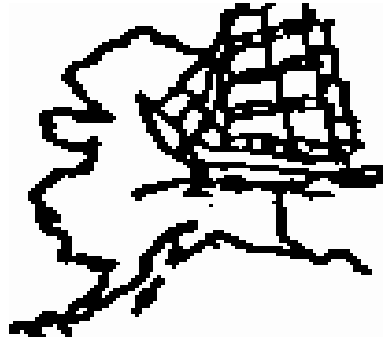


# The Cook Inlet Kennel Club GAZETTE



## PREFERRED BREED TYPE

Why The Stand-Out Best Dog Can Be A Loser

E. Katie Gammill © [TheDogPlace](http://TheDogPlace.com) January 2009

The Best of the Best or one that looks like the rest? Let's be honest. Something called "preferred type" is flooding the rings today and in many breeds, it has little to do with the Breed Standard. When "current type" does not equal correctness, the best dog can lose because in many rings, the fatal flaw is being a stand-out.

A dog show friend, absent from the sport for several years, attended some local shows with me. Welcoming the opportunity to view dogs in general after her sabbatical, she became visually distressed. Her despair increased when a "less than average" class dog received BOB. The waning quality in her beautiful breed breaks her heart. She stated it would be wasted effort to show a dog correct to the standard today, as some judges feel compelled to award dogs conforming to the majority of the entries.

Observing other breeds, she remarks on the lack of neck, restricted front movement and the lack of rear follow through; we discuss "gay tails" and breed type variances. We watch faulty movement and see coats dragging the ground. Weak pasterns and sickle hocks complete the picture. She wonders what causes this to happen to functional dogs in such a short time. It seems the correct dogs have fallen victim to what one may refer to as the "Perfection of Mediocrity".

"The best dog you'll ever breed may be the hardest dog you ever finish."

Today, many breeders and owners turn to performance, choosing not to participate in a "crap shoot" where such variety in type confuses both judges and ringside. I make this statement at the expense of being tarred and feathered but increasingly, the best dog you'll ever breed may be the hardest dog you will ever finish. It will be the "odd man out" and look different from the majority of dogs represented in the ring. Why? Some judges, insecure in a breed and therefore lacking courage, choose to walk "different" dogs rather than stick their neck out. Understandable, but should those lacking confidence be passing judgment on another's dog?

My old mentor said, "The pendulum of type swings to and fro, but those remaining true to the standard triumph in the end." Those dedicated breeders have the knowledge to restore a breed to its initial form once it hits bottom.

Should a judge reward a dog to suggest it could possibly assist in correcting breed faults? NO! It is a breeder's responsibility to incorporate such animals into their programs, regardless of success in the show ring. Judges are to judge to the written standard to the best of their ability, fairly and efficiently. They avoid awarding "drags of a breed" when possible but judges have little insight into the Pandora's Box of breeding.

A respected dog person of long standing approached me with this statement while at a seminar. "A judge CAN NOT GO WRONG by putting up winners conforming to the

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### 2009 Board Members

- President— Carolyn Tolson  
(745-2322)
- V-President—Casey Hessinger
- Treasurer—Kristine Asay
- Corresponding Secretary—  
Rene Clayton
- Recording Secretary -  
Cheri Hagen
- Directors -  
Gretchen Keim  
Kathy Kochendorfer  
Judi Rideout  
Jon Zylstra

### 2009 Committee Chairs

- Judges Committee -  
Casey Hessinger
- Training Committee -
- Show Committee—  
Carolyn Tolson

**COME JOIN US AT OUR  
NEXT GENERAL  
MEMBERSHIP  
MEETING!**

**JANUARY 5th AT 7:00  
P.M.**

### Inside this issue:

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Minutes General Meeting  
December 1, 2009

Meeting called to order at 7:05 p.m.  
Chris Asay made a motion to accept the minutes as published. Gretchen Keim seconded. Motion passed.

**Corresponding Secretary Report:**  
Notice from AKC to update officers Application for August 2010 Rally Trial, Obedience Trial and Conformation show from AKC

Thank you note from November judge Kay Radcliffe

Plaque Award form from Barbara Stanley Confirmation to judge from Don Rogers for August 2010

Thank you note from Kimberly Beam for flowers

Due renewal and Key Fee from the Chester's

Dues renewal from the Hirschmann's Christmas Card from Rowan Pacific Rim Decorators

Wells Fargo Quarterly Newsletter

Bill from UPS store

Bill from Enstar

Directors and officers policy from Equisure

Return letter more postage due

E-mail thank you from Linda Hause and

photo

**Treasurer's Report:**

**Show Committee Report:** New signups will go around in January. Committee duties are being worked on by Board. Nothing else is happening at this point.

**Training Committee Report:** Beginning Obedience sill start on 1/6 at 7:00. Beginning Agility will start 1/9 from 1 – 2 p.m., Adv. Beginning Agility will be from 2 – 3. Puppy class will start on Monday 1/11 at 7:00.

**Legislative Committee:** City of Wasilla annexation meetings have been on-going. People do not want it to happen. City of Palmer is also looking at some annexation areas.

**Judge's Committee:** No report.

**Hospitality Committee:** This is a new committee formed to do a variety of things for members. If a member has a dog pass away or some other event in their life the hospitality committee will respond to that. They will also help out with the shows etc.

**Earthdog Committee:** This is another newly formed committee that will be working on putting together Earthdog events.

**New Members:**

No first readings.

Second Reading: Denise Walling – Approved. Welcome Denise.

**Nomination of Officers:** No additional nominations from the board for President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, or Treasurer. One nomi-

nation from the floor for Board Member, Mike Chester.

**Unfinished Business:**

Christmas Party and Awards – Sign-up sheet is going around. Party is scheduled for December 13 at 2:00. There will be a gift exchange and potluck. Turkey and Ham is provided by the club. Decorating starts at Noon.

**New Business:**

Jon Zylstra brought up the fact that people have been giving out the CIKC phone number as a reference. He has had calls from attorneys, etc. on the answering machine. He will only answer calls regarding club business. There is no board meeting in December. Motion to adjourn made by Cheri Hagen, seconded by Chris Asay. Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cheri Hagen



From BYLAWS - ARTICLE IV (The Club Year, Annual Meeting, Elections)

Section 4: Nominations parts a - e

The board shall name a chairperson for the committee whose duty shall be to call a committee meeting, which shall be held on or before November 1.

- a. The committee shall nominate one candidate for each office and position on the board and, after securing the consent of each person so nominated, shall immediately report their nominations to the Corresponding Secretary in writing.
- b. Upon receipt of the Nominating Committee's report the Corresponding Secretary shall at least two weeks before the December meeting, notify each member in writing of the candidates so nominated.
- c. Additional nominations may be made at the December meeting by any member in attendance, provided that the person so nominated does not decline when the candidate's name is proposed, and provided further that if the proposed candidate is not in attendance at this meeting, his proposer shall present to the Recording Secretary a written statement from the proposed candidate signifying willingness to be a candidate. No person may be a candidate for more than one position.
- d. Nominations cannot be made at the annual Meeting (first Tuesday of January) or in any manner other than as provided in this section.
- e. Nominees must be members in good standing.

Committee Nomination:

President:	Carolyn Tolson
Vice President:	Cheri Hagen
Recording Secretary:	Gretchen Keim
Corresponding Secretary:	Renee' Clayton
Treasurer:	Christine Asay

Board Seats:	Casey Hessinger
	Kathy Kochendorfer
	Judi Rideout
	Jon Zylstra

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majority of the type of dogs in the ring on a given day." My response was "Surely not!" Well, I believe it now! After observing an all breed judge from ringside, I watched two outstanding individuals "walk" because they looked different from the rest of the short neck, sickle hock, smaller than average dogs lacking side gait that toddled around the ring like fuzzy little caricatures of the breed.

This strange "look alike" perspective takes over in many breed rings and not just among judges. Asking a breeder what their standard said about head planes, the response was: "What are parallel planes?" We discussed the occipital bone, short and medium muzzles, balanced heads, etc. Reading a standard and applying it can be two different things.

Judges should have the ability to articulate why one dog wins over another. So is that why they make terminology common among standards - to make it easier for judges? If anyone can describe a bulldog and an afghan using the same language, please step forward. Removing the "point system" from the old standards has had a negative affect. In a final decision between two comparable individuals, one has an idea where to hang their hat regarding prioritizing.

It is a "Judas Kiss" to any breed when a judge puts up a dog simply because it looks like the majority in the ring. It encourages people to breed to "winners" rather than to a breed standard. In judge's education, they address soundness but type takes priority. Educators assume that new applicants understand structure and corresponding movement. Type without soundness is as detrimental to a breed as soundness without type. A bad front and bad rear working in sequence produces "balance". Do two wrongs make a right? The goal is "a

balance between type and soundness". A breed must be able to walk to the water bowl without falling over its own feet!

This brings us to the next question. Are not judges "protectors of the breed standards?" Judges education is NOT at fault. Perhaps the problem is what some judging applicants do NOT bring to the table! It is a privilege to pass judgment on a breed but one has the responsibility of understanding "Basic Dog 101". The AKC's required anatomy test neither assures someone's knowledge nor is it any guarantee a judge has the ability to analyze structure and movement.

Should we just BREED TO WIN or should we BREED TO THE STANDARD and EXPECT judges to judge to the standard?

Some breeder judges today send dogs with a handler giving little thought as to their quality or future effect on a breed. Shouldn't breeder judges be especially careful to send correct dogs for public observation? Breeders have a responsibility

to put out "the best of the best" rather than a dog that wins simply because it "looks like the rest." By so doing, they are sending false signals to both ringside and new judges.

When judges say, "This must be what the breeders want as the ring is flooded with this type" it is detrimental to any breed. It IS NOT about "what breeders want." Breeders and judges have a responsibility to breed and judge to standard.

Should handlers show dogs for clients when they KNOW the dog or bitch is not a good representative of the breed? Breeders and exhibitors have a responsibility to promote only dogs that DO represent their breed standard and to sell as pets those who do not! A good handler should make every effort to finish a dog but they too are responsible and should be more selective regarding client dogs. Handlers who read the standard and who

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## Upcoming Events

January 10 AKKC Fun Match—ACT, Anchorage

January 23 & 24 KKC and AKKC Conformation Shows, Egan Center, Anchorage

**CHRISTMAS PARTY PICS!**  
Thanks to Roger Hale for the Great pictures!



## COOK INLET KENNEL CLUB, INC.

PO Box 873432  
Wasilla AK 99687



*This is the official newsletter of Cook Inlet Kennel Club, Inc. The purpose of this newsletter is to inform and educate those interested in the sport of Purebred Dogs. Cook Inlet Kennel Club provides this information for educational purposes and assumes no liability for its use. Materials herein represent the opinion of the individual authors, and are not necessarily endorsed by the editor or Cook Inlet Kennel Club, Inc.*

have the courage to turn down an inferior dog are to be admired. Advertisement does not always mean a dog represents "breed excellence". Handlers do not always present "good dogs". Advertising carries some influence and if a judge selects winners on advertising alone, they do a disservice to the breed and it reflects on their ability as a judge.

"Priority judging" can be detrimental to breeds as Judges become caught up in selecting for individual virtues be it eye, ear set, feet, or coat color. That is why some specialty judges "put up pieces" rather than the whole package. Virtues are important, but a dog should "fill the eye". A single virtue cannot take precedence over a plethora of faults! Priority judging explains why many judges take so long to judge a class.

Dismayed exhibitors approach me with serious concerns regarding the direction of our sport. Time and effort is required to understand what makes a breed "breed specific", and what constitutes "breed excellence". There is no short cut. Everyone is entitled to his/her opinion. However, it should be a knowledgeable opinion. Personal preference only enters in when two dogs are equal according to the breed standard.

Another issue is "spot entering". Granted, today people enter under specific judges where they feel there is a chance of winning. However, why on a four-day weekend, do we see one point on Thursday, a major on Friday, one point on Saturday, and a major on Sunday? Should not one support the person who supports them by entering all four days? If there is a major, don't break it by not attending. Don't bump up a bitch or dog to BOB without first asking the other exhibitors their preference. Many people drive miles only to find someone failed to show up ringside or "bumped up" a new champion and broke the major. This co-operation is something we used to be able to count on. Today it is "iffy" at best. This is "sportsmanship"!

Watch dogs go around the ring. Some are structurally inefficient. Some shoulders do not open up, the dog reaches from the elbow. Ask yourself why one dog out-moves another. Go analyze short coated dogs. Take this knowledge to your own breed ring and "look beneath the coat". Understand top lines, body shape, breed specific movement and toy/moderate/ giant. Do some study and then some soul searching. Ringside observers and breed enthusiasts look on in dismay today, wondering where the functional dogs of the past have gone. Sadly, some faults are so prevalent today they are viewed as "virtues".

Requested to address this issue, I decided to take time to sit back and see the "big picture." The "big picture" is upon us, folks, and it is not pretty! My reason to become a judge was the challenge to select the best of the best according to a written standard. I love dogs! I

love SOUND dogs with BREED TYPE! Both virtues, believe it or not, can be present in the same animal! Through combined efforts and a willingness to call "a spade a spade", our breeds WILL survive. Breeding for the sake of winning is a downhill slide. This alone assures the future of our breeds. Turning things around will take dedicated breeders and judges, critical handler selection, and educated exhibitors. Our sport deserves nothing less than the best of our intentions.

ASK YOURSELF THESE QUESTIONS.

1. Why do breeder judges "put dogs with handlers when they know the animal does not represent breed excellence?"
2. Why do handlers accept such dogs knowing once they finish, they will be "petted out"?
3. Are you kennel blind and do you breed to standard?
4. Should breeders and newcomers read the standard prior to stud and bitch selection?
5. When will more mentors open up to newcomers?
6. And lastly, are "gas money" and "filler" dogs destroying our sport?

"Winning because of an exceptional breeding program takes the breed and breeders toward breed excellence. That should be the goal yesterday, and today."

Putting a breed back on track requires ETHICAL HANDLERS, DEDICATED BREEDERS, AN UNDERSTANDING OF BREED STANDARDS and KNOWLEDGEABLE JUDGES WITH THE COURAGE TO MAKE RESPONSIBLE SELECTIONS. Being a judge is not for the faint of heart. Sending the best dog to the next level and being a part of its journey to the pinnacle of success is a thrill of a lifetime.

There is but ONE standard. "Preferred breed type" is like a flavor of the month, very fleeting! **BREEDERS, JUDGES AND EXHIBITORS HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT THEIR BREED STANDARDS. CURRENT FADS AND PERSONAL OPINIONS ARE FLEETING AND DESTRUCTIVE.**

*Author bio, illustrations, photos:*  
[http://www.thedogplace.org/Breeder-Exhibitor/ShowDog/Preferred-Type\\_Gammill-0901.asp](http://www.thedogplace.org/Breeder-Exhibitor/ShowDog/Preferred-Type_Gammill-0901.asp)

More Christmas Party Pics!



# Cook Inlet Kennel Club Dues Statement

## **This is the Official Billing For Membership Dues and Key Renewal**

Yearly Individual Membership -----\$20.00  
Yearly Family or Couple membership-----\$25.00  
Yearly Junior Membership -----\$10.00

### **Building Key Fees**

Key Renewal                      \$100.00 per Year  
New Key                            \$100.00 per Year Plus, plus one time \$10.00 deposit

**NOTE: Key Fees are optional. If you do not want to renew your key, Please turn it into the Treasurer or any Club Officer**

Membership Dues & Key Fees are due **on or before JANUARY 1, 2010**. A MEMBERSHIP WILL BE CONSIDERED LAPSED & AUTOMATICALLY TERMINATED IF SUCH DUES REMAIN UNPAID AFTER JANUARY 31, 2010. Please complete the form below, & include it with your payment. Persons joining the club at the December 2009 meeting shall be exempt from paying dues for 2010. Mail your payment to the Cook Inlet Kennel Club, P.O. Box 873432, Wasilla, AK 99687, or submit to the treasurer personally at one of the next General Membership Meetings.

**Please indicate the amounts being paid and update your mailing address below:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**Type of Membership** Individual \_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Family \_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

BREED \_\_\_\_\_

Breed Referral Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Key Number for Renewal \_\_\_\_\_ Did you pay the \$10 deposit when you got your key? \_\_\_\_\_

New Key\_\_Please\_See\_Treasurer\_\_\_\_\_