

ANATOLIAN TIMES

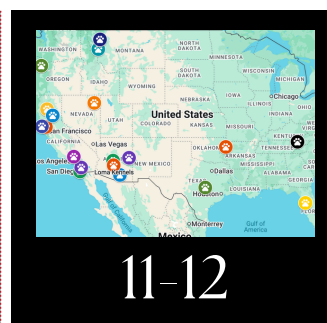
2026

VOLUME II



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ABOUT THE COVER

Volume II is traditionally the "Stud Dog Issue" of the Anatolian Times.
Our cover dog Snickers was the Top Producing Sire of 2025 with 6 of his get achieving their Championship title in 2025.

THE 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 31, May 31, and September 30 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.



AKC PARENT CLUB
ESTABLISHED 1970

SAVE THE DATE 2026 NATIONAL SPECIALTY SHOW

October 15-18, 2026 in Santa Rosa, California

Thursday 10/15 Supported Entry

Friday 10/16 National Specialty Show and Sweepstakes

Saturday 10/17 Supported Entry

Sunday 10/18 Supported Entry

More Info: asdca.club/2026-national-specialty/



ANATOLIAN SHEPHERD DOG CLUB OF AMERICA, INC.

AKC Recognized Parent Club — Founded 1970

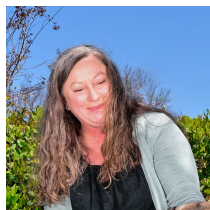
Website: <https://ASDCA.club>



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Term ends 2028



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Term ends 2026



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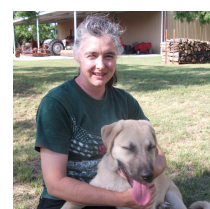
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AKC DELEGATE: Edward (EJ) Collins, edcollins.mail@gmail.com

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 website www.asdca.club under "ASDCA Registration Info and Fee Schedules."

SEND COMPLETED FORMS TO: Registrar@asdca.club

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.

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.

Breeders 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 - asdca.club. Only REGULAR MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING can be listed on the Breeders List. All breeders listed on the Breeders 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 Corresponding Secretary. Contact the Club Corresponding 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 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.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Natalie Thurman, President@ASDCA.club

I hope this issue of the Anatolian Times finds you and your dogs enjoying the transition from Spring to Summer. Here in Montana, we have experienced a good amount of spring rain after a very mild winter. This means lots of great forage for the livestock, and time outside working fence and logistics for my family and I. We did some fall planting of perennial grass and clover, and it's starting to pop up nicely.



Here my husband Tim and I are resting with some Anatolian pups after taking a hay delivery and walking the fenceline. The work really is never truly done, but it is deeply rewarding to get our hands dirty in the service of something beyond ourselves, isn't it?

I just finished up my local all-breed club's annual dog show where I did some ring stewarding and showed some of our girls two days. It's always nice to get off the farm with some dogs, share them with the public, and maybe bring home some ribbons! We did well, and we are grateful for the opportunity to show our Anatolians locally once a year. Junior member Samuel Thurman even took his girl Daisy to group!

Speaking of shows, I hope you are planning to attend the 2026 ASDCA National Specialty Show in Santa Rosa, CA this October! Diana and Carol and the whole show committee have put so much thought and soul into the venue, activities, and prizes for our annual gathering of the Clan! It wouldn't be the same without you! Find more details in the back pages of this issue, or at ASDCA.club.

Have you had a chance to fill out the Breed Health Survey for all the Anatolian Shepherds you've owned since 2011? It takes about 5 minutes per dog, and the information you share is anonymous. The purpose of this survey is to get an idea of what health concerns are affecting our breed so we can work to improve the future health of the Anatolian Shepherd Dog. This survey is open to all purebred Anatolian owners *worldwide* and will be analyzed by the health committee to inform the topics we cover, the health testing we recommend, and help our breeders know what to watch for.

Thank you for your ongoing support of the ASDCA- we couldn't do it without our members and supporters! If you have an idea of something the Club could be doing to support owners like you, please reach out to President@asdca.club As always, I look forward to hearing from you!



WESTMINSTER KENNEL CLUB

February 2026 - Breed Results



WESTMINSTER KENNEL CLUB DOG SHOW

PRESENTED BY



in 2026, the 150th Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show was held in New York City at the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center with Groups and Best in Show competitions in Madison Square Garden.

The Anatolian Shepherd Dog results from 2026 are the following:

S	7	GCHB CH CHEVALIERS DU ROLAND'S GUNGA DIN. WS 76440602. 01-02-22By Maranda's Night Journey - GCHS CH Chevaliers Du Roland's Strudel. Dog. Owner: Michael Bitz, Brooksville, FL 346028284. Breeder: Janis L. Rosenthal Esq. (Handler: Jason Starr).
B	9	GCHS CH CHEVALIERS DU ROLAND'S RIKKI-TIKKI-TAVI. WS 76440603. 01-02-22By Maranda's Night Journey - GCHS CH Chevaliers Du Roland's Strudel. Dog. Owner: Michael Bitz, Brooksville, FL 346028284. Breeder: Janis L. Rosenthal Esq. (Kellie Williams, AKC Registered Handler).
BOS	10	CH KARABOUDJAN'S HARRIET VANE AT CHEVALIERS DU ROLAND. WS 86508201. 03-06-25By GCH CH Chevaliers Du Roland's Gunga Din - GCH CH Karaboudjan's Perfect Martini At Island Farm. Owner: Michael Bitz, Brooksville, FL 346028284. Breeder: Janet Dotson.



Best Opposite Sex



Best of Breed



Select

2026 MEMBERSHIP LIST

ASDCA Current Members in Good Standing

Lifetime Members

Name	City	State	Email	Phone
Dorothy Ballard	Athens	TN		(858) 663-8667
Kathy Gerlach	Napa	CA	gerlranch@aol.com	(707) 294-7529
Marilyn Harned	Alpine	CA	anat404@cox.net	(619) 445-3334
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Gary Jakobi	Weston	WI	bgdogs01@gmail.com	(715) 680-1143
Sandra King	Chiefland	FL	alaturka8@gmail.com	(352) 359-3254
Demetrios Kyres	Jacksonville	FL	geniakyles@gmail.com	(904) 289-9249
Genia Kyres	Jacksonville	FL	geniakyles@gmail.com	(858) 449-3853
Linda Palmateer	Prince Frederick	MD	Anatolians4me@yahoo.com	(443) 968-6046
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2026 MEMBERSHIP LIST

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2026 MEMBERSHIP LIST

ASDCA Current Members in Good Standing

Individual Members (cont.)

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Samuel Thurman	Frenchtown	MT	apexanatolians@gmail.com



AKC PARENT CLUB
Established 1970

ASDCA BREEDERS LIST 2026

B: Breeder, ST: Stud Dog, S: Showing, W: Working (LGD), O: Obedience, F: Family Guardian, TD: Therapy Dog

ARIZONA

Loma Kennel

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B, ST, S, W, F

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B, ST, S, W, F

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Rising Moon Anatolians

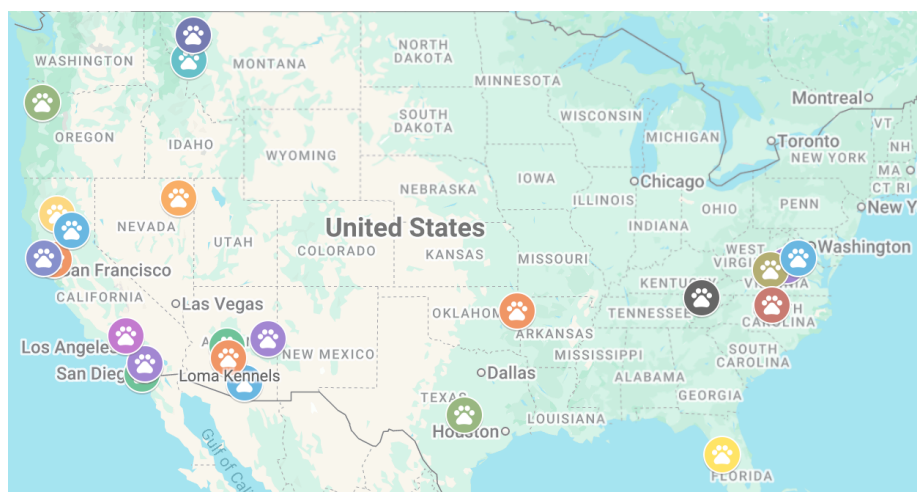
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AKC PARENT CLUB
Established 1970

ASDCA BREEDERS LIST 2026

B: Breeder, ST: Stud Dog, S: Showing, W: Working (LGD), O: Obedience, F: Family Guardian, TD: Therapy Dog

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W

NEVADA

Twin J

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www.Twinjtwinj.com
B, W, F

NORTH CAROLINA

LaBrosa Kennels

Lana Kovarik
Graham, NC 27253
(843) 906-0261
lanakov3 @gmail.com
www.LaBrosakennels.com
B, ST, S, W, F

OKLAHOMA

Autumn Acres Ranch

David & Lorri Hardin
Stilwell, OK 74960
(918) 507-2811
hardin.agrienvmgt @gmail.com
B, ST, W, F

OREGON

Shepherds Rest

Chyrl Walker & Alp Kurt
Carlton, OR 97111
(503) 504-4189
Chyrlwalker @gmail.com
www.shepherds-rest.com
B, ST, W, F

TENNESSEE

WhiteKnight Guardians

Leslie & Jessica Roden
New Tazwell, TN 37825
(423) 526-2093
dozergirl12 @hotmail.com
www.whiteknightguardians.com
B, ST, S, W, F

TEXAS

Lucky Hit

Erick Conard
Leander, TX 78641
(512) 659-5189 TXT
www.luckyhit.net
B, ST, S, W, O, F, TD

VIRGINIA

Birinci Anatolians

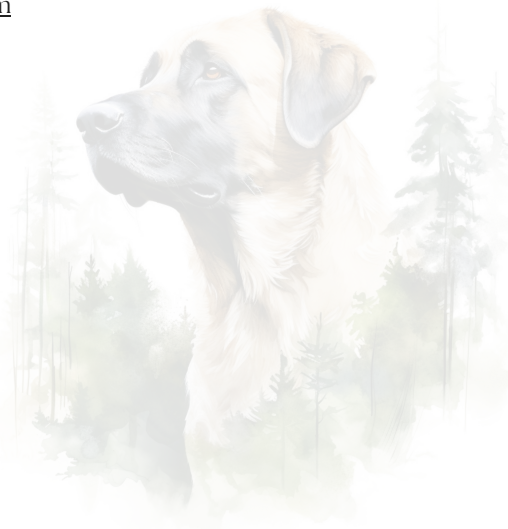
Catherine Emanuel & Edward Collins
Charlottesville, VA 22901
(434) 960-5213
birincianatolians.emmanuel @gmail.com
B, ST, S, W, F, TD

H&L Acres

Lisa Noman
Locust Grove, VA 22508
(571) 469-9028
handlacroes @gmail.com
B, ST, W, F

Cedar Rise

Leslie Ayers & John Gunner
Lexington, VA 24450
(540) 460-7469
leslie @cedarrisefarm.com
www.cedarrisefarm.com
B, ST, S, W, F



CODE OF ETHICS

Anatolian Shepherd Dog Club of America

Approved 8-11-2021 by BOD

The Anatolian Shepherd is a very special breed of dog, developed over many centuries under rigorous working conditions to perform a specific job – protect livestock. As owners and breeders of these dogs, we are dedicated to maintaining the working ability, temperament, soundness, and overall conformation these dogs have exhibited for millennia in their native lands.

This Code of Ethics is established in accordance with the objectives of the Anatolian Shepherd Dog Club of America (ASDCA) as set forth in the By-Laws. It is established to set a standard of conduct by all members of the ASDCA. It is presented as a guideline for the use of ASDCA members and the general public when buying breeding, selling and exhibiting Anatolian Shepherd Dogs. The Code of Ethics outlines the essentials of responsible behaviors for Anatolian Shepherd owners, breeders, and potential breeders whose foremost aim should be the health and welfare of their dogs and the breed.

As a member, breeder, or potential breeder, in good standing of the ASDCA, I hereby agree:

1. To abide by the ASDCA By-laws and the Rules and Regulations of the American Kennel Club.
2. To maintain the highest standard of canine health, cleanliness, and care.
3. That all advertising and social media shall be honest and not in any way fraudulent or misleading. Members should be responsible, respectful and professional on social media.
4. That no ASD will be knowingly sold to franchised commercial facilities, puppy brokers, puppy mills or agents. No stud dog will knowingly be bred to any bitch whose owner is directly or indirectly involved with any puppy broker, puppy mill or any other commercial enterprise whose business is involved in like activities. No ASD will be sold or donated to a research laboratory. No dog will be offered as a prize or sold at auction.
5. All breeding will be done with the intention of preserving the breed and not for purely commercial purposes. No registered Anatolian will be intentionally bred other than to a registered ASD.
6. All breeding Bitches and Dogs must be certified radiographic free of hip dysplasia by the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals or comparable agency. Preliminary results are not accepted. Copy of this certification to be provided to puppy buyers upon request.
7. All breeding Bitches and Dogs should be physically mature and at least two years of age with no disqualifying faults per the AKC standard. It is recommended that Bitches be limited to 3 litters in their lifetime and should not be bred after the age of 8 without Veterinary approval.
8. Puppies should not be removed from their mother and siblings before they are at least eight weeks old.
9. To realistically evaluate all puppies and to sell or place non-breeding ASDs on contracts with limited registration papers (offspring cannot be registered with the AKC).
10. All breeders will take responsibility for all offspring produced and will assist in their lifetime placements and re-homing if necessary.

PPCPP COMMITTEE

Update from Martha Davis – Chair

The Purina Parent Club Partnership (PPCP) program was discontinued December 31, 2025, and has been replaced by the Pro Grant Program.

Over its 20-year run, the PPCPP program allowed Purina Pro Club members to earn funds for breed health research, education, and rescue efforts. Thanks to ASDCA members participating in the Purina Pro Club, during my tenure alone as PPCPP Chair, we have supported rescue through ads in the Anatolian Times, education by providing materials for public ed/judges training, and health through sponsorship of an AKC Canine Health Foundation study on Osteosarcoma. Progress reports of this study were published in the 2024 Volume 2 issue of the Anatolian Times.

Even though Purina has discontinued the PPCPP program, the ASDCA still has \$4,344.93 remaining in its PPCPP account. This account is separate from the general club funds, earmarked specifically for the purposes of education, health, or rescue. Until the last of these funds are disbursed, the PPCPP Committee/ASDCA Board of Directors will continue to accept for review, proposals benefitting education, health, and rescue efforts of the Anatolian Shepherd Dog.

Committee Chairs/Club members seeking PPCPP support for a project shall submit a proposal using the following format:

- Purpose for use of funds. What will the funds be used for; be specific.
- Amount of funds needed. Be specific to dollar amount requested. Up to or over one third of funds available. However, only up to one third of funds available will be granted for each committee.
- Goal: Be specific on how these funds will benefit the Anatolian Shepherd Dog.
- Date of need for funds. When do you anticipate the funds will need to be dispersed?
- Upon notice of award approval from Board/PPCPP Committee Chair, appropriate Committee Chair(s) and/ or Club member will submit a bill or a paid receipt to Treasurer for reimbursements at this time.
- Upon use of these funds, appropriate Committee Chair/Club member shall submit a paid receipt to Treasurer for bookkeeping purposes.

Complete PPCPP Guidelines (8/11/2020) are available on the ASDCA Website (<https://asdca.club>) under the Committees tab.

The Pro Grant Program, which replaces PPCPP, can award grants of up to \$5,000 on an annual cycle. Eligible not-for-profit national breed clubs affiliated with registries such as AKC and UKC or 501(c)3 nonprofit organizations whose primary function is organizations focused on breed preservation, education, and canine health, can now apply directly to Purina for grants. Applications will be accepted beginning June 1, 2026.

Visit the Pro Plan Grant Program page on the Purina Pro Club portal for more information or to apply for the grant.

Applicants will need to submit the following:

- Organization Background
- Grant Request Details
- Monetary Request
- Applicant Contact Information

Key Dates

- June 1st – Application process opens
- September 30th – Applications due
- October 1st – November 30th – Applications reviewed
- Early December – Decisions are sent out
- January – Payments processed for payout

Purina's Pro Grant committee will make selections based on the organization meeting eligibility requirements such as the club's primary function should be to promote, protect and preserve a specific dog breed(s), evaluation of how the grant will help the breed club fund education and supporting health initiatives including events and breed preservation efforts all of which align with Pro Plan's and the club's objectives.

The Pro Grant is a move away from the receipt submission model of the PPCPP which favored larger, more popular breed clubs. The advantage of the Pro Grant program is that it provides an equal opportunity funding structure benefitting smaller breed clubs.

Pro Club members also may continue to earn their individual rewards.



—— THE BROTHERS ——

AMERICA'S TOP 2 ANATOLIAN SHEPHERDS

CHEVALIERS du ROLAND, Inc

Preserving the Legacy of the Impressive Anatolian Shepherd

GCHS Chevaliers du Roland's Gunga Din • #2 Anatolian

Gunga Din

Handled by
JASON STARR



Owned by D. MICHAEL BITZ, MD, Esq • genje@aol.com • Bred by JANIS ROSENTHAL, Esq
© Design by Gay Glazbrook • Rankings Breed Syetem for Gunga Din - All Systems for Rikki-4/26

D. Michael Bitz, MD, Esq. • Janis Rosenthal, Esq.



genje@aol.com • jr.janisrosenthal@gmail.com

#1 ANATOLIAN

Rikki

Handled by
KELLIE WILLIAMS



GCHG Chevaliers du Roland's Rikki Tikki Tavi • National Specialty Judge MS. DENISE DEAN

Preserving the Legacy of the Impressive Anatolian Shepherd

CHEVALIERS du ROLAND, Inc



CH Chevaliers du Roland's Good Vibrations
Pictured with Judge Ms. Marie Ann Falconer • Handled by Jason Starr
by CH Chevaliers du Roland's Snickers Bar out of GCHS Chevaliers du Roland's Strudel

D. Michael Bitz, MD, Esq. • Janis Rosenthal, Esq.



genje@aol.com • jr.janisrosenthal@gmail.com



CH Karboudjan's Lord Peter Wimsey at Chevalers
Bred by Janet Dotsom • by Gunga Din out of Olive'
Handled by Kellie Williams, RHP

PUBLIC EDUCATION

Dog Expo, February 2026



Dog Expo returned to the Del Mar Fairgrounds on February 21–22, 2026, once again sharing the weekend with the Silver Bay Kennel Club's all-breed show. The event took place in the Seaside Pavilion, where the northern end of the building was left open, allowing passersby to easily see the displays inside and encouraging visitors to step in and explore the many breeds represented.

The Anatolian Shepherd Dog Club of America continued its long tradition of participating in this educational event. Our booth was located in the same familiar position as in previous years, between the Boston Terriers and the Bouviers, with the Black Russian Terriers across the aisle. Over time, this area of the pavilion has become a friendly gathering place for neighboring breed clubs and a welcoming stop for visitors making their way through the exhibit hall.

Several Club members helped represent the breed throughout the weekend. Julie and Gerry Adams attended both days with their girl Callie. Janet Dotson spent the day at the booth with Olive, Dusty's sister, while Molly Akin assisted with booth setup and stopped by with her seven-month-old puppy. I attended on Saturday with Dusty and returned on Sunday with Musetta, giving attendees the opportunity to meet different examples of the breed over the course of the weekend.



PUBLIC EDUCATION

The Dog Expo, February 2026



Dog Expo is always a rewarding outreach opportunity. Many visitors arrive looking for information about specific breeds, while others come simply curious and eager to learn about dogs they may never have encountered before. Throughout the day we spoke with numerous people interested in the Anatolian Shepherd Dog's history as a livestock guardian, its independent temperament, and the unique responsibilities that come with living with this remarkable breed.

As always, booths were decorated by the participating clubs, and visitors were invited to vote for their favorites in a friendly display contest. While the competition is fun, the true highlight of the event is the chance to share accurate information about our breed and connect with the public.

Events like Dog Expo play an important role in helping people understand the purpose and character of livestock guardian breeds.

Thanks to the members and their dogs who participated, many visitors left with a new appreciation for the Anatolian Shepherd Dog and the important work these remarkable guardians were bred to do.

Submitted by:
Rachel Amov
Public Education Committee Member



Are you interested in sharing your Anatolian Shepherd Dog and breed knowledge with the Public? Reach out to Julie Adams of the Public Education Committee to share ideas, and don't forget to submit your stories and photos of public education efforts to Editor@ASDCA.club

PUBLIC EDUCATION

How do Anatolians Organize Their World?

This article is not really about territory. It is about how Anatolians appear to organize and remember the world around them.

How much do our Anatolians understand about the world around them?

Most of us have stories about dogs that know when it's time for dinner, recognize the sound of a leash, or can predict a trip to the veterinarian. But after many years of living with Anatolians, I've often wondered if these dogs are doing something far more complex.

My dogs know the names of people. They know the names of other dogs. They recognize familiar routes and destinations. They know when we are headed to the veterinarian, and even which veterinarian. They know their chiropractor by name. If I tell them we are going to visit friends, I am just as likely to identify the destination by the dog we are going to see as by the human who lives there. "We're going to see Ollie," or "We're going to see Xena," are common phrases in my house.

In my household, "the vet" is not a single concept. My dogs appear to distinguish between different veterinarians and the clinics where they practice, suggesting that they may be building associations between specific people, places, and experiences.

Whether they truly understand the words themselves or have simply built powerful associations over time, I cannot say. What I do know is that they often seem to know where we are going long before we arrive.

These observations have led me to wonder how Anatolians organize their understanding of the world. We often think in terms of property lines and territory, but perhaps their mental maps are much more complex than that.



Over the years I have become increasingly convinced that my Anatolians do not organize their world solely by physical territory. They know people. They know dogs. They know places. More importantly, they seem to understand the relationships between those things. They know Tom's house, but they also know Tom. They know Belinda's house, but they also know Belinda. They know Ollie and Xena, and they know that Ollie and Xena are at their breeder Janet's house. They know veterinarians, chiropractors, breeders, and friends. They recognize roads that lead to those places and often seem to know where we are going before we arrive.

When I tell my dogs that we are going to see Ollie, what exactly are they responding to? Is it the word itself? Is it their memory of a dog they enjoy seeing? Do they associate Ollie with Janet's house? Do they recognize the route we take to get there? Or are they anticipating the experience of the visit itself? I suspect the answer may be some combination of all of these things.



PUBLIC EDUCATION

How do Anatolians Organize Their World?

Anatolians seem to keep track of relationships, not just objects. For example, when I mention Ollie, my dogs aren't simply responding to a word. Ollie is connected to Janet. Janet is connected to a familiar house. That house is connected to previous visits, familiar dogs, and predictable experiences. Somehow all of those associations seem to travel together.

Belinda is a neighbor they adore and associate with love and biscuits. Their chiropractor is associated not only with treatment, but with familiar people (they love) and dogs they encounter there regularly, dogs that have become part of their "pack". These connections seem to form a network of relationships that my dogs recognize and remember.

Interestingly, the route to their chiropractor shares much of the same freeway as the route to Janet's house. For part of the drive, the destinations are nearly identical, yet the dogs still seem to know where we are headed. Whether that understanding comes from the words I use, the route itself, previous experiences, or some combination of all three, I cannot say. I do know that I tend to talk to my dogs in complete sentences, telling them things like, "We're going to see Dr. Cheryl," or "We're going to Janet's house," and they often appear to respond differently depending on the destination.

Obviously we don't know exactly how dogs think about these things, but they seem remarkably good at understanding who goes with whom and what goes with what. It has really made me think about how Anatolians understand territory and build a mental map of their world.

As I thought more about it, I realized that my dogs seem to organize their world in layers. There are people they know: breeders, veterinarians, chiropractors, neighbors, friends, and family members. There are dogs they know: relatives, canine friends, and dogs they encounter regularly. There are places they know: home, show grounds, veterinary clinics, training facilities, parks, and friends' houses. Some of those places are not part of their daily lives at all. Dog show grounds, for example, may only be visited a few times a year, yet my dogs often appear to recognize them when we return. That recognition has made me wonder whether repeated experiences, rather than simple ownership of a location, play a role in how they organize their world.



There are routes they know: familiar roads, walking paths, freeway exits, and the roads that lead to important destinations. Most interestingly, there are relationships they seem to understand.

Certain people belong with certain dogs. Certain dogs belong in certain places. Certain locations carry certain expectations.

PUBLIC EDUCATION

How do Anatolians Organize Their World?



Somehow, all of these pieces appear to fit together into a mental map that helps them navigate their world. The thought process began when I started comparing my suburban dogs to the descriptions I had long read about working livestock guardians. Owners of ranch and farm dogs often describe dogs that clearly understand when they are on their property and when they are off it. A dog may be intensely territorial at home yet behave quite differently when traveling elsewhere.

My dogs, however, live in suburbia. They walk the same routes repeatedly. They visit the same parks, friends, show grounds, veterinary clinics, and training facilities. They travel with me regularly. Over time, I began to wonder whether they experience the world differently. If a dog revisits the same places over and over again, does it begin to incorporate those places into its mental map? Does familiarity create a sense of responsibility? Or is the key not the place at all, but the people and dogs associated with it?

I don't know exactly how Anatolians organize their world. I only know that they seem to understand far more about it than many people give them credit for. The longer I live with them, the more I find myself wondering whether they are navigating a rich mental map made up not only of places, but of people, dogs, memories, routines, and relationships. Whatever the answer may be, it is one more reason why living with Anatolians never stops being fascinating.

Rachel Amov

Recording Secretary of the Anatolian Shepherd Dog Club of America and has shared her life with Anatolians and Anatolian mixes for more than three decades.

HEALTH COMMITTEE

Pedigrees to Pups Seminar - May 2026

In May, my 12 year old son Sam and I attended a seminar put on by Pure Dog Talk called "Pedigrees to Pups." This event spanned three days and included ten breeding and health focused presentations with following question and answer sessions. There were many pearls of new, pertinent information that helped me better understand what has gone right and wrong in my past breeding plans, how to build and pivot, and even troubleshoot when needed.

About the Speakers:

Laura Reeves, host of Pure Dog Talk podcast, grew up in purebred dogs. She has served the German Wirehair Pointer Club of America as President, Vice President, Judges Education Chair, and more, while accumulating over 100 work and show titles in her Scotia kennel dogs. Laura is a former Registered Professional Handler and current AKC Judge with over 50 years of direct experience breeding purebred dogs for both conformation and serious work.



Sam and Natalie on their way to Washington to attend the Pedigrees to Pups Seminar.



The view from the Seminar - gorgeous!

Marty Greer, Doctor of Veterinary Medicine, has 40+ years' experience in veterinary medicine, with special interests in canine reproduction and pediatrics. She received her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine from Iowa State University in 1981. In 2023, Dr. Greer was named the Westminster Kennel Club Veterinarian of the Year. She is a frequent guest of the Pure Dog Talk podcast, and co-host of the Marty and Laura Show podcast serving pet people across the world with relatable topics everyone can benefit from.

The topics covered included:

- How to plan a breeding and evaluate pedigrees
- Health testing and genetic responsibility
- Structure, movement, and temperament fundamentals
- Selecting and managing a stud dog
- Preparing for breeding, whelping, and emergencies
- Puppy development from neonatal through placement
- Contracts, co-ownerships, and long-term breeder responsibility

HEALTH COMMITTEE

Pedigrees to Pups Seminar - May 2026

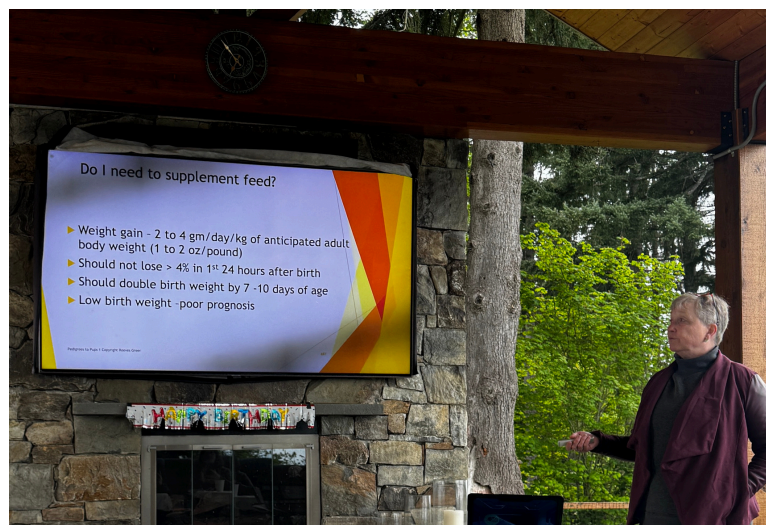
Sam's biggest takeaway from the seminar was how so many people with different breeds/interests came together and supported one another through the weekend. He got to see a litter of Bulldog puppies at the event host home, visit with many fanciers and even some other young people who attended with their parents. While some of the topics were a bit over his level of understanding, he was able to glean some great tips for when he assists with whelping and litter rearing, like proper tube feeding technique, and how the incubator and oxygen concentrator we have can save a puppy struggling in the first few days.

A couple interesting medication facts I learned from Dr. Greer that could benefit all Club members:

Bravecto is the **ONLY** flea/tick preventative medication that has been tested and verified safe for use in breeding dogs (both dogs and bitches). This is something that I haven't really needed to know in previous years, thanks to the typical balance of free-ranging poultry, sub-zero hard frosts in winter, and the fact that my dogs do not allow the local fauna to enter our pasture space to drop ticks. However, this last winter was atypical, extremely mild, and did not have adequate deep frost to have the usual effect on parasites like ticks. We've noticed that the local bird population is laden with ticks this year, which has not happened in the past. We have had more ticks in our pastures from them dropping from the birds overhead. Now all my dogs are on Bravecto - because I value and support companies that do the research to assure their product is safe for my dogs, regardless of age.

Metronidazole is no longer recommended for treatment of idiopathic (cause unknown) diarrhea in dogs. While this drug certainly has its place, it has a small window of safe use. The typical canine dose is 50 mg/kg, while toxicity has been reported at 60-65 mg/kg in dogs. That's a 10-15 mg per kg window of error before you could be causing harm to your dogs! This means that it is imperative to utilize other treatment options first (kapectate, probiotics, etc.) and if you are going to use Metronidazole- do it with **ACCURATE** weight and under the supervision of your veterinarian. Remember: Metronidazole crosses the blood-brain barrier, and it has the potential to negatively affect your dog's central nervous system. This is not something to estimate and take a chance with.

Learning the current best practices and drug recommendations from a reproduction veterinarian like Dr. Marty was invaluable. As a breeder, I am fortunate to have my primary veterinarian be a Theriogenologist (repro specialist). If you plan to breed your Anatolian Shepherd Dog, I recommend that you locate a Therio veterinarian by searching on Therio.org. It may cost a little more than a standard veterinarian, but you'll get current information regarding reproductive canines, where most general practice veterinarians are not keeping current on that area.



Dr. Marty Greer discussing feeding protocols for pregnant and nursing bitches.

HEALTH COMMITTEE

Pedigrees to Pups Seminar - May 2026

Some other breeding health topics covered:

- Never spay a bitch during a cesarean section!
- Have a plan, use Progesterone to time ovulation, and make sure you have a veterinarian on standby incase you have a whelping emergency and need help.
- Always dip umbilical cords in Iodine tincture to save potential infection/suffering.
- If you have a resorption of a litter, Progesterone testing before and throughout pregnancy, prophylactic antibiotic use, and close monitoring can result in a successful litter after a failure to carry to term.
- Stud Dog management and selection.

Logistical breeding topics covered:

- Studying a Pedigree, health and performance.
- Health testing, Genetic vs. Congenital vs. Environmental issues and the breeder's responsibility.
- Puppy Contracts, Performance and Co-ownerships.
- Registration and Microchips.
- Recovery and Returns.
- When two families of dogs just don't mix - "Not a nick."

I can't possibly cover the 12+ hours of seminar content in a single article, but I encourage everyone interested in or even just considering breeding to attend the Pedigrees to Pups seminar. Your local all-breed club can host this seminar and benefit from the ticket sales! Contact Laura@PureDogTalk.com for more information about the Pedigrees to Pups seminar.



Submitted by:
Natalie Thurman
Health Committee Member



OFA REPORT - HIPS

The following Anatolian Shepherd Dogs have had evaluations recorded by the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA) in their hip registry from 3/1/2026 through 6/1/2026.

OFA Number	 Number	Registration Number	Registered Name	Sex	Results
ANS-2715G30F-C-NOPI		WS81552502	AL KHMI KAYSERI	F	GOOD
ANS-2718E24F-U-PI	219340	WS83868301	BETHLEHEM'S NAZIRA	F	EXCELLENT
ANS-2699E28M-C-VPI	215351	WS82664501	BIRINCI'S GONNA PUMP YOU UP	M	EXCELLENT
ANS-2719F27M-C-VPI	219341	WS82907206	CATTLE LANDING FARM'S SER GREGOR	M	FAIR
ANS-2684E50F-C-NOPI		WS72826404	CHEVALIERS DU ROLAND'S HIGH ROLLER	F	EXCELLENT
ANS-2711G59M-C-VPI	217337	WS72271501	DIAMOND ACRES AARON	M	GOOD
ANS-2713G41F-C-VPI	217894	WS78419602	DIAMOND ACRES MARTA	F	GOOD
ANS-2708G26F-P-VPI	216989	WS82632801	LABROSA'S PERFECT PAIRING	F	GOOD
ANS-2709F26F-C-VPI	217182	WS82632802	LABROSA'S YOU HAD ME AT MERLOT	F	FAIR
ANS-2714G30M-C-VPI	217967	WS82176805	RHL FARMS JACK'S LIL' RIP	M	GOOD
ANS-2721G36M-C-NOPI		WS81154504	RISING PHOENIX NAZIK ERKEK	M	GOOD
ANS-2710G29M-P-VPI	217324	NOREG2697035	SHEPHERDS REST GEVEZE DREDD	M	GOOD
ANS-2716E26F-C-VPI	218085	WS84127504	STONECOAT KATNISS CATCHING FIRE	F	EXCELLENT
ANS-2717G24F-C-VPI		WS83619402	THAKEB ANATOLIAN HUREM THE SMILING ONE	F	GOOD
ANS-2720G26M-C-VPI	219498	WS83441002	WANYAMA'S HERE'S LOOKIN' AT YOU KID	M	GOOD
ANS-2712E24F-P-VPI	217673	WS83441011	WANYAMA'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME	F	EXCELLENT

OFA REPORT - ELBOWS

The following Anatolian Shepherd Dogs have had evaluations recorded by the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA) in their hip registry from 3/1/2026 through 6/1/2026.

OFA Number	 Number	Registration Number	Registered Name	Sex	Results
		WS81552502	AL KHMI KAYSERI	F	UAP/DJD IUR
ANS-EL1436F24-U-PI	219340	WS83868301	BETHLEHEM'S NAZIRA	F	NORMAL
ANS-EL1437M27-C-VPI	219341	WS82907206	CATTLE LANDING FARM'S SER GREGOR	M	NORMAL
ANS-EL1430M59-C-VPI	217337	WS72271501	DIAMOND ACRES AARON	M	NORMAL
ANS-EL1432F41-C-VPI	217894	WS78419602	DIAMOND ACRES MARTA	F	NORMAL
ANS-EL1440F49-C-VPI		WS75691106	HEY NEIGHBOR YOU GOAT WHAT YOU DESERVE	F	NORMAL
ANS-EL1428F26-P-VPI	216989	WS82632801	LABROSA'S PERFECT PAIRING	F	NORMAL
ANS-EL1434M49-C-VPI		WS75645104	REICH'S PROWLING PANTHER	M	NORMAL
ANS-EL1433M30-C-VPI	217967	WS82176805	RHL FARMS JACK'S LIL' RIP	M	NORMAL
ANS-EL1439M36-C-NOPI		WS81154504	RISING PHOENIX NAZIK ERKEK	M	NORMAL
ANS-EL1429M29-P-VPI	217324	NOREG2697035	SHEPHERDS REST GEVEZE DREDD	M	NORMAL
ANS-EL1435F26-C-VPI	218085	WS84127504	STONECOAT KATNISS CATCHING FIRE	F	NORMAL
ANS-EL1438M26-C-VPI	219498	WS83441002	WANYAMA'S HERE'S LOOKIN' AT YOU KID	M	NORMAL
ANS-EL1431F24-P-VPI	217673	WS83441011	WANYAMA'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME	F	NORMAL

OFA REPORT - THYROID

The following Anatolian Shepherd Dogs have had evaluations recorded by the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA) in their hip registry from 3/1/2026 through 6/1/2026.

OFA Number	CHIC Number	Registration Number	Registered Name	Sex	Results
ANS-TH468/59M-VPI	WS72271501	217337	DIAMOND ACRES AARON	M	NORMAL
ANS-TH467/26F-VPI	WS82632801	216989	LABROSA'S PERFECT PAIRING	F	NORMAL
ANS-TH466/29M-VPI	NOREG2697035	217324	SHEPHERDS REST GEVEZE DREDD	M	NORMAL
	WS66315108	213931	STONECOAT SOMETHIN' WICKED SPECIAL	F	COMP. AUTOIMMUNE THYROIDITIS
ANS-TH469/16F-VPI	WS85272501		WILD ROOSTER SAH KIZI	F	NORMAL

HEALTH COMMITTEE

Anatolian Shepherd Dog Breed Health Survey Announcement

After over a year of coordinating with the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals, your ASDCA Health Committee is happy to announce that the Anatolian Shepherd Dog Breed Health Survey is open for survey submissions!

Our last breed health survey ended in 2011. In the last 15 years, many purebred Anatolian Shepherd Dogs have been whelped, raised, loved, and lost.

The goal of this breed health survey is to collect anonymous data on individual Anatolians' health history.

This data will help the Anatolian Shepherd Dog Clubs, breeders, and owners from around the world be aware of the health concerns our Anatolians are prone to. Information is power, and we want to empower all Anatolian owners and enthusiasts.

Highlights:

- One survey per dog.
- Your response is completely anonymous.
- All purebred Anatolian Shepherd Dogs are eligible.
- Responses are welcome from ALL countries.
- This survey is free to participate in, and the data will be free to researchers.

For more information, and to participate in this survey, visit:

<https://asdca.club/health-survey/>

Submitted by Janet Dotson,
Health Committee Chairperson

TITLE REPORT

New Titles with AKC from February 2026 through May 2026 as listed in the
AKC Titles Report through June 2026. (23)

GCH HIGHER ACHIEVEMENT

GCHG CH Chevaliers Du Roland's Rikki-Tikki-Tavi (D) 1/2/23

Owner(s): Dr. D Michael Bitz

Breeder(s): Janis L Rosenthal Esq.

Sire: Maranda's Night Journey

Dam: GCHS CH Chevaliers Du Roland's Strudel

GCH CH Karaboudjan's Harriet Vane At Chevaliers Du Roland (B) 2/6/25

Owner(s): Dr. D Michael Bitz

Breeder(s): Janet Dotson

Sire: GCHS CH Chevaliers Du Roland's Gunga Din

Dam: GCH CH Karaboudjan's Perfect Martini At Island Farm

GCH CH Labrosa's Perfect Pairing CGC(B) 12/31/23

Owner(s): Mrs. Marlena Wielgos & Lana Kovarik

Breeder(s): Lana Kovarik & Wolfgang Reyes

Sire: GCHB CH Tamoor's Kaplan Gozleri

Dam: GCHB CH Tamoor's Kaplan Gozleri

RALLY INTERMEDIATE

Edgewind Sir Winston Del Stack RI FDC CGC (D) 11/27/15

Owner(s): Randy L Stackhouse & Terry Stackhouse

Breeder(s): Monique Westover

Sire: Rogue

Dam: Diamond Acres Tess II

CANINE GOOD CITIZEN

GCH CH Birinci's Ratatouille Piece De Resistance CGC (D) 2/6/22

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

AKC S.T.A.R. PUPPY

Stonecoat Mortlach STR (D) 11/22/25

Owner(s): Regan Leston & Tom Leston

Breeder(s): Heidi L Krol

Sire: CH Stonecoat Kankuro

Dam: Stonecoat Rumor Has It

CHAMPION

CH Durango Dalia Of The Dandy S Ranch (B) 5/24/24

Owner(s): Dr. D Michael Bitz

Breeder(s): Donna Bond Becker

Sire: Wanyama's Strike It Rich

Dam: Daisy Jane Of The Dandy S Ranch

CH Birinci's Heavenly Hope Of Jubilee (B) 2/7/21

Owner(s): Ms. Cynthia L Hager

Breeder(s): Louise Emanuel & Jeff Hahn

Sire: GCH CH Birinci's Hint Of Hoja

Dam: CH Canton's Illuminati Of Birinci

CH Las Sirenas Book 'Em Danno (D) 5/11/25

Owner(s): Molly Akin & Allan Childers

Breeder(s): Molly Akin & Allan Childers

Sire: GCHG CH Karaboudjan's Mr. Bali Hai CGC

Dam: GCH CH Karaboudjan's Halekulani Sunset At Las Sirenas

CH Chevaliers Du Roland's Two Gentlemen Of Verona (D) 5/1/25

Owner(s): Dr. D Michael Bitz

Breeder(s): Janis L Rosenthal Esq.

Sire: GCHS CH Chevaliers Du Roland's Gunga Din

Dam: Chevaliers Du Roland's Whatchamacallit Bar

CH Wanyama's Welcome To The Good Place At Chevaliers (B) 6/20/25

Owner(s): Dr. D Michael Bitz

Breeder(s): Sami Mann

Sire: CH Chevaliers Du Roland's Kokomo

Dam: Wanyama's Josephine March

CH Labrosa's Tahoe Queen (B) 5/3/23

Owner(s): Tina Berger & Lana Kovarik

Breeder(s): Lana Kovarik & Wolfgang Reyes

Sire: CH Muhsin Of Timaru

Dam: GCH CH Gerlach 2020 Vintage

CH Mythos Buzzin' Around (D) 6/15/22

Owner(s): Nicole Housel

Breeder(s): Meaghan Duck & Nathan Harpe

Sire: GCH CH Stonecoat I'M Puckin' Awesome

Dam: CH Rising Phoenix Go Against The Flow

TOP PRODUCING SIRE (2025)

Chevaliers Du Roland's Snickers Bar

6 Offspring Completed CH in 2025

TOP PRODUCING DAM (2025)

GCHS CH Chevaliers Du Roland's Strudel

6 Offspring Completed CH in 2025

Congratulations!

MEMBERS SHARE

All members can submit stories, photos and anything Anatolian-related to
Editor@ASDCA.club!

Win Photos



GCH Karaboudjan's Shimmery Luster Dust "Dusty"
Owner(s): Janet Dotson & Rachel Amov
Breeder(s): Janet Dotson
Group 4 Placement



Full Circle Farms War Hero WLD
Owner(s): Nancy Vargas-Koenigsmann & Bob Koenigsmann
Breeder(s): Nancy Vargas-Koenigsmann
Award of Merit



CH Las Sirenas Book 'Em Danno
Owner(s): Molly Akin & Allan Childers
Breeder(s): Molly Akin & Allan Childers
BOS - New Champion

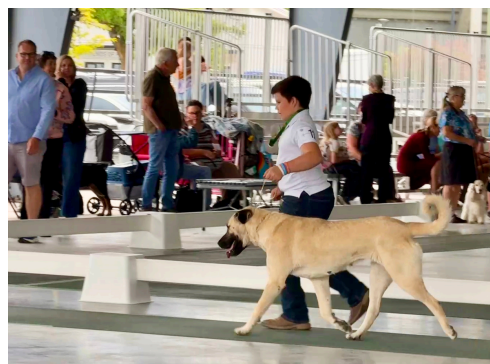
Candid's



Apex A.J. Calypso "Callie"
Owner(s): Gerry Adams & Julia Adams
Breeder(s): Natalie Thurman
Group 3 Placement



Open Class Lineup
Del Sur, May 2026



Wanyama'a Who Wears Short Shorts at Apex
Owner(s): Natalie Thurman
Breeder(s): Sami Mann
BOB

JUDGES EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Judging the Anatolian - A Judge's Guide

As the Anatolian Shepherd Dog enters the ring, the judge should immediately be impressed by the dog's size and soundness. It is a large and formidable breed. It should be noted that as the dogs first goes around the ring, some dogs will have their tail carried in a wheel and others will have tails carried lower. When gaitting, however, the tail should go up and over, some more than others. Wheel carriage preferred. This is indicative of the dog's awareness in the show ring setting.

The Anatolian Shepherd Dog is, first and foremost, a working guardian. It is reserved when taken out of its element. This is not to say it is timid. It should be alert, in varying degrees aloof, and most probably disinterested. As a judge, one should be aware of the demeanor and not fault the dog for not reacting to a squeaky toy, a whistle or the clap of hands.

All colors, patterns and markings are equally acceptable as well as variations in coat length (1" to approx. 4" in length). Pronounced white markings on the face, neck, chest and legs are common. The neck should be slightly arched, powerful and muscular with more skin and fur than elsewhere on the body forming a protective ruff. Slight feathering may occur on the ear fringes, legs, breaching and tail. Pigmentation around the eyes and on the nose must be complete. Lack of pigment is not acceptable. Seasonal fading of the nose is normal.

The Anatolian Shepherd Dog is a muscular and athletic canine. However, the breed is very slow to mature. The judge will notice greater differences in the young males and bitches through their second year, chest noticeably less dropped and body appearing much leaner. Equal consideration, however, irrespective of level of maturity, should be given to all dogs based on overall balance, structure and breed type. Variation in body structure is acceptable as long as height, weight and bone are in proportion to overall size. Size should not be given precedence over balance, structure and correct breed type.

The skull is broader in dogs than in bitches. The head will also not have expanded to its mature broadness until after the age of 4 years. Certainly there are exceptions to every rule. The judge should not expect to see a dog that is covered heavily with extra flesh.

The profile of the Anatolian Shepherd Dog, when standing, should show a slight drop behind the withers (not a sway back or weakness in the topline) with gradual arch over the loin, sloping slightly downward at the croup. The topline of the Anatolian will appear level when gaitting. With proper ease of movement, the head will drop, the back will remain strong (no rolling), and the tail will rise. When these three elements come together, the leveling of the topline will become evident to the viewer.

Approaching the Anatolian Shepherd Dog should be from the shoulder and not "head on." The handler should be allowed to present the bite. It is not in the best interest of the dog for the judge to over handle this breed during examination. This is a working dog and should be respected as one.

The judge should make sure adequate space between dogs is available in the ring while the dogs are lined up for examination and insure that crowding does not occur during gaitting so each dog's movement can be seen to its potential. Gaitting should be light and fluid. The Anatolian Shepherd Dog exhibits good reach and drive and covers a lot of ground. There is converging toward center line as the gait picks up. Crossing over in front or from the rear is not acceptable. Although the dog is capable of great speed, the breed instinctively conserves energy. Speed is not necessary or expected in the show ring.

It is the desire of the Anatolian Fancy to have the dogs presented for conformation judging in their best light. Judges passing judgment on our Anatolian Shepherd should be looking for a dog that is large, powerful and impressive, with superior breed type, physically and temperamentally capable of guarding flocks from predators. Judges must consider the whole dog and not overemphasize any one part. General balance is more important than absolute size. An Anatolian Shepherd Dog that is most typical of the breed as defined by the breed standard is not exaggerated; he is the ideal; he is functional; he is perfectly balanced.

The information furnished in this article was written and approved by the ASDCA Judges Education Committee and approved by the ASDCA BOD 8/10/13.

JUDGES EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Judging the Anatolian - Frequently Asked Questions

What color is preferred?

The AKC Anatolian Shepherd Dog Breed Standard allows for all coat colors and markings to be equally acceptable. There is no preference given to coat color. It should be noted that some colors create optical illusions. Often markings can create the appearance of illusion of a narrow head or an unusual ear set.

Should the forearm be equal to or longer than the depth of chest?

The AKC Breed Standard reads, "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." Specific measurements and proportions are not given. The overall balance and functionality of the dog should take precedence over any specific measurement.

What is the correct size of the ASD?

The AKC Breed Standard states, "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."

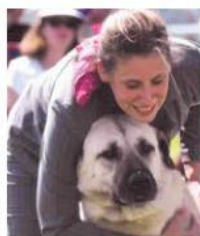
When judging the ASD you will see a wide variety of sizes in the ring to include a size difference between dogs and bitches. There is no disqualification for height or weight in the breed standard. The breed is very slow to mature; therefore, height and weight suggestions are not applicable until the entrant is over the age of two. A six month old puppy may not meet the height or weight suggested in the breed standard. Size is only one part of the dog and should not overrule general balance.

Can you tell me more about bites?

Anatolian bites may be scissors or level is acceptable. Disqualifications include overshot, undershot and wry bites. Broken teeth and missing teeth are acceptable. Many of the dogs that are being exhibited today are coming straight from their pastures. It is not uncommon for a working dog to have broken or missing teeth as a result of protecting their charges. This should not be faulted.

ANATOLIAN SHEPHERD DOGS: QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

KATIE EMANUEL



I live outside of Charlottesville, VA. We run a boarding and grooming shop as well as help our local shelters. We live on a working meat goat farm and use the dogs to do the job they were developed to perform. I've been in dogs since childhood, showing since I was five. I've been judging for the last 7 years.

DEBI GRUNNAH



I live in Reddick, Florida. I am a full-time horse trainer and breeder. I've been showing for 35 years. I am not a judge, but have been showing and breeding Anatolians for 21 years. I was ASDCA Judges Education Coordinator and on the Judges Education Committee, I was also VP and on the Board of Directors for 16 years. I've owned working Anatolians since 1995.

DEBBIE LONG GSCHWENDER



I have been active in the dog show world since I was a teenager, many years ago; first in obedience competition and later in conformation. My first breed was the Rough Collie. I showed my first dog in 1970. I bred and showed Collies until the early 1980s when I bought my first Bouvier des Flandres. Rick and I were married in 1989, and established Rendezvous

Bouvoirs, producing over 60 champions including National Specialty winners and multiple Group winners. We lived in Michigan for 22 years, and after Rick's retirement four years ago, we moved to the Boise area. I started judging in 2000, and currently judge all the Herding breeds, the Herding Group and the majority of the Non-Sporting Group. I currently own three Bouvier des Flandres, two German Shorthair Pointers (my husband's hunting dogs) and an Anatolian.

GARY JAKOBI



Our home is in Marathon, WI, situated in the center of 40 wooded acres. We built our current home in 1993 to allow us to do the things we wanted to do with our Anatolian Shepherd Dogs. For the past 3 years I have been retired. For the 35 years prior to that I worked in the commercial insurance industry, most of that time as an underwriter. I guess you would say that I've been in dogs all of my life. I grew up on a dairy farm here in WI and am the eldest of 13 children. The first dog that I remember having was an English Shepherd Dog (not an AKC breed) named Ring. He was followed in time by many other dogs; Collies, German Shepherds, Labs, Beagles, Blue Tick Hound, Doberman and Great Dane. There were also a few Miniature Poodles in that assortment, as my mother always loved that breed. My wife, Barbara, and I first got into the Anatolian Shepherd Dog in 1983 and began showing and breeding them in 1988-1989. We have been in the breed ever since that time. We have now stopped breeding and no longer show except on those rare occasions when a friend needs some assistance in the ring. I am not a judge, but I have spent many years doing my best to educate and mentor judges about the Anatolian Shepherd Dog. I started doing education seminars about the breed in the late 80s when we were still a "rare breed" and judges had virtually never seen an Anatolian and continue to do ringside mentoring at our National Specialty shows each year.

anatolian shepherd dog Q&A

WITH KATIE EMANUEL, DEBI GRUNNAH, DEBBIE LONG GSCHWENDER,
GARY JAKOBI & CINDY STANSELL

CINDY STANSELL

I am from Clayton, NC. Besides the dogs, I keep very busy with lots of hobbies and travelling. 30+ years showing dogs. Judging 12 years.

Cindy Stansell started showing Siberian Huskies in the early 1980s, American Eskimo Dogs and Finnish Spitz in the late 1980s and Bulldogs and French Bulldogs in the last few years. She currently shares her home with her husband, Robin Stansell, and Siberian Huskies, Finnish Spitz, Bulldogs and one Anatolian Shepherd Dog.

1. Describe the breed in three words.

KE: Intelligent, devoted and independent.

DGr: Intuitive, loyal and powerful.

DLG: Powerful, intelligent and territorial. But, I would also like to add that they have the amazing ability to detect and protect the injured.

GL: Intelligent, independent and powerful.

CS: Instinctive, natural worker.

2. What are your "must have" traits in this breed?

KE: Temperament. For me, they have to be intelligent and independent enough to perform their job. While there must be mutual admiration and respect, they have to be smart and thoughtful. This is not a breed that jumps because you said so or plays catch for hours. They should be discerning and gentle, unless needed to protect their flock. Structurally, I want to see a sound powerful, well-muscled dog.

DGr: Proper temperament, structural soundness and balance, correct movement and working ability.

DLG: The appearance of power, not necessarily to be the "biggest", but it does need to look powerful. Balance (correct angles), as in most breeds. Good feet, it's a Working dog.

GL: Temperament, soundness, proper size and strength.

CS: Must haves: balance, power and size.

3. Are there any traits in this breed you fear are becoming exaggerated?

KE: Personally, I do feel sometimes proper temperament is sacrificed to produce a winner in the show ring. Since judges want to see a showy dog with alert ears on a beautiful free-stack, often this breed is overlooked unless a more prey-driven temperament is exhibited. Judges are selecting dogs on showmanship in the group ring and it is slowly changing the dogs that are selected by breeders.

DLG: The topline—when standing, it has a slight dip behind the shoulders; on the move the topline is level.

4. Do you think the dogs you see in this breed are better now than they were when you first started judging? Why or why not?

KE: Yes. They are more consistent and definitely more sound. The type is more stable and at a Specialty, you can identify every dog as an Anatolian.

DGr: I think the dogs are not the quality that I saw in the breed 20 years ago or even 10 years ago. I think people have strayed from the original purpose and inherit soundness and structure we inherited from the dogs from Turkey originally. The dogs in Turkey are also not the same as they were 10, 15 or 20 years ago. We need to focus on the original purpose and form must follow function.

GL: The dogs being shown today are more consistent in "Type" than they were back in the early 80s. Part of that is due to breeders becoming more discriminating when it comes to choosing which dogs they breed together (they are much more aware of good breeding practices and are, on a whole, screening their breeding dogs to eliminate genetic problems) and part, it seems to me, is that many of those who are breeding with an eye toward showing, are trying to produce a dog that pleases the judges. The reality is that only small samplings of Anatolian Shepherd Dogs are actually being shown. There are far more dogs that never leave their ranches, farms or homes than you will ever see in the show ring. Some of the very best dogs in the breed will never be shown because they are too busy doing what they have been doing for millennia—being guardians for the many types of livestock they share their lives with and/or the families that they live with!

CS: I've only been judging ASD for approximately 6 months. I'll answer this one in two years!

5. Structurally, what separates the Anatolian Shepherd Dog breed from others?

KE: The profile of the dog, when standing should show a slight drop behind the withers (not a sway back or weakness in the topline) with gradual arch over the loin, sloping slightly downward at the croup. The topline of the Anatolian Shepherd Dog will appear level when gaiting. With proper ease of movement, the head will drop, the back will remain strong (no rolling) and the tail will rise. When these three elements come together, the leveling of the topline will become evident to the viewer.

"WE NEED TO FOCUS ON THE ORIGINAL PURPOSE AND
FORM MUST FOLLOW FUNCTION."

"WHEN YOU HAVE CONNECTED WITH AN ANATOLIAN, YOU WILL KNOW THERE IS NO OTHER BREED LIKE IT."

DGr: They must be large and powerful as well as agile so they can do the job they have been doing for thousands of years in Turkey.

GL: When looking at an Anatolian Shepherd Dog you need to see a dog that is ruggedly built—long legged, deep chested with a high tuck-up. A dog constructed to travel long distances if necessary, but with the ability to move extremely quickly if the need arises. A dog with excellent muscularity, which also exudes an obvious competence and authority. A dog that you, on a visceral level, recognize to be a formidable protector of livestock or its family. When looking at an Anatolian Shepherd Dog you should never doubt that it is able to do the job it has been bred to do over the past 4,000 to 6,000 years!

CS: Good structure is more important than size, as long as the size is within the standard. Feet are also important. I have seen too many flat, splayed feet.

6. What do you think new judges misunderstand about the breed?

KE: Judges consistently reward dogs for baiting and demonstrating show ability. Since this breed is not as trainable as a Doberman or Boxer, they must be independent thinkers, they are eliminating many quality dogs that exhibit the proper temperament. A judge is not their flock and they are not interested in them. Judges often mistake the lack of enthusiasm for the show ring for lack of performance, which is incorrect. Also, the breed is large and rugged. They are not giant and sleek. While we do not have limits on our standard, the giant dog breaks down faster and is unable to perform in the field as long.

DLG: Realize that while the majority of Anatolians aren't "showy", don't penalize the ones that enjoy doing anything with their handlers and are showy.

7. What would you like to see judges do differently when judging the ASD?

KE: Approach them without fear, but with respect. They should be approached on an angle after the owner has set them. This is not a breed that should be overly handled by either the handler or the judge. I would ask judges to run their ring and ensure that there is space between exhibitors—don't allow handlers to run up on each other. Lastly, don't allow the handlers to race around the ring. An Anatolian should move with little effort, but not at racing speed. Gaiting should be light and fluid.

DGr: Approach from the side in a non-threatening manner. Be patient with puppies and newbies. Let the handler

show the bite. This is a serious Working breed and not necessarily flashy or showy. That being said, they should not be faulted if they are showy.

GL: I would like to see judges allowing the handlers to show their dog's bite. I would also like the judges to be sure they study our standard and understand that our breed is not a demonstrative breed. The dogs typically don't really care about the judge—as long as he or she doesn't appear to be threatening—they are in the ring because the owner or handler (who, in the case of handlers, the Anatolian has come to know and like) wants them to be there and they trust the judgment of their people. Anatolians are not dogs to be approached aggressively or "head on". They do much better being approached from an angle and should never be overly handled by the judge. Remember, the dog doesn't know you and the breed is, by nature, suspicious of people they don't know and aloof with strangers. Additionally, judges need to remember that in our breed there are no preferences to be given based on coat length or coloration. All coats and colors are equally accepted in the breed. Likewise, eye color can range from light yellow to dark chocolate—again, with no preference given.

CS: Do differently? Bigger is not necessarily better. Understand their topline. Head should be in balance with the body.

8. Is there anything else you'd like to share about the breed?

KE: When you have connected with an Anatolian, you will know there is no other breed like it. They are loyal, devoted and intelligent. They demand respect and offer it in return.

DGr: Anatolians are a very special, intelligent and independent breed that can work with just about any kind of livestock and adjust to many different lifestyles. They are a guardian dog and their unique sense of determining an actual vs. a "perceived" threat to their charges (be it livestock or human) must be preserved. A confident, properly socialized Anatolian is the goal and excessive sharpness or overreaction with lack of confidence should not be rewarded.

DLG: This is a breed that must be socialized at a young age.

GL: When my wife and I first discovered the Anatolian Shepherd Dog in 1983, we immediately fell in love with the temperament, intelligence, size and overall look of the dog. Over time we learned, and came to appreciate, how truly independent minded they are and how much

they are a true “thinking breed.” Anatolians have been bred for thousands of years to live with livestock and to protect them from danger—with little or no direction from humans. To do this, they must look at any given situation and decide what, if any, action needs to be taken, depending upon the threat level that they perceive. I have found the Anatolian Shepherd Dog to be the most intelligent animal—not just dog—that I have ever come into contact with. I say this being fully aware that there are many in the dog world who will disagree with me about this. What many people think of as examples of great intelligence in dogs are learned/trained behaviors that the dog they are referring to will do as quickly as they can to please their master. We must remember that humans have been breeding most dogs with great emphasis on pleasing us for a long time and the vast majority of dogs have a very high drive to do exactly that. This behavior is something that those dogs have an inbred need to do. This is “dependent” behavior, as the dog is always looking to its human for direction and approval for their actions. While this is certainly not a bad thing for these breeds, it is a much different story for the Anatolian and, in general, for the majority of other livestock guarding breeds. Anatolians have been bred, out of necessity, to have the ability to make decisions on their own to accomplish whatever their task may be with little or no need for direction or approval. They do not have a high drive to please people. They do have a very high drive to make sure that their charges (animal or human) are always safe. Having said all of the above, I must also tell you that if you have an Anatolian as a companion dog (pet) and do the good socialization and obedience training, that you should do with all dogs, but which is vitally important with our breed, you will find that your Anatolian will likely learn all the things you want it to know, as fast or faster than any dog you have

had before. However, they will virtually never do those things as quickly or with the same level of enthusiasm as other dogs due to the fact that they do not have the same inbred need to please that other dogs have. Anatolians do what you want because they have learned to love you and trust your judgment, not because they must do so. It is good to remember that first, last and always an Anatolian Shepherd Dog is a GUARDIAN. If necessary, they will give their lives to protect the animals and/or people they consider to be their charges or family. If that should ever change, the breed will be lost.

CS: This is a no-frills dog that is an efficient, calm worker. They are extremely intelligent and very loyal to owners. Their reserve outside the home means that you will not see showy ASDs.

9. And, for a bit of humor: What's the funniest thing you've ever experienced at a dog show?

KE: I had a puppy lift my skirt up in the ring playing. She was so proud and gaited perfectly with my skirt in her mouth. I may have been embarrassed, but she won Winners Bitch and couldn't have been happier.

DLG: I find it funny (and sad) that I can walk into the building with an Anatolian and I part the crowd like Moses parting the water, while her tail is wagging and she is so happy to be there. We did a television interview for a local show and my young Anatolian was playing and loving on the Boston Terrier that was sitting next to it. They can have good, stable temperaments, if you buy from a reputable breeder and socialize them.

GL: This occurred many years ago at a States Kennel Club show (before the Anatolian Shepherd Dogs was accepted by AKC). Our old foundation stud, Ch. Birinci's Khan II and I were competing in a show in Ohio that was being held in a very large indoor equestrian arena. During the last round of Group Judging we were running around our ring when I tripped in the soft footing of the arena and went tumbling head over heels. Khan stopped dead in his tracks, staring at me with his head cocked to the side as if to ask if I was okay or not. When I quickly got to my feet to continue, Khan immediately started off around the ring and took his place in the line-up, stacking himself perfectly. I arrived beside him a few seconds later! It turned out that the judge had never seen our little mishap and we went on to take a Group One that day. I'm sure the judge wondered however, why my jacket and trousers had so much dust on them. Yes, Anatolians really can show, and a few of them, like Khan, actually seem to enjoy it. I believe that more than anything else, they enjoy it because they are happy being with their owner/handler and know that it makes the owner/handler happy, too.

CS: At the time it was not funny but now it is—catching on fire in a PortiJohn. ■

“IT IS GOOD TO
REMEMBER THAT FIRST,
LAST AND ALWAYS
AN ANATOLIAN
SHEPHERD DOG IS
A GUARDIAN.”

HERCULES

CH APEX A.J Legendary Demi-Dog

OFA Excellent Hips

OFA Normal Elbows

OFA Normal Thyroid

OFA Normal Patellas

OFA Normal Cardiac (Ausc)

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ANATOLIANS

preserving the purpose-driven temperament and health of the
Anatolian Shepherd Dog to support families and herds alike.





Hagrid



APEX SS Keeper of the Keys

- OFA Good Hips
- OFA Normal Elbows
- OFA Normal Thyroid
- OFA Normal Cardiac (Ausc)

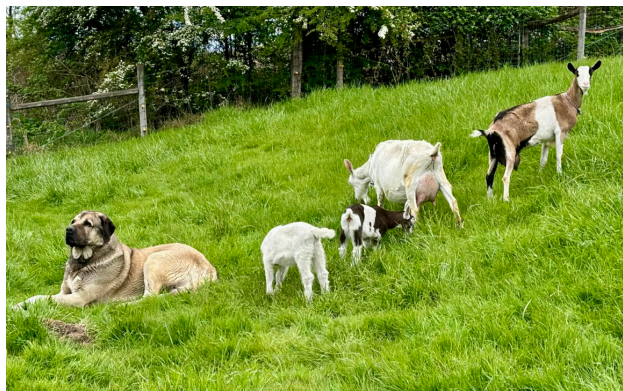
WORKING DOG COMMITTEE



Rey and her puppy
"Puppy in Training"
Owned by Catherine Emanuel and EJ Collins



Best buddies
Zeena and mini
moo
Owned by Carol
White



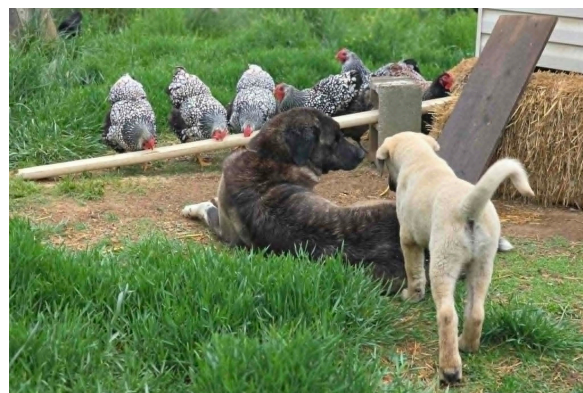
Han Gazi
Keeping his goats feeling safe.
Owned by Chyrl Walker



Mike
Working with his donkeys.
Owned by Catherine Emanuel and EJ Collins



Kayden
Proudly caring for his flock.
Owned by Kathy Gerlach

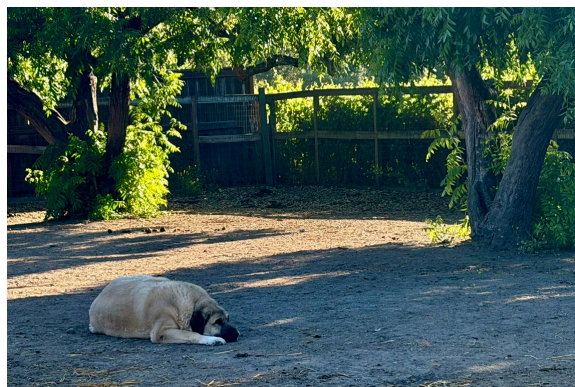


Karma the brindle and Bedlam the puppy
Lessons learned
Owners Jenifer and Jake Lile.

WORKING DOG COMMITTEE



Talu on lamb duty.
Owned by Leslie Ayers and John Gunner



Blake working hard at looking like he is hardly working.
Owned by Diana Martinez



Ares keeps close to the flock.
Owned by Natalie Thurman



"Lil" taking good care of her geese while eating.
Owned by John and Lesley Brabyn



Is your working dog missing?
Send your working dog photos and captions to
Editor@ASDCA.club



Boris (L) and Musetta (back) with friends
Owned by Janet Dotson and Rachel Amov

We can only include what you send in the Anatolian Times!

AKC DELEGATE

ASDCA Delegate Report May 2026

AKC has been going through an election cycle for the past two years for Board of Directors.

These elections run like our own with a nominating committee, a slate of candidates, and an opportunity for others to run from the floor. This past election, March 2026, there were 3 Board seats up. The slate was chosen and forwarded, and there were 6 other nominations from the floor, taking the total to 9 Delegates running for 3 AKC Board seats.

Election 2025 was much the same, with 4 Director seats up for election and 5 additional nominations from the floor, bringing the total number of candidates to 9. To date your current AKC Board of Directors are:

Class of 2027

- Dr. Charles Garvin, Delegate, Dalmatian Club of America
- Steven Hamblin, Delegate, Pekingese Club of America
- Daniel J. Smyth, Esq., Delegate, Burlington County Kennel Club

Class of 2028

- Dr. Carmen L. Battaglia, PhD, Delegate, German Shepherd Dog Club of America
- Sally Fineburg, Delegate, Hatboro Dog Club, Inc.
- Dr. Michael Knight, PhD, Delegate, Texas Kennel Club

Class of 2029

- Dr. Thomas M. Davies, Delegate, Springfield Kennel Club, Inc.
- Eduardo T. Fugiwara, Delegate, Two Cities Kennel Club
- Robin Stansell, Delegate, French Bull Dog Club of America
- Sylvia A. Thomas, Delegate, Kennel Club of Riverside

Class of 2030

- Domenic Palleschi Carota, Delegate, Pharaoh Hound Club of America
- Jason Hoke, Delegate, Chain O'Lakes Kennel Club
- Sue Goldberg, Delegate, Lewiston-Auburn Kennel Club, Inc.

Executive Officers of AKC:

Gina M. DiNardo – President and CEO

Sheila Goffe – Executive Secretary

Theodore Phillips – Chief Financial Officer

AKC DELEGATE

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AKC Delegates meetings are held quarterly, March, June, September and December, where the December meeting is held in conjunction with AKC National Championship in Orlando. The other three meetings are held in Newark, New Jersey.

In the past year AKC has reported a continual decline in funds, in relation to registrations being down, as well as conformation entries, while non-conformation entries are up. This downward trend is the first since the pandemic.

AKC is working hard to expand their social/digital footprint and developing “commercials” that target today’s younger crowd, first time dog owners via the popular social media platforms. AKC events are also being broadcast more on the cable networks as well as network TV.

This new(er) board might change direction, or enhance what is in the works, time will tell.

As far as what affects AKC and its policies have for our club and breed, not much. AKC does target the lower entry breeds and attempts to formulate a process to increase. That process does not make it far. They also consistently raise awareness of low-member clubs and have developed a committee where one can visit and gain advice on how to increase club memberships.

AKC is really pushing the Junior program and wants all clubs to have a Junior Liaison. Juniors are the future and AKC wants to do all they can to promote the program. Next meeting June 2026.

More to report as the year continues.

Respectfully,
EJ Collins
ASDCA AKC Delegate

NATIONAL SPECIALTY

Coming to California, October 2026



Santa Rosa, California

October 16, 2026

Harvest Moon Classic Dog Show Cluster

Location:

Sonoma County Fairgrounds

1450 Bennett Valley Rd

Santa Rosa, CA 95404

Superintendent: MB-F

Show Chairs: Diana Martinez & Carol White

REGIONAL SPECIALTY

Coming to Florida, December 2026

Orlando, Florida

December 11, 2025

Central Florida Working Group Association

Location:

Orange County Convention Center

9800 International Drive

Orlando, FL 32819

Superintendent: Onofrio

Show Chair: Janis Rosenthal, Esq.



BREEDER EDUCATION

Choosing the Right Sire - Dr. Carmen L. Battaglia

There are two reasons that will cause most people to hesitate when selecting a stud dog. The first is the uncertainty of possible health problems and second is they do not know if the stud will produce the traits that are needed.

But regardless of the lack of information and these concerns, the selection of the right sire begins by knowing the strengths and weaknesses of the bitch to be bred. If she has good overall conformation, health and temperament, the job of finding the right sire is less difficult. If she has some good traits and several faults, the job of finding just the right stud requires more research.

The selection process should start with a clear understanding of what is expected from the breeding and what the bitch has to offer. Using pedigree analysis techniques, a breeder can learn about the qualities and the lack of qualities in her pedigree, as well as those of each sire being considered.

As soon as the strengths and weaknesses of the bitch are known, a list of stud dog candidates can be developed. Start with a large number of good candidates. Ten may seem to be more than enough, but you will find that ten is not too many once you begin to check them out. Developing a list of 10 stud dogs begins by contacting breeders, handlers and judges who are knowledgeable about the breed. This will take time, so the search must begin several months or even a year, before the bitch comes in heat. In gathering information, avoid using photos and advertisements. Most are flattering and are not forthcoming about problems. Most usually promise more than a stud dog can produce. As a general rule, one should be cautious about those who recommend their own dogs because they have a vested interest in the matter.

The list of candidates must be screened, sorted and then reduced to a smaller group, usually to only the best 2 or 3. Experience teaches us that some will be better than others based on their appearance, quality of pedigree, health history, and offspring produced. Selecting the best one is usually difficult because information about each of them will not be equally available. Generally speaking, there are five reasons that explain why breeders select a particular stud dog. The five most popular reasons used to select a sire are listed:

1. Convenience - proximity to the residence of the bitch
2. Cost - the economics, the cheapest stud dog
3. Pedigree - number of champion ancestors
4. Offspring produced - quality pups
5. Ancestors/litter mates - known producers

By themselves these reasons are not sufficient for selecting a stud dog because no one of them can be used to assess and evaluate the faults and virtues of the bitch. Cost, convenience and show records are sometimes perceived as legitimate reasons by those who lack experience and knowledge. The best search for the right stud dog always includes knowledge about his traits, health history, temperament and the qualities seen in his offspring. Geography and economics have nothing to do with his genetics or his ability to complement the strengths and offset the weaknesses of the bitch.

Once a list of 10 dogs has been developed, each dog should be checked against those traits and characteristics, which are considered to be important to the breeding. Some of the traits might be related to breed function such as sound hips, temperament, size, strength etc. The diseases to be checked should be those that are specific to the breed. In the final analysis the ideal stud dog should be one that can reasonably be expected to compliment the strengths of the bitch and offset her faults or weaknesses.

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Evaluating each stud dog must be systematic and include the careful examination of his pedigree including the relationship of his ancestors to each other. If there are common relatives in his pedigree that have produced serious health problems, poor temperaments or life threatening diseases, take them off the list. When you are finished it is best to write down what is known about each pedigree in a summary statement. Compare them to what is needed to compliment the pedigree of the bitch. This is a sorting process that will result in finding one or two candidates that have the best health histories, temperament, breed traits and progeny. What you will discover is that the most popular sires will usually be the ones that have reproduced more offspring than the others. There will also be more information known about them and less about those used less often. In either case, as the facts are gathered and studied the original list of stud dogs will be shortened.

Seeing each of the final candidates first hand has no substitute. Visit their kennels and watch them at shows. Remember that the skillful handling of dogs by paid professionals and the limited amount of time allowed to judge, makes the show ring the second best place to see and evaluate them. Even the best breeders can miss an important fault that is carefully hidden. It is always best to see them in a more relaxed setting.

Successful breeding programs always analyze the information that has been collected. Four steps are generally used to check the desirability of sires and dams:

1. Frequency of desired traits occurring among ancestors(three-generation pedigree).
2. Frequency of desired traits found in littermates.
3. Number of carriers or affected littermates or ancestors identified in a three generation pedigree.
4. Number of pups produced with desired traits.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Dr. Battaglia is a Director of the American Kennel Club, founder of "Breeding Better Dogs" and he was the judge of our ASDCA National Specialty Show in 2021. His research and knowledge of breeding dogs is expansive, and this article was published in the 2011 VII Anatolian Times.

When all of the information from the checklist has been considered and taken together as a composite, a reasonable projection can be made about the potential value of each stud dog. For example, if there are no ancestors or littermates with the desired traits and if nothing is known about their health history or temperament, there is little reason to believe they will produce these traits. They should be removed from the list or placed near the bottom.

If Mendel were asked to suggest an approach he would have begun by asking if the parents had produced offspring consistent in size, shape and color because he knew from his experiments that if the parents came from pedigrees that produced in different sizes, shapes and undesirable colors they should not be expected to produce individuals that would be similar to each other or to their parents. He discovered this simple truth in the 1850's and it should not be ignored today. Illustrated in FIGURE 1, are ten hypothetical candidates that were considered in a search for the best stud dog for a hypothetical bitch. At home breeders should develop a list of the defects and traits considered important to their breed.

BREEDER EDUCATION

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ANALYSIS OF THE CANDIDATES (see Figure 1)

Dogs number 1, 5, 6 and 7 have the best health histories and scored well on five of the six important breed traits. They also ranked highest for having the best ratios of offspring that meet desired breed characteristics. (6 out of 9 etc.). Sires number 2, 4, 8, 9 and 10 should not be considered further unless more information can be found. To use these 5 sires is equivalent to breeding blind. At first glance, sire #3 looked like a promising candidate based on his offspring. He produced 2 of 4 offspring of the correct size, 3 of the 4 with good shoulders and 3 of the 4 with correct top lines, coat and feet. But his health history makes him a risky choice. He has not been tested for PRA, liver or heart disease that are popular problems in his breed. His only health asset is that he was OFA certified normal for his hips. The final selection should come from sires 1, 5, 6 or 7. The most promising one is #7 based on health history and desired traits observed in his offspring. Selection of the right stud dog should be a slow and deliberate process. Temperament should not be overlooked in this process.

The number of DNA tests that can be used for screening increases each year thanks to the efforts of the AKC Canine Health Foundation. DNA testing of sires, dams and offspring takes doubt out of the screening and selection process. By using these tests the time needed to breed out health problems can be significantly reduced. Some owners do not believe in testing their stud dogs on the grounds that it is too costly or that they do not believe in the predictability of x-rays or the reliability of laboratory test results. Others will argue that their bloodlines and pedigrees are clear of carriers and defects and there is no need to waste time and money on unnecessary tests. Stud dogs owned by these breeders should not be considered. I recall one breeder who told me that he did not check his dogs for HD because he “did not have HD in his lines”. Later I learned that he usually sold his pups at 8 weeks of age. Since it is unlikely that HD or any other disease will occur prior to four months of age he misleads himself and others into believing what is not true.

Figure 1. Check List and Candidates

Name of Sire	PRA	Liver	HD	Heart	Tail	Size	Shoulder	Back	Coat	Teeth
1. Ch Way to Go	Carrier	Clear	OF A	NT	C	6/9	4/6	4/6	6/6	6/6
2. Ch Nestle Quick	NT	NT	OF A	NT	I	2/9	4/9	2/9	5/9	6/9
3. Ch jump N Joy	NNT	NT	OF A	NNT	I	2/4	3/4	3/4	3/4	3/4
4. Ch Nice Topper	NT	NC	NT	NC	I	3/4	1/4	3/4	3/4	4/4
5. Ch Holly Top	Clear	Clear	NT	Clear	C	7/9	6/9	6/9	7/9	9/9
6. Van Joner's Que	Clear	Clear	OF A	NT	C	4/9	4/9	8/9	7/9	7/9
7. Ch VanCleves Asa	Clear	Clear	OF A	Clear	C	8/10	7/10	8/10	9/10	10/10
8. Ch Slade Rimee	NT	NT	OF A	M	C	7/9	9/9	4/9	3/9	6/9
9. Ch Fryer We Not	NT	NC	NT	NT	I	1/9	2/9	1/9	3/9	3/9
10. Hope Well Bee	M	NT	NC	Clear	C	2/5	5/5	3/5	4/5	3/5
NC - not clear, NT - Not tested, C - Correct, I - Incorrect, M- Missing Information										

AWARDS COMMITTEE

Nominate Your Anatolian for a Service Award!

Did you know? As a member of the ASDCA, you can nominate your Anatolian or another member's Anatolian for a variety of Distinguished Service Awards?

See the details below and [fill out the Nomination Form](#) if you know of an outstanding Anatolian. The Annual Awards Committee takes every nomination into consideration, but awards are not guaranteed.

AVAILABLE AWARDS

Category #1 AWARD OF VALOR: This award is for an Anatolian Shepherd Dog whose actions, without input & acting independent of owner's direction, saved a person's life or saved a person from harm. The category is open to all Anatolian Shepherd Dogs.

Category #2 OUTSTANDING ANATOLIAN SHEPHERD DOG AWARD: For an Anatolian Shepherd Dog who, without human input & acting independent of owner's direction, prevented property from being damaged. The category is open to all Anatolian Shepherd Dogs.

DISTINGUISHED LIVESTOCK GUARDIAN DOG AWARDS:

Category #3: This award is for an Anatolian Shepherd Dog whose specific action, taken without human input of any kind and demonstrative of the best in guardian ability, repeatedly saved their animal charges from life threatening events. Please include information on livestock losses prior to the arrival of the Anatolian Shepherd Dog and livestock losses after the arrival of the Anatolian Shepherd Dog. (OUR TOP LIVESTOCK GUARDIAN AWARD)

Category #4: This award is for an Anatolian Shepherd Dog whose specific action, taken without human input of any kind and demonstrative of the best in guardian ability, saved an animal's life, or saved an animal from harm.

Category #5 DISTINGUISHED SERVICE DOG AWARD: For an ASD whose actions, without the individual with a disability's input and acting independent of their direction, alerted and protected the individual with a disability to a potentially harmful/life-threatening event.

Category #6 DISTINGUISHED THERAPY DOG AWARD For an ASD who provides on-going and significant psychological or physiological therapy to individuals other than their handlers while performing their duties at hospitals, schools, hospices, nursing homes and more. This award requires written endorsement(s) from the institutions serviced by the therapy dog sent directly to ASDCA with the nomination.

Kind Reminder: The annual deadline to be considered is September 1st. All Award Nomination Forms should be sent to our Hall of Fame chair: Diana Martinez, VP@asdca.club

ASDCA
NATIONAL
SPECIALTY
SANTA ROSA, CA
2026

