you!



Robert Galusha
President, American Rottweiler Club
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(updated 2/16/25)

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Up for reappointment 2/28

ARC By-Laws, Standing Rules, Procedures & Forms

The following will no longer be printed in the ARK. All of this information is available to download at: www.amrottclub.org.
Hard copies may be obtained by contacting: Marilyn E. Piusz, 339 Co Hwy 106, Johnstown, NY 12095-3757 518-883-5806

Agreed Upon Procedures - Annual Exam Treasurer's Books (7/10)
ARC Constitution & Bylaws (6/10)
ARC Job Descriptions (4/15)
ARC General Standing Rules (2/23)
ARC National Specialty Standing Rules (7/22)
ARC Regional Specialty Standing Rules (5/22)
Board Nomination Form (2/19)
Board Resume Form (11/11)
Breed Referral List Policy (3/14)
Canine Ambassador Program (CAP) (2/16)
Carting Rules (8/22 - Scoresheet updated 8/22)
Education Grant Procedure (2/09)
Education Grant Application (DUE 7/1/18)
Jenifer Lind Kelley Memorial Triathlon Program (2/16)
Judges Education Program (10/16)
Judges Education Mentor/Presenter Application (10/16)
Judges Education Mentor & Presenter Policies (6/14 & 10/16)
Junior Carting Title Certification Form (4/08)
Junior Showmanship Program (3/15)
Junior Questionnaire (3/06)

Junior Scholarship Application
Longevity Program & Application (4/11)
Mandatory Practices (10/19)
Membership Application (2/17)
National Specialty Application (3/11)
Production Awards List (12/14)
Production Awards Requirements (5/16)
Regional Specialty Application (1/11)
Rottweiler Breeder Education Committee (2/08)
Sieger Show Procedure (2/23)
Sweepstakes Judge Applications (2/17)
Sweepstakes Judges Guidelines (8/10)
Sweepstakes Judges List (7/17)
Top 10 Awards Effective 1-1-16
Top 20 Judges Selection Procedure (9/14)
Top 20 Judging Procedure (12/14)
Top 20 Score Sheet (1/11)
Top Dog Evening Procedure (1/13)
V & VX List (12/15)
V & VX Requirements (10/16)

Rev. 3/20/23

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Open (A. Gray)

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Kate Player

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Top Dogs/Juniors Statistics: (R. Galusha)

Top Twenty

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Erin Foreman
Lauren Greene
Katie Maess
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(K. Cardona)

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Annual Meeting Notice

The 2025 American Rottweiler Club Annual Meeting will be held on Wednesday evening, June 25, 2025, location as follows:

Roberts Centre
123 Gano Rd
Wilmington, OH 45177

The meeting is scheduled for 7 PM. Notices will be posted at the show site if the meeting will be delayed due to judging schedule.

Per the ARC Standing Rules:

Any member wishing to have a motion(s) presented at the meeting shall submit the motion(s) to the Secretary no later than 2 weeks before the date of the meeting in order that it be added to the meeting agenda. The member should be present at the meeting to read the motion and have it seconded. Should the member not be present, the President shall present the motion to see if there is a member present who wants to make the motion and have it seconded. However, motions can always be made from the floor and matters brought up under new business.

Ann Glynn, ARC Secretary
402 Jasmine Rd.
St. Augustine Fl. 32086

American Rottweiler Club National & Regional Specialty Information



Did you know that any club listed in the ARC Local Club list may bid to host the American Rottweiler Club National Specialty? It's true! It is very rewarding to host this prestigious event! Deadline to receive bids is January 1, three years prior to the date of the National Specialty.

- Any club listed in the ARC Local Club list-OR a group of ARC Members (at least 3)-may apply to host an ARC Regional Specialty.
- Deadline to receive applications is at least 7 months in advance of closing date to ensure time for all necessary approvals. Contact one of the following folks to apply. They will happily assist you!

National Specialty:

Roberta Kelley-Martin (530) 591-3111, romarot@gmail.com

Regional Specialty:

Jim Runck, (612) 670-9078, quickfirerotts@aol.com

REGION I: Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming.

REGION II: Indiana, Michigan, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania.

REGION III: Arizona, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas.

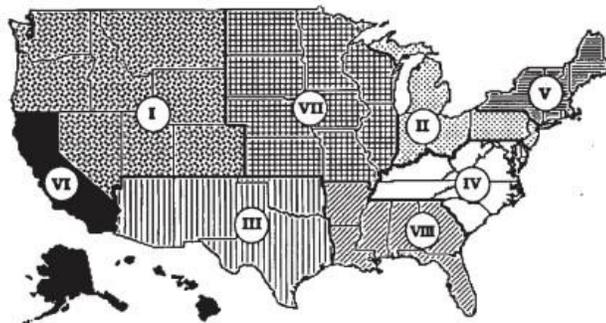
REGION IV: Delaware, Kentucky, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia.

REGION V: Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont.

REGION VI: Alaska, California, Hawaii.

REGION VII: Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin.

REGION VIII: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi.



UPCOMING 2025 ROTTWEILER SPECIALTIES

(check the AKC website for more details)

6/24/25 Greater Cincinnati Rottweiler Club to host a Regional Specialty - Wilmington, OH. Katie Maess ktm@embarqmail.com

6/21 - 6/29, 2025 - American Rottweiler Club to host ARC National Specialty - Wilmington, OH. Robert Galusha robertgalusha@hotmail.com

7/3/25 - Texican Rottweiler Club to host Independent Specialty - Dallas, TX. Elsa Moncivavis-Whitton K9acoastalsports@yahoo.

7/5/25 The Rottweiler Club of New Mexico, Concurrent Specialty in Albuquerque, NM. Deb Tabor rekwas1@gmail.com

8/15 - 8/16, 2025 - Sierra Rottweilers Owners to host Independent Regional Specialty in Reno, NV. Roberta Martin romarot@gtmail.com

8/21 - 8/22, 2025 Northstar Rottweiler Club to host Region VII Independent Specialty and Independent Specialty - Lake Elmo, MN. Jim Runck quickfirerotts@aol.com.

9/5/25 Mile High Rottweiler Club of Greater Denver to host a concurrent specialty - Greeley, CO. Randi Garske randigb@comcast.net.

10/9/25 - 10/10/25 Medallion Rottweiler Club Independent Specialty - St Charles, IL. Dustin Davis vherschendrott@gmail.com

10/31/2025 - 3 Members to host Region IV Sweepstakes - Doswell, VA. Tish Edwards flatlicks@aol.com

11/1/2025 - 3 Members to host Region IV Sweepstakes - Doswell, VA. Tish Edwards flatlicks@aol.com

11/2/2025 - 3 Members to host Designated Region IV Specialty - Doswell, VA. Tish Edwards flatlicks@aol.com

1/30/2026 - Grand Canyon State Rottweiler Club to host Region III Concurrent Specialty - Phoenix, AZ. Kathy Touvell k2Vell@gmail.com

UPCOMING 2025 CARTING TESTS

6/23 - 6/24, 2025 American Rottweiler Club to host two carting tests - Wilmington, OH. Tonya Williamson darkwaters2@gmail.com.

7/23 - 7/24, 2025 - Rottweiler Club of Alaska to hold 2 Carting Tests - Palmer, AK. Cheri Hagen stoneridgeak@gmail.com

8/23/2025 - Northstar Rottweiler Club to host a carting test - Lake Elmo, MN. Tanya Johnson justice31403@yahoo.com

10/8/2025 - Medallion Rottweiler Club to host a carting test - St. Charles, IL. Joan Mazat 630-297-5682

UPCOMING ARC BSE (Breed Standard Evaluation)

6/28 - 6/29, 2025 - American Rottweiler Club ARC National Specialty - Wilmington, OH. Robert Galusha robertgalusha@hotmail.com. Judge: Anton (Toni) Spindler (ADRK-Germany)



Please Email All Ads & Submissions to the Editor Michele Misurelli-Gillis SouthDixieChis@att.net

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Dana Skorupski

Roger O'Sullivan

Michaela Davidson

LaJuana O'Connor

Jamie Underwood

Mark Elvington

Shannon O'Connor

Joel Wilson

Kim Green

Adam Ondracek

Miriam Wilson

Rob Green

Jackie Ondracek

"Any comments on the following proposed members should be submitted in writing to: Margaret Sledge, New Membership Chairman, P.O. Box 3122, Greenville, South Carolina, 29602, email: arcnewmembership@yahoo.com All comments must be received no later than 45 days from the publication (mailing) date. All comments are confidential

Welcome
New Members



Howard Blumin
Susan Blumin
Darren Brown
Heather Brown
Eric Campbell
Jeannine Ciszak
Jeannine Ciszak
Jonathan Corley
Karmen Corley
Alta Doersch
James Elliott
Janielle Flores
Steve Harbin

Debra Harpstrite
Tony Harpstrite
Mike Hennigan
Pamela Henson
Tommy Love
Shannon Love
Elizabeth Middleton
Kim Middleton
Travis Richmond
Carissa Richmond
Ami Szacilowska
Lindsey Walker
Pamela Walsh

Protein-Losing Enteropathy (PLE) in Dogs

By Robert Galusha

Protein Losing Enteropathy (PLE) is a disease up until a couple years ago, I never heard of. I wanted to share Kane's story, to hopefully encourage other owners that sometimes we need to fight for answers when one is not obvious.

Kane was a very active Rottweiler of ours. One afternoon Kane struggle during swimming with excessive panting and very short breaths, we took him to an Emergency Specialty Veterinarian. Kane had 3.5 liters of fluid in his chest cavity, but all tests that were available came back negative. With no positive finding, the Veterinarians determined Kane must have cancer and their recommendation was to put him down. Being determined to find an answer, we took him to another Veterinarian for a second opinion. The Veterinarian had experience with treating PLE and she recommended that we start treating for PLE because of the signs he was exhibiting seemed familiar. Kane had chronic diarrhea for a very long time and with the recent fluid building up in his chest cavity led the Veterinarian with this diagnosis. Kane went from a very healthy 112 lbs. down to 86 lbs. at his lowest. The many different treatments that were tried were very exhausting. The Hydrolyzed diet seemed to work the best for Kane, to slow down the fluid building up and additionally reduced his diarrhea. Eventually because of a supply chain shortage, a different Hydrolyzed brand of food was used and almost immediately the diarrhea was gone and the fluid almost stopped building up.



Eventually Kane developed malignant melanoma which may have been due to a compromised immune system. Kane lost his battle to cancer, but not after living an additional 1 ½ years after being diagnosis with PLE. If Kane had not developed cancer, we believe that he beat PLE.

Protein-Losing Enteropathy (PLE) in Dogs

By Malcolm Weir, DVM, MSc, MPH; Robin Downing, DVM, DAAPM, DACVSMR, CVPP, CRPP

What is protein-losing enteropathy?

The word “enteropathy” means any disease of the intestinal system.

Protein-losing enteropathy (PLE) is **not** a specific disease, but is described as a group of diseases that cause the loss of proteins from the bloodstream into the gastrointestinal (GI) tract. Primary GI disease, heart disease, and diseases of the lymphatic system can all cause PLE.

When the body is functioning normally, plasma proteins that end up in the GI tract are broken down and re-absorbed by the body. When disease occurs, protein loss may exceed protein manufacturing by the body. This is called “hypoproteinemia.” When hypoproteinemia is severe, fluid may leak from the circulatory system in to the abdomen, chest, or out of the tiny blood vessels in the limbs, causing swelling of the legs.

What breeds most commonly get PLE?

The Soft-coated Wheaten Terrier, Yorkshire Terrier, Maltese, Chinese Shar Pei, **Rottweiler**, Basenji, Irish Setter, and Norwegian Lundehund breeds are over-represented among PLE patients. There may be a genetic predisposition in some of these breeds.

Is diarrhea the only sign of PLE?

Diarrhea is one common sign of PLE. The diarrhea may come and go, may be continuous, or may be the consistency of water. But some dogs with PLE have normal stools. Dogs will also have a difficult time holding their weight, and they may become lethargic.

Fluid in the abdomen, fluid under the skin on the underside of the body or in the limbs, difficulty breathing from the pressure of fluid build-up inside the chest cavity, and thickened loops of intestine, are also signs of PLE.

What diseases cause PLE?

The lymphatic vessels carry a clear fluid containing white blood cells, called “lymph”, throughout the body. Lymphatic diseases that can lead to PLE include:

- Lymphangiectasia—dilation of the lymphatic vessels in the GI tract
- GI lymphoma/lymphosarcoma—cancer of the lymphoid tissues around the body, including the lymphoid tissues within the GI tract
- Infiltration of the GI tract by granulomatous tissue which interrupts lymphatic flow
- Congestive heart failure causing increased pressure within the lymphatic system

Diseases that directly affect the GI tract and can lead to PLE include:

- Bacterial gastroenteritis—eg. salmonella
- Fungal gastroenteritis—eg. histoplasmosis
- Parasitic enteritis—eg. whipworms
- Inflammatory bowel disease (IBD)
- Adverse food reactions—eg. food intolerance
- Mechanical GI disease—eg. chronic foreign body irritation (without creating a blockage)
- Intestinal cancer—eg. carcinoma
- Ulcers in the stomach or intestines
- Viral gastroenteritis – eg. parvovirus

Diagnosis may depend on a biopsy of the stomach or intestine.

How is PLE treated?

Severe hypoproteinemia may require hospitalization for plasma transfusions, or the use of intravenous fluids to keep fluid within the vasculature (blood vessels in the body). If a dog has difficulty breathing, it may become necessary for the veterinarian to remove fluid from the chest or abdomen.

In general, treatment of PLE is determined by the underlying disease. Ongoing monitoring will help determine what it may be. Modified nutrition is also part of ongoing management because the primary, underlying disease may not be treatable.

The long-term prognosis in most dogs is largely determined by the underlying cause of the PLE.



I think about toenails, and I ponder their natural shape versus "show shape." Assuming a dog has good feet, the toenail will naturally take on a sharp end. This is not by accident: Pointy toenails will dig into grass or dirt, giving a dog more stability under the foot for pushing off, turning, and sharp pivoting. This provides stability for the entire leg and foot, including the tendons and ligaments. It's also handy for digging and clawing at coveted items. An active dog with correct feet will naturally keep their nails sharp, with the nail just hovering over the substrate the dog is standing in but not quite scraping the ground. Nails that are too long will push the foot back, displacing the dog's ability to stand squarely over his feet and distribute his weight evenly, putting more strain on the pasterns.



Rottweilers, like many other breeds that work, are to have strong, thick, black nails that can withstand all types of terrain and weather without breaking, cracking, or splitting. Such injuries would make the dog lame and unable to work. A dog that can't work is of no use as a helper.

On the other hand, we show folks like to grind our dog's nails into pretty, round nubs. Indeed, they are very neat and pretty. This kind of pedicure allows a good foot to really stand out, as there is no visual incongruence of the nails exiting the toes. Yet this is not normal or functional for a dog. We have removed the dog's ability to grip the ground, which may also influence the way the dog's body shifts and its muscles contract in order to compensate for the ground beneath slipping away. We essentially remove the dog's ability to grab footing with their toenails.

I have always used a grinder, starting with my first dog. However, my current young dog is displaying intense dislike and discomfort of the tool (even if paired with super tasty treats). Interestingly, he will allow me to use the clippers, no problem. So, I have taken to clipping off the very sharp ends but leaving the nail otherwise intact. He has good, well arched feet, and the nails do not touch the floor when he is standing, yet many friends and fanciers have admonished me for his nails not being shorter. Like I said, I have come to think about toenails.

As my dog is training in dog sports, he needs to grip the ground. I do plan on showing him occasionally, but I have no plan to grind his nails short and round at this time. I believe it wiser, for my dog and his situation, to have slightly longer nails. He has his dew claws in front for torque and pivoting, and slightly pointy ended nails for grasping the ground and pushing off when running and jumping. As long as they are not so long as to push his feet back and they are not touching the ground when standing and relaxed, then he's fine for exercising and our sport training.

– Jill Kessler Miller,
jillymillygsrc@gmail.com
American Rottweiler Club

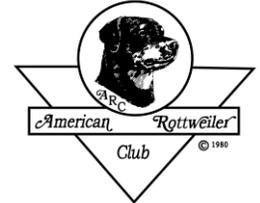
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American Rottweiler Club

2025 National Specialty Schedule

Wilmington, Ohio – Roberts Centre



Saturday June 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agility - Armetale - Queen City DTC, Sharonville, OH Judge: Ross Johnson - Classes: Master/Excellent Standard, Open Standard, Novice Standard, Master/Excellent Jumpers, Open Jumpers, Novice Jumpers, FAST • Barn Hunt - 542 Valleycrest Dr., Dayton, OH - Judge: Rachel Corbett • Track Plotting - Gulley Park, 2090 Middleboro Rd., Clarksville, OH
Sunday June 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agility – Queen City DTC, Sharonville, OH - Judge: Ross Johnson - Classes: Master/Excellent Standard, Open Standard, Novice Standard, Master/Excellent Jumpers, Open Jumpers, Novice Jumpers, FAST • Barn Hunt - 542 Valleycrest Dr., Dayton, OH - Judge: Rachel Corbett • Tracking – Armetale - Gulley Park, 2090 Middleboro Rd., Clarksville, OH - Judges: Jeff Shaver/ Dr. Cheryl Harris
Monday June 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carting (Armetale) – Judge: Liz Lucas • Handling Clinic offered by Sarah Janner, 3 PM - 5 PM • Welcome Get Together – PM TBD
Tuesday June 24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ARC Regional Specialty <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sweepstakes, Puppy & Veteran - Judge: Lu Castro • 4-6 Beginner Puppy – Judge: Nancy Amburgey • Regular & Non-Regular Classes, JR Showmanship – Judge: Nancy Amburgey • Obedience: (Armetale) – (Rottweiler Only) – Judge: Fred Buroff • Rally #1 and #2: (Rottweiler Only) – Judge: Michael Scott
Wednesday June 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ARC National Sweepstakes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Puppy Bitches, Best in Sweeps & Veteran Dogs - Judge: Ann Callahan • Dogs, Veteran Bitches & Best in Veteran Sweeps - Judge: Kimm McDowell • Judges Education – Tim Peterson, assisted by Sarah Janner • Obedience # 1: Rottweiler Only – Judge: Fred Buroff • Obedience # 2: Rottweiler Only – Judge: Anita Eisthen • Rally: (Armetale) (Rottweiler Only) – Judge: Michael Scott • Health Clinics - TBD • CGC and Trick Dog Testing (Novice Only) – TBD • Annual Meeting, Awards Banquet, Town Hall Meeting – PM TBD
Thursday June 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ARC National Specialty <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stud Dog / Brood Bitch – Judge: Kimberly Cardona • Junior Showmanship – Judge: Kimberly Cardona • Dog Classes - Judge: Lew Olson • Bitch classes – Judge: Lew Olson • Parades - during lunch break • Top Dog & Top 20 – PM TBD • Silent Auction ends - Live Auction during Top 20 – PM TBD
Friday June 27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ARC National Specialty <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4-6 Months Beginner Puppy – Judge: Lew Olson • Bitch Classes (if necessary) – Judge: Lew Olson • Intersex (BOB) – Judge: Lew Olson • Fast CAT - Hamilton Dog Training Club - 2720 Symmes Rd, Fairfield, OH • Scent Work #1 (Armetale) and Scent Work #2 - Judge: Edith Markoff, Robin Ford
Saturday June 28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ARC Regional Sieger Show - Judges: Kimberly Cardona and Aton Spindler <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breed Suitability Evaluation - Judge: Aton Spindler • FastCAT - Hamilton Dog Training Club - 2720 Symmes Rd, Fairfield, OH • Herding - Rosehaven Farm, 1452 Country Road 80, Alger, OH - Judge: Brian Wistrom • Farm Dog Certificate - FDC #1 & FDC #2 - Rosehaeven Farm, Judges: Jo Ellen Gellart, Karin Graeff
Sunday June 29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ARC National Sieger Show - Judges: Kimberly Cardona and Anton Spindler <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breed Suitability Evaluation – Judge: Aton Spindler • FastCAT - Hamilton Dog Training Club - 2720 Symmes Rd, Fairfield, OH • Herding (Armetale) - Rosehaven Farm, 1452 Country Road 80, Alger, OH - Judge: Dan DeLegge

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS - unless stated, all events will be held at the Roberts Centre

Show Chair: Robert Galusha robertgalushaARCBOD@gmail.com, Asst. Show Chair: Randi Garske rgarskearcbod@gmail.com
National Show Coordinator: Roberta Kelley-Martin romarot@gmail.com, ARC Secretary: Ann Glynn blackthorna@netscape.net,
ARC Treasurer: Adam Gray Adamgarcboard@gmail.com

The ARK 16

AMERICAN ROTTWEILER CLUB MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL NOTICE

It's time to renew your ARC membership by paying dues for the club year of July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026. Please complete and return this form with dues by June 30. You may also renew and pay online at www.amrottclub.org/renew.

I. MEMBERSHIP TYPE:

If yours is a family membership list the family members here:

Individual (\$50)

Senior (70+ yrs old by 7/1/25; member 10 yrs or more) (\$25)

Family (\$65 + \$15 for ea add'l member)

Senior Family (\$32.50)

I. Your Dues: \$

II. CONTACT INFORMATION: Please provide your current contact information (one phone and one email address only).

PHONE NUMBER:

EMAIL:

OK to print phone number in roster? * YES / NO

OK to print email in roster? * YES / NO

FIRST

MI

LAST

ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

COUNTRY

ZIP+4 OR POSTAL CODE

*In accordance with the club's Bylaws and Standing Rules, the membership roster is used **only for the business of the club**. It is **not** published publicly.

Kennel name:

III. DONATION OPPORTUNITIES: Please consider giving to the following funds and/or independent foundations.

Board-Designated Funds*:

Donation:

Donation:

Education Grant Program (2) \$

Top 20 Fund (8) \$

Kayln Rae Bastyr Memorial Jr. Scholarship (3) \$

National [Specialty] Support Fund (11) \$

Junior Fund (4) \$

Rottweiler Health Foundation (9) \$

Fund to Preserve Docking/Cropping (5) \$

Rottweiler Rescue Foundation (9) \$

Fund to Fight Anti-Canine Legislation (6) \$

Rottweiler-Rescue Foundation Disaster Fund (9) \$

ACL Challenge (\$50 min) (7) \$

Membership Sunshine Fund (13) \$

III. Total Donations: \$

*For more information about the Board-designated funds, see Standing Rules, Section D on www.amrottclub.org. The numbers (X) next to each fund name indicate the fund's line in Sec D. For more information on the foundations, refer to their respective websites (links found at www.amrottclub.org).

IV: CLUB NEWSLETTER: All members will have access online to a free digital copy.

Members with US addresses – CHOOSE ONE

Please do not mail ARK Newsletter

Please send the ARK via bulk mail (no additional charge).

Please send the ARK via First Class Mail (\$20).

\$

Members with Foreign addresses – CHOOSE ONE

Please send the ARK via the mail (\$25 additional charge).

\$

V: MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY: All members will have access online to a free digital copy.

Please send Membership Directory via mail (\$8)

\$

AMOUNT DUE: Please add all amounts you entered in the far-right column to reach the amount due with your renewal. Membership is renewed when dues are paid, and renewal form is received.

I. Dues: \$

Make checks payable American Rottweiler Club, and mail with form to:

III. Donations: \$

Lin Beenen

I would like to volunteer! My area of interest and/or experience is:

IV. Additional ARK Postage: \$

PO Box 66

V. Membership Directory: \$

Ada, MI 49301-0066

Late fee - renewals received after 9/29 (\$20) \$

AFFIRMATION: By renewing my (my family's) American Rottweiler Club membership, I agree that I (we) will continue to abide by the rules of the AKC, the ARC Constitution and Bylaws, and the ARC Mandatory Practices.

Total \$ Enclosed: \$

Date

Signature

Questions? Contact us at arcmembership@yahoo.com. Thank you!

Rev 2025(1)

PUTTING UP A BETTER FRONT

By Patricia Trotter

While breeders must concentrate on selecting stock with good fronts, so too must judges reward correctly-made dogs.

Analyzing the role that superior judges play in contributing influential "know-how" to breeders' decision-making has been the focus of my most recent columns, as well as most of my life! Among the experts whom you should treasure and whose opinions you should utilize are those who truly understand front-end assembly and who reward it in the ring whenever possible.

There are two reasons I place so much emphasis on judges whose opinions value correct front- end assembly. First, correct fronts are the hardest structural trait to keep in any family of dogs. Second, once correct fronts are lost from the gene pool, they are very difficult, if not impossible, to recover. To further complicate matters, there seems to be widespread misunderstanding about exactly what constitutes a good front.

The ideal front assembly is one that stands true when viewed from the front and that features a well-laid-back, correct shoulder, as well as good return of upper arm that brings the elbow well under the top of the shoulder blades when viewed from the side. In addition, correct lay-on of the front will ensure proper melding of the blades at the top of the shoulders. Most of all, these elements combine to allow a gait that has great liberty of motion, giving the dog tireless, effortless and efficient locomotion. The front foot moves well out under the head and stays close to the ground, which conserves energy at the same time it helps the dog to "cover a lot of ground."

Complications

Although this sounds relatively simple, it becomes more complicated when you factor in how the front looks when the dog is coming toward you. The fact is that a correctly made animal with functional and efficient side gait has much more opportunity for error when viewed coming toward you than a straighter-angled dog has. This is because the longer the length of the stride from front-most extension to follow-through under the rib cage, the greater the



Patricia Trotter is a longtime breeder of top Norwegian Elkhounds and is approved by AKC to judge all breeds as well as Junior Showmanship. She is the author of Born to Win.

likelihood for deviation from absolutely straight movement. And consequently, the poorer-constructed front may often be rewarded because it is more likely to satisfy the judge's requirement for so-called "sound" front movement due to its more restricted range of motion.

Breeders and judges desire dogs that move straight coming and going. The constant challenge in achieving this is to find the perfect column of support on correctly angled dogs and avoid inadvertently selecting breeding stock with compromised angles just because the animal moves straight when viewed from the front. Although it may be easier to find straight-moving fronts (viewed coming at you) on straighter-shouldered dogs, isn't it counterproductive if a correctly angled front assembly has been sacrificed to achieve it?

In my December column it was noted that upright fronts, though undesirable, certainly do contribute to the impression of ramrod-straight, picture-perfect posture that is associated with the ultimate show dog. If straight fronts also make it more likely that a dog

will move toward you with what appears to be "trueness," maybe we should ask ourselves this question: Are straight shoulders becoming such a facilitator of wins that we are subconsciously selecting for them? Are straight shoulders so seductive that all of us, breeders and judges alike, are falling into the trap of rewarding incorrect ones because they make winning easier?

World-class judges are unanimous in the belief that fronts are, across the board, the most faulty area of our breeds. Some even bemoan the fact that there are breeds that seem to have lost the gene pool for the desired front! This is a serious concern that merits our studious attention.

An interesting chain of events started in my own breed, the Norwegian Elkhound, about a half century ago, when the parent club started holding national specialties every three years. (Today the national is held on a biannual basis.) The Norwegian masters who came to judge our breed in the 1960s and '70s included the most knowledgeable people in the history of the breed, and they unanimously voiced their concerns about the stuffy, short-legged animals in America. It was not until 1968 that the standard was revised to elevate the size of the bitch from "about 18 inches" to 19 1/2 inches.

Breeders started breeding for leggier puppies and seeking more stately, hunting-type Norwegian Elkhounds. Unfortunately, many dogs were picked simply because they were taller. Little attention was paid to the fact that their straight front ends were contributing to that look. In essence, some breeders neglected to breed for more leg (length of bone) from the elbow down and were just selecting for the tallest puppies. Consequently, they were often inadvertently selecting open-angled animals.

Fortunately, as the decades passed and the dogs conformed more to the desired type with extra leg length, breeders began seeking correct front-end assembly and became less forgiving of straight-shouldered animals. Nonetheless, Elkhound breeders today acknowledge that continuing effort is required to breed animals that satisfy the standard.

Getting Better With Age

In our roles as guardians of our breeds, we must explore what we can do as fanciers to protect well-made fronts. The dogs with more angles require more work to be physically fit than their straighter-fronted brethren do because they are built for work and their structure accommodates exercise more easily. If they are not worked enough to learn body control, they are

at a disadvantage. Furthermore, they should be "warmed up" before going into the ring. This will help them get into their rhythm as well as take the edge off any excessive exuberance. Interestingly enough, dogs with correctly made fronts get better and truer with more work and age, while those with straighter fronts tolerate long-term work poorly, loading up in the shoulders and getting stuffer and bulkier with time.

Exactly how successfully good shoulders tolerate hard work in old age was exhibited by a senior hunting bitch at a Plott Hound seminar we attended last year around the time the breed entered AKC competition. The students represented some of dogdom's most knowledgeable people, many of whom remarked that the dogs there, whatever other traits they displayed, all possessed excellent front-end construction. And, of course, they all were competent hunting animals. One judge's observation has haunted me since: "I wonder how long it will be before the American show ring takes its toll on these fronts."

Since the ultimate goal of the dedicated breeder and judge is to select correct functional working type, built to endure and to stay healthy well into old age, it makes sense from every point of view to make whatever sacrifices are necessary to retain correctly made animals in our breeding programs. The instant gratification associated with "flyers" who win big at dog shows is simply not worth the long-term sacrifice of valued traits in the gene pools of our beloved breeds. Competent breeders and judges working together to insist on correct fronts will be the trustees of the breeds as we begin a new century.



GAZETTE



Don't hold back on socialization of the pup you held back!

A problem I often see in young, purebred dogs—in all breeds—comes from the common practice of “growing a puppy out.” It’s understandable when a breeder has a nice, promising puppy to hold it back for oneself, to see how the pup develops. It’s a good idea for a breeder to keep their options open. Pup can always be placed later in a pet home or perhaps with someone who likes to show and can add prestige to your kennel name.

But breeders often already have other dogs. Some are older and retired, low-maintenance dogs. Some are adults, actively involved in showing, breeding, training, and competing. Thus, the youngsters are often last to get the attention that is so desperately needed the first several months of life. They often spend their days in a kennel run, with another pup or dog at home, or in a crate waiting for their turn to come out and play.

Those days up to the “golden” milestone of 16 weeks (give or take) are the biggest opportunity you will

have to socialize and expose the pup—and eventual dog—to real life. The baby-dog brain is its most malleable at this time for exposure to new stimuli and making positive associations. This is the time to get pup out! Short car rides, strip malls, parks, children, walks in the neighborhood. Meeting new people and appropriate new dogs of all sizes and colors. Wearing a collar, walking on a leash, seeing the sights and hearing the noises of city life, of cars and trucks, loud sounds, smells of food, cats, birds, the feeling of grass, asphalt, tile, sand, grating beneath the feet. Real life outside of the home is noisy, smelly, and messy!

When this is not accomplished before 16 weeks, the dog will have a deficit in its resiliency to new surroundings, new people, and new problems. Pups left at home are often more bonded and comfortable with the other dogs they live with than with people. This is what I see in pups who the breeder has kept until after 6 months of age and the dog has never left the home. The breeder often sighs that the pup is too



shy and scared for showing. Well—um, yes! That's what happens when left at home, and that's on you!

And while some socialization can still be accomplished after 4 months of age, it is slow and not always as complete as when it is done at an earlier age. It certainly lacks efficiency, considering what can be accomplished.

So, if you're considering keeping a pup back, ask yourself, "Can I give the pup what he needs during these first months of life? Socialization, basic obedience, confidence-building, life skills? Time with kind and gentle strangers? Do I have the time and commitment?"

As dog people, we are often at training and shows, grooming, preparing, driving to and fro. Keeping another pup may not be the best idea considering the whole spectrum. Be honest with yourself and do what's in the best interest of the dog, and possibly the people who happily bring the dog into their family if you decide to not keep the pup after all.

“while some socialization can still be accomplished after 4 months of age, it is slow and not always as complete as when it is done at an earlier age.”

—Jill Kessler Miller

—Jill Kessler Miller
jillymillygsr@gmail.com
American Rottweiler Club



American Rottweiler Club Breed Standard Evaluation (ARC BSE)



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