Pioneer Tails

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

October 2026

Upcoming events

– Save the Dates

An AKC Fit Dog Club Event

Come walk your dog & gobble down pizza as your reward.

Details on page – 5

Holiday Get Together & Meeting

December 17, 2026 – South Deerfield Polish Club

Details on page – 6

Details on page – 7

President's Message

With Fall in the air PVKC reflects on another successful year. There are still a few more events and activities on the calendar and several committees are already working on next year's calendar of events. The participation of membership has been outstanding and all the hard work and dedication put forth to make our club successful is greatly appreciated.

Training will wrap up on October 6 th the Turkey Trot is scheduled and PVKC will be creating a display for "Light Up the Fairgrounds. (articles within the newsletter if you have an interest)

Special thanks to Team Skibiski – Carole and Jess, the October brunch was wonderful and we look forward to the December General Meetings Thursday December 1 th. These meetings provide an opportunity to visit with fellow members without having the responsibility of coordinating, organizing, managing, or heavy lifting of any kind. Hope you will be able to attend.

Wishing all our competitors best of luck at upcoming shows. Hoping that everyone takes time to enjoy their dog(s)!

KIM

THERE'S A LOT PACKED INTO THIS NEWSLETTER. BE SURE TO CHECK OUT EVERY PAGE

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Recording Secretary:
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Treasurer:
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Board of Directors:
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Fran Tilly (413) 268-3650

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Membership Chair:
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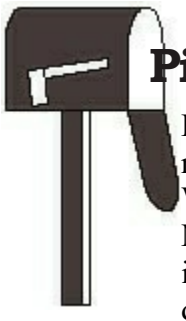
Breeder Referral:
Request information with a contact form via
www.pioneervalleykennelclub.com

Web Page: **www.pioneervalleykennelclub.com**

Facebook Page: **https://www.facebook.com/Pioneer-Valley-Kennel-Club-198067530208377/**



PioneerTails

PVKC's next publication of the newsletter will be in January **2027**. We will run our feature "Show and Member News." I'll send you an email in December to remind you, so you don't miss being published.

Articles, content, and photos **always** welcome. Submit them – to Judith Suarez, **handart@sover.net** – when you have them. I'll store them for the next newsletter.

Show & Member NEWS

Donna Archambault let us know that *Cali* got her NACSW ORT on September 20, 2026 at Top Notch dog training in Wappingers Falls NY.

From **Joyce Lak –** My pup, *Monk,* finished the year as #4 Tibetan Terrier in AKC Fast Cat for 2025 and received an invitation from the AKC to participate in their 2026 Fast Cat Invitational in Branson, Missouri – unfortunately he doesn't have his driver's license and could not find anyone to drive him to Branson! In July, *Monk* earned his Rally Novice title at Holyoke Kennel Club finishing with a third qualifying score of 98 and placing second in class. *Monk* has also been qualifying in scent trials. At Great Barrington Kennel Club's August scent trial, *Monk* earned qualifying legs in Interior Novice and Exterior Novice. At Northwestern Connecticut Dog Club *Monk* earned an Interior Novice leg. He also Q'd in Exterior Novice and earned his AKC Scent Exterior Novice title (SEN). *Monk's* grandmother, *Angel*, handled by brother-in-law, **John Broglio,** finished her Scent Container Novice Title (SCN), and earned qualifying legs in Scent Buried Advanced and Scent Interior Novice at Great Barrington KC's trial. At Northwestern Dog Club of Connecticut *Angel* earned legs in Interior and Exterior Novice. *Angel* is 11 ½ years of age and enjoys working with **John** in this sniffing sport. **John** and *Angel* also trained in PVKC's Fit Dog class and she obtained her FITB title. Their official names are: *Ch. Salishan's Monk-Kee Business of Bhaledart TKN, FITB, ATT, BCAT, CGC,,SCN, SBS, SEN, RN* and *Ch. Salishan Geribob Just Call Me Angel FITB, SCN SBN, ATT.* They are co-owned with Susan M. Carr, Salishan Tibetan Terriors.

In a later update **Joyce** sent information that *Monk* completed AKC Scent Work Trials: SIN + SEN + SBN + SCN = SWN CONGRATULATIONS, MONK!! *(Translation: Scent Interior Novice plus Scent Exterior Novice plus Scent Buried Novice plus Scent Container Novice leads to the AKC title:* ***SCENT WORK NOVICE****.) Monk* completed the 12 qualifying legs to obtain his SWN title at the Mayflower Portuguese Water Dog Scent Trials. "So proud of my furry boy!"

Donna Anderson says *Pinky (Pink Jewel of Tanguray at Timber Trails)* had a litter of 8 Golden Retrievers pups on Sept 6.

Sharon Domier and *Dougal (CH Larkslane Blisshollow Mcdougal RI FDC BCAT ACT1 ACT1J CGC TKN FITS FTI)* earned their Rally Intermediate title at the Merrimack Valley Kennel Club trial at the end of August and moved up to Advanced the next day. A few tips from fellow competitors solved

the overly friendly greeting the judge challenge and *Dougal* thoroughly enjoyed working off-leash and taking the jump with "beardie abandon." He was rewarded with a nice score and a second place ribbon. **Sharon** enjoyed an adult beverage when she got home.

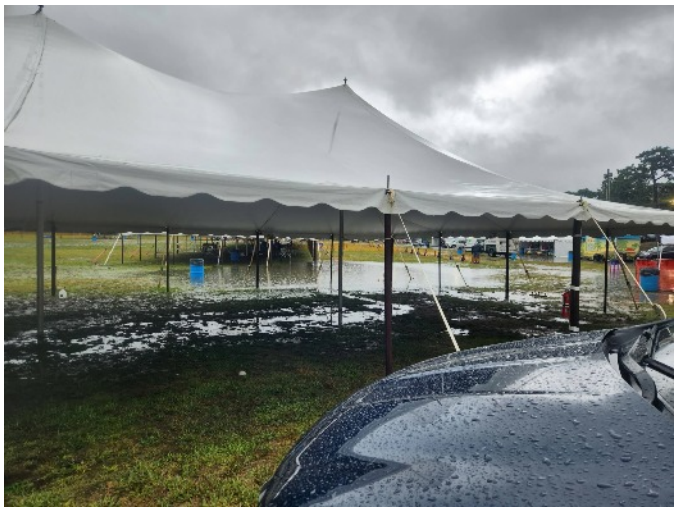
Carol Krygowski – My young male Belgian Tervuren, *Roi (Moon Shine De Mon Plaisir),* earned his CGC-Canine Good Citizen title and his TKN – Novice Trick Dog title on 8/20/26 He also earned his UKC Champion title on 9/5/26. In April, Belgian Tervuren *Bria (Bruja van Moned)* earned her SWA-Scent Work Advanced title after completing Advanced titles in Container, Buried, Interior and Exterior. *Bria* also earned her Agility ACT2 and ACT2J on 7/3/26

From **Terry Boyce** and *Sunfire's Ajax RE THD CGC* – *Jax* and I have been busy training in Obedience and Rally since we adopted him in November of 2024. On June 26th he completed his Rally Novice title. Then on August 2nd he completed his Novice Excellent title at the PVKC show. He has completed his Rally level 1 and 2 titles in WCRL. Both were earned with Award of Excellence honors. We are currently showing in hopes of earning his ARCH title by years end. When not training, we bring smiles to others through Therapy Dog work. We are regulars visiting Reflections at The Arbors of Greenfield. On Friday evenings we are the therapy dog team at the Emergency Department in Franklin Medical Center. We hope that this work is as fulfilling for the people we meet as it is for us.

Betty Nichols reports that *Lexie* finished her Championship at the PVKC Summer Show with a Group One win. Since then she has won Best of Breed four more times for 5 pt majors, has two more Group placings and earned two firsts and a second place in Owner Handled Non Sporting groups. So things are going pretty well in her first four months of showing. *Lexie* comes from a litter of seven that I raised last winter. *Lyssa* earned her CD title in Novice Obedience this summer and daughter *Dani* got her first leg, also at the PVKC show. I am very

proud of how far these dogs have come in the last year and much of this is thanks to the training opportunities offered by PVKC.

Catherine Carr Lee stayed busy over the summer with a litter of 7 boys and 1 girl, born May 28, out of her Welsh Springer Spaniel *Farley, GCH CH Cryslen Destiny's Don't Stop Me Now RN CGC TKN ATT.* She kept a boy, *Andy (Destiny's Dazzle Me Now)*. He joins his older half sister *Clarissa* and his auntie *Tinker*. He will be in the show ring this fall in Best Puppy competition.



Sheila Blanker ventured down to the Cape Cod Cluster. It was worth the drive. Under Judge Liz Cleeves, *CH Northern Light's TTFN Aylin, RN, DCAT (Aylin)* earned her second RI leg with a very nice score of 98 and second place in her class. Good job *Aylin*! She traveled back down on Sunday – what an adventure! No pretty win photos because, well . . . rain, lots and lots of rain! She was lucky and showed in both rally and breed before the rest of the show was canceled. Despite the trying conditions, *GCHB Northern Light's Born with THE Fire (Flam)* won a 5 point major BOB. There were no groups held. *CH Northern Light's TTFN Aylin, RN, DCAT (Aylin)* navigated the water hazards in our rally ring to give another solid Rally Intermediate performance, scoring another 98 and being awarded 4th place in the class. That completed *Aylin's* requirements for her RI title. "Thank you to all the judges, stewards, show committee and to our wonderful breed handler, Lisa Green, for

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Turkey Trot – A PVKC Fit Dog Event

Thursday, November 12th at 11 am.
Location is the Treehouse Brewing company in South Deerfield, MA.

Cost will be $10.00 per participant, to cover the cost of pizza following the walk (5K).

Dogs must be kept on leash, participants need to plan to pick up after their dogs, and since it will probably be colder, we will need to put dogs in vehicles while we have lunch, otherwise they could sit outside with us. Any questions, contact Trish at ***Ashfield1231@yahoo.com***

2025 Turkey Trot

Membership News

Renew Your Membership for 2027

Form on page 16

Welcome

John Broglio

Cindy Buhner

Sam & Melissa Clark

Dawn Colinan

Cheryl Cote

Yaki Lara-Cahoon

Miriam Graham

Stephanie Moody

Cally Toong

Condolences

We recently learned that Emily McDermott's husband, John passed away. PVKC sent a card, but some of our members might want to send one, as well. Emily was a long time member of the Club and, along with Dorie Viguers, was an anchor of the former PVKC Tracking Program. Her contact address is ***Emily McDermott – c/o Katie McDermott; 201 East Pleasant St; Amherst, MA 01007***

We also want to share information regarding another long time member Alice Newth. Alice lost her husband Greg, May 24th after a month long stay in ICU in a Boston Hospital. He suffered from a tick borne illness, that once diagnosis was beyond survival. Alice has been involved on the Farm Dog Committee since it's inception and is a helper at set up and take down at the summer show. For anyone wishing to send a card, the address is ***Alice Newth – 59 East Taylor Rd., Montague, MA 01351.***

Holiday Get Together & Meeting

Thursday. Dec 17th

5pm to 8pm

Where:

South Deerfield Polish Club
46 S Main St, South Deerfield, MA

Dinner – Catered by Frigo's – $30 ***(per person)***

With over 75 years of experience serving the community, Frigo's is known for reliable, high-quality catering backed by exceptional service.

More details and reminders will arrive by email when we get closer to the date.

Reservations will be required with either payment via check or PayPal. Stay tuned! !

PVKC Receives Donation

Member Candy Wright, who many of you recognize as a Bernese Mountain Dog enthusiast, has gifted Canine CPR and First Aid training materials to PVKC. Candy is a certified Canine First Aid Instructor but given all the other demands on her time she has decided to relinquish this role and hopes that our club will find an opportunity to utilize these materials.

Candy continues to serve the canine community as an AKC evaluator for CGC, Trick Dog, Farm Dog, Temperament Testing, Fetch and is an instructor of Fit Dog levels 1 & 2. She is also very active in the Bernese Mountain Dog Club and manages a farm enterprise with her husband.

Given all she does, it is not surprising that something had to go!

On behalf of PVKC, we forward our gratitude and appreciation to Candy for the donation of these materials.

PVKC Will Help Light Up the Franklin County Fairground

PVKC will be a participant in Franklin County Fairgrounds, **Light Up The Fair – Create an Outdoor Light Display:** Individuals, families, businesses and organizations are invited to design and build their own holiday light display for the drive through portion. There is NO COST to enter, and visitors will vote for their favorites — with cash prizes up to $500!

We are bringing Sam (our giant wooden dog) out of storage and putting him to work as a PVKC Holiday Light Display. If you are creative, enjoy decorating, love lights, and would like to help build the display, you can join the team – Contact Trish at ***Ashfield1231@yahoo.com***

Not interested in working on the display, you can still support the club without getting out of your car. This is a drive through experience, cost $5 per car. Load your car up and make sure all your passengers receive a ballot. We would appreciate your vote for PVKC, this will help us achieve a cash award at the conclusion of the event.

Light Up the Fairgrounds will take place November 28 & 29 and December 4, 5, 6, 11 & 12

at the Franklin County Fairgrounds.

PVKC Scholarship Awarded

The Board of Directors awarded the 2026 PVKC Scholarship to Lauren Brooks of Easthampton, MA. Lauren is a member of the 2026 graduating class from Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School. During her high school tenure, she maintained a 3.97 grade point average, becoming the class Salutatorian. She is a member of the National Honors Society, served as a member of the Massachusetts Agricultural Youth Council and the Smith Vocational School Council, was a member of Future Farmers of America and received numerous awards and recognition for her leadership and academic accomplishments. Lauren's community service included Halfway Home Cat Rescue, Hoof Trimming in the Park and many equine related programs. As a High School Senior, Lauren enrolled in a coop program, enabling her to develop additional animal-related skills by securing employment with two animal related entities: South Deerfield Vet Clinic and the Northampton Cooperative Auction. She continues her employment with both.

Lauren aspires to become a veterinarian and has enrolled in UMass/Amherst with an Animal Science/ Pre-Vet major which she hopes will provide the strong foundation needed for Vet School. Lauren stated in her application essay that "This major is more than a field of study; it's the first step towards a lifelong commitment"

PVKC congratulates Lauren as our scholarship recipient and wishes her continued success as she pursues her career.

Training

The 2026 Training Program will conclude on Tuesday October 29th.

The Training Committee wishes to extend their deepest gratitude to our instructors that enabled us to offer a variety of classes and opportunities for our membership and the public, many of the ladder becoming club members.

- David Mushinski - Basic Commands and Good Manners & Basics 2
- Carol Krygroski – Scent Work (Intro and Advanced)
- Tibby Chase - Rally (Basics & Moving Up Intermediate /Advanced)
- Sue Crimmons – Agility (Foundation & Beginner)
- Trish Libby – CGC
- Monica Pulci – Therapy Dog
- Kim Reardon – Fit Dog Level 1 & Therapy Dog
- Candy Wright & Donna Anderson – Fit Dog Level 2
- Sandy Gauld – Competitive Drop in Obedience & Tricks R for Dogs
- Peg Vohr & Karen Shockro – Drop in Rally
- Handling Drop In - Cathy Figueroa

PVKC extends it's gratitude and sincere appreciation to the Franklin County Fairgrounds, it's Board of Directors, volunteer staff and especially to their President, Michael Nelson for the generous rental arrangement and support of our club.

Recent Events – September General Meeting & Game Night, October Brunch Meeting and October Conformation and Rally Fun Match

September Meeting & Games

Pioneer Valley Kennel Club General – Meeting Minutes
September 23, 2026 – Greenfield Fairground

Present: Kim Reardon, President, Trish Libby, Vice President, Monica Pulci, Secretary, Darci Brown, Treasurer
Board Members: Kathy Berrena, Betty Nichols, Mary Neill, Jessica Skibiski, Fran Tilley.
Members: Ryan Blanker, Terry Boyce, Therese Church, Coleen Clark, Tammy Erickson, Karen Shockro
Membership Applicants: Amie Hane

President Kim Reardon called the meeting to order at 6:10. July 15 Meeting Minutes approved by Secretary Monica Pulci. Kathy Berrena motioned to accept and Fran Tilley second with corrections on list of first reading membership applicants.

Treasurer Report – Darci Brown
Checking Account Balance - $11,120.73
Certificate of Deposit #1 - $11.234.93
Certificate of Deposit #2 - $10,258.70

COMITTEES REPORTS

TRAINING – Kim Reardon
Training ends on October 26. As of today, the material for the roof project at the Grandstand Building has not been ordered but classes are moving to the Baby Barn and the Dole building for the rest of the session as written in the contract.

RALLY AND CONFORMATION FUN MATCH –
We are having another rally and conformation match on Tuesday October 13 starting at 6:00 p.m. The cost is $5.00 for members and $10.00 for non-members. We need volunteers to help with this event.
Tammy and Betty asked if for next year it would be possible to have either time set aside for practicing conformation or ideally a six-week class. There is interest in this, especially before the summer show. Jess will discuss this with the instructor to see if she is available for a six-week class. The space at Hellberg is also available to be rented for practice.

DONATION OF FIRST AID MATERIAL – Candy Wright donated her set of dog first aid materials and supplies. Now we are looking for someone to go through the material and present it to the membership. The secretary will send her a thank you note to Candice.

NEW VENUES FOR OCTOBER GENERAL MEETING AND DECEMBER HOLIDAY GATHERING/MEETING
We will have our October meeting at the Shelburne Pub & Brewery on October 11 starting at 10:30 a.m. with brunch and 11:00 a.m. meeting. The cost is $25 per person. The Holiday gathering will be Thursday December 17 5:00 -8:00 p.m. at the Polish Club in South Deerfield with food catered by Frigo. The cost is $30 per person.

OLD BUSINESS
Club member Sandy Bell is still researching Dog Rodeo to see if it is something that we would like to do in the future.

NEW BUSINESS
LIGHT UP THE FAIRGROUND – Every December the Fairground invites Individuals, families, businesses and organizations to design and build their own holiday light display for a drive through. There is no cost to enter and there are prizes for the most voted. Some of our club members volunteered at this event last year and the Fair is looking for volunteers again. The dates of the event are from Thanksgiving weekend to the first two weekends in December. This year they are also doing a Magic Forest in the Roundhouse with donated decorated trees, gift baskets and other holiday items.

PVKC Light Display **-** We thought it would be fun to have our club mascot SAM as the PVKC display. Kim and Trish oversee this event. More information to come.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE – Jess Skibiski
Jess Skibiski as committee chair presented the slate of nominees to be voted at the October General Meeting.

Continuing Directors – terms not up for election:

Kathy Berrena, Betty Nichols, Lori Carver, Jess Skibiski.

Proposed Slate
Kim Reardon – President
Trish Libby – Vice President
Monica Pulci – Secretary
Darci Brown – Treasurer
Director – 3- Year Term Mary Neill
Director – 3-Year Term Fran Tilley

No one made any additional nominations from the floor. Kathy Berrena motioned to accept the slate as presented and Karen Shockro seconded. **The motion was moved**.

MEMBERSHIP – Kathy Berrena

Second Reading applications:
John Broglio – Florence, MA
Cindy Buhner – Harvard, MA
Sam and Melissa Clark – Belchertown
Dawn Colinan – Montague
Cheryl Cote – Sunderland, MA
Miriam Graham – Northampton, MA
Lara – Cahoon Yaki – Northfield, MA
Stephanie Moody – Bernardston, MA
Cally Toong – Amherst, MA

First Reading applications:
Claudia Waite & Craig Gernet – Cummington, MA
Amie Hane – Savoy, MA

Trish made a motion to accept readings of applicants and Darci seconded.

Kim made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 p.m. Let the FUN GAMES begin!

Submitted by Secretary Monica Pulci

PVKC Members Enjoy Meeting and Game Night:

The Pioneer Valley Kennel Club held a fun and well-attended PVKC Game Night on Wednesday, September 23, 2026, bringing together both members and prospective members for an evening of club updates, conversation, and canine fun.

The evening began with an informative club meeting, followed by three interactive games facilitated by PVKC Vice President Trish Libby.

The dogs and their handlers took part in *Canine Musical Chairs*, where dogs demonstrated their sit, stand, and down commands; a lively *Simon Says* challenge that included holding an object and trying to follow directions; and a spirited *Dress-Up Relay*, where teams put on some stylish vintage clothing then raced to complete the challenge together.

There were plenty of laughs, some impressive teamwork, and lots of good sportsmanship throughout the evening.

Congratulations to all of the winners, and thank you to everyone who attended and helped make PVKC Game Night such an enjoyable event. We look forward to more opportunities for our members—and their dogs—to learn, socialize, and have fun together!

October Brunch Meeting

Fun Match

Conformation & Rally Matches
Tuesday, October 13th
Judges - **Ryan Blanker** - Conformation **David Warner -**

Michele DeTour – Thanks PVKC

Donna Archambault – U got my good side

Catherine Carr Lee – It was a fun

Donna MacCallum – It was! Thanks for having it

Sally Morgan – Thanks to everyone who made this possible! It was so much fun despite the weather and the dogs looked happy (even my bad rally boy Kestrel was having fun but making less fun for me!) so nice to see the breed dogs too!

Laurie Brown: Lakota made her "soft debut" in Rally Novice at the Pioneer Valley Kennel Club match. She took first place with a score of 98!!! Go Kota Bear!!! The real thing coming soon!

Thanks for doing this! It was great to have a local

Summer Show

Conformation: We certainly had an eventful August show, but before I describe the excitement, I want to thank sincerely everyone who pitched in to make the weekend special! The list is too long to enumerate, but you know who you are (at least I hope you do!), so please accept my heartfelt gratitude.

Set up went very smoothly, especially in conformation, and we were ready to go by Saturday morning. All was running smoothly, all our judges were on time and ready to go, our exhibitors were poised for showing and we could sit back and "phew"...or so we thought. Not a "phew" kind of day, apparently. First, our Toy judge fainted – sort of – in the ring ... twice according to her steward – and not at all, according to our judge. But the ambulance was called and EMT's appeared. Our judge refused transport and, in fact, after cooling down for a few hours, drove home to the Cape. Wow. Thanks to our two unscheduled judges who assumed the remainder of her assignment.

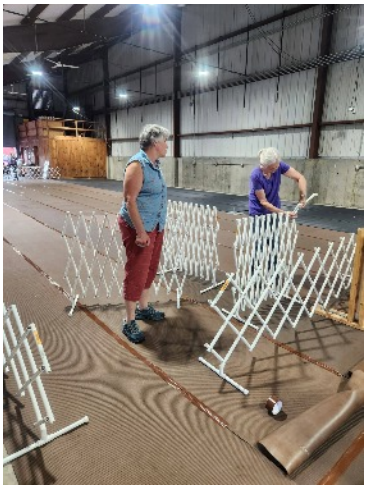
Next, an exhibitor who had had leg surgery thought she might have developed a clot. And...another ambulance appeared. This time, the patient agreed to go to Franklin Med Center where she was checked out and released...same day...an actual two ambulance day. Sunday was a repeat of Saturday, with a third ambulance arriving on the grounds before judging started. This time, it was an exhibitor's husband. Off he went, but as with the previous day, he was cleared.

Groups and Best in Show went smoothly on both days and several of our members were quite successful! Bravo to all the winners. Our entries were up on both Saturday and Sunday, which, given the current price of gas, was surprising, but definitely welcome. We made a small profit and even with our final bill, we are still in the black, so to speak. The weather was almost cooperative, but we all survived the heat (except our Toy judge) and reminded ourselves that it's been hotter. The grounds were in great shape for a dog show and, interestingly enough, we had many handlers in attendance who rarely attend our shows. Their attendance may be related to Hunterdon Hills KC moving their show to another weekend and to the fact that the Ohio shows are also outdoors and even hotter than ours.

Re next year, all our judges have been hired and official contracts will go out in October. We think '27 is our 50th year of holding shows and we are hoping to make the shows special. Please feel free to contact me with any ideas to make our shows great!

Linda Gagnon

Summer Show



Obedience & Rally: What an awesome crew we had for the Pioneer Valley Kennel Club obedience and rally trials.

From the start of set up on Thursday to re-set up (thank you Mother Nature for sharing your rain with our obedience ring) and completion on Friday, trials on Saturday and Sunday, and take down on Sunday after the trials – these people were outstanding and rocked it!

As co-trial chairs we could not ask for a better group of people.

Thank you to our judges, Donna Blews-Pappas, Karen Westerfield- Tucker and Josie McAuliffe you made our exhibitors feel welcome and celebrated their accomplishments.

To all our stewards – you make our job easy and it is always a joy working with you.

To all our set up and take down workers, the trials truly could not go own without you. Thank you everyone for your very hard work.

And thank you to all our exhibitors. We had a good number of younger and junior exhibitors who showed us the future is in good hands. Congratulations on all your accomplishments.

All our tremendous crew truly makes these trials "Paradise in the Valley"

Sheila Blanker

A Special Thanks

A very special and heartfelt ***Thank You*** to both **Sheila Blanker** and **Jackie Smith**.

They have shepherded our Obedience and Rally Trials at the Summer Show for many years. Their blood, sweat, and tears probably permeate the ring mats at this point.

For taking these trials from our one day Saturday show at the Greenfield Community College to a two day show at the Fairgrounds – we could never have done it without you.

Enjoy your much deserved break from co-chairing these events. Those who take over this event will have an extremely high bar to match.

AKC Delegate's Report

The Quarterly Meeting of AKC Delegates was held in Newark, NJ, on September 15, 2026. President Sheila DiNardo reported that the AKC continues to receive strong interest from foreign kennel clubs in establishing close relationships. AKC has signed a mutual cooperation agreement with the Australian Kennel Club and entries are now open for the AKC/FCM show this November in Mexico City. Additionally, plans are underway to develop an international conference that focuses on major issues impacting kennel clubs and dog enthusiasts internationally, including health and government policy. At the meeting, delegates passed an amendment to Article 15 Section 1 that adds language to address that a fee is required to be submitted to the event-giving club when a complaint is filed at an AKC Event. The complaint shall be verified by the complainant stating that the complainant has read the complaint, has knowledge of the facts stated in the complaint, and affirms and verifies under penalty of perjury that the complaint is true and correct. The Complainant shall furnish a deposit, the amount to be established by the AKC Board of Directors. The deposit shall become the property of the Club. If the Event Committee finds merit in the complaint and exercises jurisdiction in the matter, the deposit shall be returned to the Complainant. If the Event Committee finds no merit in the complaint, the deposit shall be kept by the Event giving Club. This language was drafted by the AKC Delegates Dog Show Rules Committee. It was previously submitted to the Board of Directors who did not approve it. The Dog Show Rules Committee asked that it be voted on by the Delegate Body. The proposal now having been approved by the Delegate Body, , the AKC Board of Directors will have to determine what the fee should be, as the BOD decides on all fees. The new rule won't become effective until the fee is determined. I will report the fee at that time.

Also in the Dog Show Rules Committee, a proposal was brought forth to give group placements through sixth place. This proposal was voted down with minimal discussion.

After the delegates meeting, the AKC Board met briefly. During this meeting long time AKC VP Mari Beth O'Neill announced her retirement.

There was substantial discussion among delegates and dog owners in general regarding the safety of dogs being left unattended in cars or on grooming tables at shows. It was stressed how important an issue this is.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Gagnon

AKC Delegate

US Federal: USDA Describes Future of Animal Welfare Act Enforcement

Sept 22, 2026

Today, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced a package of enforcement, inspection, staffing, and regulatory actions aimed at modernizing federal oversight of dog breeders and other companion-animal facilities regulated under the federal Animal Welfare Act (AWA). USDA also said it will propose updated dog-care standards in 2027 and intensify efforts against repeat or unlicensed operators.

MAIN ELEMENTS OF USDA'S ROADMAP

- **2027 standards update:** USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) plans to issue a regulatory proposal informed by 7,522 public comments received in response to its February 2026 Request for Information regarding breeding females, and the exercise and socialization needs of all dogs, kept by breeders licensed by USDA. Click here to read AKC's response to USDA.
- **Breeder refresher notices:** USDA will send more than 2,000 "regulatory refresher" mailings to dog-breeding facilities to reiterate legal requirements for humane care.
- **New enforcement unit:** USDA has deployed an Animal Protection Bureau, a specialist team intended to support inspections, investigate suspected violations, identify unlicensed operations, coordinate with legal partners, and modernize enforcement under both the AWA and Horse Protection Act.
- **More investigative capacity:** USDA's Office of Inspector General plans to raise the number of special-agent investigators working on animal fighting and related matters by 20% during the coming year.
- **Review of surrendered licenses:** Within six months, USDA says it will review dog breeders that surrendered either USDA or comparable state licenses within the previous two years, looking for operators that may have continued business in a way that evades AWA oversight.

WHAT THIS MEANS

Today's announcement is primarily a **roadmap of USDA's regulatory and enforcement agenda.** It is not an immediate new nationwide care rule. The most consequential next step is the anticipated 2027 APHIS rulemaking process, during which USDA would publish proposed regulatory text and provide a formal notice-and-comment process.

For breeders licensed by USDA, the near-term effect is likely to be increased inspection consistency, more explicit compliance outreach, and heightened scrutiny of license surrender, repeat violations, and potentially unlicensed breeding or sales activity.

The American Kennel Club's Government Relations Department (AKC GR) works throughout the year to ensure dog-related laws and regulations proposed by the federal government remain fair to responsible dog breeders and owners, and provides updates on these important issues. Most recently, this included publishing an update on the Senate Agriculture Committee's approval of the Senate Farm Bill. AKC GR will continue to provide updates on developments from the federal government, including calls to action when USDA APHIS proposes new rules impacting licensed breeders. For more information, contact AKC GR at doglaw@akc.org.

2027 PVKC
Membership Renewal Form

Our new membership year starts **January 1, 2027.** In order to appear on the membership list and to vote at meetings, your dues must be paid by **December 31, 2026.** After that date a **$7.50 late charge must be added.** Please complete the form below and send with your check made payable to **PVKC** to:

Mail to: Kathy Berrena
20 Corner Road
Williamsburg, MA 01096

E-mail to:
berrenak@msn.com

Name_____

If a Household Membership, please list individual names

If your contact information has changed (address, phone number, or email address) please complete the appropriate lines below. Print Clearly!!

Street_____

City_____State_____Zip_____

Telephone_____E-mail_____

Breed(s)_____

Check one: Regular Member (voting) ☐ Individual - $15 ☐ Household - $20

Associate Member (non-voting) ☐ Individual - $15 ☐ Household - $20

☐ Junior Member - $5.00

Check one:_____ Currently a Breeder _____ Not Currently a Breeder

I agree to abide by the American Kennel Club Care and Condition Policy.

_____ _____

Signature *Date*