



THE CHATTERBOXER

Member, American Boxer Club
Established 1945

May 2004

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Announcements

SPRING SHOW ALMOST HERE

Our Spring Specialty is just a few weeks away. Entries close at 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, May 12. If you still need a premium list, contact me or Marilyn Stark (phone numbers in the sidebar).

Remember to bring your items for the Silent Auction and your appetite for our complimentary luncheon!

The cash prize for Grand Sweepstakes Winner is **\$100**, as well as **\$75** for Best Puppy and **\$75** for Best Junior. (That is in addition to the cash prize based on entries for first place in the class!)

Also, don't forget that we have slashed our catalog advertising rates. This year you can place a full-page ad (one photo) for only \$20! Half-page ads with one photo are \$10, quarter-page ads (no photo) are only \$5. Advertising deadline is May 15—you can submit camera-ready ads, or I can format something for you. I can scan and edit photos as well as downloading via e-mail.

MAY MEETING DATE CHANGE

Don't forget that our May meeting has been postponed due to the ABC National Specialty. Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, May 11, 2004 at 7:00 p.m., at the Livonia Civic Center Library. There will be no Educational program as we will be preparing for the Spring Specialty.

Degenerative Myelopathy and Rehab

Annette Engler, LVT, CVPM, CCRP

Goals of Exercise: Maintain and build muscle, maintain coordination, maintain joint mobility and flexibility. It is important to give these dogs time to rest as well. We recommend a course of one day on, one day off of exercise. The stretches and massage can be done as frequently as desired.

Beneficial Exercises

Walking 5-10 minutes, 3-4 times daily on leash. Can add incline climbing and uneven surfaces to increase muscle building. Figure 8 patterns incorporated into the slow walks will help coordination as well.

Swimming, underwater treadmill work and walking chest-deep in water are the best possible exercises to achieve all of our goals. This non-weight-bearing exercise is great for dogs with proprioceptive deficits. It allows for more controlled movement and better coordination.

Stretching and massage help to increase circulation, release endorphins and antioxidants, and maintain flexibility.

Obstacle courses and cavaletti rails help to maintain coordination.

While this can be a very frustrating disease process, the best way to keep your dog out of rehab is to **maintain a lean body mass, exercise regularly, and feed a healthy diet.** Detecting signs early gives you the most longevity possible even though there is no way to stop the process once it begins. There is hope, however, to give your pet an excellent quality of life, slow the process, and allow you the most time with your beloved pet.

Additional Resources: www.drncyncsplace.com, www.healthypet.com, www.vetinfo.com, www.petsurgery.com

Animal Rehabilitation Center of Michigan, Inc. ♦ 6545 Cooley Lake Road ♦ Waterford, MI 48327 ♦
248-363-5061

From the Editor

I've been getting several e-mails about lost or stolen pets recently—much more than usual, and one or two a week. And, ironically, it happened to me a couple of weeks ago. Hugo—collarless, of course, as I don't leave collars on my dogs—managed to squeeze under the fence, and within minutes was nowhere to be found. After a frantic hour (felt like ten!) of searching (and recruiting my mom to come drive around the neighborhood), he turned up a block and a half away.

I was lucky—he went further into the subdivision, instead of out to Twelve Mile Road; it was a Saturday morning so the people who found him were home; I live in an area with a lot of dog lovers—and, of course, I got Hugo back quickly and unharmed. The fence has been reinforced, Hugo got a stern talking-to, and we all went on with our day.

Not everyone is so fortunate, though. Many of the messages I've been getting are for pets who have been missing for days or weeks. Since I'm pressed for time this month preparing to leave for ABC (hence the different format of the CB), I thought I'd skip my usual Editorial and instead reprint an e-mail I received years ago about what to do if your pet is lost while travelling. I've hung onto it all this time because I thought the information was so valuable—I hope you find it useful, as well.

Best,
Jen



Finding Lost Dogs

By Kathryn Saxon, Daisax Boxers

Something we all should have handy is a current photo of our dog (several actually, from all angles). This is much easier, of course, when the dog is an adult, and not a rapidly growing pup.

But I have read that an emergency kit should travel with you if you are on the road with your dog, and in this kit should be:

- Vaccination records (invaluable if you have to emergency board the dog or you are in an accident and animal control needs to know if the dogs are "safe")
- A letter indicating who can make life-death decisions for the dog (and yourself!) if you are incapacitated. You can indicate that you authorize care up to a certain dollar amount without question if there's reasonable expectation of recovery, and _____ can make the trickier decisions for you and take possession of the dog until you return home.

Imagine being out of state in a car accident. You are taken to a hospital, they call your next of kin who have to fly or drive out to be with you—meanwhile, the dog has been brought to a local shelter and is waiting, alone and scared. A dog with all its "info" handy, including a phone number of its regular vet, and perhaps a dog loving friend who can come rescue it or make health decisions while the human family is dealing with the human life-death issues can make a big difference.

The other scenario is a bad car accident and the dog, frightened and perhaps injured, runs away (happens often). You might be fine, but your dog is now lost in a strange city. If you have photos in your possession, you can go to a photocopy store and get fliers out within an hour, as well as distribute them to local shelters and animal control people.

You can just toss all of this stuff (including a list of contact numbers where you are staying locally, or perhaps BML friends in the area!), list of AKC #, tattoo info, microchip ID number, in an envelope, mark it "In Case of Emergency" and put it in your glove compartment or taped to the crate. It is a hard hearted "official" on the scene who would not take that envelope and contact someone named inside to come and retrieve the dog.

It's probably a good idea to have a non-family member as the contact, especially if you are traveling with your family or they would (rightfully) be more concerned with the dog than with you. A friend who will drive 6-7 hours to get your dog out of a shelter is a true friend indeed!

Other resources for finding lost pets:

http://www.everythinggolden.com/new_page_10.htm

http://www.hideandgoseek.com/lost_dog.htm

<http://www.petrescue.com/library/find-pet.htm>

<http://www.gotags.com/lostpet.htm>

<http://www.savethedals.org/lost-dog.htm>

<http://omalmals.com/omalmalamutes/omal/lostdog.asp>

<http://www.lostdogsdatabase.com/>

Judgemental

By Ann Conway

Michigan lost one of its most knowledgeable and important dog people at the recent Louisville shows, when George Ward passed away from a heart attack.

It was fitting that George left us in this manner as his whole life was involved with dogs. He was a third generation dog man., and without a doubt the most respected Terrier man in the country. During my years showing in Michigan we just called The Terrier Group, the Ward Group. He very seldom lost the Group and if he did it was usually one of his other Terriers that won it.

George won his first BIS when he was 12 years old, he had started showing at age 4. I don't know if anyone knows how many BIS he won but it must have been close to a thousand. He won over 200 with the Scottie "Shannon".

George was the senior advisor for any number of younger handlers. He was always quiet and watching the goings on. In my

early Judging days I would look up and find George standing quietly watching, if I passed his inspection he would give a slight nod. What great praise that was from such knowledgeable dog man.

Many of the young people not in Terriers did not have a chance to know George, as for many years now he has shown mostly Terriers. Too bad, George would have been a great mentor for them. Too bad he wasn't a Judge as he had such an understanding of all the breeds.

This was the type of man that should have been approved to judge all breeds as a starter.

As I get older in life more and more of the great older dog people are leaving us. However I have been blessed by being around long enough to know many of them.

HEADS UP

ABCF Memorial Wall

Too many of us have lost our beloved boxers to heart disease, cancer and other life ending illnesses. The American Boxer Charitable Foundation Officers and Board of Trustees believes that the time has come for us to honor our fallen heroes - We are pleased to announce the first annual ABCF Boxer Memorial Wall. With a donation of your choosing, your beloved boxers' name(s) and picture(s) can be included.

Here are the details:

1. On a piece of paper write down your name and address, your dog(s) registered name, call name(s), age at death and cause of death. The cause of death is optional.
2. Mail that information together with your donation, in any amount, payable to the American Boxer Charitable Foundation, Sharon Fosseen, Treasurer, 44 East High Drive, Spokane, WA 99203. You may also use your VISA/MC by mailing your card number, exp date, name on card and billing address.
3. Vicki Mellender has graciously agreed to design our Memorial Wall. It will be displayed for the first name this year at the ABC. Subsequently, it will be posted to the ABCF website.
4. If you are going to the ABC, bring a picture(s) of your dog(s), that we can keep. At the bottom of the picture clearly print your dog's name(s). Before that Auction on May 4th, stop by the Canterbury Room. There will be boards where you may post your picture(s). At the end of the auction all the pictures will be gathered to be placed in the ABCF Boxer Memorial Book. If you won't be at the ABC include your pictures with your donation.

Remember, it is all for the dogs!

Member Birthdays

The Michigan Boxer Club would like to send good wishes to the following Club members who are celebrating their birthday in May:

<u>Member Name</u>	<u>Whelped On</u>
Mary Lou Bumpus	May 9
Dick Johnson	May 12
Rick Walunas	May 22
Jennifer Walker	May 26
Terry DeMaso	May 30



MBC Educational Programs for 2004

Over the last three years, the Michigan Boxer Club has made a concerted effort to have an educational program as part of its monthly meeting. The MBC Board and Officers felt that a monthly program added an additional benefit to Club membership and provided added incentive for members who live a distance from the metropolitan Detroit to attend monthly business meetings. We have had programs on Advances in Boxer Heart Testing, Canine First Aid, Raw Diets, Puppy Neonatal Care, Video tapes of Ch. Bang Away of Sirrah Crest, Leader Dogs for the Blind, and the Canine Rescue unit of the Michigan Technical Rescue Operations Team, to name a few.

Programs for 2004 are now being scheduled and will be selected from the following topics. Please check the most recent issue of the ChatterBoxer for changes in this schedule.

Education Schedule:

May – no program, preparation for Spring Show

June – no program, meeting at show site following Spring Show

Future programs:

Advances in Laser Surgery for Dogs

Current Information on Boxer Heart Issues, Video from ABC by Dr. Katherine Meurs

Hypothyroidism in Boxers, Video from ABC by Dr. Peter Graham

Seminar on Degenerative Myelopathy, Video from ABC by Dr. Natasha Olby

The Key to Movement Video, Part 1, Coming and Going

The Key to Movement Video, Part 2, Side Movement

Show Grooming for the Boxer

Conformation Handling

Breeding Basics

Dog Law, Owner Responsibilities and Liabilities

Puppy Contracts

Canine Nutrition

The Dog Game - Tax Implications as Business or Hobby

Obedience Training with the Boxer

Agility Training with the Boxer

Human Personality and Dog Breed Preferences

If MBC members have suggestions for programs or know speakers who can add to the Club's wide interests, please contact Barry Wyerman, Education Chairman at 248-344-7944 or e-mail: wyerbr@aol.com

Website Spotlight

We have no Educational program this month, due to preparation for our Spring Specialty show, so below are some general interest canine sites that I've found to be quite useful in a variety of areas.

Dog Owners' Guide

More than 300 pages of articles on every aspect of dog ownership, breed profiles, etc..

<http://www.canismajor.com/dog/>

Dog Play

More than just games, this site has a wealth of information on living with dogs, including breeding articles.

<http://www.dog-play.com/>

Greyhound Manor Crafts

Patterns & instructions for items from portable (PVC) expands to cool coats—intended for hounds but adaptable to Boxers and other breeds.

http://www.greyhoundmanor.com/index_gmc.html

The Schnauzer Breeder from Hell Articles

Wonderful gems that any breeder can relate to!

<http://www.katewerk.com/sbfh.html>

Sirius Dogs

In-depth articles by experts on health, nutrition, training, behavior, and genetics.

<http://www.siriusdog.com/articles.htm>

The Pet Care Forum

General information on a wide range of topics and species, including forums and chat sessions.

<http://www.pethobbyist.com>

Veterinary Information Network Forum

Detailed articles on health, care, and behavior issues and transcripts from chat sessions with experts.

<http://www.veterinarypartner.com>

Michigan Dog Laws

A site every dog owner in the state should be aware of!

<http://www.michiganlegislature.org/mileg.asp?page=getobject&objName=mcl-chap287>

A Challenge

Cheryl Robbins, CherKei Boxers

To all Boxer breeders and owners,

I was notified that a Memorial Wall was beginning this year at ABC, to list the names of the Boxers that have been remembered by those that love them, through a donation to the American Boxer Charitable Foundation. Then the idea that a photo of these Boxers would be included on this Memorial Wall.

I was told that we still have time to send in a donation, large or small, to the ABCF and we can have any of our precious dogs that we have lost in the past added to this Wall for the ABC THIS year.

Then we thought it would be nice besides having the dogs picture and their name but to also add the age that they died. Why not add along with the photo, name and age, the cause of their death?

I would like to make this challenge to all of you out there. I AM MAD AS HELL and I am ready to make a stand for our wonderful dogs. Please stand with me.

For years and years, we would tell people close to us what happened to the dogs we would lose and what they died of. Sometimes, we would just stay silent about the cause of death and suffer silently. We were told that if the word got out that our line had heart problems or cancer no one would breed to our dogs or buy puppies from us. Certain bloodlines have been whispered about for years, "this one has heart problems or that one has a lot of cancer in their line". Well, guess what.....if we own Boxers, we have it all. Now DM has reared its ugly head and we are having to put down otherwise healthy dogs because they can't stand on their rears any longer. We lost a dog to DM 25 years ago but it wasn't diagnosed as that back then. We have lost 3 others since then, Desperdo, Sadie and Ribba.

ARE WE BRAVE ENOUGH TO BE HONEST? I will tell you that when I have held each one of my sweet babies in my arms, looking into their beautiful eyes as the Vet pushes the fluid into their veins to end this precious life, I want to tell them that NO LONGER will I be silent. That I WILL fight for more funds to be raised, I WILL fight for Grants to be awarded, and I WILL do what I can to help stop these killers! WE CAN DO THIS IN NUMBERS! It will take more than a few to step forward. STEP UP WITH ME!

Step up and be counted. Do this for them. They cannot speak for themselves but our voices can be heard. Instead of squabbling over minor things lets channel our resources toward the most worth while cause there is and that is our Boxer's lives for future generations to come.

We have had cardiomyopathy. With careful breeding we have some really great hearts now in our line, but we did just have a 7 year old diagnosed with it a few months ago. It has shown up once again.

But now our problem now is hemangiosarcoma. CANCER!!! No one is talking about cancer. There is no testing for cancer like we

have for hearts. We have now lost 6 of our dogs to hemangiosarcoma in the last 10 years. I have learned more than I ever wanted to know about this fast and incurable disease. If you get this cancer, IT IS OVER! You can do chemo, you can have their spleen removed, but to no avail.....it returns, it metastasizes somewhere else. Our wonderful High Cotton, after his spleen was removed chemo destroyed his heart and the hemangiosarcoma went to the bone in his leg. Our beautiful Ultimate High, after his spleen was removed we had 5 quality months until the hemangiosarcoma metastasized to his brain. He left this world having horrid seizures in my arms while the Vet put him to sleep. My sweet Holly, after her spleen was removed we had 7 wonderful months, 8 years old, and she died in the most excruciating pain no one would ever want to see. Hers had metastasized and caused a tumor that pressed against her bladder and urethra. Then we lost Jake and you read Linda Abel s terrible account of their 2 week nightmare before losing him to hemangiosarcoma. This cancer is silent and deadly and there is no cure.

I type this with tears rolling down my cheeks remembering each and every one of those events. Am I the only one that has had these terrible things? Of course I'm not! I am not saying that we need to steer away from the heart research but we need to join the 5 other breeds that also have this type of cancer and pool our funds to find the researchers willing to study this cancer. There is a doctor in Colorado that is now doing genetic marker studies on hemangiosarcoma. I am going to look into this.

Will this kind of honesty hurt us and our reputations? Maybe. Has it killed our Boxers? Yes.

I challenge everyone to STEP UP AND COME FORWARD, this wonderful breed gives us so much. Heart problems and cancer are taking some of our dogs much, much too young.

Please bring a photo to ABC, or mail it in of a dog or dogs you have lost, with their name, age they died and the cause of death along with a donation. Even a \$5 or \$10 donation will do. If you feel you can give more, then give it. Bring an auction item to be auctioned at the ABCF Auction at ABC.

My photos will be there, will yours? Let's fill that Memorial Wall! Please for their sake.

Mail that information and donation, any amount, payable to the American Boxer Charitable Foundation, Sharon Fosseen, Treasurer, P.O. Box 8667, Spokane, WA 99203. This wonderful Memorial Wall will later be posted to the ABCF web site.

Anyone that would like more information please contact me and I will at least point you in the right direction if I can't answer your questions.

Thank you for listening and God bless this wonderful breed.

Boxer Shorts

Genine DeMaso, Debut Boxers



WHEN I AM OLD...

I shall wear Turquoise and soft gray sweatshirts.....and a bandana over my long, silver hair. And I shall spend my Social Security Checks on Sweet Wine and my Dogs.....and sit in my house and listen to my dog's breathing.

I will sneak out into the middle of a warm summer night and take my "Butch" for a run.....if my old bones allow. And when people come to call, I will smile and nod as I walk out and show them my Dogs.....and talk of them and about them. The Ones so beloved of the past and the Ones so beloved of today.

I will still work hard cleaning and mopping their runs and feeding them and whispering their names in a soft, loving way.....I will wear the gleaming sweat on my throat like a jewel. I will be an embarrassment to all.....especially to my Children who have not yet found the peace in being free to have dogs as your Best Friends.

These "friends" who always wait, at any hour, for your footfall.....and eagerly jump to their feet out of a sound sleep simply to greet you.....as if you are a God.

With warm eyes, full of adoring love and hope that you will stay and hug their big, strong necks.....and kiss their dear sweet heads.....and whisper to them of your love and the beautiful pleasure of their very special company.

I look in the mirror and see I am getting old. This is the kind of woman I am and have always been.....loving dogs is easy because they are a part of me, accept me for who I am, and appreciate my presence in their lives.

When I am old, this will be important to me. You will understand when you are old and if you have dogs to love too.

THIS DOG

He is my other eyes.....that can see above the clouds;
My other ears that hear above the winds.
He is the part of me that can reach out into the sea.

He has told me a thousand times over that I am his reason for being;
by the way he rests against my leg;
by the way he thumps his tail at my smallest smile;
by the way he shows his hurt when I leave without taking him.....I think it makes him sick with worry when he is not along to care for me.

When I am wrong, he is delighted to forgive.
When I am angry, he clowns to make me smile.
When I am happy, he is joy unabounded.
When I am a fool, he ignores it.
When I succeed, he brags.

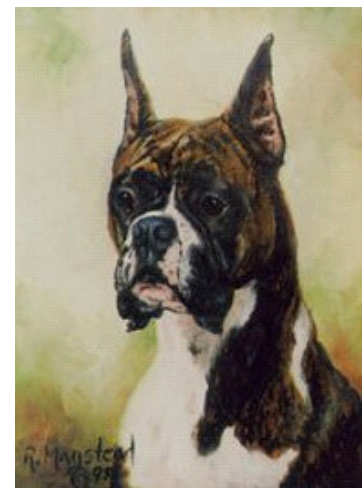
Without him, I am only another person.
With him, I am all-powerful.
He is loyalty itself.
He has taught me the meaning of devotion.
With him, I know a secret comfort and a private peace.

He has brought me understanding where before I was ignorant.
His head on my knee can heal my human hurts.
His presence by my side is protection against my fears of dark and unknown things.

He has promised to wait for me.....whenever.....wherever.....in case I need him.
And, I expect I will, as I always have.

He is just my dog.

Gene Hill
"He's Just My Dog" - Tears & Laughter



Show Wins

Ch. Kaja's Little Rascal—"Darla"

Owners: Donna & Roger George, Rodon Boxers

Breeder: Janet Smith, Kaja Kennels

Handler: Mel Holloman

By Ch. Sentry's Loud N' Proud x
Kaja's Luck of the Seventh

Best of Breed, Group 2

Suwannee Valley Kennel Club - 3/20/04
Breed Judge - Mr. Roger Hartinger
Group Judge - Mrs. Barbara Dempsey Alderman

Best of Breed, Group 2

Suwannee Valley Kennel Club - 3/21/04
Breed Judge - Mrs. Barbara Dempsey Alderman
Group Judge - Mr. George J. Heitzman

Best in Show

Best of Breed, Group 1

St. Petersburg Dog Fanciers Association - 3/27/04
Breed & Group Judge - Mr. Robert D. Sharp
Best in Show Judge - Mr. Eugene Blake

Best in Show

Best of Breed, Group 1

St. Petersburg Dog Fanciers Association - 3/28/04
Breed & Best in Show Judge - Mr. Eric J. Ringle
Group Judge - Mr. Joe Gregory

Best of Breed

Greater Ocala Kennel Club - 4/3/04
Judge - Mrs. Patricia Hastings

Best in Show

Best of Breed, Group 1

Lake Eustis Kennel Club - 4/4/04
Breed Judge - Mr. William Hempel
Group Judge - Mrs. M. Joan Frailey
Best in Show Judge - Mrs. Dorothy D. Nickles

As of March 31, 2004, Darla is the **#4** Boxer in the country, and the top-ranked female.

Way to go, Darla and Mel!

Am/Can Ch. Bjay's Traveling Man "Travis"

Owners: Rick & Cindy Walunas, CR Boxers

Handler: Genine DeMaso

By Am/Can Ch. Bayview Strides Ahead, SOM x
Ch. Skidoo's Special Blend of Cabernet

Best of Breed

Saginaw Valley Kennel Club - 4/3/04
Judge: Col. Jerry Weiss

Best of Breed, Group 4

Saginaw Valley Kennel Club—4/4/04
Breed & Group Judge: Mr. Jack Ireland

Best of Breed

Terre Haute Kennel Club - 4/15/04
Judge: Ms. Marjorie Martorella

Best of Breed

Bloomington Kennel Club - 4/16/04
Judge: Mr. Jay Richardson

Best of Breed

Terre Haute Kennel Club - 4/17/04
Judge: Mrs. Judy Doniere

Best of Breed

Mattoon Kennel Club - 4/18/04
Judge: Mrs. Lesley Hiltz

Travis finished 2003 as the **#11** Boxer.

Way to go, Travis and Genine!

Kaja's Doc Elliott—"Doc"

Breeder/Owner/Handler: Janet E. Smith, Kaja Kennels

By Ch. Winland's Epiphany x Kaja's Myaka

Winners Dog, Best of Winners - 2 points

Saginaw Valley Kennel Club - 4/4/04
Judge - Mr. Jack Ireland

Please Mail or E-Mail Show Wins and Litter Announcements to:

Jennifer Walker
28423 Kendallwood Drive
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
Phone: 248-489-1963
Fax: 248-489-1720
secretary@michiganboxerclub.com

Dogs On the Air, In the News, and Online

CRUFTS, ONE LAST TIME

I know you're all probably tired of hearing about it by now, and it may seem anti-climactic after the intrigue and scandal surrounding the show, but the 2004 Crufts show will be aired on Animal Planet Saturday, May 22 at 8:00 and 11:00 p.m. (Eastern Time).

WOOF AND COMPANY IN THE DOGHOUSE

A few months ago there was a blurb in this section of the ChatterBoxer about a new pet store in the Boston area, supplied by the Hunte Corporation and spearheaded by the former president of IKEA. It seems they've already run into problems. On April 21, Boston news anchor Chris May reported the following story:

He's got a face that's hard to resist and when Ingrid Price saw this Westie puppy at the Woof and Company pet store in South Shore Plaza, it was love at first sight.

Ingrid Price: "Frankly, Peter sold himself to me."

ut the honeymoon was brief. Peter fell ill almost immediately with a nasty case of what Ingrid first believed was kennel cough...

Ingrid Price: "The puppy was only two months old and eight pounds. And he convulsed. We thought we were going to lose him that night."

In fact, Peter had giardia, an infection of the intestine, the same condition that left 17-month Corey nearly crippled.

Geffin Falken, Cory's Owner: "She had a fever and a kidney infection and severe anemia and he could hardly walk."

What do Peter and Corey have in common besides giardia? Both were purchased from Woof and Company stores, Peter from Braintree, Corey from Saugus... And now a former manager is stepping forward to say the chain should shape up.

Laurie Reggiannini, Former Manager: "Bottom line really at the end of it all was I realized they didn't care about the puppies, they just cared about the bottom line, they cared about the dollar."

Problems at the Saugus store have led to a temporary ban on their selling of puppies. Customers at the store are told not to bring their children inside and workers are being tested.

As for Ingrid, in addition to the \$950 she spent for her dog, she has vet bills approaching \$500... And she says Woof and Company has reneged on its guarantee to foot the bill.

Ingrid Price: "They're very nice when you come on the phone and one passes the buck to the other. And I feel the Woof and Company is very insincere in their approach to selling puppies."

Local Woof and Company employees referred our calls today to their corporate headquarters in New Jersey. And for the second consecutive day, those calls went unreturned.

Stay tuned, as there will no doubt be more to come in this sad saga.

POINTS FOR RESERVE—AN AKC BATTLE IMMINENT?

For several years, the AKC Delegates Committee has tossed around the idea of changing the Rules Applying to Dog Shows to award points for Reserve wins at National Specialties. The Parent Club Committee decided, a year and a half ago, to look into the issue thoroughly, and surveyed all national breed parent clubs on the issue. A whopping 81% were in favor of the idea (85% of all clubs responded to the survey), and the issue was brought to the AKC Board of Directors. The Board disapproved the Rules change in November of 2003—the Dog Show Rules Committee had turned it down four times prior to that. However, the Parent Club Committee demanded that the issue be brought before the Delegates, in accordance with the AKC Bylaws. At the April Delegates meeting there was discussion on the proposed change, and voting will take place at the June 6 & 7 Delegates meeting.

At one National Specialty each calendar year, specified by the AKC Breed Parent Specialty Club at the time the event application is submitted to AKC, the dog designated Reserve Winners Dog and/or Reserve Winners Bitch will be awarded a 3-point major, provided the number of dogs competing in the regular classes of that Reserve Winner's sex totals at least twice the number required for a 5-point major.

Minutes from the April Delegates meeting will be published in a future issue of the *AKC Gazette*, or can be viewed online (middle column, page 19, about 3/4 of the way down the page):

www.akc.org/insideAKC/delegates/april04delmtg.pdf

If you belong to an AKC member club (not a licensed club, as they do not have delegates), and would like to see this pass, get in touch with the delegate for your club (or the Board) and urge them to vote for passage of this proposal.