

# Pioneer Tails

Pioneer Valley Kennel Club, Inc  
P.O. Box 407, Greenfield, MA 01302

February 2016

## SHOW NEWS – PEG VOHR

Smooth Fox Terrier news from **Darci Brown**: *CH Happy Hour Anything Goes, "Kinky Boots,"* picked up a Group 4 and a Group 3 at the Merrimack Valley Kennel Club Shows. She was also Group 3 at Greater Lowell Kennel Club. If we can count, she also finished her Grand Championship at just 2 days over 1 year of age!

**Ryan Blanker** reports: This past Saturday, at the Greater Lowell Kennel Club show in Wilmington, MA, we had an awesome day! *Northern Light's When Sparks Fly "Sparkle"* won Best Bred By of Breed, Bred By Working Group 1, and Best Bred By Exhibitor in Show! Her sister, *GCH Northern Light's Shimmering Moonglade "Shimmer"* won the breed. This is the same show where last year *Shimmer* won Best Bred By Exhibitor in Show!!! So amazed and proud that for two consecutive years we have won such a great achievement. And both litter mates! We are beyond excited and proud of our Siberian Huskies!!! Looking forward to the rest of the 2016 show year!

**Kim Reardon** is pleased to report that *XRD Light of a Clear Blue Morning, AKA Frankie*, achieved her RAE Title at the OES National in September. *Frankie* also qualified and received an invitation to the 3rd AKC National Championship in RAE to be held this March in Tulsa, OK.

NO, we will not be attending but it is an honor to have qualified. It is with great respect, admiration and appreciation that I recognize my Rally mentors, who have been instrumental in my ability to achieve any level of success in Rally. **Peg Vohr** and **Shelia Blanker**, both formidable rally competitors, have not only inspired me but have freely shared their wisdom, techniques and love of the venue with me. Peg has always been extraordinarily encouraging and has set the bar high with the skill level she possesses with her dogs, she's always got a pointer or two. Shelia has helped me all along the way, she was ringside at my very first show in Tunbridge, VT with my first dog Zoe. Shelia has pushed me to increase and improve my level of handler skill ( I'm working on it!!!) and has provided training suggestion, clarification of signs and techniques that have allowed me to obtain the RAE title. If it weren't for Shelia we wouldn't have a back skill. I thank them so much for all they have done for not only me but for the sport of rally. Perhaps some day I will reach the skill level of a Peg or Shelia and help a newbie, but as that is a long ways off I will continue to feed off the encouragement and advice of my great mentors.



From **Dorianne Almann**: Good things come in three's for *Taika*! At the January 16 Barn Hunt trial (Tova Training, Raymond, NH) she earned her RATI under Judge Carol Soeldner. She also recently earned her Novice Trick Dog title with Do More With Your Dog! and her Trail Dog title with Dog Scouts of America. This makes her *Zebi's Some Kind of Wonderful PKD-T, RATI, NTD, DSA-TD*.

# President's Message

Committee chairs are hard at work planning our events and social calendar for 2016. Check out the newsletter and website to see what is coming up.

Make it a goal to join or assist a committee. More hands make for lighter work! Please send your ideas for programs for upcoming meetings to Sam Newton. It is a tough job trying to come up with programs so membership input is always appreciated.

Happy Valentines Day!!

Darci

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## PVKC Contacts

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Judith Suarez (802) 722-9848

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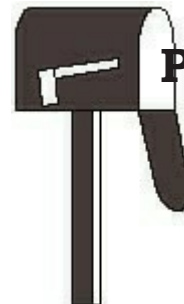
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**PioneerTails**

Deadlines  
Feb 26, 2016

For advertising  
contact Judith

## Newsletter Contacts:

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## Be a Star – Mass Appeal

In case you missed PVKC's last appearance on MassAppeal, you can see it here (<http://wwlp.com/2016/01/21/the-best-leashes-harnesses/>). Kim Reardon did a wonderful job talking about *The Best Leashes & Harnesses*.

We have several more dates scheduled for 2016 and we need topics and presenters. There are four more dates scheduled – Feb 25<sup>th</sup>, April 14<sup>th</sup>, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, and July 7<sup>th</sup>

Help out – if you have a topic suggestion or would like to show off your dog – please contact Kim Reardon at [xrd3311@yahoo.com](mailto:xrd3311@yahoo.com)

These Mass Appeal segments are a great boost to our club's publicity and a big community support. They are also fun to do. You don't need to be an expert, just willing to give it a try. And Kim shepherds you every step of the way (she does, after all, have that sheep dog expertise).

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## Healthy Dogs, Sick Dogs - Does Breed Type Make A Difference?



By: Dr. Jerry Klein, Chief Veterinary Officer of AKC

For more than 30 years, I have served as a veterinarian at one of the largest veterinary emergency hospitals in the country. Each year, our hospital treats more than 11,000 cats and dogs in our emergency room. Thousands more see our veterinary specialists. As you might guess, I've taken care of a lot of dogs and have likely seen just about every type of canine illness you can imagine. I am also a longtime owner and breeder of Afghan Hounds. One thing I've learned through my experience is that when it comes to illness, pretty much any dog can get sick. Despite articles claiming that mixed-breed dogs are healthier than purebred dogs, my extensive first-hand experience, and an important study conducted by the University of California-Davis, tells us otherwise.

The study, titled "Prevalence of inherited disorders among mixed-breed and purebred dogs: 27,254 cases

(1995-2010)," was reported in the Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association on June 1, 2013. Research utilized more than 27,000 patient cases to determine the likelihood of occurrence of 24 of the most common hereditary diseases in dogs. Despite articles that claim that there is a higher concentration of hereditary disease in purebred dogs, this extensive study proves otherwise.

What researchers found was, "Of the 24 disorders assessed, 13 had no significant difference in the mean proportion of purebred and mixed-breed dogs with the disorder when matched for age, sex and body weight." One disorder was more frequent in mixed-breed dogs and the other 10 were more prevalent in purebred dogs, although no one breed was dominant in suffering from any particular illness. Many of those disorders that are often attributed to a specific breed are just as likely to be found in mixed-breed dogs, including common health problems such as lymphoma, mast cell tumor, specific cardiac issues, hip dysplasia, and lens luxation.

This makes sense since most domesticated dogs are believed to be the descendants of just a handful of lines of wolves. As a result, all dogs share strong genetic tendencies, some of them health-related. In purebred dogs, national breed clubs such as the Golden Retriever Club of America and the American Kennel Club Canine Health Foundation have worked together to identify breeds with an increased risk of specific health issues and to take steps to minimize the risk. In fact, the Canine Health Foundation has funded more than \$35 million in research to improve the health and well-being of dogs.

So, perhaps the most important question is, "How can potential dog owners increase their chances of getting a healthy dog?" The good news is that thanks to the work of the American Kennel Club, their Canine Health Foundation, and breed clubs, responsible breeders are able to reduce the risk of some of the more prevalent diseases in dogs. Breed groups recommend specific testing for disease before breeding a dog. Responsible breeders utilize those tests before mating dogs, thus reducing the risk of a specific disease in the puppies they produce.

For example, in my beloved Afghan Hounds, responsible breeders generally test potential breeding pairs for hip dysplasia and juvenile cataracts. In breeding nine generations of Afghan Hounds, I have never had a dog with either of these health problems. I have always bred dogs with personality and health as my priorities. As a result, I have no doubt that my Afghan Hounds today are better dogs than my first generation.

People select dogs for a variety of reasons. Sometimes appearance plays a role, but certainly is not, and should not be, the only factor. Whether you choose a dog from a breeder, or from a shelter, it's important to remember that any dog, like any person, can become ill in its life. All dog owners need to be prepared for that possibility because the fact is that dogs, like people, suffer from a number of hereditary diseases. That is true of all dogs – both purebred and mixed-breed.

The best way to minimize that risk of serious illness is to do your homework. If you decide on a purebred dog, be aware of what the breed club recommends in terms of health testing. Work with a responsible breeder who utilizes testing and breeds ethically. If you select a dog from a shelter, learn about the animal and its possible breed mix. Then pick the animal that best suits you and your lifestyle and work with your veterinarian to keep your dog as healthy as possible. Most importantly, select a dog that you love and that you are willing to care for, in sickness and in health, for the rest of its life.

*Article from the AKC Website*

*(<http://www.akc.org/news/healthy-dogs-sick-dogs-does-breed-type-make-a-difference/>)*

*Dr. Jerry Klein is an emergency and critical care veterinarian who has been a valued member of the Chicago veterinary community for more than 35 years. In addition to his work as a vet, Dr. Klein is a licensed judge for the AKC and has judged shows both nationally and internationally.*

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## **Dr. Arnold Goldman and Connecticut Federation of Dog Clubs and Responsible Dog Owners Win 2015 Bebout Legislative Leadership Award**

In a ceremony held at their New York headquarters, the American Kennel Club presented Dr. Arnold L. Goldman, DVM, MPH and the Connecticut Federation of Dog Clubs and Responsible Dog Owners with the 2015 Bebout Memorial Award for Leadership in Canine Legislation.

Named for Walter Bebout, the late Director of the AKC Government Relations Department, the award recognizes individuals and organizations that have been actively involved in educating legislators about

responsible dog ownership issues and have worked to preserve the rights of responsible owners and breeders.

Together with the Connecticut Federation, of which he is a trustee, Dr. Goldman and the federation have demonstrated innovative leadership in educating Connecticut residents about responsible dog ownership, pet health, animal welfare, public health issues, crisis planning, and emergency response for animals.

“We are humbled to be named as recipients of the Bebout Award,” said Dr. Goldman. “The AKC’s mission statement includes the phrase, “to advocate for the purebred dog as a family companion, advance canine health and well-being, work to protect the rights of all dog owners and promote responsible dog ownership.” That is something that the federation works on actively and something I strive to uphold each day in my practice and in my work with the American Veterinary Medical Association.”

Dr. Goldman is a proven leader in animal welfare policy and has been active in bringing attention to illegal and inhumane pet trafficking issues in the state and around the country. He has testified numerous times on canine legislative issues in both Connecticut and New York and developed compromise legislation addressing retail pet sales and consumer protection that serves as a model for other communities nationwide.

Dr. Goldman is also widely recognized as a leader in the veterinary field. He is a long-time leader in the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) and was chosen by colleagues as Connecticut Veterinarian of the Year for 2008. He has served as president of the New England Veterinary Medical Association, the Connecticut Veterinary Association, and the National Alliance of State Animal and Agricultural Emergency Programs. Dr. Goldman is currently running for AVMA District 1 Director. He created or collaborated with colleagues to create the Connecticut Veterinary Medical Foundation; CTSART, the Connecticut State Animal Response Team; Companions-in-Crisis, a domestic violence program; and HAVEN, a substance abuse program for veterinarians.

“We are thrilled to honor Dr. Goldman for his leadership in responsible dog ownership and public policy. His work is a model and an inspiration for dog lovers, veterinarians and communities throughout the country,” said Sheila Goffe, AKC’s Director of Government Relations.

Watch a video of the awards presentation at [www.youtube.com/americankennelclub](http://www.youtube.com/americankennelclub).

## Calendar of Events

### PVKC 2016

Newsletter Deadline February 26, 2016

#### *February*

Board of Directors, Feb 1

#### *March*

Board of Directors, March 7

#### *April*

Board of Directors, April 4  
PVKC All-Breed Show – April 23; Springfield

#### *May*

PVKC Health Clinic, May 1  
Board of Directors, May 2  
Awards Banquet; May 19

#### *June*

Board of Directors, June 5

#### *July*

Board of Directors, July 11  
PVKC Picnic; July 21

#### *August*

Board of Directors, Aug 1  
PVKC All-Breed Show – August 6,  
Greenfield MA

#### *September*

Board of Directors, Sept 5  
General Meeting, Sept 12  
PVKC Agility Trials, Sept 17-18  
PVKC Tracking Test, Sept 24 - 25

#### *October*

Board of Directors, Oct 3  
Annual Election & General Meeting Banquet  
– Thursday, October 20

#### *November*

Board of Directors, Nov 7

#### *December*

Board of Directors, Dec 5  
PVKC Holiday Party, Dec 12



In 2015, PETA and HSUS put up a very anti-breeder billboard just prior to the Denver Cluster.

This year, AKC/NAIA paid for this pro breeder billboard during the same Denver Cluster timeframe.

## Agility News from AKC

The AKC Agility Department is excited to announce the launch of a new, beginning level agility program called ACT (Agility Course Test). The ACT program officially launches on March 1, 2016.

This program is designed to introduce beginning dogs and handlers to the sport of agility. There are two classes – ACT 1 and ACT2. Clubs and trainers can adopt the ACT classes as the graduation exercise for their training classes to be held at their facility thus providing their students a familiar and comfortable setting. The ring size requirements are small enough that ACT classes can be held in many training facilities across the country.

In addition to preparing for these introductory classes, exhibitors will learn to do things such as to enter an AKC event, check-in at the ring, prepare for their run, and handle their dog while under judgment. We hope that clubs and trainers will use these classes as learning experiences. There are several elements of the ACT program that are different from AKC Agility Trials.

- **Eligibility to enter:** This program is for dogs that do not have an AKC Agility title at the Novice level or higher. Dogs may enter ACT2 without having an ACT1 title. Dogs that are not registered/listed with the AKC may participate and their performance will be recorded under a temporary recording number. Owners will receive a letter from the AKC explaining how they can register their dogs. Application to be listed as a Canine Partner may be accepted at the test and
  - submitted with the results.
- **Judges/Evaluators:** All AKC agility judges may judge the ACT classes. In addition we will be setting up a system for trainers and experienced participants to become ACT evaluators. Evaluators may judge ACT classes. There will be an application, online test and nominal fee to become an evaluator. More information about becoming an ACT evaluator will be available within the next couple of weeks.
- **Holding ACT events:** Any AKC agility judge/ACT evaluator may hold a stand-alone ACT event. The event does not have to be held by an AKC licensed club. AKC agility clubs may hold ACT events in conjunction with their trials if they desire.
- **Jump Heights:** No jump height card is required to enter an ACT class. Handlers are encouraged to

have their dogs jump at the appropriate height that will help them prepare for AKC Agility trials.

- **Event Applications:** Clubs or judges/evaluators do not need to file an application for ACT events; there will be no application fee. A \$5.00 per entry recording fee for all dogs entered will be submitted with the results.
- **Courses:** Evaluators and judges will need to submit their courses for review; however, courses may be reused, which we encourage for ease of administration.
- **Titles:** Dogs must receive two passing scores to earn each of the ACT titles. Dogs are required to be fully registered/listed in order to be awarded a title.

There will be an ACT page on the AKC website where forms and information can be accessed. We have also set up a mailbox for the ACT program [act@akc.org](mailto:act@akc.org). ACT related questions can be sent to this mailbox. Please see the regulations and other information as it becomes available on the ACT web page that can be accessed through the Agility Home Page.

We are looking forward to working with clubs, trainers and evaluators to introduce new exhibitors to the sport of agility.

The AKC Agility Department  
Visit us at [AKC.org](http://AKC.org)



## PVKC Treasurer Needed

The PVKC Treasurer job may be the right job for you. Please consider joining us on the Board – you will have support and as much advice as you want.



Contact Darci at  
[dbhappyhr@hotmail.com](mailto:dbhappyhr@hotmail.com)

## Internet Tid Bits



### **The Wonderful Noses of Dogs:**

*Sniffing out (that's right) whale poop –*

<http://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/meet-dogs-sniffing-out-whale-poop-science-180958050/?no-ist>

*And seriously dead bodies –*

<http://www.annmarieackermann.com/archaeology-dogs-cadaver-dogs-on-a-700-bc-site/>

### **Taxes (tis the season):**

<http://caninechronicle.com/current-articles/tax-matters/>

### **Train your own Service Dog?**

*There's a lot of that going around lately. But, please, think first:*

<http://www.anythingpawsable.com/10-things-make-dog-unsuitable-service-dog-work/#.VrlPhlkZ9-y>

### **Health:**

*Catching up with the Rabbis Challenge –*

<http://drjeandoddspehealthresource.tumblr.com/post/137503224896/half-dose-vaccine-small-dog-vaccine-study#.VrlQ11kZ9-y>

*Pure bred versus mixed breed dogs –*

<https://www.ucdavis.edu/news/purebred-dogs-not-always-higher-risk-genetic-disorders-study-finds#.VbL3Rqi3Gi8.facebook>

*Aging –*

<http://smartdoguniversity.com/aging-gracefully-your-dog-not-you>

*Hemangiosarcoma –*

<http://hubpages.com/animals/Canine-Cancer-New-Holistic-Treatment-That-Prolongs-Life-for-Dogs-with-Hemangiosarcoma>

### **Breeding:**

*Breeding for Bite –*

<http://www.fieldworthy.com/the-mystery-of-the-bad-bite-elementary-my-dear-watson-by-diane-klumb.html>

*Nature versus Nurture –*

<https://paws4udogs.wordpress.com/2012/12/10/its-all-in-how-theyre-raised/>

*Tail Docking –*

<http://arrogantafghan.blog.com/2014/02/05/tales-to-end-all-tails-the-ethics-of-tail-docking/>

### **Training:**

*Where's my butt? Whether working for a perfect conformation gait or learning to jump, your dog needs to know what their butt is doing. And Cavalettis is the answer to your training prayers*

<http://classes.dogwooddogtraining.com/cavalettis/>

### **And a Truly Lovely “Ted Talk” to round out your exploitation:**

[http://gpmcf.org/tedx\\_talk.html](http://gpmcf.org/tedx_talk.html)

*Editor's Note: I have tested all links – they should work for you. AND I have been to each site multiple times from multiple platforms – no virus anywhere*



# PVKC Training Schedule

## PUPPY K CLASS

*New Classes Begin*

February 27, 2016  
Brattleboro, VT

For information, please contact  
Judith (802) 722-9848  
or [handart@sover.net](mailto:handart@sover.net)



**Come!**

*It's winter and the weather can be weird & sometimes emergencies happen –*

*Remember to check the PVKC Facebook Page for Cancellations before coming to a Drop-in Class*

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Pioneer-Valley-Kennel-Club/198067530208377>

## Vermont PVKC Classes:

Obedience, Rally, &  
Breed Handling  
Wednesday nights – Brattleboro, VT  
*New set of Classes for 2016  
begin March 9<sup>th</sup>*

Wed Drop-in Classes running weekly  
Jan 20<sup>th</sup> - Feb 24<sup>th</sup>  
March 9<sup>th</sup> - April 13<sup>th</sup>  
No Classes – March 2<sup>nd</sup> & April 20<sup>th</sup>

Saturday Drop-in Novice Obedience  
Jan 16<sup>th</sup> - May 7<sup>th</sup>

For information, please contact:

Judith Suarez at (802) 722-9848

## PVKC Tracking:

**Tracking Dates – all done for 2015; 2016 will start early spring**

Contact: Dorie Viguers; [dviguers@nmhschool.org](mailto:dviguers@nmhschool.org) ; 413-648-9437