



# The Official Newsletter of the American Rottweiler Club



Volume 61 - 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter - Number 3 - 2025  
Volume 62 - 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter - Number 4 - 2025

Annual  
Cover

# BURDIE



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# THE ARK

The Official Publication of the American Rottweiler Club

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**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

**GCHB Von Der Stahl Never-Ending Remembrance of Lucene**

**Breeders-Owners: M. Garmer & M. Stall**

"Bird-Dawg" may have been a singleton puppy, but growing up with a litter of Dachshunds taught her one thing fast: she's the boss! At home she's still the reigning Queen B, and in the show ring she's proving it too. She debuted at 9 months, finished her Championship within four months, and wrapped up her Grand Championship in two quick weekends. Now she's just a pawful of points away from her Silver!

The crown-wearing Queen B is leaving the sparkly show ring (for now!) and stepping into the action-packed world of performance. 2026 is all about new challenges, more zoomies, and earning those performance titles. Let the fun begin!



# FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear American Rottweiler Club Members,

This is my first message since the 2025 American Rottweiler Club National Specialty in Ohio, and what an incredible event it was! The energy, camaraderie, and passion for our breed were truly inspiring. I was keeping busy, trying to connect with as many of you as possible. A huge thank you to the staff at the Roberts Centre for their outstanding hospitality. I'm thrilled to announce we'll be returning there for our 2027 event, with an earlier date secured: April 4-11, 2027. Mark your calendars, I can't wait to go back!

On a personal note, I recently fulfilled a lifelong dream: attending the 2025 ADRK KlubSieger Zuchtschau in Pirmasens, Germany, hosted by BG Südwest-Pfalz. It was an unforgettable experience. Meeting so many people I'd only known online and seeing the Rottweilers in person is beyond putting in words. With four show rings running simultaneously, I quickly learned the importance of planning which classes and dogs I wanted to observe more closely. The quality of dogs presented from around the world was exceptional, and I must say, our German friends are masterful breeders. Their dedication to the craft is something we can all admire.

I'm deeply grateful to ARC member Susi Metzner, who lives in Germany and helped me navigate the event and connect with many ADRK members. My German is limited to a few key words, so having her support was invaluable. I was honored when ADRK President Ingo Muchau announced my attendance during the opening ceremony. Throughout the weekend, I was asked many thoughtful questions about my role with ARC, the state of Rottweilers in the U.S. and concerns that we face. Except for minor concerns, we genuinely share the same issues.

While watching the show, I found myself evaluating the dogs as I would back home. It's clear that both countries have strengths in the breed, and there's much we can learn from each other. Americans should be proud of our progress, just as the Germans are proud of theirs.

One of the most memorable moments was being asked to help show Viktor Von Der Crossener Ranch, in the Veteran Class (Susi's dog). I couldn't help but wonder when the last time an ARC President showed a dog at the Klub Sieger! The day before, we trained at the Working Club SWHV Bauschlott with Verena, Achim, and Frank Sulzer, close friends of Susi. It was a warm, supportive environment, and I even got to watch members prepare for ZTP, something I hadn't seen in a while since my local club closed.

I also had the pleasure of visiting the home and kennel of Harald and Brigitte Menzemer (Rottweiler von der Bleichstrasse). On Sunday, under cool and overcast skies, perfect show weather, Viktor shined and won Klub Sieger Best Veteran Male and Best Veteran. It was a thrilling result for Susi and breeder Mike Litzbach of Crossener Ranch. Meeting Mike and sharing in the weekend's success was a true honor. His kennel earned multiple accolades this weekend: 2025 ADRK Veteran Klub Sieger and Best Veteran, 2025 ADRK Klub Jugend Siegerin, and 2025 ADRK Auslands Jugend Siegerin.

All in all, it was a remarkable journey, and I highly recommend it for anyone's bucket list.



Robert Galusha  
President, American Rottweiler Club  
robertgalushaARCBOD@gmail.com



Robert Galusha - ARC President  
Ingo Muchau - ADRK President

## Officers & Directors Of The American Rottweiler Club 2025–2026

(updated 7/1/2025)

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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.amrotclub.org](http://www.amrotclub.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)  
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Top Dog Evening Procedure (1/13)  
V & VX List (12/15)  
V & VX Requirements (10/16)

Rev. 3/20/23

## COMMITTEES OF THE AMERICAN ROTTWEILER CLUB

### AKC Breed Referral Coordinator

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#### Jr. Showmanship (R. Garske)

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Open (A. Gray)

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### Patricia DeMarzo Memorial Tracking

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### Rottweiler Health

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Sarah Janner

Kate Player

### Top Dog Evening

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### Top Dogs/Juniors Statistics: (R. Galusha)

### Top Twenty

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Charlene Olin (Co-C)  
Sarah Janner  
Erin Foreman  
Lauren Greene  
Katie Maess  
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### Trophy Inventory

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### Versatility (V and VX) Awards

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Diana Lane  
Marilyn Piusz  
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### Rottweiler Health Foundation (RHF)

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## COMMITTEES OF THE AMERICAN ROTTWEILER CLUB

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OPEN

(K. Cardona)

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# Puppies!

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# **ARC Local & Area Rottweiler Clubs**

Please send changes to Roberta Martin, ARC Club Liaison, romarot@gmail.com

## **ALASKA**

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Rottweiler Club of Alaska  
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## **ARIZONA**

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Grand Canyon State Rottweiler Club  
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## **CALIFORNIA**

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Associated Rottweiler Fanciers of  
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**Golden State Rottweiler Club**  
Golden State Rottweiler Club  
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**Southwestern Rottweiler Club  
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**Western Rottweiler Owners**  
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## **COLORADO**

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**Medallion Rottweiler Club**  
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Hoosier Rottweiler Club  
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## **MASSACHUSETTS**

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New England Rottweiler Fanciers  
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## **MINNESOTA**

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## **NEVADA**

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Sierra Rottweiler Owners  
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## **NEW JERSEY**

**Colonial Rottweiler Club**  
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Colonial Rottweiler Club  
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## **NEW MEXICO**

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Texican Rottweiler Club  
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## **FOREIGN**

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**Allgemeiner Deutscher Rottweiler  
Klub e.V.** www.adrk.de

**FACEBOOK page is indicated by  
underline/italic**



Dear Membership,

This letter is to inform you of new membership applications and share a few brief updates.

Best regards,

Robert Galusha  
President, American Rottweiler Club  
robertgalushaARCBOD@gmail.com

**New Membership Applications:**

Miguel Anez	Thomas Forman	Ron McClain	Rick Fleming
Vendol Black	Nigel Hambrick	Stephanie McClain	Tamara Sergent
Angela Craddock	Lauren Jones	Alison Ouellette	Dahl Tritt
Samantha Christman	Rebekah Lewis	Rhonda Pratt	Karen Tritt
Lisa Duntley	Laura Loding	Beth Prince	Scott Yonan

**"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:** Amy Davidson, Michaela Davidson, Mark Elvington, Kim Green, Rob Green, Dana Skorupski, La Juana O'Connor, Shannon O'Connor, Adam Ondracek, Jackie Ondracek, Roger O'Sullivan, Jamie Underwood, Joel Wilson, and Miriam Wilson.

## News/Updates

- Nominating Committee for 2026 Officer Election: Sarah Janner (Chair) Isengard3@aol.com, Erin Piercy-Foreman, and Karen Bang. Alternates: Teresa Bradley (first), Caitlin Noblin (second). Reach out to Sarah Janner with interest and/or considerations.
- All members who have not paid their dues on or before September 29th shall be charged a \$20.00 Reactivation Fee. Membership renewals will not be accepted after 12am PST on December 31. Per the Bylaws, no renewals shall be accepted after December 31st and after that date all benefits of being a member shall be terminated. Any member whose dues are unpaid as of that date shall have to reapply for membership.
- The American Rottweiler Club is currently reviewing its Bylaws to propose an amendment for membership approval. The proposed update seeks to incorporate language that explicitly permits the use of electronic communication for official Club purposes, including balloting, voting, and other formal communications. This change aligns with the provisions of New Jersey Title 15A governing Non-Profit Corporations and is intended to supplement, not replace, existing rules. If approved, electronic communication would be recognized as an authorized method for conducting official Club business.
- To ensure bylaw requirements are met within budgetary constraints, the Q3 ARK Newsletter will be combined with the Q4 edition. We appreciate your understanding as we make these adjustments.
- Members who have paid for First Class Mailing or paid for advertising will continue to receive printed copies of future ARK Newsletter issues. However, we will be temporarily suspending the free bulk-mailed editions. The ARK will still be produced digitally and published on the ARC website for all members. A public-facing version will also be available for all individuals visiting the site.

### **2026 ARC National Specialty: Volunteer & Event Chair**

**2026 ARC National Specialty**, scheduled for **June 8–14, 2026** at **Purina Farms in Gray Summit, Missouri**.

We are currently seeking **volunteers and event Chairs** for the activities below. If you're interested in contributing, please contact the **ARC National Planning Committee**.

### **Important Financial Notice**

Due to the current financial situation of the American Rottweiler Club, the future of ARC National Events depends entirely on the success of the 2026 National. If the events listed below cannot be **budgeted** to at least break even, they will be **cancelled**. **Unfortunately, there is no alternative.**

That said, if volunteers step forward with a genuine intent to help make these events happen, the Planning Committee will work closely with them to develop workable budgets and explore every option to keep them viable (donations, sponsors, etc.)

### **Deadline: December 31, 2025**

If by the end of 2025 these events are not adequately staffed and financially planned, they will be removed from the schedule.

Your time and support are critical. Let's work together to ensure the 2026 ARC National Specialty not only occurs, but is successful.

### **Event Chairs and volunteers need to budget:**

- Carting
- Obedience
- Barn Hunt
- FastCAT
- Tracking
- Rally
- Dock Diving
- Nat/Reg Conformation (chaired by Robert Galusha)
- Herding
- Scent Work
- Agility
- Sieger (Chaired by Robert Galusha)

**ARC National Planning Committee:** Roberta Martin (romarot@gmail.com), Robert Galusha (robertgalushaARCBOD@gmail.com), Randi Garske (rgarskearcbod@gmail.com), Ann Glynn (blackthorna@netscape.net), & Adam Gray (Adamgarcboard@gmail.com).

## **How to Correctly Approach and Examine the Rottweiler**

This is a dog that normally is very alert and responsive to his surrounding and the people in it. Your attitude and stance are important to the dog's acceptance of you a stranger, invading his area. Approach him in a deliberate, confident and friendly manner. When first approaching, (slightly at an angle, from the front) to assess head type and expression, do not at the dog, directly in the eyes, as this can be perceived as a challenge to the dog. You can assess ear set, eyes, head proportions without staring. Ask the handler to show the dentition (with understanding that there are 42 teeth, and one missing is a serious fault, and two missing is a disqualification). Examine the body, testicles and tail (if natural) with gentle firm hands. It takes very little "hands on" examination to judge a Rottweiler. Rottweiler do not require a heavy touch and may resent it. Structure and movement is easily determined by moving them.

Not all Rottweilers enjoy being examined by a stranger, but all Rottweilers can be trained to do so. Just in case you meet that one in a thousand that is not, approach from the front, but slightly at angle, shoulder down, at ease yet confident. This is the submissive position, which have learned from temperament testing. You are no threat. Stand at the side of the dog when checking the teeth and body. Go over the dog quickly and smoothly, checking for the undercoat and the texture of the outer coat, testicles and tail. Colder climates can produce thicker coats, this is normal.

## **DOs and DON'Ts of Approaching, Examining and Handling Rottweilers in the Ring**

Do remember to give each entry the same consideration and ring pattern.

DO realize that large entries mean more novice handlers. Your understanding can make the novice handler want to become the pro of the future.

DO have the large classes lined-up in catalog order for your ease in checking the number in your judge's book, for the ring stewards, exhibitors, and spectators ease in keeping track of the entries, to say nothing of the videographers and photographers.

DO, when possible, split large classes and excuse the group being judged from the ring. A ring full of Rottweilers gating next to a ring of waiting Rottweilers can cause some unwanted disruptions of the judging process.

Do as the handlers, when gaiting the dogs to keep their space, not run-up on the dog in front of them, and always gait the dog at a moderate speed and under control. It is your ring; it is NOT the "INDY 500!" Do respect the character of the breed when you go to approach and examine the individual dog. Not all Rottweilers enjoyed being examined by a stranger, but all Rottweilers can be trained to do so. Just in case you

meet that one in a thousand that is not, approach from the front, but slightly at an angle, shoulder down, at ease, yet confident. This is the submissive position, which we have learned from temperament testing. You are no threat. Stand at the side of the dog when checking the teeth and body. Go over the dog quickly and smoothly, checking for the undercoat and texture of the outer coat, testicles and the tail, if natural. Remember that the undercoat is greatly affected by the climate.

Do keep your hand(s) on the dog while examining and avoid the temptation to reach back to touch the dog once you have completed your exam, once you have removed your hands.

Do ask the handler to show the bite and dentition. If the handler is having trouble, you have the option of asking to see the gait which may settle the dog down so you can proceed with the individual examination alleviating the necessity of having to excuse a dog that could not be examined on that day.

DON'T be a "hero". If you feel the dog cannot on this day be examined safely, excuse him. If the dog is causing a continual disruption in your ring affecting the other entries, excuse him.

DON'T over examine a Rottweiler. You can see most of what you need to know especially when moving the dog.

DON'T grab the head, massage the dog, pinch the thighs, bend over the dog, pull legs out from behind, do NOT kneel in front of the dog or stare at him in the eyes.

DON'T reposition or restack the dog for the handler. The dog may tolerate his own handler, but not a stranger.

DON'T judge Rottweilers until you feel completely comfortable with the breed. Rottweilers can sense when a person is nervous, and it may put them on guard. Set up a visit or with the mentors listed on the ARC website and get your hands on their dogs. They can demonstrate how to handle them with confidence.

And finally, DO remember that the exhibitor, by asking for your opinion on his dog, has given you the greatest compliment you can have in the dog world. This is your ring, your domain, but also your responsibility. The "buck stops" with you, the judge.

# 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.

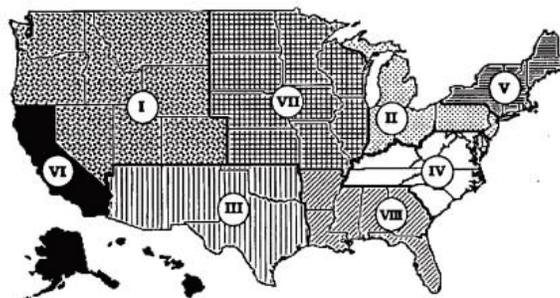
**REGION IV:** Delaware, Kentucky, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia.

**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 2026 ROTTWEILER SPECIALTIES

1/17/2026 - Pacific Coast Rottweiler Performance Club - Region I Concurrent Specialty. Portland OR. Thom Woodward neurodesrotts@yahoo.com

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

2/21/2026 - Southwestern Rottweiler Club Independent Specialty - Delmar, CA. Katie McCCasey kmccasey@sbcglobal.net

3/27/2026 - Greater Cincinnati Rottweiler Club Independent Specialty - Wilmington, OH. 6/9/2026 - Katie Maess ktm@embarqmail.com

6/9/2026 - American Rottweiler Club to host a Region VII Concurrent ARC Regional - Gray Summit, MO. Robert Galusha robertgalushaARCBOD@gmail.com

7/8, 7/10, 7/12 - Dogwood Rottweiler Club Regional Specialty - Concord, NC. Paul Walters pntwalters@gmail.com

7/11/2026 - Concurrent Region IV ARC Specialty - Concord, NC. Bob Busby didiok9@aol.com

## UPCOMING ARC BSE (Breed Standard Evaluation)

1/30/2026 - Grand Canyon State Rottweiler Club ARC BSE - Phoenix, AZ. Kathy Touvell k2vell@gmail.com. Evaluator: Robert Galusha

## Help Support the Rottweiler Health Foundation!



RHF's Mission: To raise money to fund critical research into genetic, communicable, and acquired diseases that plague our beloved breed – the Rottweiler!

The Rottweiler Health Foundation is selling logo merchandise to help fund critical research. To purchase your merchandise, go to this website: [www.rhf.deco-apparel.com](http://www.rhf.deco-apparel.com)

To learn more about the Rottweiler Health Foundation, go to their website: [www.rotweilerhealth.org](http://www.rotweilerhealth.org)

Learn about current grants, how to become a member, and how to donate to honor a living or deceased person and/or Rottweiler.

## TIME IS RUNNING OUT.....



Last Chance to pay your ARC dues! The online renewal is available on the website at Annual Membership Renewal [amrottclub.org](http://amrottclub.org) Renewal fees must be paid by December 31, 2025, 12:00 am PST. The \$20 late fee is included in the cost of renewal. For questions about your renewal, contact Lin Beenen at [arcmembership@yahoo.com](mailto:arcmembership@yahoo.com)

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IN LOVING   
*Memory*

*ARC Members Pat Rennick & Dawn Palmisano*

*no obituary or further information available regarding the passing of these members.*



# From Trial-and-Error to Targeted Care

June 17, 2025

***New research aims to predict drug resistance in dogs with epilepsy, bringing personalized treatment within reach.***

When a dog is diagnosed with idiopathic epilepsy, or epilepsy with no identifiable cause such as a tumor or brain injury, veterinarians are often left without clear guidance on which medication will be most effective for that dog.

“We don’t know what drug is best to control the epilepsy of a specific patient,” explains Dr. Thomas Parmentier, a veterinary neurologist and researcher at the Université de Montréal. “That means treatment typically begins with a process of trial and error to find the right drug, or drug combination, for each individual dog.”

Idiopathic epilepsy is the most common neurologic disorder in dogs, affecting millions worldwide. Yet despite its prevalence, the condition remains poorly understood, and current treatment options can be frustrating and unpredictable.

Because seizures are episodic and vary in frequency and severity, diagnosis and monitoring often rely on an owner’s ability to observe and document episodes, which is not always possible for busy families. This can lead to gaps in clinical understanding and delay finding an effective treatment.

The standard approach typically involves prescribing anti-epileptic drugs (AEDs), which can be effective but often come with side effects like sedation, poor coordination, increased appetite, or excessive thirst. For about one-third of dogs, long-term seizure control requires multiple medications given daily for life. Another third develop drug-resistant epilepsy, where seizures continue despite treatment with at least two appropriate AEDs.

For these dogs and their families, the challenges are immense financially, emotionally, and in terms of quality of life.

“The more medication we use, the greater the burden is in regard to side effects for the patient, stress for the owner, and often limited improvement,” says Dr. Parmentier.

“The more medication we use, the greater the burden is in regard to side effects for the patient, stress for the owner, and often limited improvement,” says Dr. Parmentier.

That’s why Dr. Parmentier and his team are working to shift the paradigm. With support from the AKC Canine Health Foundation, they are investigating clinical features and biomarkers, biological signals in the blood and brain, that could predict whether a dog is likely to develop drug resistance at the time of diagnosis.

Using advanced tools like electroencephalography (EEG) to analyze brain wave patterns and blood-based biomarker testing, the team hopes to identify a predictive profile that will help veterinarians tailor treatment strategies from day one to suit the unique needs of each dog.

“If we can know at the onset which dogs are likely to become drug-resistant,” Dr. Parmentier explains, “we can intervene earlier, more effectively, and with greater precision, improving outcomes for dogs and reducing the hardship on their families.”

It’s a vision of personalized medicine in veterinary care: better diagnostics, smarter treatment choices, faster relief, and a better future for dogs living with epilepsy.

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## Q4 2025 APPLICATIONS

*"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*

Madison Algren

Zachary Algren

Danielle Bretcher

Brandie McFarland

William McFarland



Please Email All Ads & Submissions to the Editor Michele Misurelli-Gillis [SouthDixieChis@att.net](mailto:SouthDixieChis@att.net)

# GAZETTE



## *Chewing*

**W**hy do people get so fervent and upset about a puppy's chewing? Yes, they're going to chew inappropriate items (usually whatever is in front of them); yes, they want what-ever you wore last ( shoes, under garments); yes, they're teething. Teething usually starts a few weeks before the 16-week age mark, where-upon the baby teeth start falling out. Long before that, the adult teeth are under-neath, moving up to bud in the jaw. Not unlike babies, puppies explore their environment via their mouths. This is normal.

By 6 months of age, the adult teeth are in, and the intensive chewing usually starts to slow down. Albeit there are some dogs who are heavy chewers for years to come, but normally by adulthood they are discretionary to their toys and chews.

I have two pairs of old slippers. My puppy loves them-grabs them, gums them, tosses them about. And it dawned on me: Who cares? They are not pre-cious collectible items (in which case they would be put up and away), they are not Gucci shoes or a Louis Vuitton handbag (because who gets to have those items and dogs?).

the puppy chews what is available to him-toys, chews, more toys, and my slippers. They smell like me, they're soft and fuzzy, and when he's done teething or they're destroyed-whichever comes first-they'll go into the trash, and I'll get new ones. He has fun, I get new slippers down the line; it's a win-win.

Isn't it easier and kinder to have a long vision of the relationship with a dog? Instead of yelling, berating, or physically correcting a puppy, just let it go? This too shall pass. Slippers wear out, we get new ones. Sneakers and socks too. Is it worth possibly ruining a dog's trust as their care-taker?

I hope this puppy will be my next competition dog. I want him to feel I'm fair, even tempered, and trust-worthy. Only by managing his environment and training him with consistency and positive reinforcement will I make that happen. It's up to me. If it costs a pair of slippers, it's worth it.

—Jill Kessler Miller  
jilymillysrc@gmail.com  
American Rotweiler Club



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