



THE CHATTERBOXER

Member, American Boxer Club
Established 1945

March 2004

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Westminster 2004—A Year of Changes

Westminster has come and gone, and I'm sure that everyone knows by now that the Newfoundland, Josh (Ch. Darbydale's All Rise Pouchcove) won Best In Show. This was the first time in 15 years that a "big dog" (here meaning anything over 20 inches tall!) has won BIS at Westminster—the last time was 1989 with the Doberman Pinscher, Ch. Royal Tudor's Wild As The Wind. The last—and only other—Newfie to win BIS at Westminster was Ch. Seaward's Blackbeard in 1984.

In the Boxer ring, Tommy (Ch. Brookwood's Mystic Warrior) won Best of Breed, and Ch. Bayview Some Like It Hot took Best of Opposite Sex. Awards of Merit went to Ch. Capri's Woods End Spellcaster and Ch. Hi-Tech's Basic Edition.

Also, some of you may have noticed a different description of the Boxer on the telecast. Westminster asked for input from the parent club this year, and the ABC came through with flying colors. If you missed it, the text that was read while the Boxer was being judged (and that is on the Westminster website) is as follows:

The Boxer is a highly intelligent, medium-sized square dog with clean lines and balanced proportions. He was refined and bred from ancestors in Germany called Bullenbeisers--historically used to run down and hold large, formidable game animals--bear and boar. Today's Boxer is fearless but tractable, energetic, and wonderfully patient with children. Extremely intuitive, he is at all times responsive to his master's moods. He is the ideal family dog, but can be protective when called upon. Not a dog for the frail or timid, he is boisterous and clownish, cherishing his toys and his family into oldest age.

Member Birthdays

The Michigan Boxer Club would like to send good wishes to the following Club members who are celebrating their birthday in March:

<u>Member Name</u>	<u>Whelped On</u>
Marianne Balzer	March 7
Bill Johnson	March 10
Vicki Cope	March 13
Nicole Fisher	March 18
Cheryl Johnson	March 21
Janet Smith	March 23
Cindy Walunas	March 23
Shari Rauf	March 28
Maggie Papesh	March 31



From the Editor

There is a certain standard of grace and beauty which consists in a certain relation between our nature, such as it is, weak or strong, and the thing which pleases us. Whatever is formed according to this standard pleases us, be it house, song, discourse, verse, prose, woman, birds, rivers, trees, room, dress, and so on. Whatever is not made according to this standard displeases those who have good taste.

~Blaise Pascal



I've been thinking a lot about the standard lately—probably too much, really. It's become like the trick your mind plays on you when you say a word too many times in a row—"milk" sounds awfully silly when you really think about it.

I'm hoping to breed Patsy (known to most as Patsy-Crazy-Bitch) at the end of the year. It's been a long time since I've had a litter—nearly four years now—and so I feel like I've got a lot of re-learning to do before I make a decision about which stud dog will best suit her. The fact that her dam is a UK import and her sire is out in California—and thus she has none of the lines that you find here in the Midwest in her pedigree—doesn't help matters any.

The result is, I'm debating between a long-distance (and probably AI) linebreeding, or using a local dog and a purely phenotypical breeding—an outcross. Which wouldn't be such a dilemma if Patsy herself wasn't outcrossed. Of course, it's all a moot point if her health testing doesn't turn out as I hope, but that doesn't keep me from thinking it to death in the mean time.

So this month's Education program comes at a good time for me. Dr. Bell's presentation at ABC was on breeding as it related to minimizing genetic disease, but while preparing this month's ChatterBoxer I re-read some of his articles on breeding programs in general, as well as those of other geneticists. (Dr. Bell's "Developing a Healthy Breeding Program" can be found on page 5, links to the articles by the other geneticists are on page 6.)

I'm also on several mailing lists and Internet discussion forums, as well as answering e-mail inquiries from the ABC website. Breeding comes up a lot—though not as often as you would think. It's hard sometimes, though, to explain to people—who love their dogs and think they're absolutely perfect—just why the standard is so important, even if they're not breeding for the show ring. The disqualification in the standard of Boxers with more than 1/3 white markings is always a hot topic, as well.

In addition, 2004 marks an opportunity for a change to the AKC standard. I've heard several unconfirmed rumors that an amendment to add uncropped ears will once again be presented to the ABC membership for a vote, as will a change to the Code of Ethics to allow the sale and Limited Registration of white Boxers. Our standard's requirement for cropped ears (and a docked tail) has been peripherally involved in some of PETA's the most recent stunts—from financially backing a lawsuit against the AKC and the American Brittany Club, brought by the owner of a Brittany who felt his dog was "losing points" in the ring because it did not have a docked tail as required by the breed standard, to filing a complaint with the Mayor of New York City regarding Westminster Kennel Club allowing dogs with cropped ears and docked tails to be exhibited at Madison Square Garden, claiming a violation of the city's anti-cruelty laws. (The judge ruled for the defendants in the court case, and the complaint about Westminster—while causing a stir on several e-mail lists—apparently did nothing to

dissuade the public from enjoying the show, judging from the full seats during Groups and the week-high cable rating of 5.26 million viewers for Tuesday night's telecast.)

And of course, since I have Hugo's finishing picture on my office wall, at this time of year clients inevitably ask me whether I watched Westminster and whether I wanted my dog to go there. Often the topic turns to how the judges can pick just one dog to win and whether it just end up being their favorite breed, and how the dogs are judged according to their adherence to the standard and not against each other....you've all been there, you know how the story goes.

The Club is also toying with the idea of holding an Obedience trial, and/or a Canine Good Citizen test. These are good ways to get a general picture of the temperament of a dog—another important part of the standard—incidentally, so is the Temperament Test, another possibility for a Club function. I've looked into the TT again lately because one of the stud dogs I'm considering has passed it, and am intrigued by the prospect. (More information on that can be found at the American Temperament Test Society website, www.atts.org)

So, as I said, the standard has been on my mind. In a lot of different ways. From breeding, to education (of myself, of other breeders, and of the general public), to dog shows, to animal rights, to everyday chit-chat. The features in this month's ChatterBoxer touch on these areas as well—Dr. Bell's article, information on an e-mail list set up to combat dangerous animal legislation spawned by groups like PETA, a short follow-up blurb on Westminster, and news about a scandal surrounding Crufts, the prestigious UK show. Ironically, I haven't included anything about the actual standard in this month's publication—I suppose that will come in later months.

On a largely unrelated note, there is a new Boxer magazine underway, *The Boxer Ring*. You can find more information, and subscribe to the magazine, online at www.swqmagazine.com/boxers.html or by contacting Christa Cook-Chiaurro at flashpointboxers@earthlink.net or 618-959-9909. The tagline? "On Time—Every Time." I love the Boxer Review, but perhaps a little competition will raise the *standard* for both breed publications.

Lastly, I want to thank everyone for the kind words about last months' ChatterBoxer—it was not an easy one to put together, for many reasons. For those who have missed John Connolly's "Judgmental" column, don't worry, it will be back! Please note that I now have working fax number—248-489-1720 and a new e-mail address—secretary@michiganboxerclub.com. I welcome your suggestions, comments, and contributions.

Best ~

Jen

MBC Educational Programs for 2004

Over the last three years, the Michigan Boxer Club has made a concerted effort to have an educational program as part of its monthly meeting. The MBC Board and Officers felt that a monthly program added an additional benefit to Club membership and provided added incentive for members who live a distance from the metropolitan Detroit to attend monthly business meetings. We have had programs on Advances in Boxer Heart Testing, Canine First Aid, Raw Diets, Puppy Neonatal Care, Video tapes of Ch. Bang Away of Sirrah Crest, Leader Dogs for the Blind, and the Canine Rescue unit of the Michigan Technical Rescue Operations Team, to name a few.

Programs for 2004 are now being scheduled and will be selected from the following topics. Please check the most recent issue of the ChatterBoxer for changes in this schedule.

March – Breeding and Genetics, Video from ABC by Dr. Jerrold Bell

Future programs:

Advances in Laser Surgery for Dogs
 Dog Chiropractic Care for Degenerative Myelopathy
 Current Information on Boxer Heart Issues, Video from ABC by Dr. Katherine Meurs
 Hypothyroidism in Boxers, Video from ABC by Dr. Peter Graham
 Seminar on Degenerative Myelopathy, Video from ABC by Dr. Natasha Olby
 The Key to Movement Video, Part 1, Coming and Going
 The Key to Movement Video, Part 2, Side Movement
 Show Grooming for the Boxer
 Conformation Handling
 Breeding Basics
 Dog Law, Owner Responsibilities and Liabilities
 Puppy Contracts
 Canine Nutrition
 The Dog Game - Tax Implications as Business or Hobby
 Obedience Training with the Boxer
 Agility Training with the Boxer
 Human Personality and Dog Breed Preferences

If MBC members have suggestions for programs or know speakers who can add to the Club's wide interests, please contact Barry Wyerman, Education Chairman at 248-344-7944 or e-mail: wyerbr@aol.com

Website Spotlight

For further information on our Educational topic this month, the following sites are suggested:

The Ins and Outs of Pedigree Analysis
 Dr. Jerrold Bell
<http://www.mbf.com/compupe/bell.asp>

Utilizing Phenotypic Data to Minimize Disease
 Rhonda Hovan, OFA
<http://www.offa.org/hovanart.pdf>

Breeding Better Dogs
 Dr. Carmen Battaglia
www.breedingbetterdogs.com

Inbreeding and Pedigree Dog Breeds
 Malcolm B. Willis
<http://www.nvfr.nl/willisinbreed.html>

Planned Breeding
 Lloyd C. Brackett
<http://www.nylana.org/RRACI/brackett.htm>

Canine Diversity Project
 Dr. John B. Armstrong, et al
<http://www.canine-genetics.com/>

Boxer Shorts

Genine DeMaso, Debut Boxers

AS SEEN IN A DOG'S DIARY

- 8 a.m. Oh boy!! Dog food!! My favorite!!
- 9 a.m. Oh boy!! A car ride!! My favorite!!
- 10 a.m. Oh boy!! A walk!! My favorite!!
- 11 a.m. Oh boy!! A car ride!! My favorite!!
- Noon Oh boy!! The kids!! My favorite!!
- 1 p.m. Oh boy!! The yard!! My favorite!!
- 2 p.m. Oh boy!! The mailman!! My favorite!!
- 3 p.m. Oh boy!! The kids!! My favorite!!
- 4 p.m. Oh boy!! Dog food!! My favorite!!
- 5 p.m. Oh boy!! Mom!! My favorite!!
- 6 p.m. Oh boy!! A walk!! My favorite!!
- 7 p.m. Oh boy!! Playing ball!!! My favorite!!
- 8 p.m. Oh boy!! The yard!! My favorite!!
- 9 p.m. Oh boy!! Sleeping in master's bed!! My favorite!!

CORONER'S REPORT

Three dead bodies turn up at the mortuary, all with very big smiles on their faces. The Coroner calls the police to tell them what has happened.

"First Body: Frenchman, 60, died of heart failure while making love to his mistress. Hence the enormous smile, Inspector", reported the Coroner.

"Second body: Scotsman, 25, won a thousand pounds on the lottery and spent it all on whisky. Died of alcohol poisoning, hence the smile on his face", the Coroner informed the Inspector.

The Inspector asked, "What of the third body?"

"Ah," said the Coroner, "this is the most unusual one. A noted dog show judge who was struck by lightning."

"Why is he smiling then?", questioned the Inspector. The Coroner replied, "He thought he was having his picture taken."

HE'S JUST MY DOG

He is my other eyes that can see above the clouds and my other ears that hear above the winds.

He has told me more than a thousand times over that I am his reason for being.....by the way he rests against my leg; by the way he thumps his tail at my smallest smile; by the way he shows his hurt when I leave without taking him (I believe it makes him sick with worry when he is not along to "care" for me!!).

When I am wrong.....he is delighted to forgive.

When I am angry.....he clowns to make me smile.

When I am happy.....he is joy unbounded.

When I am a fool.....he ignores it.

When I succeed.....he brags.

Without him, I am only another person. With him, I am powerful.

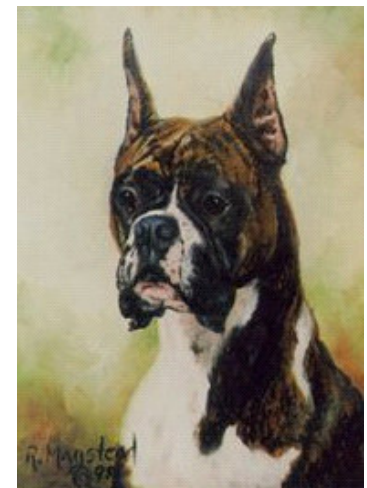
He has taught me the meaning of devotion by loyalty itself. With him, I know the secret comfort of a private peace.

He has brought me understanding where before I was ignorant. His head on my knee can heal my human hurts. His presence by my side is protection against my fears of dark and unknown things.

He has promised to wait for me....whenever....wherever.... in case I need him. And, I expect I will.....as I always have!!

Who is he??

He's just my Dog!!!!



Show Wins

Greenfield's Politically Incorrect—Houston

Owner/Breeder: Marianne Balzer, Greenfield Boxers

Handler: Christa Cook-Chiaurro
(Houston is a plain fawn dog)

By CH Garnsey's Mad Max, SOM X
Greenfield's Schemes N Dreams

Winners Dog, Best of Winners, Best of Breed - 1 pt

Oshkosh Kennel Club - 9/15/03
Judge - Dr. John A. Reeve-Newson

Winners Dog, Best of Opposite Sex - 1 pt

Ozarks Kennel Club - 11/09/03
Judge - W. Everett Dean, Jr.

Winners Dog - 2 points

Council Bluffs K.C. - 11/15/03
Judge - Nestor J. Anselmi

Winners Dog, Best of Winners, Best of Breed - 2 pts

Lake Shore K.C. - 11/23/03
Judge - Mrs. Paula Nykiel

Winners Dog, Best of Winners, Best of Breed - 1 pt

Edwardsville, ILL K.C. - 12/06/03
Judge - Mabel (Jinx) Gunville

Winners Dog, Best of Winners - 1 pt

Rubber City K.C. - 01/04/04
Judge - Sondra Joy Esprite

Kaylen's I Believe at Boca—"Rio"

Owner: Joanna & Alan Dorfman, Boca Boxers

Breeder: Kay Palade-Peiser
Handler: Joseph Vergnetti

By Ch. Kaylen's Reason to Believe
x Ch. Kaylen's Best of Intentions

**Winners Dog, Best of Winners,
Best of Opposite Sex - 1 pt**
Wyoming Valley Kennel Club - 2/14/04
Judge - Mrs. Ann K. Summa

**Winners Dog, Best of Winners,
Best of Opposite Sex - 3 pt major
Best Puppy, Puppy Group 2**

Livingston Kennel Club - 1/17/04
Judge - Janet Allen Jacobsen

Winners Dog, Best of Opposite Sex - 3 pt major

Columbiana County Kennel Club - 1/2/04
Judge - Robert D. Sharp

OK, so I know Rio's not really a Boxer, and Joanna sent me the wins for her website, not the CB....but no one else sent in show wins, and I needed to fill the space!!



Please Mail or E-Mail Show Wins and Litter Announcements to:

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Farmington Hills, MI 48334
Phone: 248-489-1963
Fax: 248-489-1720
secretary@michiganboxerclub.com

Dogs On the Air, In the News, and Online

THE LAST GREAT RACE

Saturday, March 6 marks the start of the 32nd Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race. There are a record number of teams entered this year, from North America, Germany, Italy and Norway. Teams race from Anchorage, in south central Alaska, to Nome on the western Bering Sea coast, traveling over 1150 miles in 10 to 17 days. The race commemorates the 1925 Serum Run to Nome, when 300,000 units of diphtheria antitoxin were transported by dog sled. The lead dog of the final leg of that run, the widely-known Balto, is on display at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History.

The Outdoor Network will provide daily coverage of the Iditarod—check your local listings for availability and show times. For more information, visit the official Iditarod website at www.iditarod.com.

CRUFTS BEST IN SHOW JUDGE AND CHAIRMAN RESIGN OVER SMEAR CAMPAIGN

It seems controversy may be becoming a tradition for Crufts, the world's largest dog show and the quintessence of British canine culture. Last year, the day after winning Best In Show, the Pekingese Danny, was accused of having undergone illegal cosmetic surgery. The story was later found to be untrue, and Danny's name was cleared.

The newest hullabaloo revolves around Mrs. Joyce Mann, a highly-respected judge from Edinburgh who accepted the assignment four years ago. In the last few weeks, Mrs. Mann has been the subject of accusations regarding her breeding of Yorkshire Terriers over thirty years ago. Mrs. Mann, citing stress and anguish resulting in the need for medical attention, has withdrawn from her Crufts appointment, and retire from judging altogether. In a gesture of solidarity her husband, Peter, has resigned as Crufts chairman, which the Kennel Club accepted with "deep regret." The couple have also been forced to flee their home in the wake of an aggressive hate-mail campaign.

At the heart of the controversy are Mrs. Mann's 1971 breeding records, which show that she registered 23 Yorkshire Terrier litters totaling 126 puppies. Animal rights groups are citing cruelty and puppy-farming practices—though the number of bitches producing these litters, as well as the conditions in which they were kept, is noticeably absent. A Kennel Club spokesman commented, "This happened in the Sixties and Seventies. It was different back then. They didn't do anything unlawful at the time. It's unethical now to be seen to be doing it that way, but that's how it was. It was a different culture."

The motivation for such a smear campaign, just a few weeks before Crufts begins on March 4, is at this time unknown. While it may be just the latest in a string of AR stunts, Beverly Cuddy of "Dogs Today" magazine feels that the culprit may be a competitor who feared facing Mrs. Mann in the show ring this year. This has all the ingredients of a Miss Marple mystery," Cuddy said. "Whatever the truth, dogdom will always remain a rich source of intrigue."

FIGHTING ANIMAL LEGISLATION—A FULL-TIME JOB?

Last month's ChatterBoxer highlighted two pieces of animal legislation, a breeding restriction in Ann Arbor, and the Puppy Protection Act that has once again reared its ugly head in Congress. Sadly, these two examples are just the tip of a massive iceberg of proposed animal legislation, and often the public doesn't hear about new legislation until it has been passed. The victory in Ann Arbor, as well as a couple other major victories in Oklahoma and Virginia, show that the fancy, when it is mobilized, can defeat these proposals which often are unenforceable and backed by animal rights activist groups whose ultimate goal is the end of animal breeding or ownership of any kind.

To that end, a mailing list has been formed to inform people about the dangers of these laws and offer advice and resources for defeating them. List members include attorneys, animal breeders and owners, and people who have spent the last several years (or more) fighting animal legislation. It is a high-volume list, however it is possible to join the list and read the messages on-line instead of receiving them in your Inbox. Joining the list also gives you access to the archives and any files that are posted, which may contain useful information when animal legislation hits your neck of the woods. The list is called Pet-Law, and you can sign up at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/pet-law>. The official list description is as follows:

Animal rights legislation is spreading. Defend your right to own pets! Pet Law is a high-traffic list, moderated for flames, trolls, off-topic posts. We'll discuss how to fight bills or laws negatively affecting pet ownership: dogs, cats, birds, small mammals, reptiles, others. Federal, state, local legislation, zoning, breed bans, mandatory spay and neuter, breeder registration, breeder licensing, breeding bans, etc. Share ideas, resources approaches. AR questions okay for educational purposes, but this is not an animal rights debate list. Trolls will be removed. No petitions, safety alerts, lost dogs, etc. Topics: Dog laws, bird laws, cat laws, pet laws, breeders, rescue law, breeder licenses.