

NESBTC

JOURNAL 01/08



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTH EAST STAFFORDSHIRE BULL TERRIER CLUB

FROM THE TOP DOG:

Hello and Welcome to the Northeast Staffordshire Bull Terrier Club! Our club was formed to promote and to develop a friendly, fraternal spirit among all Stafford enthusiasts and to create a strong forum for the purpose of promoting the Staffordshire Bull Terrier in a positive light.

"The All Purpose Dog," can be found competing and participating in a wide range of events and activities. Future newsletters will feature a more in-depth look at the many different lives that Staffords enjoy. As the club grows, so will our newsletter. I encourage all members to contribute stories about and photos of their Staffords. Please let us know of any suggestions that you may have for the

newsletter or for club activities. The club will host three fundraising get-togethers each year. We will start with the first annual Cuatro de Mayo BBQ to be held on May 4, 2008. (See ad for details.) During the summer, we will continue the East End Chow Down BBQ (details to follow). This fall, we will present a dinner/theatre night to be held on November tenth, and the comedic talents of the DROP-DEAD COMEDY TROOP will be featured www.dropdeadcomedy.com. Details for this event will be provided in a future newsletter. These get-



together will be open to all club members and to their families and friends.

I hope everyone enjoys this first edition of the Northeast Staffordshire Bull Terrier Club newsletter. I look forward to seeing everyone at the Cuatro de Mayo BBQ on May 4, 2008!

Yours in Staffords,
Tony George
President

>>> She's all grown up and we have her on page 3. She's our first Page 3 Stafford. Saharain Valentine Vixen aka "Alley".

INSPIRATION FROM THE WEST.

By John Cocciola

Well, this is it. Our first North East newsletter and it's pretty exciting. We have a lot of information to put out, but I think one of the first things that really needs to be spread around is the spirit of the Northern California Staffordshire Bull Terrier Club. I'd like to see our North East club capture some of that spirit, and run with it. If we do, I don't think we can miss. They're a truly inspiring group.

I've traveled to Fresno for two consecutive Nor Cal sponsored Stafford Showdowns, and the whole thing was just really inspiring. The camaraderie is undeniable, the club is about the dogs, but the reason it works so well is pretty easy to see, everyone is basically on the same page, and it's all kept in perspective. The Nor Cal club is a perfect model for our fledgling club, and I'd like to encourage any Nor East members to also join our Western sister club.

I really don't want to name names, because it could go on and on and I don't want to leave anyone out, but the leadership and the membership of Nor Cal works very well together, so let's take a look at how their club runs, and learn from that.

In my opinion, the first thing they do right is they keep it all fun. Don't misunderstand that, they're serious about their dogs, and they get a lot of work done, but it's all in a friendly, positive way.

The Nor Cal folks really seem to enjoy working together, so it makes some of the tedious stuff more enjoyable and less like work. The fund raising they do is more like a party, and I'm assuming their meetings are lots of fun too. One of the other things they have right is the common goal. Plus, they have positioned the right people to do the task at hand.

They have certain opinions about what's right and wrong with some of the Staffords being shown today, and they try to accentuate the positive and eliminate the negative, which can be done when everyone is on the same page and working together.

One of the many priorities of the Northern California Staffordshire Bull Terrier Club, and our own North East Club is to import UK breed specialists to judge our dogs at an annual show, thus insuring correct breed type and balance. In terms of origin

and popularity, the Stafford is an English breed, and we can still

learn a lot from our UK counterparts. One of our main missions is to educate others, while continuing to educate ourselves.

The members of Nor Cal are all competitive, of course everyone wants to win, that's human nature. Somehow as they're competing against each other, they also root for each other. That's how everyone manages to stay friends and have fun, they're good sports. There might be a bit of teasing, but through it all, win, lose or draw, at the end of the day everyone has a beer and there are always a lot of laughs. That's the part about perspective.

Nor Cal has already had a positive impact on the breed in the United States, they've accomplished quite a lot in the few years they've been together, they're hitting their stride and their hard work is paying off in spades. Let's join them, let's do some of the same work on this side of the country. If you haven't been to one of their show weekends, I'd really encourage it. Take a dog with you, or leave 'em home, it's a blast either way.



>>> HEY! SHOW US YOUR STAFFORD SMILE.

Send us your photos to: staffbullpec@yahoo.com. Please put "smile" in the subject line. Shown at right: Yankeestaff Our Gang Spanky.

SITTING RINGSIDE

By Paul Wickel

EVENT:

**Stafford Showdown
Northern California SBT Club
Specialty Weekend
Sun Maid Kennel Club, Fresno CA.
February 2nd, & 3rd 2008**

Being my 2nd visit out west to the Nor-Cal Specialty Weekend, I wasn't surprised to see such a high number of superior exhibits. Still, this reporter has yet to stop talking about the tremendous depth of balanced, fit, standard sized Staffords, many shown in the very best of condition. It too was most impressive to the extent at which both English Judges Mr. Dean Cund (chelmstaff) and Mr. Harry Carter (Seastaff) went over the dogs, taking note of their many virtues.

Janastaff Elliot Ness, owned by Butch & Susie Krauth was awarded winner's dog on Saturday and Sunday, as well as Best of Opposite Saturday thus gaining his CH certificate with his two majors. A lovely black brindle, 'Eli' is a beautifully balanced Stafford lacking in exaggeration. He appeared in excellent conditioning, as he was handled to perfection by North East Staffordshire Bull Terrier Club's very own Chris 'Results oriented' Jassic.

The ticket for Best of Breed Saturday was given by Dean Cund to Shogun's Dark Phoenix; 'Jeannie' to this eye was the tops for the weekend, first taking winners bitch, then best of winners, and finally Best of Breed, all to the

delight of Breeder Handler Benny Gasmen. She is the type of bitch whose profile looks perfect no matter which way you see her. She too was shown in the very best of condition, as one might expect from this kennel. Over all the bitch classes were marvels to behold both days from puppy class right on up through the specials, with so many class winners being strongly pushed.

Sunday Harry Carter gave the nod for Best of Breed to another beautifully fit dog owned & bred by Butch and Suzie Krauth, Ch Karma's Reign of Fire, a fawn/red dog who just oozed with confidence from the very moment he entered the ring. He glided about when moved as if his feet barely touched the floor. He is a Stafford that looks like true throw back to the magnificent specimen of years gone by, with the wonderful lift of leg and powerful driving rear. Best of Opposite was given on Sunday to Quick N Thick Double Expresso.

It should be noted to all our readers that this show weekend is unlike what is more typically seen in many a Stafford show ring throughout our country, where the 'bigger is better' mantra seems common place. Few over done dogs were present, which means the has gotten out that if you want to be judged with the best, bring your Stafford to Fresno in February. Who knows, in a few years if all goes to plan, they will be saying the same thing about NY in the fall and the amazing Stafford exhibits of the North East Staffordshire Bull Terrier Specialty.

On both days the Veterans dog & bitch class were well represented. Vetts dog: CH Mimcol Naughty By Nature, a top sized but beautifully

balanced dog looked every bit the worthy champion as he strutted his stuff about the ring. Owner Rob Tolentino showed this influential stud with ease. Vetts bitch; Ch Sunshines Fly By Night, CDX, MX, MXJ RE, owned and handled perfectly by Karen Dawes. This lovely veteran lady looked the part of a strong contender this day even at the distinguished age of 11. The strong ovation for both veterans clearly said 'Congrats to proud owners and staffords alike, and thanks for the many memories'

Paul R Wickel
stafford reporter at large



>>> Dean Cund awards Shogun's Dark Phoenix, "Jeannie" BOB on Saturday. Well done Benny!

THE STAFFORD KNOT

By Robin Ramos

Anyone who has a Stafford, and walks around on a Stafford collar, must have come in to contact with someone whom asks "what's with the pretzel?" Well, I am here to shed some light on the Stafford Knot. Or not!

A Historical perspective:

The origin of the Stafford Knot is shrouded in the mists of antiquity, but it can be said that the somewhat barbaric tale of a certain sheriff who invented it to hang three criminals with one rope at the same time, may be dismissed as an effort of the imagination.

The earliest recording of the Stafford Knot is the shaft of a stone cross located in Stoke-on-Trent churchyard. The cross itself is traceable to between 750 and 850 AD. However, the knot device could have been added at a later date.

The earliest authentic appearance of the Stafford Knot is on the seal in the British Museum, and this was the property of Joan, Lady of Wake, who died childless in 1443. Her personal possessions passed to her nephew, Humphrey, Earl of Stafford, who adopted the Knot of Rope, henceforward to be known as the Stafford Knot, as his badge, probably just preceding his creation as Duke of Buckingham in 1444. That he did adopt it from his Aunt is undoubted and she, being a direct descendent



of Hereward the Wake, may have had it handed down to her from past generations, through many unknown but doubtless - romantic circumstances.

The Duke of Buckingham and his descendants used this Stafford Knot as personal cognizance. It did not form part of their armorial bearings, which were personal to themselves, but it was their badge and they gave the knot of rope to their retainers and servants as a livery and means of recognition.

The townsmen of Stafford were leigemen of the Stafford family, and as such also used this badge. As the days of feudalism passed and individual and civic liberties grew, it was gradually adopted by the Citizens, Freemen and Burgesses until ultimately it was included in the Borough Coat of Arms. Even following Local Government Reorganization in 1974, the Stafford Knot still appears on the Coat of Arms of the new Stafford Borough.

There is a seal existing in the British Museum London which was the property of Lady Joan Stafford (later Lady Wake). It would seem that Lady Wake used on her seal a border made up from her husband's badge, the Wake Knot, made up from the initials W and O (for Wake and Ormond) intertwined. The seal quite clearly depicts a cordon of four knots in the shape of the Stafford Knot.

The knot was passed down through the Earl's family, and it was gradually used by the citizens and freemen of Stafford, until it was eventually included in the Stafford Borough Coat of Arms. It

is incorporated into the badges and symbols of many organizations and companies, viz., Staffordshire Police, Staffordshire Fire Service, Staffordshire Ambulance Service.

The arms of Staffordshire show a distinctive three looped knot and the county motto is the knot unites. However this is properly called the Stafford knot since it was the badge of the de Stafford family. The fanciful legend is that three convicted felons who had committed a crime together were due to be executed in Stafford jail. There was argument over who should be hanged first but the hangman solved the problem by devising this knot and hanging the three simultaneously. However; the knot can be seen on a 4 ft (1.2 m) high carved Anglo-Saxon cross in Stoke churchyard. This strongly suggests it pre-dates the Norman and medieval period, being probably either) a heraldic symbol of early Mercia or) a Celtic Christian symbol brought to Staffordshire by missionary monks from Lindisfarne.

A bit of whimsy:

Another story of the knot stems from its motto: "The Knot Unites". The knot was said to symbolically bind three different local areas which joined to form what is now known as Staffordshire. A more detailed account tells us of Ethelfleda, eldest daughter of Alfred the Great, who, over a thousand years ago, defended a stronghold at Stafford. She symbolically took off her girdle and said to the local lords: "With this girdle, I bind us all as one", and the three areas became Staffordshire. The anniversary of this event was celebrated in 1913, a thousand years after it was said to have happened.

NESBTC Chow Down gang representing.



Butch & Susie Krauth hold up a portrait by Mona George.



At right:
Our first ever
board meeting.

Above: A proud moment.
Our banner is unveiled out west.



At the Stafford showdown: Chris Jacksic presents this lovely Stafford under judge Dean Cund.

PG. THREE "STAFFORD SPOTLIGHT"

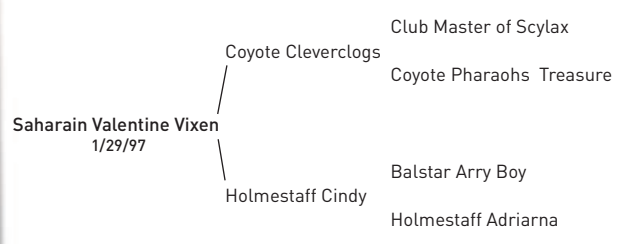


CH. SAHARAIN VALENTINE VIXEN

"ALLEY"

Bred by: Mr D. Keyes and Mrs A. Hawkes
Owned by: Tony and Mei George

PEDIGREE



BREEDS UNDER ATTACK!

By Martin Lieberman

Three breeds have fallen under attack in the United States. They are the American Pit Bull Terrier and its variants, the German Shepherd Dog and the Rottweiler. This writing will take a detailed look at the Bully breeds and analyze two basic canine drives. We will compare these drives with the GSD, The Rottweiler and for the purpose of contrast with stock guardian breeds.

The GSD and the Rotti have strong prey drive and strong defensive drive. They have the near perfect balance for guard or personal protection work. The Pit Bull and it's germane breeds were deliberately bred to have pronounced prey drive with limited or no defense.

Stock guardian breeds conversely are bred to just have defense and little or zero prey drive. The point is a dog with strong defense and almost zero prey drive will remain with the flock or herd. A dog of this nature will not chase rabbits or other critters and will only engage a predator if it is close to the flock or herd.

The temperament on stock guardian dogs is diametrically in contrast to a bully dog. A

stranger would not enjoy administering medications, dressing a wound or cutting the nails on a stock guardian breed as they do not enjoy handling the way a Stafford would. One would not want to steal a stock guardian dog. However, an American Pit Bull Terrier will go with little or no resistance. In addition, issues like obedience training for stock guardian breeds are compromised or treated selectively at best. In short, they are good at what they were bred for but are not an all around dog. Their work application is parochial at best and their fuse tends to be fast burning and short. A GSD is much more of an all around choice.

Reduced or zero defensive drive in the case of the Bull & Terrier breeds means they are less apt to bite when abused or handled. The lack of defense in the American Pit Bull Terrier and the closely related breeds is rarely addressed in debates. Perhaps it should be! The bully breeds unlike dogs with strong defense drives tend to be easy to steal. When it comes to training, the bully breeds are not German shepherd dogs. It is safe to say few breeds are. The bull and terrier family tend to lean toward physicality as opposed to cerebral endeavors. Training pressure will often cause a lack of concentration or avoidance. Similar pressure applied to a working lines GSD would be tolerated more easily.

My conclusions are predicated on fact and years of anecdotal observation. Dogs with pronounced defensive drive are more apt to attack when their territories are violated or when they are touched or handled. Conversely Bully breeds are emotionally needy by nature and love to be handled and are not naturally territorial. Exceptions to my assertion may occur resulting from cruelty or creative agitation. However, should one desire a reliable protection dog; it is much easier to simply buy a proper guard dog. A canid, whose emotional chemistry and physical type are appropriate for guard or personal protection.

The majority of Americans view (vouching for or) protecting the bully breeds reputation as heterodoxical or social heresy. They fail to realize excessive breed popularity will usually lead to more human bites. They fail to realize you can take the nicest child or puppy and in the wrong hands make it mean spirited. The Wolf and the bull & terrier genocides are similar in that they were & are both based on ignorance.

Dog owners, all dog owners must be responsible! If the current trend continues we could lose our right to own dogs. Sadly, we may have seen our last Beware of Dog sign.

www.martinsk9formula.com

ASK THE VET:

By Dale Porcher / Resident Vet

1. What do you recommend for vaccinations?

Whew, good question. I could literally write volumes but I won't. Everyone has an opinion but evidence is overwhelming that vaccines last a lot longer than 1 year. Here is what I recommend and use on my own dogs from the time the litter is weaned till adult hood.

7 weeks - Distemper Adenovirus Parvo check a fecal sample.

10 weeks- boost the Distemper Adeno and Parvo.

13 weeks- repeat as above.

16 weeks - Rabies and Parvo booster.

I would boost the vaccines again 1 year from the last set of puppy shots and then after that, only as required by law, ie Rabies vaccine.

The reason puppies need frequent boosters is that their immune system is developing its own antibodies at the same time that mom's immunity that she armed the pup with is declining. Vaccines I believe are extremely important for vulnerable puppies. Many unvaccinated pups die from parvo and Distemper every year. After the first year booster I think that science will prove in the next 10 years or so that these vaccines will probably last the dogs lifetime. If Rabies is required by law in your county, there is a 3 year vaccine. That is all that my adult dogs receive.

2. What is an umbilical hernia?

The equivalent to a human "outy" belly button. It is a hole in the abdominal wall that shouldn't be there and most of the time a small ball of fat pushes through. They can be inherited and most will never need surgical intervention unless they are extremely large. The danger with large umbilical hernias is that loops of intestine may fall through and twist causing an emergency. Again, probably greater than 90% never need surgery.

Strange but true.

We had a giant Irish Setter, Golden Retriever mix, Peanut Butter, that was a happy go lucky dog that frequently boarded at our clinic, so much so that everybody knew her by name and her personality. She weighed about 125 lbs and constantly wagged her tail, begging for you to throw her ball. One day she was boarding and our kennel girl says " Peanut Butter " isn't acting right. I looked her over, not wanting to do much because the owners were out of town and instructed the young lady to just watch her throughout her stay with us. Two days later the girl brings a crumpled up wad of cloth and says, " Peanut Butter just threw this up." I said hmmm, lets wash it and see what it is. We hosed it off and found it was a pair of women's under wear. We threw it in the washer and put it in a plastic bag and put it with Peanut Butter's stuff to take home. When our receptionist recounted the story to the Mrs. she presented her with the offending panties in the bag. The woman's face changed and she handed them back saying " Those aren't mine". OOps



>>> 2008 National Specialty Winner Ch. Thrashers Reba Realdamcute. "Reba" was bred by our own Dale Porcher. Congratulations Dale!

THIS AND THAT

The "Journal" is distributed three times a year to club members. It's mission is to inform it's members about all things related to the breed and to keep members apprised of coming events.

Editorial content, suggestions, and comments can be submitted directly to: staffbullpec@yahoo.com and within the year to: NESBTC.com [when available]

CONTRIBUTORS:

With each issue we'd like to thank those who support, contribute, and help make it all happen.

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Mr. John DeLeon of Nueva Vida Staffords.
He sent us our North East Club Banner. Thanks John!

Butch and Susie Krauth, as well as everyone over on the shaky side and [obviously] the entire NCSBT Club.

Our own Kim Ericson and the Bulova Watch Co.
You rock sister!

NEWS & HAPPENINGS:

As mentioned in Tony's column we plan on having quarterly events to remain in touch and keeping this thing greased.

Save the Date[s]:

- Chow Down, coming to a Wickel home near you. Date TBA.
- Drop Dead Comedy 11/10/08