

ANATOLIAN TIMES

2025

Volume 3





President's Message 2025 Vol III

Dearest Anatolian Family,

I hope this final volume of the Anatolian Times for 2025 finds you and your family well. Here in Montana, we have a lot of seasonal work going on, from hoof and medical maintenance to fence mending and firewood stacking. I just returned from our 2025 National Specialty Show in West Friendship, Maryland, where I was blessed to meet many of you in person! You can read all about that fun-filled weekend in the next volume of the Times.

Year in Review

As I wrap up my first year as your Club President, I am reminded of my initial focus points of a Board that works together, welcomes membership involvement, and grows the Club membership. I'm happy to report that the Board of Directors has welcomed multiple new committee members to participate in standing Club Committees. We are still looking to include more of our talented membership in our Committees and projects—that means you! The Club has welcomed 29 new members since last October, and we have one returning member pending! Growing our membership is a priority, and in the first year of this new Board of Directors, we added 2 Junior Members, 8 Associate Members, 9 Individual Members, 5 Family Members. That's 10 non-voting members and 19 voting members excited to join the ASDCA.

Renewals are Open!

In the printed version of this Anatolian Times, you'll find the ASDCA Membership Renewal Form as well as a Breeders List Application. You can also find these forms online through the Member portal on our ASDCA.club website or in the emails I will be sending you.

It is important to remember to submit your Membership Renewal Form and dues payment prior to the 1st of January, 2026 to retain your membership with the ASDCA per the by-laws.*

*If you are currently an Associate Member and wish to update your membership to either an Individual or Family Membership (these are full memberships with voting rights in our 2026 election), please utilize the Membership Application Form, as we will need to know your two sponsors and dogs' names!

Get Involved!

Here are a few ideas of how you can get more involved with the ASDCA:

1. Write an Article about your dog for the Anatolian Times! Our Editor is looking for stories, lessons learned, and updates from you about your Anatolian Shepherd Dog.
2. Participate in a Committee! We have openings in the IT Committee currently.
3. Volunteer at a Meet-the-Breeds type event, document and share your experience through the Times!
4. Submit your photos to be featured in the Anatolian Times and the Club website/documents!

Trouble deciding? Reach out to a BOD member for help finding an activity or committee that's right for you!

Thank you for being a member of the Anatolian Shepherd Dog Club of America, and be sure to watch your inbox for upcoming Club news!

Natalie Thurman
President
Anatolian Shepherd Dog Club of America



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Cover photo: CH Lucky Hit Divakiz Rondo Alla Turca, "Rondo." He was photographed looking over his flock. Rondo was bred by Erick Conard . He was owned by Leslie Ayers and John Gunner.



ANATOLIAN TIMES

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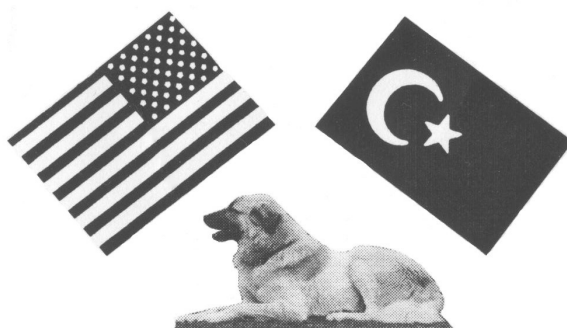
The Editor reserves the right to edit all copy. The ASDCA is NOT responsible for the validity of statements made by the advertiser. Opinions expressed herein are those of the authors and do not necessarily constitute endorsement by the ASDCA. Article contributions and ads are welcomed and encouraged, but carry no absolute guarantee of publication or endorsement of the ASDCA.

All article submissions and ads should be mailed in advance of the **January 1, May 1, and September 1 deadline.** Litter Box ad copy, and ads concerning current or upcoming litters, must include reference to the OFA ratings of the sire and dam. All ad copy shall be submitted either electronically using Microsoft Publisher, Microsoft Word or JPEG, or if by mail "Camera Ready" (typeset and photos screened by a printer).

When advertising litters or an upcoming breeding, sire and dam must be ASDCA or AKC Registered. If sire or dam are co-owned, all owners must be eligible for ASDCA membership and in good standing with the AKC. The OFA or Penn Hip rating for both sire and dam must be included in all advertisements.

Submission of pictures for the front cover is encouraged. The front cover picture is chosen to reflect the spirit of the Anatolian Shepherd Dog and the ASDCA.

Note: Once a picture is submitted to the Anatolian Times Editor, it shall become the property of the ASDCA. The only exception is copyrighted photographs.



REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Litter Registration Procedure: The breeder shall obtain a litter registration packet from the ASDCA Registrar or on www.asdca.club. The breeder fills out the litter record with the full name, color, sex, and owner's name address and phone number for each puppy to be registered. The breeder then forwards the litter registration packet with the proper fees to the ASDCA. The ASDCA has adopted a 90-day period for processing a litter registration. Incomplete information will cause a delay. The litter will not be registered until all required information (including required signatures of owners of the sire and dam) has been completed on the litter record form. Sire and dam must be ASDCA or AKC registered. Complete registration and fee schedule can be found on the ASDCA web site www.asdca.org under "ASDCA Registration Info and Fee Schedules."

MAIL COMPLETED FORMS TO: ASDCA Registrar, Barb Jakobi

AKC Registration: To register a litter with the American Kennel Club (AKC), contact the AKC at: American Kennel Club, 8051 Arco Corporate Drive, Suite 100, Raleigh, NC 27617-3390; or call: (919) 233-9767; or check the AKC web site at: <http://www.akc.org>

ASDCA Kennel Name Registration: The breeder shall forward the request for a kennel name to the ASDCA Secretary with the proper fee (see below). The Secretary shall then inform the breeder if the kennel name desired is available and acceptable. Accepted kennel names shall be published in the ANATOLIAN TIMES.

ASDCA FEE SCHEDULE

All fees listed are in U.S. dollars

Litter Registration: Fee includes one registration certificate per pup.

For Registration of a Litter - \$10.00 per pup for members and \$20.00 per pup for non-members

Individual Dog Registration: \$20.00 for members and \$25.00 for non-members

Ownership Transfer: \$10.00 (must send original certificate to ASDCA Registrar)

Duplicate (Replacement) Registration Certificate: \$10.00 **Certified Pedigree:** \$25.00

Kennel Name Registration: \$20.00

Annual Subscription to ANATOLIAN TIMES: \$45.00 USA

Litter Box Listing in the ANATOLIAN TIMES: Free to members (non-members \$30.00)

ASDCA Membership Dues: \$40.00 (one member) for Regular Membership; \$30 (one member) for Associate Membership; \$50.00 Family Membership (two individuals who reside in the same household). \$20.00 for Junior Membership (10-17 years of age). Annual membership includes one digital subscription to the ANATOLIAN TIMES. Add \$45.00 for mailed subscription. Add \$20.00 for membership overseas including Mexico.

Membership Application Fee: \$5.00 per new membership application (this is a non-refundable fee).

Code of Ethics Breeder's Rate New Owner Membership Dues: \$10.00 per new membership applicant. Available to new puppy owners from litters produced by ASDCA Code of Ethics Breeder. This is a first-year only discount.

Breeder's List: \$50.00 per year. This fee includes listing published by the ASDCA and provided to all inquiries that are received and the ASDCA Web Site – www.asdca.club. Only REGULAR MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING can be listed on the Breeder's List. All breeder's listed on the Breeder's List must sign that they have read the ASDCA Code of Ethics and will abide by them.

ANATOLIAN TIMES COPIES: A limited number of extra copies of the Anatolian Times are available for purchase through the Club Secretary. Contact the Club Secretary for current pricing schedule.

INSUFFICIENT FUND CHECKS: All checks returned to the ASDCA Treasurer due to insufficient funds will be subject to a \$40.00 ASDCA fee to cover the significant costs the ASDCA is charged by financial institutions.

ONLINE TRANSACTION CONVENIENCE FEE: All items offered for purchase on the [ASDCA.club](http://www.asdca.club) website includes an additional \$5.00 online transaction convenience fee. This helps cover credit card transaction fees and other related expenses to operating the website.

ANATOLIAN TIMES Advertising Rates - all ads are full page

Prices listed are for ASDCA club members. Contact the editor for non-member and commercial pricing.

Back Cover (Color or Black & White)	\$125.00
Inside Front and Inside Back Cover (Color or Black & White)	\$100.00
All other Color Pages	\$ 75.00
All other Black & White Pages	\$ 50.00

If dogs listed in advertisements are co-owned, all owners must be eligible for ASDCA membership and in good standing with the AKC. To advertise, non-members must be eligible for ASDCA membership and in good standing with the AKC. All ads must be accompanied by full payment (made out to the ASDCA) and sent to the Editor.



ANATOLIAN SHEPHERD DOG CLUB OF AMERICA, INC.

AKC Recognized Parent Club — Founded 1970

Web Site: <http://www.asdca.club>



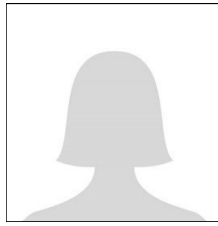
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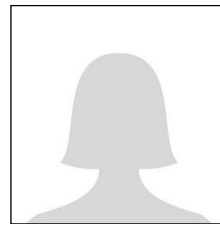
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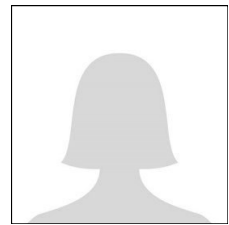
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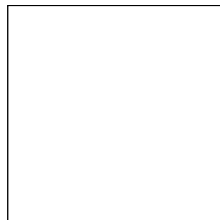
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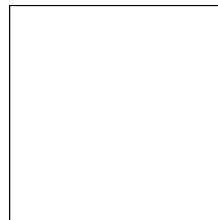


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WORKING DOGS

Article Submitted by:
Douglas Young on behalf of the Working
Dog Committee

FOR LOVE OF LIVESTOCK



A Step-By-Step Guide

Training Livestock Guardian
Dogs to Chickens

Training Livestock Guardian Dogs to Chickens: A Step-by-Step Guide



I first became interested in livestock guardian dogs because I was worried about my chickens. I love my chickens. I want them to live the best lives possible, which to me means free ranging. I want them to have the freedom to do what they want to do and to go where they want to go. But how could I still keep them safe? For me, livestock guardian dogs (LGDs) were the perfect answer.

Can livestock guardian dogs protect chickens and other poultry? Yes, most livestock guardian dogs from working lines can protect chickens and other poultry. However, these dogs will need additional training to achieve this goal. In this article, I cover why livestock guardian dogs need additional training to guard chickens, how to do this training, and the problems you might encounter.

Livestock Guardian Dogs and Chickens: A Not So Natural Match

Below is a table that shows you the most common LGD breeds and which types of livestock they historically protected.

Breed	Cat- tle	Goats	Sheep	Other
Akbash		X	X	
Anatolian Shepherd		X	X	
Armenian Gampr	X	X	X	
Carpathian Shepherd			X	
Caucasian Ovchar- ka		X	X	
Central Asian Shepherd		X	X	Camels
Estrela Mountain Dog		X	X	
Great Pyrenees			X	
Kangal		X	X	
Karakachan			X	
Komondor			X	
Kuvasz			X	
Maremma Sheep- dog		X	X	
Polish Tatra Sheep- dog			X	
Pyrenean Mastiff			X	
Sarplaninac			X	
Slovensky Cuvac	X	X	X	Other live- stock, includ- ing poultry
Spanish Mastiff	X		X	
Tibetan Mastiff	Yaks	X	X	Horses
Tornjak			X	



WORKING DOGS (CONT'D)

Notice any particular type of livestock that's missing? Could it be the most common livestock animal in the United States today? That's right, the chicken. Okay, so chickens aren't missing from the chart completely. The Slovensky Cuvac breed, rare in the United States, has been traditionally used as an all-around guardian dog, including as a guardian of poultry. But the other breeds... not so much.

Does this matter? Yes, it definitely does. LGDs have been bred to protect mammals, and one of the main reasons they do this job so well is because they have bonded with the mammals. From a behavioral stance, chickens are *very different* from mammals in a lot of ways.

Chickens can and do bond with individuals of different species. They too are social creatures. I have bonded closely with many of my chickens myself. However, they display different bonding behaviors than mammals do, and your dogs probably aren't going to understand them. Most chicken raisers don't even understand them.

Chickens largely bond through the activities they do together, including dust bathing, scratching and pecking at the ground side-by-side, perching together, talking to each other, etc. All of these behaviors are foreign to your livestock guardian dogs.

Does this mean it's impossible for your LGDs to bond with your chickens? No, definitely not, but it does mean that most LGDs won't bond with them the same way they bond with other animals. Often, your best bet at protection is to train your dogs to ignore your chickens. Your dogs, then, will protect your chickens as they protect their territory. They will want to keep predators out and away from their territory, including away from the farm chickens.

You may find that your LGDs actually do bond with your chickens and form relationships with them. Count yourself lucky and take some pictures of their adorable interactions. Otherwise, training your dogs to ignore your chickens will keep your birds just as safe.

Can All Livestock Guardian Dogs Be Trained to Chickens?

I'm never comfortable making all or none statements as there can always be exceptions, but generally, speaking, yes, if these conditions are met:

- 1) LGDs come from a working line – if your LGDs don't come from a good working line, you never know what you're getting. Additionally, many working line LGD breeders expose their puppies to poultry regularly before they sell them. Non-working line LGDs may be harder to train to chickens, but many will still be trainable. See the adorable video below of a young Spanish Mastiff puppy from a working line getting to know a rooster through the fence.
- 2) You have the knowledge, time, and patience to train your LGDs – this is by far the most important condition for your

dogs' success. I don't say this to be harsh, but more often than not, your dogs' training failures are actually your training failures. For more on specifics about how to train LGDs, see my LGD Ultimate Training Guide and my Step-by-Step LGD Training Manual.

How Long Does It Take to Train Livestock Guardian Dogs to Chickens?

Assuming you are patient, consistent, and using positive training methods, training your LGDs to chickens will likely take weeks or months. Some of you may be lucky and end up with natural guardians that need little to no training, but don't count on it.

When Should You Start Training Your Livestock Guardian Puppies to Chickens?

You can start introducing your puppies to chickens as soon as they are comfortable enough to walk around the farm with you.

How to Train Livestock Guardian Dogs to Chickens Step-by-Step

You absolutely will want to train your livestock guardian dogs to chickens using only positive methods. These methods are the most effective, and ensure happy, healthy dogs with strong bonds to you.

Step 1 – Control the Training Environment

Just like with obedience training, there are a number of environmental things you'll want to control when training your LGDs to chickens. Controlling these things will greatly increase your dogs' chances of success and will speed up your training process (not to mention, help to preserve your sanity). These things are:

- 1) **Make sure your dogs have had exercise first** – you don't want to introduce untrained dogs who are excited and energetic to chickens. You want your dogs to be calm and in a state of mind in which they are open to training.
- 2) **Make sure you are introducing your dogs to chickens in a calm area during a calm time** – basically, you don't want your dogs to have any stimulating distractions or anything that may get them excited or otherwise worked up.
- 3) **Make training pleasurable** – you want your dogs to have positive associations with training and with being around chickens.
- 4) **Be prepared to reward your dogs** – if you're using treats or tug toys, make sure to have them on hand.

Step 2 – Learn How to Obedience Train Your LGDs with Positive Methods

Learn how to obedience train your dogs. I don't mean that they have to be well trained before you introduce them to chickens, definitely not. What I mean is that you need to learn how to do obedience training sessions so that you can practice these sessions around your chickens. Obedience

WORKING DOGS (CONT'D)

training sessions are the best way to distract your dogs from chickens. Obedience training and livestock training go hand in hand – you can work on both at the same time.



Step 3 – Introduce Your LGDs to Your Chickens Slowly

Training sessions with chickens should initially be very short, no more than 10-15 minutes, perhaps even just 5 minutes. Train at least once a day. Multiple training sessions per day will result in faster training as long as your dogs are in the mood for training.

The easiest way to train your dogs to your chickens is to prevent something bad from happening. You want to start by preventing them from chasing, barking, or attempting to play with the chickens, for example. In order to do this, you will need to distract your dogs from the chickens and then reward them for calm behavior. Reward them for ignoring the chickens.

If your chickens are confined, first introduce your dogs to your chickens through the fence. Keep your dogs on leashes. If your dogs get excited when they see the chickens, you will

need to move them as far away from the chickens as you need to for them to be calm. Do a training session where they are calm (and of course reward the training). The training session can include any commands you are working on (ex. Sit, stay, down, look at me, etc.).

Then move the dogs slightly closer to the chickens and do another training session. Move them closer and repeat. As soon as they start to look at the chickens, do a training session immediately to distract them. You are trying to prevent them from reacting to the chickens. Back away from the chickens a little if you need to do so to keep your dogs calm.

If your dogs get excited by the chickens and react with unwanted behavior, back away again until you are far enough away you can distract them with a training session. You will eventually be able to get closer and closer to the chickens as time goes on.

Always end on a positive note. If your dogs react to the chickens in a way that is not acceptable, move them away until you can distract them with a training session and end with that session.

Eventually you will be able to enter the chicken run with your dogs on leash. Continue practicing this way in the run with training sessions and rewarding calm behavior.

If your chickens are not confined (truly free range), then don't approach them initially as you would do if they were behind a fence. Start your training sessions with your dogs far away. Get a little closer, do a training session. Get a little closer, do a training session. Get a little closer... you get the picture. When you're too close (i.e., your dogs can no longer be distracted from the chickens and are reacting to them with unwanted behavior), back off as described above.



WORKING DOGS (CONT'D)

Do not ever scold or punish your dogs in any way. No shaming and no time outs. Your dogs are learning something new, and like humans, they have to learn at their own speeds. It's neither kind nor fair to punish them for not learning as quickly as you want them to. Imagine if you were trying to learn something new and you were punished because you couldn't do it fast enough. The speed at which your dogs are learning is not up to them. It takes as long as it takes.

If your dogs react to the chickens with unwanted behavior, then you have reached their limit for that moment in time. Either that vicinity to the chickens is their boundary and they can't control themselves beyond it, or they are too tired for further training. Either way, know that with consistent training, that boundary will tighten and disappear altogether and a tired dog will no longer be a reactive dog. Patience and consistency should be your mantra.

Step 4: Spend Time with Your LGDs Around the Chickens

When your dog gets to the point that they are no longer reacting to the chickens on leash, you can spend time sitting with your LGDs with the chickens. If your dogs are behaving calmly, reward them. This teaches them that this is the behavior they should have around the chickens. You want them to associate the chickens with calmness.

When your dogs are ready, replace their short leashes with long leads so that they can move more freely around the chickens, but you can still have some control over their movement if needed.

If you see your dog staring at a chicken or see his body tensing up like he may bark or chase a chicken, prevent the behavior by distracting him with a training session. Sometimes a "leave it" or a "look at me" command is enough to break his fixation. If he follows the command, reward him. Continue as needed.

When your dogs are first learning, you should reward them a lot for their calm behavior. As they get more used to the chickens, you won't need to keep rewarding them as much. But when in doubt, reward, reward, reward.

If you are unable to prevent your dogs from reacting, move them far enough away from the chickens that you can distract them with a training session. Either try to approach the chickens again with the techniques in Step 3, or call it a day.

You also can give your dog a bone or something fun to chew on during these times with the chickens. This also helps to teach them that being calm around chickens is a good thing. They get to just lay there with their delicious bones.

After you have had many sessions sitting with your dogs and chickens during which your dogs have not reacted at all, you can let go of their leads completely. Again, use a long lead here so that if a dog does go after a chicken, it's easy for you to jump on the lead and stop him. Also make

sure your dogs are wearing harnesses and not collars. You don't want to jump on a lead attached only to a collar as this will cause your dog pain.

Ultimately, you will be able to remove the leads altogether, but be sure you feel very confident that your dogs are not going to attack the chickens and that they will listen to your commands.

Remember, it may take weeks or months to get to this place in your training. Don't get discouraged. This is normal.

Step 5: Leave Your Dogs Alone with the Chickens

This is the very last step, leaving your dog alone with your chickens. You will first want to stay in the vicinity with your eyes on your dogs at all times so that you can quickly intervene if necessary.

Once your dog becomes a pro at behaving calmly while you are no longer with them but still in the vicinity, spend some time out of sight of your dogs. You want to still be able to see them while they can't see you. Find a spot where you can see them through a window, or peak around the side of a building or bushes. You need to make sure that they are staying calm with your poultry even when they think you are nowhere around.

You will know when your dogs can be trusted alone with your chickens. If you still have doubts or feel worried, it's too soon. Continue with training.

Problems When Training Livestock Guardian Dogs to Chickens

Aggressive Chickens and LGDs

Don't let chickens be aggressive to your dogs. The only time it is okay for a chicken to be aggressive is in self-defense or as a warning. If your dog approaches a hen in an egg box, for example, and she pecks him, this is totally acceptable behavior. She is setting a boundary for her personal space. The same is true for a hen who doesn't want a dog approaching her chicks.

If hens or roosters attack your puppies without provocation, don't allow this. Step in. If you have feisty roosters, don't allow them to get close. This is not 'pecking order' stuff (which is largely a myth) – this is bullying. It's frightening for the puppies and they will associate bad feelings with chickens. You never want your dogs to be afraid of their charges or to view them as adversaries.

When Your LGD Hurts a Chicken

One of the worst myths about livestock guardian dogs out there is that if they kill or injure a chicken, they are "ruined" as poultry guardians. Not true, not true, not true!

If your dog kills or hurts a chicken, you didn't properly train him. This is on you, not your dog. But you can fix it. Because many people don't know how to properly train their LGDs to chickens, this scenario is unfortunately very common. But if people take the time to learn how to train their dogs, their dogs can still turn out to be excellent guardians. One woman commented in an LGD Facebook group that her dog killed 15 chickens before he was properly trained, and now he's a perfect guardian. She also said she was the third

WORKING DOGS (CONT'D)

home for her second LGD, a notorious chicken killer. This dog, too, is now completely reformed and makes an excellent guardian. She posted an adorable picture of one her dogs with his 'boyfriend,' a duck. This dog had killed ducks before training and now he's bonded to them.

You can do this. Your dogs aren't "ruined." They just need more help and a little understanding. Start from the beginning with training and don't give up.

Introducing New Chickens or Other Poultry

You will have to train your dogs to any new poultry you bring in. Don't forget this step. It may be obvious to you that your dogs should protect the new poultry, same as he does the old, but it's not obvious to your dogs.

My neighbors' Great Pyrenees, Shaggy, was an excellent guardian of chickens and turkeys. He protected their flocks and mine also. My neighbors then added some ducks to their flock. They didn't bother to train Shaggy to them because they assumed he'd be fine: he wasn't a poultry killer. Well, he killed them all immediately. You need to teach your dog that new animals are their charges too.

Livestock Guardian Dogs and Chicks

Many people have found that their livestock guardian dogs who dutifully protect their chickens may kill chicks. Chicks look very different from chickens and your LGDs may view them as intruders. You need to train your dogs to these chicks. Additionally, your LGDs may accidentally kill chicks because they are curious about them. I've seen more than one anecdote where people's dogs simply put a paw on a chick to get a better look, which then results in serious injury to or death of the chicks. You will need to quell your dogs' curiosities about chicks. Introduce your dogs to the chicks and then train them to ignore them.

Livestock Guardian Dogs and Poultry Predators

As you navigate through the possibly frustrating realm of training your LGDs to chickens, just remember that this effort is totally worth it. Most people who have LGDs guarding poultry don't have a single loss. I hear this over and over again.

Remember my neighbors' Great Pyrenees, Shaggy, the duck killer? Well, before these neighbors had Shaggy, they decided to free range their flock. They quickly lost every single one of their chickens to predators. Every. Single. One.

After they brought Shaggy home and started a new flock, they went an entire year without losing a chicken. Then they lost one (and only one) chicken to a coyote. They said the next morning, Shaggy ran up to them with a coyote leg in his mouth. When they went down to the coop, they said it looked like a coyote had exploded. These dogs do what it takes to protect your flocks. Though the training may be time consuming and frustrating at times, your efforts will pay off many times over, and, most importantly, your chickens will thank you.

The next issue...

All about the 2025 NS.
Please get your
submissions in asap.

Tell us about your trip,
send us your photos,
tell us why you came
and what you saw.

*Thanks for
Sharing!*



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KENNEL CLUB

AKC® Code of Sportsmanship and Civility

Preface: The tradition of competitive purebred dog events predates 1884—the year the American Kennel Club (AKC®) was founded. Those involved in these sports share core values, including a strong commitment to sportsmanship and a welcoming, respectful culture that embraces the diverse community united by a love of dogs.

These values are evident across all aspects of the sport: conformation, performance, companion, and family dog activities. Many believe that the enduring principles of sportsmanship and civility are key reasons the sport has thrived for over 140 years. Recognizing that periodically reaffirming our shared values strengthens our community, the revised code will be shared widely to highlight the foundational values and principles that define the sport.

- Sportspeople always place the welfare of their dog above all else.
- Sportspeople prioritize the long-term health and preservation of their breed, making decisions that reflect a deep commitment to responsible breeding and ownership.
- Sportspeople respect the history, traditions and integrity of the sport of purebred dogs.
- Sportspeople conduct themselves in a manner that reflects positively on the sport, the American Kennel Club, and themselves.
- Sportspeople appreciate, encourage and support all who associate with and participate in the sports by fostering an environment where respect, equity, inclusion, and courtesy are foundational.
- Sportspeople understand, uphold and abide by all AKC bylaws, rules, regulations and policies.
- Sportspeople contribute to a positive atmosphere at events by avoiding negative gossip, disparagement, or unsportsmanlike behavior.
- Sportspeople extend their values of civility, fairness, and respect to all digital and social media platforms.
- Sportspeople actively support the education and mentorship of newcomers, helping them learn the rules, values, and traditions of the sport in a respectful way.
- Sportspeople recognize that they are role models in the sport, and strive to lead by example through humility, kindness, and ethical conduct.
- Sportspeople treat fellow exhibitors, judges, officials, volunteers, spectators, and AKC staff with dignity and respect, regardless of experience, background, or differences in opinion.
- Sportspeople are committed to fair play, honesty, courtesy, and competition, approaching both winning and losing with grace.
- Sportspeople understand that strong competition and civility can—and should—coexist. They appreciate the quality of their competitors, and the effort put forth by others.
- Sportspeople uphold their responsibilities to the sport of purebred dogs and refuse to let personal gain or self-interest influence their decisions or behavior.
- The sportsperson judges only on the merits of the dogs and considers no other factors.
- The sportsperson judge or exhibitor accepts constructive criticism.
- The sportsperson exhibitor declines to enter or exhibit under a judge where it might reasonably appear that the judge's placements could be based on something other than the merits of the dogs.
- The sportsperson exhibitor refuses to compromise the impartiality of a judge.
- Sportspeople are willing to share honest and open appraisals of both the strengths and weaknesses of their breeding stock.
- Sportspeople decline to exploit any positions of authority or recognition for personal advantage.
- Sportspeople appreciate those that have gone before them and realize they are responsible for maintaining and enhancing the sport for future generations.



Everything We Do,
We Do for Dogs.

7/2025



WORKING DOGS: WHAT THEY DO BEST



Ayisi
Guardian of the geese
Owned by: John and Lesley Brabyn



Kade
Guarding the ewes and new lambs
Owned by: Kathy Gerlach



Raina
She specially loves the sheep
Owned by: Osama Thakeb



Karma
Guarding the Silver laced Wyandotte hens.
Owned by: Jake & Jennifer Lile



Keskin
Even old dogs do their LGD jobs well
Owned by : Chyrl Walker



Essiz
Getting familiar with his new friends
Owned by: Mark Griffith and Lyn Kenny

WORKING DOGS: WHAT THEY DO BEST (CONT'D)



Anna
Just supervising "chicken training"
Owned by Leslie Roden



Zeena
Keeping watch on the goats and alpaca
Owned by Carol White and Osama Thaken



Dustie
Our newest Anatolians first year with lambs
Owned by Marlena Balvin



Ceren
Getting to cool her paws in the trough
Owned by Doug Young



Hercules
What's up? Shall we go check it out?
Owned by Natalie Thurman



Ziva
Getting drinks from the water troughs are the best!
Owned by Diana Martinez

WORKING DOGS (CONT'D): HOW'S YOUR FALL GOING?



Photos submitted to the Anatolian Times by Diana Martinez, Chairman of the Working dog committee. If you want to submit working photos email: vp@asdca.club.

AKC GAZETTE ARTICLE

Anatolian Shepherd Dog October 2025
Submitted by: Jo Lynne York

Things that go bump in the night

According to online sources, dogs and hunter-gatherer people started associating with one another roughly 15,000 years ago. This business arrangement, that likely began rather inauspiciously with less fearful wolves looking for food, would evolve into one of the most life altering, successful, long term, interspecies relationships ever known.

Farming began roughly 11,000 years ago, when people became more settled and started giving up a peripatetic lifestyle. Sheep were domesticated roughly 11,000 to 9,000 BCE, and goats were domesticated roughly 8,000 BCE. These two species are important for several reasons – they are small hoofstock (much smaller and more manageable than cattle, and also less particular in what they consume), and they provide meat, milk, hides, and fiber for the manufacture of garments and other textiles. Most importantly for us though, is that they are the animals that the landrace dogs kept by humans in Asia Minor were created to guard.

This very rough timeline of the rise of agriculture, and the keeping of animals for food and fiber, took place about 4,000 years after humans and dogs entered into their mutually beneficial association. No one will ever know what fateful event precipitated the agreement, but it was likely something as simple as the realization that the wolves raiding the garbage middens got rid of things that attracted pests and predators to their campsites. Along the way someone discovered that these forerunners of the domestic dog could assist in hunting, and could help with alerting hunter-gatherers to the presence of game, predators, and other humans. They likely also did duty as beasts of burden, they may have kept people warm on cold nights, and they probably ended up in the stewpot during hard times, as much as that notion may upset the American mind.

The other thing that early keepers of small hoofstock likely realized was that their canine partners were uniquely situated to help them keep their sheep and goats safe from large, toothy predators that wanted to take advantage of a good meal with little cost to themselves. In a time that predated firearms, when the ability to strike at a threat was limited to how far

you could throw a spear or shoot an arrow, having a dog by your side that had a particular way of behaving that calmed fractious stock, and was highly defensive in the presence of physical threats to you and your animals, was a huge technological leap forward.

This, or something similar, is the likely origin story of the landrace dogs that became our Anatolians. It is so integral to the breed that we, as stewards, must commit to keeping these working traits at the absolute center of every aspect of the breed – when choosing breeding animals, when choosing the dogs that we present to judges, and judges, we ask you to keep these traits at the forefront of your mind every single time you point and award the dogs we bring to you. It is a sad truth that what wins, and often not what most closely resembles the standard, is what gets bred. We, as breeders, must make certain that we include proven working lines in every generation of dogs we breed. Equally as importantly, we, as exhibitors, must take working dogs to judges, even knowing that working dogs often do not make the best show dogs. And judges, we ask that you help us in this endeavor by rewarding correct, calm temperament in the ring.

I'm waked up by the dogs outside barking, and I look at the clock, briefly wondering if my neighbors are bothered by the noise. It's after 11pm and the bin men just picked up the trash at the end of the road, which is why my dogs are sounding off. I doze off and wake up again some time later. In the distance I hear coyotes singing – they are close to catching their quarry, and in typical coyote fashion, they feel we all need to know about it. I drift back to sleep. The last conscious thought I have is that I feel safe, that my sheep are safe. And this, I think to myself as I change to a more comfortable position in my somewhat elusive pursuit of sleep, is why we have dogs, why I have Anatolians, so that the things that go bump in the night do not concern us overmuch.

Jo Lynne York
Eboracumk9@yahoo.com
<https://asdca.club>



MEMBERS SHARE

THE HEART DOG

written 5/23/2010 by Sandie King

Every dog person has that special dog in their lives that touches them in a special way ... the dog that holds a piece of their heart. When that dog is no longer with them, it leaves a big gap in their lives and it is usually very difficult to find another dog to fill their life in the same way.

I think Anatolian people (and LGD people in general) are different ... and, while we often find that each Anatolian takes a piece of our heart with them when they leave us ... down the line there can be another Anatolian (or two) that helps to fill in the gaps.

There is something so undeniably noble about the Anatolian with their calm demeanor and their nurturing hearts. When they are around, you don't just feel that you and your animals are safe, you feel a calmness that permeates the air around you and makes everything a little better.

My first Anatolian heart dog, Murgatroid (yep, that was his name), came to live with me in 1987 and was total culture shock for me. The intelligence, the independence, the sense that he always thought he was smarter than I was, all were new to me as far as having a dog went. As I learned how he "worked" and what he expected of me, I slowly realized that this dog was not just my best friend, but also my partner. He was very tolerant of my eccentric human foibles, but he let me know that it was HIS job to protect me and keep me safe. And, he did it without making a big deal of it.

My second heart dog, Tilki Bayan (turkish for "Foxy Lady"), was Queen of the House from the day she stepped off the plane from Oregon in 1993. She partnered up with Murg to set up a 24/7 protection detail over me and my property and, once again, it was all done very unobtrusively. Between exhibiting at the various rare breed shows we went to until she retired in 1998, and being a great ambassador for our breed, Tilki stayed very busy letting all the neighborhood critters know that HER property (which included me, four goats and a various number of feral cats) was off limits to them all.

When Murg left us in 1997, it was heartbreaking to watch Tilki lay at the front gate watching and wondering why he was no longer there to help her with her duties. Eventually she decided that it was up to her to carry on by herself.

In 1998, Tilki had a litter of pups that produced a male that I knew was meant for me from the time he opened his eyes. Safa (turkish for "delight") came into my life and right away I could feel the hole in my heart start to fill up again. He fulfilled the promise of his name throughout his life .. at nearly 12 years old, he still sleeps in front of the door in my bedroom every night just in case a "bad guy" might try to get to me.

In 2001, one of Tilki's daughters (Ruya) had a litter of pups that produced a little girl that took my breath away and I knew she needed to come and join my "group". Daniska (turkish for "the best") was my "personality" puppy and was very mischievous. She loved to play tricks on her grandma Tilki and uncle Safa .. and would go to great lengths to try to get them to play with her. When she was old enough, I started taking her to dog shows, neighborhood festivals, and area arts and crafts shows. At 9 years old, she still revels in being the center of attention wherever she goes and always "plays to the crowd".

My next two heart dogs showed up at the same time in 2005 when Ruya had a litter that produced Kolay (aka "Daisy Mae") and Mustafa (aka "Moose"), two dogs that could not be more different if it had been planned that way. Daisy is quiet and very feminine, and is one of the easiest dogs ("Kolay" is turkish for "easy") I have ever lived with. Moose (co-owned with Linda Curran of Turkey Anatolians) is a 24/7 working livestock guardian who takes his job very seriously and occasionally moonlights at dog shows. Off his property, he is gregarious and very charismatic, and charms just about everyone he meets (including many of the judges he has shown under).

In 2006 Tilki left me, and while it felt as if at least half my heart was gone, my four remaining "heart" dogs work daily to fill it back in. And, while I have wonderful memories of all the many Anatolians that have passed through my life before and after these few "special" dogs, it is very comforting to know that I did not have to settle for just one "heart dog".



IN MEMORIAM



IABCA/ICKC Ch, UKC SN MI Sakarya's Royal
Celebration SWN SHDN CA CGC TT
(1/31/12 - 2/25/25)
Owned and loved by Martha Davis

Prince was the first Anatolian to title in Nose Work and Coursing. He earned the the UKC Nose Work prefixes (Superior Nose Work and Master Interiors), AKC suffixes (Novice Scent Work and Handler Discrimination, Coursing Ability, Canine Good Citizen Certificate), and Temperament Test. Although not intended to be a working dog, he successfully guarded free range chickens, barn cats and bottle calves, with no predator losses. Thanks to breeders Marilyn and Quinn Harned for trusting me with this special boy. He is truly missed.

Gone But Never Forgotten

LET US REMEMBER

IN MEMORIUM
10/1/12 - 9/26/25
Aegean's Kriti Major Deme

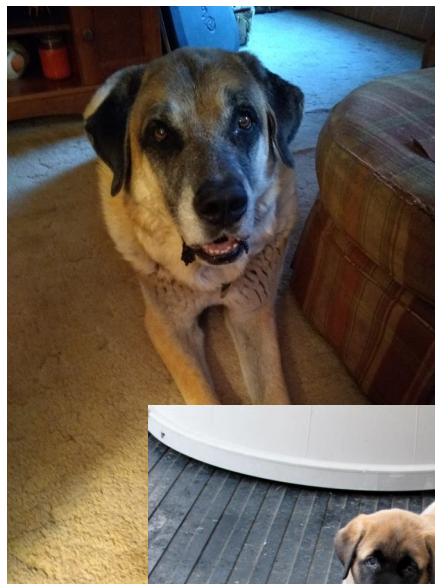
Death has arrived once again at our door. This time to take our beloved Major. He fought hard to stay with us. Just 5 days shy of his 13th birthday.

If I could read his mind, I'm sure he would say that he regrets that he can no longer protect us. He would say how upset he is to see his doggy mom so sad.

He would say that no dog ever got more love and care. He will miss his doggy dad who treated him like a big puppy. His "to go" person for treats.

Major was such a paradox. Took his guarding very seriously one moment and then becoming a clown inside with his "zoomies". Waiting in the kitchen for us to finish dinner cause he knew he would get a treat. If he didn't see fork movement there was a gentle woof reminding us he still is waiting patiently in his bed for a treat!

Rest easy my beautiful boy till we meet again at Rainbow Bridge.



NEW AKC TITLES

**New Titles with AKC through July 2025 as listed
in the AKC Titles Report through
September 2025.**

GCH HIGHER ACHIEVEMENT

GCHB CH Timaru Elektra (B) 1/9/2022
Owner(s): Rosemary Robles & Ms. Lesley A Brabyn
Breeder(s): John Brabyn & Ms. Lesley A Brabyn
Sire: GCHB CH Tamoor's Kaplan Gozleri
Dam: GCHG CH Timaru Tallulah

GCH CH Birinci's Ratatouille Piece De Resistance
(D) 2/6/2022
Owner(s): Nancy Stasyshyn
Breeder(s): Catherine A Emanuel &
Elizabeth Emanuel & Louise Emanuel
Sire: GCH CH O'Kurt The Legend Of Kangal
Dam: Birinci's Yankee Doodle Of Old Glory

GCH CH Karaboudjan's Janissary Yatagan (D)
6/4/2017
Owner(s): Lisa Bigelbach & Patrick Bigelbach &
Amber Bigelbach
Breeder(s): Janet Dotson
Sire: CH Carpe Diem's Phoenix At Sakarya
Dam: GCH CH Karaboudjan's Moonfire Magick

GCH CH Ak Moose Crossing's Yesil Sular FDC
CGCA CGCU (B) 10/19/2022
Owner(s): Michelle Stewart & Russell Bybee
Breeder(s): Michelle Stewart & Russell Bybee
Sire: GCH CH Skyview's Alaska Achelous Nehir
RN FDC CGCA
Dam: CH Skyview's Alaska Toklat Rio RN FDC
CGCA

CHAMPION

CH Chevaliers Du Roland's Good Vibrations (D)
12/11/2022
Owner(s): Dr. D Michael Bitz
Breeder(s): Janis L Rosenthal Esq.
Sire: Chevaliers Du Roland's Snickers Bar
Dam: GCHS CH Chevaliers Du Roland's Strudel

CH Karaboudjan's Chakram Xena Warrior Princess
(B) 6/4/2017
Owner(s): Janet Dotson
Breeder(s): Janet Dotson
Sire: CH Carpe Diem's Phoenix At Sakarya
Dam: GCH CH Karaboudjan's Moonfire Magick

CH Wanyama's Starry Night Sonata (B) 2/4/2019
Owner(s): Sami Mann & Heather Everett
Breeder(s): Sami Mann
Sire: Hmf Haluk Alevli Of Rising Phoenix
Dam: Gtec's Rockin Socks

CH Montizard's Swan Song FDC CGCA CGCU
(B) 11/29/2021
Owner(s): Douglas H Young & Julie Young
Breeder(s): Douglas H Young
Sire: CH Tamoor's Night Prowler CGC
Dam: Rf Ceren

CH Birinci's Alex Danvers Kicks... (B) 2/7/2021
Owner(s): Catherine A Emanuel & Edward Collins
Breeder(s): Louise Emanuel & Jeff Hahn
Sire: GCH CH Birinci's Hint Of Hoja
Dam: CH Canton's Illuminati Of Birinci

CH Skyview's Blue Skies (B) 10/25/2023
Owner(s): Catherine O'Brien
Breeder(s): Catherine O'Brien
Sire: Royal Winston Of Skyview
Dam: CH Skyview's Ella

CH Chevaliers Du Roland's Surfer Girl
(B) 12/11/2022
Owner(s): Dr. D Michael Bitz
Breeder(s): Janis L Rosenthal Esq.
Sire: Chevaliers Du Roland's Snickers Bar
Dam: GCHS CH Chevaliers Du Roland's Strudel

CANINE GOOD CITIZEN

Full Circle's Caol Ila THDN CGC (B) 12/21/2015
Owner(s): Mrs. Regan Leston & Mr. Thomas Leston
Breeder(s): Nancy Vargas & Deborah Grunnah
Sire: CH Full Circle's Gideon
Dam: GCHS CH Full Circle's Treasure Island

CONGRATULATIONS!



NEW AKC TITLES (CONT'D)

New Titles with AKC through July 2025 as listed
in the AKC Titles Report through
September 2025.

Total of 21

CANINE GOOD CITIZEN URBAN

CH Ak Moose Crossing's Yesil Sular FDC CGCA
CGCU (B) 10/19/2022
Owner(s): Michelle Stewart & Russell Bybee
Breeder(s): Michelle Stewart & Russell Bybee
Sire: GCH CH Skyview's Alaska Achelous Nehir
RN FDC CGCA
Dam: CH Skyview's Alaska Toklat Rio RN FDC

FARM DOG

Edgewind Sir Winston Del Stack RN FDC CGC
(D) 11/27/2015
Owner(s): Randy L Stackhouse & Terry Stackhouse
Breeder(s): Monique Westover
Sire: Rogue
Dam: Diamond Acres Tess II

RALLY ADVANCED

Skyview's Alaska Willow Ripa RA FDC CGCA
(B) 7/28/2020
Owner(s): Michelle Stewart & Russell Bybee
Breeder(s): Catherine O'Brien
Sire: CH Nazik Du Bonnie Blue Flag
Dam: Trf To Skyview's Ebru

AKC S.T.A.R. PUPPY

Hilcrest Lady Cleo Craig STR (B) 3/21/2024
Owner(s): Elizabeth Craig & Trenton Craig
Breeder(s): Jillian Curtis & Robert Curtis
Sire: Diamond Acres Boaz Hilcrest
Dam: Hilcrest Acres Leah

BCAT

Kami's Moon Over Gaurdian Acres BCAT
(B) 7/30/2023
Owner(s): Kimberly Simon
Breeder(s): Jessica Williams
Sire: Remington's Cain
Dam: Karma's Encore

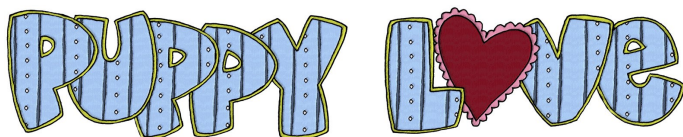
Thakeb's Turkish Delight At White Star BCAT
(B) 4/14/2024
Owner(s): Carol White & Osama Thakeb
Breeder(s): Osama Thakeb
Sire: CH Carpe Diem's Drogon Of Rbr
Dam: Berry Creek Ranch Raina

THERAPY DOG

Montaire Benim Ganesha THD CGC (B) 8/7/2021
Owner(s): Ms. Maria Lourdes Marrero & Ms. Kim
Diane Simmons
Breeder(s): Darci Lang & Nancy Wargas
Sire: CH Gerlach Muhafiz Toprak
Dam: GCH CH Amerikan Front Paige

GCHS CH Full Circle's Bruichladdich Black Art
FDC THD CGC TKN (D) 1/21/2018
Owner(s): Regan Leston & Tom Leston
Breeder(s): Nancy Wargas & Roger P Travis
Sire: CH Full Circle's Arkadis
Dam: CH Full Circle's Island Paradise

Full Circle's Caol Ila THD CGC (B) 12/21/2015
Owner(s): Regan Leston & Tom Leston
Breeder(s): Nancy Wargas & Deborah Grunnah
Sire: CH Full Circle's Gideon
Dam: GCHS CH Full Circle's Treasure Island



HEALTH CORNER — OFA STATISTICS

The following Anatolian Shepherd Dogs have had evaluations recorded by the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA) in their hip registry from 6/1/2025 through 9/30/2025

OFA Number	CHIC Status	Registration Number	Registration Name	Sex	Results
ANS-2654G34F-P-NOPI		WS77886706	OLIVERA BAILEY AT 3Y RANCH	F	GOOD
ANS-2655E24F-C-VPI		WS81812306	APEX A.J ADIRA	F	EXCELLENT
ANS-2656E32F-P-VPI		WS80007402	CHEVALIERS DU ROLAND'S FUN FUN FUN	F	EXCELLENT
ANS-2657G35F-C-VPI		WS78458209	SHEPHERDS REST SLOE DJINN FIZ	F	GOOD
ANS-2649F33F-C-NOPI		WS79455403	PEPPER II	F	FAIR
ANS-2648G25F-C-VPI		WS81833401	VADI RED SKY AT NIGHT	F	GOOD
ANS-2650G26M-C-VPI		WS81429708	LABROSA'S EMERALD BAY	M	GOOD
ANS-2652E24M-C-NOPI		WS81812301	APEX A.J LEGENDARY DEMI-DOG	M	EXCELLENT
ANS-2651G31F-C-VPI		WS80255409	LUCKY HIT SEVAN OZEL OF EDGEBROOK	F	GOOD
ANS-2646E48F-C-NOPI		WS72826402	CHEVALIERS DU ROLAND'S JACKPOT	F	EXCELLENT
ANS-2645E24F-C-NOPI		WS80678205	ECHO VALLEY LOUD LADY	F	EXCELLENT
		WS80699104	RHL FARMS SADIE	F	MODERATE
ANS-2647G24F-P-VPI		WS81039005	SKYVIEW'S WAHYA THE WATCHER	F	GOOD
ANS-2659G29F-P-VPI		WS79830101	BETHLEHEM'S MARANATHA	F	GOOD
ANS-2660E24F-P-VPI		WS81510501	BETHLEHEM'S TALITHA KOUM	F	EXCELLENT
ANS-2658G24F-C-VPI		WS81510504	BETHLEHEM'S WHITEKNIGHT OF TN	F	GOOD
ANS-2661E49M-C-VPI		WS73098701	SAN ISIDRO'S CAPITAN	M	EXCELLENT
ANS-2663E50F-P-VPI		WS72655402	SAN ISIDRO'S SIERRA BLANCA	F	EXCELLENT
ANS-2662E24F-C-VPI		WS82032804	H&L ACRES SADYE	F	EXCELLENT
ANS-2666G24M-C-VPI		WS82032801	H&L ACRES FLYING DUTCHMAN	M	GOOD
ANS-2664G61F-C-VPI		WS69696003	H&L ACRES TURKISH TREAT SEZ ME	F	GOOD
ANS-2665G24F-P-VPI		WS81484104	SHADOWFAX OF BLACK ACRE	F	GOOD

The following Anatolian Shepherd Dogs have had evaluations recorded by the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA) in their elbow registry from 6/1/2025 through 9/30/2025

OFA Number	CHIC Status	Registration Number	Registration Name	Sex	Results
ANS-EL1382F34-P-NOPI		WS77886706	OLIVERA BAILEY AT 3Y RANCH	F	NORMAL
		WS81812306	APEX A.J ADIRA	F	DJD I UL
ANS-EL1383F32-P-VPI		WS80007402	CHEVALIERS DU ROLAND'S FUN FUN FUN	F	NORMAL
ANS-EL1384F35-C-VPI		WS78458209	SHEPHERDS REST SLOE DJINN FIZZ	F	NORMAL
ANS-EL1377F33-C-NOPI		WS79455403	PEPPER II	F	NORMAL
ANS-EL1376F25-C-VPI		WS81833401	VADI RED SKY AT NIGHT	F	NORMAL
ANS-EL1378M26-C-VPI		WS81429708	LABROSA'S EMERALD BAY	M	NORMAL
ANS-EL1380M24-C-NOPI		WS81812301	APEX A.J LEGENDARY DEMI-DOG	M	NORMAL
ANS-EL1381F42-P-VPI		WS76440604	CHEVALIERS DU ROLAND'S JUST SO STORIES	F	NORMAL
ANS-EL1379F31-C-VPI		WS80255409	LUCKY HIT SEVAN OZEL OF EDGEBROOK	F	NORMAL
ANS-EL1374F24-C-NOPI		WS80678205	ECHO VALLEY LOUD LADY	F	NORMAL
ANS-EL1363F26-P-VPI		WS80699104	RHL FARMS SADIE	F	NORMAL
ANS-EL1375F24-P-VPI		WS81039005	SKYVIEW'S WAHYA THE WATCHER	F	NORMAL
ANS-EL1386F24-P-VPI		WS81510501	BETHLEHEM'S TALITHA KOUM	F	NORMAL
ANS-EL1385F24-C-VPI		WS81510504	BETHLEHEM'S WHITEKNIGHT OF TN	F	NORMAL
ANS-EL1387F24-C-VPI		WS82032804	H&L ACRES SADYE	F	NORMAL
ANS-EL1390M24-C-VPI		WS82032801	H&L ACRES FLYING DUTCHMAN	M	NORMAL
ANS-EL1388F61-C-VPI		WS69696003	H&L ACRES TURKISH TREAT SEZ ME	F	NORMAL
ANS-EL1389F24-P-VPI		WS81484104	SHADOWFAX OF BLACK ACRE	F	NORMAL

HEALTH CORNER — OFA STATISTICS (CONT'D)

The following Anatolian Shepherd Dogs have had evaluations recorded by the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA) in their thyroid registry from 6/1/2025 through 9/30/2025

OFA Number	CHIC Status	Registration Number	Registration Name	Sex	Results
ANS-TH452/25F-VPI		WS81833401	VADI RED SKY AT NIGHT	F	NORMAL
ANS-TH453/33F-VPI		WS78538304	AK MOOSE CROSSING'S YESIL SULAR	F	NORMAL
ANS-TH455/24M-NOPI		WS81812301	APEX A.J LEGENDARY DEMI-DOG	M	NORMAL
ANS-TH454/27F-VPI		WS80721201	WANYAMA'S I LOVE THAT FOR YOU	F	NORMAL
ANS-TH449/13F-VPI		WS83868301	BETHLEHEM'S NAZIRA	F	NORMAL
ANS-TH450/21F-VPI		WS81510501	BETHLEHEM'S TALITHA KOUM	F	NORMAL
ANS-TH448/25M-VPI		WS81429701	LABROSA'S KEYS TO HEAVEN	M	NORMAL
ANS-TH447/53F-VPI		WS71544806	TIMARU DAN EK ADASHA	F	NORMAL
ANS-TH451/24F-VPI		WS81039005	SKYVIEW'S WAHYA THE WATCHER	F	NORMAL

FROM THE EDITOR



The photos in the collage for Page 23 were from the ASDCA Club archives. These photos were selected from the 2015 Photo Contest Submissions. If you would like to see your dog in a collage, please submit their pictures. Katie Emanuel, Temporary Editor

Submissions should be sent to editor@asdca.club



How Structure Affects the Working Anatolian Dog, Including Breeding Considerations

By Chyryl Walker, Ph.D. and Diana Martinez

Why all the hype about structure in a **working** Anatolian Shepherd Dog?

To function well and for the body to hold up to the rigors of the job, good structure is imperative. This article will cover the main areas of the body, with the exception of the head, which is covered in a separate article. Covered here are muzzle and bite, front (forequarters), rear, topline, tail set, and balance, with a mention of exceptions. This article will endeavor to cover critically important details of structure and specifically why they are needed for functioning well in the field. To ignore structure ("my dog is a good working dog and that's all I need to know") disregards the original purpose of this breed.

For example, a working Anatolian Shepherd Dog needs to have sufficient substance to be able to dispatch a substantial threat and to be tall enough to move at speeds necessary to keep pace with their livestock and to deter predators. So, let's have fun learning about why structural details are so important for these working dogs!

Prerequisites for evaluating structure in Anatolians:

1. Understand the purpose of the breed, and what it was originally bred to do.
2. Know what it takes for this breed to excel at its job.
3. Understand that "a dog's ability to do its job is so much more than a standard!"
4. Understand that "EVERY dog will have faults. It is our job to decide which faults are acceptable . . . and which are not."
5. Understand that "there is more than one acceptable type in every breed" and that every person reading a breed Standard may have a

different mental picture of the dog the Standard describes. The value of subtypes in breeding is "to ensure that the breed does not swing too far one way." Also, "Countries have been known to take and remake a breed in the image they consider currently correct. This can produce a new, distinctive second type within the breed."

6. Understand breed "type" and its four elements:
 - a. Outline/Silhouette
 - b. Head
 - c. Movement when trotting
 - d. Coat

(King, 2012, pp. 112, 130, 134; Cole, 2004, pp. 2, 10, 14, 15)

7. Breed type and style are two different things.
 - a. Type is the definition of the breed per the AKC breed standard. When someone says a dog is "typey," they are referring to a dog that closely matches the breed standard. However, the word "type" might also be used to describe a particular well-established line within the breed, such as what a particular breeder produces.
 - b. Style is a breeder's interpretation/understanding of the breed standard. There are many styles within acceptable breed type.

HEAD. See article in previous Times publication entitled *Understanding Anatolian Heads: A Comparison of Domestic and Import Type*, by Jo Lynne York and Chyryl Walker, Ph.D.

MUZZLE and BITE. AKC Standard:

Muzzle: is blockier and stronger for the dog, but neither dog nor bitch would have a snipey head or muzzle. Nose and flews must be solid black or brown.

Seasonal fading is not to be penalized. Incomplete pigment is a serious fault. Flews are normally dry but pronounced enough to contribute to "squaring" the overall muzzle appearance. Teeth and gums strong and healthy. Scissors bite preferred; level bite acceptable. Broken teeth are not to be faulted. Overshot, undershot or wry bite are disqualifications.

Overall, the muzzle should be blocky and the flews contribute to this desired look. The bite should be appropriate to the dog's job. A scissors bite leads to the "least wear on the teeth" and the strongest grasp. Dropped incisors do not seem to impact the functioning of the dog. (Hastings, 2011, pp. 28)

According to Pat Hastings (2011, pp. 37-38), "Generally speaking, the longer and narrower the head, the weaker the jaw will be." Since the standard calls for a blocky and strong muzzle, those that adhere to this part of the standard in the dogs they choose are appropriately selecting for stronger, more functional and efficient muzzles.

A working guardian dog must be able to successfully grab or bite a predator. If the bite is not correct enough to do this, the dog cannot do its working job and may lose livestock to the predator or be killed itself by the predator.

If you are breeding working guardian dogs, incorrect bite in the bitch may lead to whelping issues and losses. During whelping the bitch must be able to break the fetal sac with her incisors to prevent her newborns from suffocating and dying. Also, to function correctly as a breeding dog, she must be able to cut and crush the umbilical cords with her molars, or there can be excessive bleeding and loss of puppies (Orlandi, p. 160).

The function of the types of teeth, according to Pat Hastings (2011, p. 26) are as follows. Canines' puncture or grasp. Premolars bite off pieces. Molars grind (prepare for digestion). The fourth upper premolar and first lower molar are for shearing and are "positioned where the

jaw pressure is greatest." Incisors are for nibbling, plucking things out of the coat or paw pads, and getting after what itches. Nibbling is also a communication tool in a dog pack (Hastings, 2011, p. 29).

An undershot bite is believed to change the neck position, which then can make jumping difficult. When jumping, a dog with an undershot bite may not be able to hold something in its mouth. The undershot jaw also increases stress on the lower back due to the elevated angles at which the dog holds its head and neck (Hastings, 2011, pp. 28-29).

An overshot bite can damage the gums and/or upper palate. It can also interfere with the dog's ability to self-groom and to socialize (Hastings, 2011, p. 29-30).

A level bite, also called an even bite, is acceptable in the AKC standard, but is less desirable than a scissors bite. A level bite can cause a grinding down of the teeth and can lead to periodontal disease (Hastings, 2011, p. 30).

A puppy can inherit a top jaw from one parent and a bottom jaw from another parent, according to Pat Hastings during puppy evaluations with Chyrl Walker. If a breeding produces a litter of multiple puppies with incorrect alignments between top and bottom jaws and if both parents have scissors or level bites, do not assume an individual parent produces faulty offspring. Try breeding each dog to a dog with a more similar head and muzzle structure. However, "Don't breed an overshot dog to an undershot one and expect to get a scissors bite," since genes don't blend (ABC's, p. 38). The appropriate breeding procedure would be to breed a dog with any questionable bite to a dog with a correct scissors bite. A better question for a breeder to ask themselves is why breed a dog with a questionable bite at all! If the dog has outstanding traits that would improve the breed, and other respected peers agree, then perhaps an experimental breeding could be performed to determine if the parent(s) can throw mostly correct bites. Note: It is advisable to refer to the ASDCA Breeder Code of Ethics when making such decisions.

FRONT. -AKC Standard:

Chest is deep (to the elbow) and well-sprung with a distinct tuck up at the loin.

Forequarters: Shoulders should be muscular and well developed, blades long, broad and sloping. Elbows should be neither in nor out. Forelegs should be relatively long, well-boned and set straight with strong pasterns. The feet are strong and compact with well-arched toes, oval in shape. They should have stout nails with pads thick and tough. Dewclaws may be removed.

Gait: At the trot, the gait is powerful yet fluid. When viewed from the front, the legs turn neither in nor out, nor do feet cross or interfere with each other. With increased speed, footfall converges toward the center line of gravity. When viewed from the side, the front legs should reach out smoothly with no obvious pounding. The withers should stay nearly level with little rise or fall.

Structural problems in the front assembly of the dog include: straight shoulders, wide shoulders, narrow shoulders, high shoulders, short or long upper arm (not equidistant with the length of the shoulder blade), upper arm too far forward, ribcage too wide, loose elbows, insufficient prosternum, pasterns too short and upright, pasterns too long, weak pasterns, east-west pasterns, front toes too high or too short, length of front legs not half the height of the dog at the withers, front feet too small or too flat, (Hastings, 2011, pp. 85-107). Let's look at how each problem affects the working Anatolian Shepherd Dog.

1. A working dog with straight shoulders means less forward reach while in motion (shorter length of stride, meaning the dog makes more steps while moving and therefore tires quicker), the joints are unable to function properly as shock absorbers (joints experience more impact/pounding and risk injury and

breakdown of structure, leading to interscapular and shoulder pain, tendonitis, and degeneration of the elbows), and the dog will not move smoothly.

2. Wide shoulders in a working dog means shoulder blade tips too far apart. Wide shoulders cause wasted motion in the wide movement of the front, which causes the dog to tire out faster. Working dogs need to move effectively and have good stamina to do their guardian rounds and keep up with predators.
3. Narrow shoulders cause the shoulder blade tips to touch when the dog lowers its head toward the ground. Narrow shoulders may restrict the dog from reaching its nose to the ground when standing. In turn, this may cause pinched elbows which leads to turned out feet and pasterns, thus causing wasted motion and more stress on feet, pasterns, and elbows. This increases the risk of injury and structural breakdown. A working dog must be able to sniff the ground to follow the trail of predators or lower its head to grab small predators (rats, possums, skunks, raccoons, etc.). A dog should also be able to eat in a standing position in case it needs to suddenly rush after a predator to protect its livestock.
4. High shoulders mean shoulder tips are prone to injury since there is no muscle over them to protect them. High shoulders usually come with a neck and head being carried more upright, which interferes with the length of reach or stride in front. It can also decrease endurance and stamina because high shoulders tend to move more up and down instead of properly moving back and forth. Dogs with high shoulders will likely end up with bone bruises if expected to work in a harness, as the harness will rub on the bones. An impaired stride in a working dog interferes with the ability to move

- properly to guard the livestock and likely a less comfortable dog overall over time.
5. An overly short or long upper arm may cause an unbalanced stride in both extension of the upper arm, and in length of the resulting stride, negatively impacting the smoothness of motion, interfere with power and speed, and result in improper tucking of the front when jumping. If the upper arm is too short, the legs will be too far forward instead of properly under the dog, meaning support is not under the heaviest part of the dog. When the dog is not balanced in the front end, the front end receives more stress from impact. In a working dog, movement is then less efficient, and the structure will break down faster.
 6. If the upper arm is too long, the positioning of the prosternum is changed, affecting how the dog carries its head and neck. This will cause structural breakdown faster than in a dog with correct upper arm length. A working dog needs structural integrity to do its guardianship duties well.
 7. An upper arm that is set too far forward prevents the upper arm from properly swinging beside the ribcage. This occurs when the upper arm is not properly attached to the ribcage and the front legs appear laid on the front of the ribcage. When this happens, the upper arms are at greater risk of injury. It also means the body cannot properly support the upper arms, resulting in a lack of support, instability, and impaired strength in the front end. A working dog with an upper arm set too far forward will be impaired in its ability to avoid obstacles when chasing predators and will receive more stress and damage to its front end.
 8. A ribcage that is too wide causes the front legs to move wide. This puts stress on the outer part of the front feet and on the pasterns when landing from jumps. If a working dog cannot jump over obstacles without damaging its structure, it is not fit for duty as a working livestock guardian dog.
 9. Loose elbows mean unstable elbows that pop out when any pressure is put on the side of the dog's front end. This in turn can cause turned-in feet that cause pressure on the inner toes of the front feet. Unstable elbows mean increased likelihood of jumping injuries due to unstable front end when landing. It also means greater risk of pain, tendonitis, and osteoarthritis.
 10. Insufficient prosternum means not enough prosternum surface for muscle attachment of upper arm, leading to instability and a lack of strength in the upper arm. The injuries likely are the same as those for loose elbows.
 11. Pasterns that are too short and upright are the result of incorrect structure. It means the dog will have a shorter stride and less joint flexibility. Since there is less elasticity, the lower leg will be subjected to greater stress, causing stumbling or tripping. This can cause structural breakdown from landings when repetitive jumping is necessary (over rocks, creeks, logs, uneven terrain).
 12. Pasterns that are too long are the result of incorrect structure. Pasterns should be short with slight angulation. The shorter the pastern, the less weight is on the lower leg meaning it needs less muscle to lift the leg. This results in more speed, better stamina and endurance, and better ability to jump. In working dogs, pasterns that are too long mean the dog is likely to tire quicker due to less effective muscle and tendon interaction. Uneven ground in livestock grazing pastures will stress the tendons, interfering with the movement needed for livestock guarding, as the pasterns will not have sufficient strength, support or flexibility.
 13. Weak pasterns occur when pasterns are too sloped or too straight. It causes joint stress from jump landings and from standing like an A-frame in front. Since

the pastern joint is a shock absorber, incorrect slope adds stress and leads to risk of injury and breakdown of structure. A working dog needs integrity and soundness of pasterns to be an efficient guardian.

14. East-west pasterns is a description of how front legs hang free at the elbow when the front is suspended above the ground. If one or both legs are turned when hanging free, the cause is reportedly genetic and rare. Typically, this condition is caused by poor puppy nutrition, and if the pup hangs correctly but stands east-west in the front, and if the pup is corrected early with proper exercise, nutrition, and time, the pup will likely resolve into standing with both front feet pointing forward.
15. Front toes that are too high or too short are a result of incorrect structure, as every toe should touch the ground with each step or jump. Toes that are too high or short in front mean the weight is not properly distributed leading to possible toe or pad damage. This condition can be present from birth or develop as a puppy grows. Such dogs will have lateral instability, negatively affecting their ability to do their job.
16. Length of front legs not half the height of the dog at the withers is incorrect structure for Anatolians. When leg length and height of dog at withers is 50:50, the muscles have proper length for great speed and long stride. Legs longer than body height create a top-heavy dog that cannot very easily lower their center of gravity to make quick sharp turns. A livestock guardian needs to make quick sharp turns to interact with predators in order to do their job. Legs shorter than body height lead to a shorter stride, more steps, and thus the dog tires more rapidly. If a working dog needs to get out of deep snow or dense underbrush, it would be very difficult with short legs.

Note: Although the Anatolian Shepherd Dog ratio of leg to depth of body is half the height at the withers, many other breeds have longer legs than half the height at the body as a natural consequence of their native purpose, such as Basenjis and Sloughi (Arabian Greyhound). Basset Hounds should have legs that are one third the height from the ground to the withers.

17. Having front feet that are too small or too flat, or that turn in or out too much, is incorrect and inefficient. Larger feet are better than smaller feet, as they provide more cushioning on impact. Flat feet are unacceptable as they are more likely to break down under stress. Feet should point straight forward but it is okay if they point outward just slightly. Any of these conditions diminish structural integrity, specifically strength and lateral stability, all of which are needed by a working dog to be able to dispatch predators with minimal to no injuries. It is not fair to expect a working dog that is in pain to effectively do its job.

A dog wherein all the parts are in balance and working in harmony creates a dog that is more comfortable overall. Balanced dogs, comfortable dogs, tend to have a longer working life as long as they do not end up being shot, poisoned, or eaten by predators.

REAR. -AKC Standard:

Hindquarters: Strong, with broad thighs and heavily muscled. Angulation at the stifle and hock are in proportion to the forequarters. As seen from behind, the legs are parallel. The feet are strong and compact with well-arched toes, oval in shape. Double dewclaws may exist. Dewclaws may be removed.

Gait: At the trot, the gait is powerful yet fluid. When viewed from the rear, the legs turn neither in nor out, nor do feet cross or interfere with each other. With increased speed, footfall converges

toward the center line of gravity. When viewed from the side, the backline should stay nearly level with little rise or fall. The rear assembly should push out smoothly with hocks doing their share of the work and flexing well.

The rear is important because it is where the drive, power, stamina, and speed are located. (Hastings, 2011, p. 114). Power originates in the rear and without power, performance is lacking (King, 2012, p. 88). "Without a good engine, a dog won't have what it takes for great acceleration, turning, jumping or any demanding canine activity. A great-looking dog with a weak rear is like a beautiful sports car with a scooter engine" (King, 2012, p. 88). "Without a strong hind end that is put together correctly, it doesn't matter how good the front is; there will be no power to drive it (King, 2012, p. 99)!" Pat Hastings repeatedly said in person to Chyrl Walker during fifty plus litter evaluations, that weak rears are the area that most needs improvement in Anatolians. Correct angulation in the rear is critical. Too little angulation limits drive and causes lack of backward extension of the legs, as well as increasing the risk of ACL tears. "Dogs can and do tear their ACLs just running in the back yard" (King, 2012, p. 103).

1. The rear should be about the same width as the front (balance is ideal) to prevent problems with inability to rapidly accelerate or with appropriate speed. Narrow rears also put too much stress/pressure on outside edges of joints in rear legs, leading to increased chance of strains and degenerative joint disease (Hastings, 2011, p. 124).
2. The rear should be the shape of an inverted U, not an inverted V (when looking at a stacked dog from the rear) to prevent breeding and/or whelping problems (Hastings, 2011, p. 124).
3. The rear should have thick thighs when viewed from the side. A short croup leads to thin thighs, resulting in lack of "proper muscle

attachment," as "there can only be as much muscle as there is surface to attach it to, so the thinner the thigh, the weaker the rear." Thin thighs also intensify any rear weaknesses because there is "no strength to help compensate for other rear-assembly issues" (Hastings, 2011, pp. 124-125).

4. Dogs should "walk on the pads of their feet" because the pads have the job of cushioning the foot and absorbing stress from movement. If rear foot pads show from the front when the dog is moving, it means connective tissue is "loose or too long," and injury is more likely (Hastings, 2011, p. 125).
5. Hocks are the "cornerstone of the rear assembly." Hocks should be parallel to each other, and stable (no side motion, and no forward motion also called slipped hocks). The hocks should also be "no higher than one-third the height of the dog at the rear." The shorter the hock, "the more endurance and strength it will have" (Hastings, 2011, p. 119).

More about angulation.

Proper rear leg angulation, as viewed from the side of the dog, involves dropping an imaginary plumb line from the dog's ischium (point of buttocks) to the ground. The plumb line should just touch the tip of the rear toe for proper rear angulation. If the tip of the toe is behind the plumb line, the rear legs are overangulated (longer legs due to upper and lower thigh bones). You may see dogs with overangulated rears standing on their rear toes instead of properly standing on their rear feet. If the tip of the toe is in front of the plumb line (closer to the front end of the dog from the plumb line), then the dog lacks angulation in its rear. A working Anatolian dog should be expected to structurally hold up to the demands of

the job, which involve effective rear-wheel-drive, sprinting power, speed, and stamina. In addition, if the rear structure is not proper, it will not allow the front structure of the dog to function effectively.

How does over angulation affect the working dog? In over angulation, the rear legs are too far behind the dog. The more over angulated a dog's rear is, the more stress is placed on the rear joints (stifle, hock, and/or hip). What this means for the working dog is trouble making tight turns, trouble making quick turns, and/or trouble safely making turns, as the dog will lack stability. A working dog should have a stable rear (Hastings, 2011, pp. 115-116). The importance of a stable rear cannot be overstated. Over angulation causes an unstable rear that is prone to injury. A working dog's job is hard enough going up against predators without having to deal with incorrect structure that causes instability, pain, or injury.

How does under angulation affect the working dog? In under angulation, the rear legs are too far under the dog. Under angulation "causes accelerated joint-capsule and joint-cartilage wear, which can lead to arthritis" (Hastings, 2011, p. 115). Under angulation may also result in the dog compensating by carrying more weight in inappropriate places such as the back, spine, or pelvic area, possibly leading to pain in the spine or even injury. It is unfair to expect a working dog to be in pain, which is essentially what happens with under angulation.

More about hocks:

When hocks point inward toward each other when the dog is BOTH standing and moving, it is called "cow-hocked," which is incorrect structurally and will cause problems functioning. These dogs lack a stable rear assembly and

are more likely to get injured. Note: "It takes opposing force to create stability." These dogs have more muscle mass on the insides than on the outsides of their rear legs.

When hocks point outward away from each other, looking like the legs of a rodeo rider, curved outward as if permanently wrapped around the body of a bull, it is called "barrel hocks." With barrel hocks, there is more muscle mass on the outside than on the inside of the rear legs, making it the exact opposite of being cow-hocked. Like cow hocks, barrel hocks also decrease rear stability. In both of these hock anomalies, the dog is more likely to sustain injury, or for the rear to break down. More stress is put on the structure of the hock. When in motion, barrel hocks are rotated out, causing a "screwing motion to the foot as it hits the ground, which can eventually cause bruising of the feet" (Hastings, 2011, pp. 119-121).

A third condition, called "sickle hocks," exists when hocks are not straight but sickle-shaped (curved rear pasterns from hock to foot). This is also a structural and functional problem. With sickle hocks, the rear legs will be unable to extend backward in a normal fashion. The result is a reduction of or no actual rear power, and a lack of rear stability. Running, jumping, and quick turns are impeded (Hastings, 2011, p. 121).

Slipped hocks are not an issue with bone, but with tissue. Balance is affected, as typically, the dog will balance itself by bringing a rear leg forward, roaching the spine to take weight off the rear, sinking lower on their rear or pushing weight of the rear more forward. If one hock is slipped, the dog usually compensates by placing weight on the good rear leg. If both hocks are slipped, the dog will end up with injuries due to attempts to compensate for that. Slipped hocks (one or both) create "pain

in the lumbosacral area” since “the leg sinks with each step” and the “lower back and lumbosacral area” are forced to compensate (Hastings, 2011, pp. 121-123). King (2012, p. 131) believes slipped hocks to not be a problem unless “the dog’s hocks slip forward on their own when the dog is just standing.” She also believes that not all dogs with slipped hocks have back problems. She asserts that each dog should be assessed individually on the severity of this condition, taking into consideration the performance expected for a specific breed. In a working Anatolian Shepherd Dog, it is imperative that it experience minimal pain in its duties of guarding its charges successfully.

Thigh bone length is important. Upper and lower thigh bones should be equal in length for balance. “I want to see . . . the femur and tibia the same length” (King 2012, p. 138). Since a longer lower thigh bone as compared to the upper thigh bone affects the structure and function of the dog, being able to determine equal upper and lower thigh bone length is imperative. An easy way to assess the length of upper to lower thigh is to bend the rear leg upward and if the hock reaches the point of the buttock, then the leg bones are roughly equal.

If the lower thigh bone is longer, you will be able to easily tell with this quick procedure noted in last paragraph above. If these thigh bones are unequal in length, there will be more wear and tear on the joints which can lead to arthritis. A longer lower thigh bone (tibia) makes the muscles in the rear legs less efficient in driving forward. The result is “abnormal stress on the stifle joint, so it may shorten the rear stride or create an exaggerated rear kick.” Other results are: lifted front (“rearing muscle of the ischium is pulled down”), “increased oscillation of the hindquarters and more vibration through the joints, tendons, ligaments, and feet.” This increases the susceptibility of the

back to injury and arthritis and can cause front legs to have a shorter stride (Hastings, 2011, pp. 116-117).

Another issue with upper and lower thigh bone length, is when BOTH upper and lower thigh bones are either too short or too long.

Upper and lower thigh bones being too short result in less angulation in the rear and the rear legs under the dog instead of being behind the dog (the latter being the ideal goal for good structure). This means more wear and tear on the joints, possibly leading to arthritis. It can also lead to “spinal discomfort or injuries,” since the dog “may try to compensate by carrying more of its hindquarter weight in the spine, back, and pelvic area. It can also lead to a breakdown in the rear assembly, causing pain, especially if the dog is doing “frequent or repetitive jumping, swimming, leaping, or covering ground,” most of which is required of working, livestock-guarding Anatolians (Hastings, 2011, pp. 114-115).

Upper and lower thigh bones being too long result in over angulation of the rear and cause “more stress . . . on the stifle, hock, and hip joints,” leading to a “severe breakdown of the stifle joint and the lower back.” “Over angulated dogs generally have trouble turning tightly, quickly, or safely and will lack stability” in jumps, climbing walls, and turning on a dime when chasing predators (Hastings, 2011, pp. 115-116).

Knees are another important consideration in the structure and function of the rear. Correct conformation of the rear includes knees not pointing out when in a stacked position, as that creates stable rear legs.

Knees that point out reduce rear drive and cause stress to the hips. Dogs are more prone to “cruciate-ligament and stifle injuries, as well as luxating patella’s” and cannot be expected to safely maneuver rough working terrain,

sharp turns, or impacts with other canines or predators. If knees can be turned out without resistance, while in the stacked position, the rear will eventually break down, as the legs become muscle-bound and rear steps gradually shorten (Hastings, 2011, pp. 117-118).

TOPLINE. -AKC Standard:

Topline will appear level when gaiting. Back will be powerful, muscular, and level, with drop behind withers and gradual arch over loin, sloping slightly downward at the croup. Body well proportioned, functional, without exaggeration. Never fat or soft.

The topline is the upper line of the profile of the dog. It starts from and includes the withers, back, loin, croup, and sacrum (Cole, 2004, p. 86). It is influenced by the spine, bone structure, and muscles, and a level topline when gaiting indicates a well-balanced working dog. Looking at the topline when the dog is gaiting will tell us whether the dog is balanced. Every part of the dog contributes to the look of the topline. A topline should be stable. Note: the topline is a visual entity and should not be confused with body parts, although it includes the top line of five parts of the body. The working mechanics of the parts of the topline, at a running gait, include stable fronts and stable rears working together, as well as good muscular support.

1. A roached topline is an arched back and can be caused by faulty structure, injury, physical stress, or illness. The result is restricted movement and excessive wear on the corresponding joints, causing wasted energy. A roached topline can also cause an inability to perform the guardian duties necessary to protect the charges, and a decrease in longevity.
2. A sloping topline with a high croup gives the impression of the dog running downhill on a straight away, this places undue stress and strain

on the forequarters. The dog will try and compensate by letting the pads and the pasterns flip up to soften the impact of the ground. This dog will lack structural balance (Elliott, 2014, pp. 51-52).

3. A sway back topline is a weak midsection due to structure or lack of fitness, resulting in too much flexion throughout the topline. It gives the moving appearance of a side-to-side rocking in the hindquarters. This will result in excessive wear on the joints and takes more energy to be efficient in movement/performance. A sway back topline can cause an inability to perform the livestock guardians' duties necessary to protect the charges, and a decrease in longevity.

Note: The correct Anatolian Shepherd Dog topline is not level while dog is standing. There is a need to preserve the drop behind the withers, the rise above the loin, and the slightly sloping croup. When the dog is gaiting, the back portion of the topline levels out, but when the dog is standing, the drop/rise/slope should be apparent.

NECK.

The neckline contributes to the overall silhouette of the Anatolian. A good neckline merges gradually with strong withers at the base of the neck and forms pleasing transition into the back part of the topline. Importantly, the slightest shift of the front leg position can alter the appearance of the front assembly, often giving the dog a "rocking horse" stance. This might only indicate poor placement of the front paws or perhaps an underlying fault. Closer examination would be desirable.

TAIL SET.-AKC Standard:

Tail: should be long and reaching to the hocks. Set on rather high. When relaxed, it is carried low with the end curled upwards. When alert, the tail is carried high, making a "wheel." Both low

and wheel carriage are acceptable, when gaiting. "Wheel" carriage preferred. The tail will not necessarily uncurl totally.

The tail also contributes to the overall silhouette of the Anatolian. The tail is a continuation of the spine and affects the movement and balance of the dog. The tail helps with making sharp turns, climbing, jumping, swimming, running, or standing in a field. Even a slight difference in slope and length of pelvis can affect the outline of the croup and the set of the tail. Subtle chiropractic adjustments of the spine and the tail can help balance movement as the dog performs the acrobatic activities necessary to do their duties successfully (Elliott 2014, pp. 59-60.)

EXCEPTIONS and INTERESTING FACTS.

"There are always exceptions to every rule" (King, 2012, p. 129).

You CAN have an Anatolian Shepherd with superb structure, that is well

balanced, yet is not fit to work in a particular setting. For example, at high altitudes, if a dog does not have the capacity to work in low oxygen areas, they would not be suited to work in the mountains. This illustrates the importance of subtypes. Some Black Sea area Turkish imports actually carry a genetic trait that is an increased altitude tolerance (GA), per Embark testing. This trait allows the dogs "to be especially tolerant of low oxygen environments (hypoxia)," an altitude adaptation trait that enables them to perform at high elevations.

GAIT. - When all the parts of an Anatolian Shepherd Dog are working properly, like a well-oiled machine, you have the optimum structure for stamina and longevity. Without proper structure, the performance will be lacking. With curiosity sparked, consider acquiring one or more of the resources listed in the Reference section below.

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Chyrl Walker, Ph.D., a native Oregonian, has owned and researched Anatolian Shepherd Dogs since 2001 and makes frequent trips to Turkey for this purpose. As a dedicated Preservationist of the breed, she has imported 28 Anatolian Shepherds from the motherland Turkey, which work 24/7 guarding her sheep, goats, and chickens. She has had over 50 litters from her import lines since 2006, using the late

Pat Hastings as an evaluator and mentor in puppy/dog structure and movement. She is an ASDCA Working Dog Mentor and has been a member of the ASDCA Working Dog Committee for the past few years. She works as a Licensed Psychologist to support her Anatolian Shepherd breed preservation project.

Diana Martinez, a native Californian, has owned Anatolian Shepherd Dogs since 2000. She has been an ASDCA Board member since 2014. She has chaired the ASDCA Working Dog Committee since 2013. She is an ASDCA Working Dog Mentor. She has been on the ASDCA Judges and Education Committee and has been a Judges Education Mentor for many years. She has had ten litters in over twenty years and was a co-evaluator of structure and temperament for over twenty Anatolian puppy litters. She has been active in 4-H and FFA projects, participating over the years with her children and then grandchildren and neighbor's children and the local high school. She has been a teacher and an Educational Specialist in the public school system for over 36 years. She is enthusiastically working to support the preservation of the Anatolian Shepherd Dog Breed.

Anatolian Shepherd Dog AKC Standard

General Appearance: Large, rugged, powerful and impressive, possessing great endurance and agility. Developed through a set of very demanding circumstances for a purely utilitarian purpose; he is a working guard dog without equal, with a unique ability to protect livestock.

General impression: Appears bold, but calm, unless challenged. He possesses size, good bone, a well-muscled torso with a strong head. Reserve out of its territory is acceptable. Fluid movement and even temperament is desirable.

Size, Proportion, Substance: General balance is more important than absolute size. Dogs should be from 29 inches and weighing from 110 to 150 pounds proportionate to size and structure. Bitches should be from 27 inches, weighing from 80 to 120 pounds, proportionate to size and structure. Neither dog nor bitch appear fat. Both dog and bitch should be rectangular, in direct proportion to height. Measurements and weights apply at age 2 or older.

Head: Expression should be intelligent. Eyes are medium size, set apart, almond shaped and dark brown to light amber in color. Blue eyes or eyes of two different colors are a disqualification. Eye rims will be black or brown and without sag or looseness of haw. Incomplete pigment is a serious fault. Ears should be set on no higher than the plane of the head. V-shaped, rounded apex, measuring about four inches at the base to six inches in length. The tip should be just long enough to reach the outside corner of the eyelid. Ears dropped to sides. Erect ears are a disqualification. Skull is large but in proportion to the body. There is a slight centerline furrow, fore and aft, from apparent stop to moderate occiput. Broader in dogs than in bitches.

Muzzle: is blockier and stronger for the dog, but neither dog nor bitch would have a snikey head or muzzle. Nose and flews must be solid black or brown. Seasonal fading is not to be penalized. Incomplete pigment is a serious fault. Flews are normally dry but pronounced enough to contribute to "squaring" the overall muzzle appearance. Teeth and gums strong and healthy. Scissors bite preferred; level bite acceptable. Broken teeth are not to be faulted. Overshot, undershot or wry bite are disqualifications.

Topline will appear level when gaiting. Back will be powerful, muscular, and level, with drop behind withers and gradual arch over loin, sloping slightly downward at the croup. Body well proportioned, functional, without exaggeration. Never fat or soft.

Chest is deep (to the elbow) and well-sprung with a distinct tuck up at the loin.

Tail: should be long and reaching to the hocks. Set on rather high. When relaxed, it is carried low with the end curled upwards. When alert, the tail is carried high, making a "wheel." Both low and wheel carriage are acceptable, when gaiting. "Wheel" carriage preferred. The tail will not necessarily uncurl totally.

Forequarters: Shoulders should be muscular and well developed, blades long, broad and sloping. Elbows should be neither in nor out. Forelegs should be relatively long, well-boned and set straight with strong pasterns. The feet are strong and compact with well-arched toes, oval in shape. They should have stout nails with pads thick and tough. Dewclaws may be removed.

Hindquarters: Strong, with broad thighs and heavily muscled. Angulation at the stifle and hock are in proportion to the forequarters. As seen from behind, the legs are parallel. The feet are strong and compact with well-arched toes, oval in shape. Double dewclaws may exist. Dewclaws may be removed.

Gait: At the trot, the gait is powerful yet fluid. When viewed from the front or rear, the legs turn neither in nor out, nor do feet cross or interfere with each other. With increased speed, footfall converges toward the center line of gravity. When viewed from the side, the front legs should reach out smoothly with no obvious pounding. The withers and backline should stay nearly level with little rise or fall. The rear assembly should push out smoothly with hocks doing their share of the work and flexing well.

Temperament: Alert and intelligent, calm and observant. Instinctively protective, he is courageous and highly adaptable. He is very loyal and responsive. Highly territorial, he is a natural guard. Reserve around strangers and off its territory is acceptable. Responsiveness with animation is not characteristic of the breed. Overhandling would be discouraged.

Disqualifications: Blue eyes or eyes of two different colors. Erect ears. Overshot, undershot, or wry bite.

Approved: June 1995

Effective: June 1, 1996



***2026 National Specialty Show – West Region
Friday, October 16, 2026
in Santa Rosa, California***

Harvest Moon Classic Dog Show Cluster

Show Location

Sonoma County Fairgrounds
1450 Bennett Valley Rd
Santa Rosa, CA 95404

Superintendent: MB-F

Show Schedule

Thursday 10/15 Supported Entry

Friday 10/16 National Specialty Show and Sweepstakes Saturday

10/17 Supported Entry

Sunday 10/18 Supported Entry

Host Hotel

Hotel Centro Sonoma Wine Country, Tapestry by Hilton
5870 Labath Avenue
Rohnert Park, CA 94928
(707) 584-1500

Show Chairs:

*Diana Martinez (vp@asdca.club)
& Carol White (secretary@asdca.club)*

