



Orange Coast Rhodesian Ridgeback Club

# Ridgeback Rambles

Volume 7, Issue 5, December 2004/January 2005

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## President's Message

Dear Friends,

The purpose of breeding and raising Rhodesian Ridgebacks is to breed healthy dogs, sound in mind and body, with correct conformation according to the breed Standard.

I encourage all of you to join our National Club, the Rhodesian Ridgeback Club of the U.S. ([www.rrcus.org](http://www.rrcus.org)). As a member of RRCUS, you'll receive the magazine, "The Ridgeback," and its companion Newsletter. These publications will provide you with an invaluable education about Ridgebacks.

Also, if you choose to be a voting member, you'll be able to contribute to the selection of judges for our Specialties. And finally, those of

you who are, or hope to be, breeders, will also earn the respect of fellow breeders who know that you're a RRCUS member.

In closing, I would like to thank the Officers, Board of Directors, and membership for all their efforts in planning and executing the activities that made 2004 a very successful year.

It isn't an easy task securing dates and sites, pulling together committees, and putting on well-organized events. I feel confident, though, that the Board of Directors and members will continue their dedication to OCRRC for another successful year.

We look forward to seeing you at our January 13, 2005

meeting. We'll be swearing in our new officers and Board members (as reflected in the Gen'l Meeting Meetings, on page 3), and planning the upcoming year's events.

I hope all of you had a Merry Christmas, and will have a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Myrna Berger  
President

*"The fidelity of a dog is a precious gift, demanding no less binding moral responsibilities than the friendship of a human being. The bond with a true dog is as lasting as the ties of this earth can ever be."  
— Konrad Z. Lorenz  
"Man Meets Dog"*

## "Exhibitors: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly?" By Sierra Milton

Reprinted with permission from the November, 2004 issue of "The Canine Chronicle."

The mockumentary "Best in Show" movie took a humorous look at the world of dog shows. While tongue-in-cheek, it's doubtful that the characters portrayed did not immediately bring real people to the mind of anyone who's shown dogs for any length of

time. How many of us don't know at least one person who'll put their last dime toward entering a dog show instead of paying their rent? Or those to whom winning validates their lives and is their sole driving force? Who hasn't driven all night in the hopes of getting that win? Do you know someone who'll stop at nothing to win? Is winning your *raison d'être*?

So, what effect does the integrity of exhibitors have on the sport of showing dogs? In my piece "Judge and Ye Shall Be Judged," I examined the various components of dog shows and the effects that each has on the future of purebred dogs. It's important to look at the other person in the ring—the

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## “Exhibitors: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly?”

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exhibitor. The exhibitor may be a neophyte, amateur, professional hobbyist, or professional handler. Regardless of rank, the person at the end of the lead has a significant role in the future well-being of purebred dogs. But first...

### Why Do We Do This?

Dog shows were originally established as a means of determining which dogs most embodied the standard of excellence determined for each breed, and should be used for breeding in an attempt to reach the ideal type symbolized by that standard. Dog shows, much like horse and other livestock shows, were a proving ground and a means for exhibitors and breeders to determine how close they were to the standard and in what areas their stock needed to improve.

These events also served as both educational forums and places where neophytes could go in search of mentors and knowledge about the sport and their breeds. The AKC states, “Competition in conformation and performance events can best demonstrate the progress that’s been made in breeding for type and quality, and/or for practical use, stamina, and obedience.”

The statistics show that most dog-show exhibitors quit within the first five years. Serious questions must be asked to determine why our sport fails to nurture and encourage long-time involvement. It’s rare that the first “show dog” owned by a person is immediately successful in the show ring. More often, the first dog is little but a learning show experience—in what type is, the mechanics of dog showing and presentation, application of the standard, and the cost of campaigning.

Today’s society is such that enthusiasm and motivation seems to only be fueled by winning. Mentoring, an essential element of successful showing and breeding, is scarce. Too often, we see neophytes that come into the show scene as “instant experts.” This mentality alienates the very people from whom the new exhibitors should and could be learning.

What should come first—learning about the breed or showing? If we accept that the purpose of a dog show, in the past and today, is to “...demonstrate the progress that’s been made in breeding for type and quality, and/or for practical use, stamina, and obedience,” the answer is clear. Without a doubt, those interested in showing dogs should first be a student of their chosen breed. Form and function must go hand-in-hand, and without understanding both of these fundamentals properly, presenting a dog to its best is going to be far more difficult, if not impossible.

Far too often, breeders encourage first-time

owners to jump into the show ring without first mentoring them on anything other than how to stack and move their dog. Many of these first-timers actually enter their first show without even observing a show or even having attended handling classes. Many of these exhibitors are doomed to lose, sometimes not based upon the quality of their dog, but because they lack the necessary knowledge, experience, and confidence. Many judges, rightly or wrongly, look for that “show dog”—the dog who doesn’t step a paw out of place, has “ring presence,” and a handler who ensures the dog is always in a favorable position to catch the judge’s attention. Many judges simply don’t have time for the youngster or new exhibitor who may be “on” for only a few seconds out of the allotted two minutes. If it comes down to two dogs, the steady dog and handler will invariably win.

*“ Sadly, the vast majority of dog-show exhibitors seem to labor under the impression that the purpose of dog shows is purely to win. ”*

Winning means ribbons; ribbons denote accolades; accolades lead to prestige; and prestige equates to high stud fees and puppy prices. And surely successful breeding programs are those that can command high prices—or are they?

Regrettably, there are people who breed, and truly believe that they’re breeding for the betterment of their breed. They don’t understand the history of their breed, how movement in their breed is akin or different to other breeds, how to decipher pedigrees, recessive and dominant traits and genes—all the very basics of what knowledgeable breeding is about. No, Virginia, that highly successful show dog cannot be bred to every bitch and produce better puppies than what he is...and no, that lovely multiple best-in-show bitch will not produce an entire litter of group-winning, best-in-show puppies unless the breeder has done a tremendous amount of learning about pedigrees and genetics and has had a bit of luck thrown in. Winning ribbons, while demonstrating the progress that’s been made in type and quality, is only part of the equation when it comes to breeding for better dogs in the future.

The very nature of dog shows dictates that far more exhibitors will go away from a show disappointed than elated. Ultimately, cutting through all the place winners, best of breed

and group winners/placers, there’s only one top dog—that Best in Show winner. Except for that one dog, the owners of the others, while perhaps elated with their wins, still harbor some disappointment in not winning more. Owners of the class placers wish they’d won Winner’s Dog or Bitch (CC in the UK); owners of the Winner’s Dog and Bitch wish they’d won Best of Breed; the Best of Breed owners wish they’d won the Group; and all those Group winners wish they’d won Best in Show.

Added to the mix are the various “competitions for Top Breed Dog (arrived at by counting the number of dogs defeated in the breed and/or the number of dogs defeated at the group level), Top Group Dog, Top All-Breed Dog, Top Stud Dog, Top Dam, Top Puppy—and so the list goes on.

Lynn Hall stated in her book, *Dog Shows for Beginners*, “Winning is fun. Winning is a high that equals any chemical high ever invented. Losing is not fun, it’s just a long day, a long drive, and a lot of work capped by disappointment. Most people lose more than they win, but one good win can keep us afloat through a lot of losses.... We want the win. We want the elation of sailing out of the ring with that blue or purple scrap of fabric. We want the job of being a gracious winner at ringside, followed by whooping elation all the way home.”

But what cost are we willing to pay for that win? Sadly, while the fierce competition should encourage exhibitors to show better dogs, the need to win often lures many exhibitors to the dark side of showing—the realm where the rules of polite society and the good of the breed no longer matter.

C.A. Sharp terms those who want to win above all else as “incorrigibles,” and while she’s speaking of those who hide genetic problems, the terms is also apt for those who value the win above the future of the breed. In the Summer 2000 edition of *Double Helix Network News* she said, “You all know them. The ones that put winning above all other goals. ‘It doesn’t matter as long as the dog wins,’ is their mantra. Their dogs must win, as must their dogs’ offspring, and woe betide to anyone who stands in their way as they pursue greater breed and personal glory....”

“If a genetic problem isn’t apparent, they’ll ignore it. If it can be (surgically) fixed, they will....” And, Sharp adds, “...if someone else knows about the problem, the Incorrigibles will use any means at their disposal to shut that person up, ranging

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## General Meeting Minutes—November 9, 2004

*Quorum present; meeting called to order at 8:00 P.M.*

The November 9th program was a great success with our open Q&A session with Dr. Lori Boldrick of Quillie Acres Veterinary Clinic.

**First order of business:** The minutes of the last meeting were approved.

**Presidents Report:**

? No new members.

? Myrna will contact the AKC and RRCUS by sending a letter stating our change in corresponding secretary to reflect Sherry West.

**Vice President's Report:** Nothing to report.

**Corresponding Secretary's Report:** Discussion and action items taken to follow up on.

**Treasurer's Report:** Catherine Schock reported—savings account \$224.72; checking ac-

count—\$14,339.51; CD: \$6,372.48; Specialty account—transfer funds to checking.

**Committee Reports:**

**Fall Match**—Lee Nudo to write up the results. Photos have been posted out on the Web site.

**Specialty**—Linda Robbins to provide Catherine the names of last year's winners so we can offer them first opportunity to donate toward trophies. Catherine will send letters to last year's winners to solicit their participation. Trophy list prepared.

Jaymie Evans reports meeting with artist, Jennifer Benedict, to determine her availability, view her work, and get ideas for Specialty. More info and pictures to come first week of December to show options Jennifer has to offer.

Western Hound Association Show solicited us for four trophies (BOB, BOS, WD, WB). Catherine to offer \$125.

**New Business:** Joe Berger suggests we purchase the 5<sup>th</sup> Element by DannyQuest for 2006 Specialty. Will check on price.

Nominating Committee Chair: Catherine Schock. List of Nominees to Corresponding Secretary: President—Myrna Berger; Vice President—Lee Nudo; Corresponding Secretary—Sherri West; Recording Secretary—Deborah Drastrup; Treasurer—Catherine Schock. Board Members: Jerry Adomian; Mike Patterson; John Rogers; Jaymie Evans.

*Meeting adjourned at 10:00 P.M.*



## Board of Director's Meeting Minutes—December 9, 2004

*Meeting called to order at 7:55 P.M. Members present: Myrna Berger, Lee Nudo, Deborah Drastrup, Catherine Schock, Jaymie Evans, Jerry Adomian, and Sherri West.*

**First order of business:** Role call and approval of minutes completed.

**Presidents Report:**

**Memberships**—(1) Voting—Susan Phillipp; John/Judi Kuplent change from Nonvoting to Voting.

**Vice President's Report:** Meredith Wisniewski not present; nothing to report.

**Corresponding Secretary Report:** Discussion and action items taken to follow up on.

**Treasurer's Report:** Catherine Schock reported, as of 11/19/04—savings account \$3,517.45; checking account \$2,335.65; CD \$6,382.90; Specialty account \$1,347.64.

Membership dues notification has been sent out and getting good feedback.

Discussion followed about bank service-charge fees on the Specialty and Lure Coursing Checking Accounts. Catherine to investigate best course of actions for these two accounts.

Catherine made a motion to revise the signature cards for both Specialty and Lure Coursing accounts to submit to B of A for their records.

Lee Nudo seconds; motion is approved.

**Committee Reports:**

**Spring Match**—Discussion took place to have a Spring Match with a focus on handling in preparation for the Specialty, and perhaps have Lorraine Mendoza give a Rally Obedience knowledge session.

**Specialty**—Linda Robbins provided Catherine with names of last year's winners. Catherine has notified each winner of last year's trophies and given them a deadline of 12/27 to sponsor this year's trophy.

Deborah Drastrup has volunteered to run the Raffle. Thank you, Deborah!

Grand Raffle prize has been purchased—a wicker dog bed—nice Ridgeback size! Thank you Catherine for finding and ordering!

Discussion took place regarding Deborah Drastrup contacting a friend who creates necklaces, and possibly having them under hospitality tent along with Deborah's works of art (portraits).

Jaymie and Catherine are scheduled to meet with artist, Jennifer Benedict on 12/11, to view work on leather and make final decision for trophies.

**Old Business:** Lure Coursing—IWHC event

to be held 2/19 and 2/20 in Bakersfield.

Lure Coursing discussion took place regarding different sites in Huntington Beach and/or other places, and the minimum requirements needed to hold a coursing event. Catherine to check on a few sites.

**New Business:**

? K-9 Health Fair discussion for an open weekend possibly on June 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. Lee discussed possibilities and will check on where and if that weekend is possible.

? Lee suggested publishing the newsletter quarterly instead of 6 times/year, with postcards sent out to members as another way of notification of meetings. Lee makes a motion to change OCRRC policy; Sherri West seconds the motion. Motion unanimously approved.

? February 5th Rally Obedience Flyer notification to be included in the newsletter.

? Discussion of Specialty sales took place, regarding having an OCRRC Store and the logistics of such an undertaking. No decisions made.

*Motion to adjourn made by Sherri West;*

*Deborah Drastrup seconds. Meeting adjourned at 9:32 P.M.*



## What's Happening...

**What:** Sanctioned B Match and CGC Test

**When:** January 20, 2005

**Where:** Seaside Park, Ventura, CA

**Contact:** Donna Hollingworth, (805) 482-6025, or e-mail HollySams@aol.com.

**What: AKC Obedience Seminar**

**When:** Sat., Feb. 5, 2005 (obed.); Sun., Feb. 6 (rally obed.)

**Where:** Orange Empire Dog Club Facility, Bloomington, CA

**Contact:** Martin Moss, P.O. Box 1542, Lake Forest, CA 92609; (949) 859-8175.

**Cost:** \$45 for one day; \$75 for both days (includes Continental breakfast).

**Closes:** January 28, 2005; seating is limited, so register early.

**What:** Long Gaze Hound Assoc. (LGRA) Straight Race

**When:** February 12, 2005

**Where:** Irvine Regional Park, Orange, CA (\$4 parking fee)

**Contact:** LGRA @www.lgra.org for more info; for practice runs—SoCal Whippet Assoc. (SCWA) @www.scwa.us.

**Note:** Dogs must be prequalified to race, and must wear muzzles/jackets.

**What:** Inland Wilderness Hunt Club All-Breed Lure Coursing Test/Trial

**When:** Sat./Sun., February 19/20, 2005

**Where:** Bakersfield, CA

**Contact:** Event Sec. Deborah Butler, (611) 823-0820; or e-mail Deb@SighthoundGear.com

**Judges:** Sat., Mary Armbruster-Smith/ Sebastian Franzen; Sun., Mary Armbruster-Smith/Tess Franzen.

**Closes:** 8 A.M. day of trial.

**What:** KC of Bev. Hills AKC-Sanctioned Breed/Obed. Match

**When:** Sunday, February 20, 2005

**Where:** Woodley Park, Encino, CA

**Judges:** Christy Nelson; BIM Lou Guerrero

**Contact:** Match Chair, Ed Wanjon, (661) 296-9682.

**What:** Silver Bay KC of San Diego (conformation/obedience rally)

**When:** Sat./Sun., February 26/27, 2005

**Where:** Del Mar Fairgrounds, Del Mar, CA

**Contact:** conformation—Jack Bradshaw Dog Shows, (323) 727-0136; or e-mail www.jbradshaw.com; obed. rally—Show Sec. Lynda Tjarks, 30474 Mulholland Hwy, #194, Agoura Hills CA 91301-3118; or go to www.infodog.com.

**Judges (conf only):** Sat., Mrs. Margretta Patterson-Kauffman; Sun., Edmund Jamison Kauffman

**Closes:** Wed., February 9, 2005

**What:** Sequoia KC (conformation)

**When:** Thurs.Fri., March 3/4, 2005

**Where:** Kings Cty. Fairgrounds, Hanford, CA

**Contact:** Jack Bradshaw Dog Shows (see Silver Bay KC, at left)

**Judges:** Thurs., Ms. Nikki Riggsbee; Fri., Mrs. Jean Sheehy

**Closes:** Wed., February 16, 2005

**What:** Kings KC of Calif. (conformation)

**When:** Sat./Sun., March 5/6, 2005

**Where:** same as above

**Contact:** same as above

**Judges:** Sat., Ms. Marjorie Martorella; Sun., Mrs. Joan Frailey

**Closes:** Wed., February 16, 2005

**What:** Superstition KC (conformation/agility)

**When:** Fri./Sat., March 4/5, 2005

**Where:** Scottsdale Westworld, Scottsdale, AZ

**Contact:** conformation—Jack Bradshaw Dog Shows (see Silver Bay, at left); agility—Wendy Hultsman, 3641 W. Aire Libre Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85053-2813; or go to www.infodog.com.

**Judges (conf only):** Fri., Mrs. Susan St. John Brown; Sat., Mrs. Dixie Howell-Hirsch

**Closes:** Wed., February 16, 2005

**What:** Scottsdale Dog Fanciers Assoc. (conf)

**When:** Sun./Mon., March 6/7, 2005

**Where:** same as above

**Contact:** same as above

**Judges:** Sun., Ms. Marcia Tucker; Mon., Mrs. Betty Stites

**Closes:** Wed., February 16, 2005

**What:** George Alston Handling Seminar for Observers

**When:** March 12/13, 2005

**Where:** Lakeside, CA

**Contact:** Robert Fey, (619) 265-2899, or e-mail fey@fda.net.

**What:** Apple Valley KC (conf./obed. rally)

**When:** Sat./Sun., March 12/13, 2005

**Where:** Victorville, CA

**Contact:** Jack Bradshaw Dog Shows (see Silver Bay, far left)

**Judges (conf only):** Sat., Mrs. Cynthia Sommers; Sun., Skip Herendeen

**Closes:** Wed., February 23, 2005

**What:** Sun Maid KC of Fresno (agility)

**When:** Sat./Sun., March 12/13, 2005

**Where:** California State Univ., Fresno, CA

**Contact:** Show Sec. Lorie Abbott, 2144 Broadmoor St., Livermore, CA 94551-1150; or go to www.infodog.com.

**Closes:** Thurs., February 24, 2005.

**What:** Lost Dutchman KC (conformation)

**When:** Sat./Sun., March 12/13, 2005

**Where:** Cyn. State Acad., Queen Creek, AZ

**Contact:** Onofrio Dog Shows, (405) 427-8181; or go to www.onofrio.com.

**Judges:** Sat., Mrs. Constance Barton; Sun., Valerie Hamilton Preston

**Closes:** Wed., February 23, 2005

**What:** Coso Dog Fanciers of Calif. (conf.)

**When:** Sat./Sun., March 19/20, 2005

**Where:** Ridgecrest, CA

**Contact:** Jack Bradshaw Dog Shows (see Silver Bay, far left)

**Judges:** Sat., Ms. Dany Canino; Sun., Joe Walton

**Closes:** Wed., March 2, 2005

**What:** Fresno Dog Training Club (obedience and rally)

**When:** Sat./Sun., March 19/20, 2005

**Where:** Fresno Cty. Fairgrounds, Fresno, CA

**Contact:** Show Sec. Mrs. Joyce V. Ladd, 563 N. Locan Ave., Fresno, CA 93727-9749; or go to www.infodog.com

**Closes:** Wed., March 2, 2005

**What:** Del Sur KC (conformation)

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## What's Happening...

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**When:** Sat./Sun., March 26/27, 2005

**Where:** Del Mar Fairgrounds, Del Mar, CA

**Contact:** Jack Bradshaw Dog Shows (at left)

**Judges:** Sat., Mrs. Lynne Schanzle; Sun., Michael Dougherty

**Closes:** Wed., March 9, 2005

**What:** Kern County KC (conformation)

**When:** Sat./Sun., April 2/3, 2005

**Where:** Bakersfield, CA

**Contact:** Jack Bradshaw Dog Shows (at left)

**Judges:** N/A

**Closes:** Wed., March 16, 2005

**What:** Agility Club of San Diego

**When:** Sat./Sun., April 2/3, 2005

**Where:** Rohr Park, Bonita, CA

**Contact:** Show Sec., Ms. Sarah Fitzell, 21600 Gold Valley Rd., Perris CA 92570-8565; or go to [www.infodog.com](http://www.infodog.com).

**Closes:** Sat., March 19, 2005

**What:** Aztec RR Fanciers (AARF) Spring Match

**When:** Sun., April 3, 2005

**Contact:** [www.aarfsd.com](http://www.aarfsd.com) for more information.

**What:** Dog Agility Club of Ventura

**When:** Sat./Sun., April 9/10, 2005

**Where:** Univ. Prep School, Camarillo, CA

**Contact:** Lynda Tjarks (see SoCal Portuguese Water Dog Club, far left); or go to [www.infodog.com](http://www.infodog.com).

**Closes:** Wed., March 23, 2005



### DUES-RENEWAL REMINDER:

According to OCRRC Bylaws, all 2005 membership dues shall be remitted by **February 1, 2005**.

*Note: A completed membership Application is required for any dues renewals sent after April 15<sup>th</sup>.*

Please contact Catherine Schock at (714) 985-9253 with any questions.

## "Exhibitors: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly?"

(Continued from page 2)

from veiled threats and rumor-mongering, to blatant bully tactics and threatened legal action."

Only a very naive exhibitor who's never spent much time in the grooming areas or by the ringside listening wouldn't be able to give at least a half-dozen examples of ways in which dogs had been "enhanced" for showing—from the less intrusive, such as scissoring, chalking, coat "conditioners," and permanent dyeing, to the more diabolical, such as surgical alterations, dental braces and filing, and drugs.

Those who are willing to sacrifice the future for the glory of winning aren't new to this era of showing. "When it came to correcting faults, some of the old-time handlers were pretty unscrupulous. In fact, there were very few tricks they didn't use. Of course, judges had a far more liberal attitude than they do today. It wasn't infrequent to find that a pricked button ear had been corrected by crushing the cartilage with an emasculator, or that an undershot mouth had been improved by filing down the bottom teeth. The third eyelid may've been removed when a dog showed too much "haw," and perhaps a few drops of atropine were used to dilate the pupil of a light-eyed dog so as to make the eye appear darker. Poor tail carriage was corrected by severing the nerve that controls the tail. Dogs that "showed tongue" could be given orally a substantial amount of atropine.

The use of MacDougall's Sheep Dip as a substitute for chalk improved the texture of certain terrier coats, and laundry bluing used in a white dog's rinse water helped to remove yellow stains. Rust- or tan-colored markings could be brightened with iodine or permanganate. Abnormally rough coats could be smoothed down with sandpaper, and the quality and quantity of the coat improved by giving minute amounts of arsenic, daily, in the form of Fowler's Solution. The texture of terrier coats could be made to feel harsh by applying a solution of sugar in water. Collie and Sheltie coats would respond well to being sprayed with beer instead of coat dressing.

Thin dogs and poor eaters might be given shots of cortisone to increase their appetites; this drug might also cause edema, thus making them look fatter. Tranquilizers of various types could be administered to nervous or high-strung animals.

Naturally, the AKC and all honest exhibitors would frown on such tricks if they were being used today. Being caught at it would mean certain disqualification." Yet, all too often those of us who believe that we have to

breed or own better dogs if we want to win turn a blind eye to those who are indulging in unethical, corrupt, or even cruel practices in their quest for laurels. Whether it's fear of being ostracized by our peers, not wishing to "get involved" in the ensuing investigations, or other reasons, the result is the same—the future of the breeds are being jeopardized.

The dogs that are winning are the ones that most people flock to, rightly or wrongly, for puppies. The stud fees and puppy prices commanded are princely, and the lines to own one just like "Ch. I'm Really a Fraud" are long.

The imperfections that are being changed in order to win—whether chalking, tattooing pink noses, creative scissoring, dyeing imperfect coat colors, surgery, ear-set corrections, dental braces, testicle implants, behavior alterations, or the host of other violations—are still part of the dog's *genetic* makeup. Quite often those who breed to or get a puppy by "Ch. I'm Really a Fraud" have no idea that the dog actually isn't as presented and don't realize that, if they too wish to continue his "winning ways" with the next generation, they may need to follow the same alteration route.

*"Unfortunately, there are, and always have been, those people who believe that rules are for others and that the end justifies any means."*

But the damage is done, and the offspring, —their numbers compounded by the "popular-sire syndrome"—will impair the future improvement of their breed for generations to come. All the disguises in the world will not change the dog's basic genotype.

### How Exhibitors Affect the Future

Is it only alterations to a dog's appearance or behavior that imperils the future? No, the behavior of exhibitors...can adversely harm not only the breeds' welfare, but also the sport. Is there a dog that your dog just can't seem to beat? Rumor-mongering, whether about the breeder, the dog, or the other exhibitor, will aid the campaign to unseat that winner.

And if that doesn't seem to work, how about intimidation? Just maintain an aggressive posture, push past the other entrants and be sure to jostle their dogs as you do so; position yourself and your dog in a manner that doesn't

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## “Exhibitors: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly?”

(Continued from page 5)

permit the judge to see the other exhibit; refuse to indulge in pleasantries; scowl a bit or even refuse to offer well-wishes if the other dog places higher than your charge.

And, don't forget—it may be possible to intimidate the judge, too. If he prefers another dog, be sure to tell him and all those in earshot all the bad points of the dog he just gave the win to. If you really want to make a point and impress everyone, either refuse to take the award, and stomp outraged out of the ring. Or, accept the award, then toss the odious piece of ribbon or placement card into the nearest trash receptacle—or even better crumble it and throw it on the ground!

Now, what bullying campaign would be complete without a few loudly spoken words or even a shove or two? And while all of this is going on, be sure to ignore the fact that the public is watching and just may be judging the quality of purebred dogs based on the quality of sportsmanship and behavior of those holding their leads.

It's true—sportsmanship often flies out the ring when it comes to competing. Not only do some exhibitors jostle for position, believing that being among the first in line gives them a psychological edge, there are also a host of other handling “techniques” that can be employed to improve their chances for that win:

? Pushing to get in front of a quick-moving dog and then moving their entrant at a slower pace, forcing the other exhibitor to either slow down or move in a manner that leaves a wide gap between them.

? Deliberately moving a quick-paced dog up on the heels of a slower dog, or even letting the faster-paced dog move to the end of the lead in a tighter circle...actually blocking the slower dog from the judge's view.

? Dropping bait and not picking it up.

? Squeaking a small toy “to keep their dog lively” just as the judge is looking at or starting to go over another dog.

? Stacking the dog in such a way that it blocks another dog.

And the list goes on. Decorum and good manners should be a part of every exhibitor. The very integrity of our sport depends on adherence to the rules set forth by the various kennel club registries under which we all compete. Unfortunately, there are, and always have been, those people who believe that rules are for others and that the end justifies any means.

The AKC has six different sections cata-

loging the manner in which violations may be penalized, with numerous infractions and their penalties listed under each subheading. The punishments range from reprimands to lifetime suspensions, with fines of \$50 to \$5,000. None of these would be necessary to list if the violation had not previously occurred. The sections include:

? *Misconduct toward a judge:* physical or verbal abuse; inappropriate public criticism; unsportsmanlike conduct.

? *Disorderly conduct:* physical altercation; abusive or foul language/verbal altercation; personal property damage; impairing a club's ability to retain a site; failure to control a dog at an event; sexual harassment; disruptive behavior at an event.

? *Inappropriate treatment of animals:* physical abuse or neglect at or in connection with an event by an individual and by a club; whelping dogs at event site; unacceptable conditions of dogs and/or facilities; cruelty or mistreatment....

? *Violation of AKC rules/regulations or club regulations:* showing the wrong dog without voluntary correction; substitution; complicity with a judge; benching violations; disregard of published club regulations (such as parking, exercise pens, crates in aisle, selling puppies, etc.); entering/exhibiting a dog that's been temporarily altered by such means as dye, chalk, coat additives, drugs; entering/exhibiting a dog that's been permanently altered by such means as surgery or dental work; willful refusal to return a ribbon or prize after award disallowed; gun-safety violation (by gunner or club); providing fraudulent information on an entry to show an ineligible dog.

? *Registration violations:* those affecting the Stud Book.

? *Registration violations:* those not affecting the Stud Book.

How does all of this harm the well-being of our breeds? As pointed out earlier, dog shows should be a means of determining which dogs most embody the standard of excellence determined for each breed, and [which] should be used for breeding in an attempt to reach the ideal type symbolized by that standard.” Quite simply then, if the best dogs aren't put forward, the standard of excellence may be unduly changed to reflect those dogs that are winning, and those dogs will then be used for breeding.

### **We're the Guardians of Our Breed**

Every exhibitor who alters a dog, fails to abide by the rules and convention of civility, and who fails to represent purebred dogs and the sport of dogs in a manner that the general public will perceive favorably, harms all of us—including the very breed they purportedly love.

It's high time that we ALL took responsibility

### **Health Tip:**

#### **WHAT'S A BUFFY COAT?**



No, it has nothing to do with your vet's jacket! It's concentrated white blood cells that make it easier for him/her to find abnormal cells, such as lymphoma, mast cells, leukemic cancer cells, or cells with parasites, in your RR's blood. Special stains can be used on the buffy coat to help diagnose distemper.

While a blood test that includes a buffy coat can help your vet confirm a problem in your dog, the buffy coat alone cannot provide specific answers. For instance, if your vet *doesn't* find abnormal cells in a buffy coat it doesn't guarantee that your RR is cancer/disease free.

Think of the buffy coat as another tool your vet can use to help confirm information from other tests and ensure an accurate diagnosis. And that means your buddy can get the most effective treatment for his condition, as quickly as possible.

*Our thanks to Dr. Lorrie Boldrick, Quillie Acres Veterinary Clinic, Orange, CA, for providing this information.*

for demanding that our sport and the future well-being of all our beloved breeds take precedence over the almighty wins. For those who believe that winning is all that matters and have to win at all costs, consider that you're not paying the ultimate price—it's being paid by every other exhibitor and dog that's competing fairly by the rules. But more importantly, it's the future of our sport and the well-being of our beloved breeds that will make the ultimate sacrifice for generations into the future.

There will always be those immoral few who will justify their actions and make the dog world a bit darker. The rest of us will treasure the true friendships we've gained from showing, enjoy the bonds established between us and our showing partners, endeavor to show dogs that are competitive without artificial alterations, and maintain a true sportsmanlike attitude, all the while keeping in mind that winning is wonderful—*but it's not everything!*



## Rainbow Bridge

In 2004, our members said a fond farewell to the following much-loved Ridgebacks:

### "ARNIE"

Juba Lee's Dakota Buckaroo, CDX, CGC  
7/15/91 - 2004  
Owner: Meril Suess

### "CONNOR"

Ch. Pheron's Connor Mestizo, ROM  
2/13/94 - 2004  
Owners: Catherine & Jay Schock

### "FLO"

Ch. Starland's High Pressure System  
5/27/93 - 2004  
Owner: Jacqu Redford

### "GENNA"

BISS Ch. Masai's African Genesis, JJ, TT, ROM  
10/29/93 - 2004  
Owner: Rebecca Eastman

### "NIKE"

Bayous Nike Shoo  
5/05/90 - 2004  
Owner: Barbara Dickson

### "ROCKY"

Ch. ZuluDawn Rocket To Fame  
12/18/96 - 2004  
Owners: Jacques & Janet Le Clainche

### "RUFUS"

Ch. Rajataru Dbt take Sir Rufus, ROM  
11/17/95 - 2004  
Owners: Brian and Vicky Swink

### "SHELBY"

6/07/94 - 2004  
Owners: Brian & Vicky Swink

### "TIFFANY"

Ch. Rob Norm's Tiffany Diamond  
7/26/91 - 2004  
Owners: Joe & Myrna Berger

The following dogs didn't belong to OCRRC members, but they were well-known to us all:

- "BLAZER" - Ch. Westwood Trailblazer, JC  
10/24/95 - 2004
- "CORY" - BIS/BISS Ch. Filmmakers Never Surrender FM,  
JC,ROM  
2/6/94 - 2004
- "DONGA" - Ch. Kimani's The Standard Image, JC, ROM  
5/8/90 - 2004
- "BOOMER" - Ch. Kwetu's Boomerang, ROM  
5/14/95 - 2004
- "MADISON" - Ch. Quest's Madison of Askeron  
2/4/96 - 2004
- "POLLY" - Ch. Riverroads Jhusta Sweet Reward  
1/14/96 - 2004

## In the Whelping Box...



11/24/04 — DC Kariba NewGoldDream at Pheron ("Gilda") by Ch Bayous Primo Archtyp 4 Pheron ("Primo"); 8 puppies (above; 3 boys, 5 girls). Congrats to Catherine and Jay Schock, Yorba Linda.



12/14/04 — Ch. Nomvuyo Playn With Fire ("Ember") by BIS Am/Can/Mex Ch. Deer Ridge Walk the Plank, SC ("Rex"), 8 puppies (above; 4 boys, 4 girls). Congrats to H.E. and Sherri West, Temecula.

## OCRRC Top Twenty, through October 31, 2004

AKC Registered Name	Owner's Name	Total points
1. Ch. Windana Baobab African Jewel	L. Walker/R. Woods	806
2. Ch. Firedance's Saving Grace	M. Sorosky	377
3. Ch. Freedom's Blast O'Dynamite By Tigris	J. & L. Gutierrez/M. & L. Patterson	352
4. Ch. Masai's Joie De Vivre	J. Rodgers/N. Berry	289
5. Ch. Bayou's Primo Archtyp 4 Pheron	C. Schock/J. Dalphin	207
6. Ch. Tigris Nothing But Net From Masai	M. & L. Patterson	150
7. Ch. Firedance'e Rubies N Diamonds	M. Sorosky/A. Henderson	135
8. Ch. Oakhurst I Am The Princess	B. & R. Rupert	120
9. Ch. Rivercity's Shock and Awe	T. Abney/J. Troth	116
10. Ch. Wyndrunhr Red Skys Reap Th Wld Wind	N. & D. Brandewie/L. Cannon	113
11. Ch. Of Afrikka Hoku O Pupukea	T. & B. Peach & C. Wistrom	100
12. Ch. Lady Roxanne of Rebelridge	C. Cartwright	97
13. Ch. Freedom's Five Star General By Tigris	P. Weston	92
14. Ch. Deer Ridge Blixen of Afrika	C. Wistrom	91
15. Ch. Lexus She's Got Game By Tigris	M. & L. Patterson	78
16. Ch. Lamarde Perro Mia of Mojave	S. Cook/J. Cook	77
17. Of Afrikka Airborne Envoy	C. Wistrom.	67
18. Ch. Freedoms Faith By Tigris	P. Weston/W & G Woodhall	64
19. Ch. Rivercity's PT Cruiser	T. Abney	64
20. Ch. Orangewood Doubletake at Triggrrhill	E. & J. Scattini/P. Maddaloni	61

### OCRRC'S Jr. Showmanship Challenge Trophy

is in need of a sponsor!

Olga Bicos' daughter, Leila (a k a "Lexi"), retired this trophy at last year's Regional Specialty after winning it three years in a row.

Quite an accomplishment, for quite an accomplished young handler.

(Lexi also won BOB at the 2003 Specialty!)

If you'd be interested in sponsoring this special trophy, contact Catherine Schock at (714) 985-9253 or schockers@dslextreme.com; or Jaymie Evans at (951) 394-4910, or jlevansx@hotmail.com.

## RECIPE of the MONTH:

### Lee's Liver Brownies

#### Basic Recipe

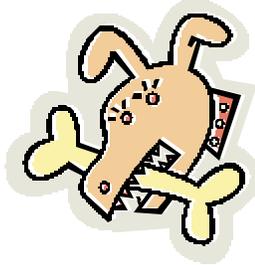
- 1 lb. liver (beef or chicken)
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 tsp sea salt or 1T organic soy sauce
- 1 egg
- 1C flour (whole wheat or oat)
- 1/2 to 1C corn meal

Heat oven to 350 degrees. Spray a cookie sheet with Pam (even if you line it with tin foil—which I do). Place liver through egg in a strong blender and puree. Place flour and corn meal in a mixing bowl, and add luscious brown goo from the blender. Stir until thoroughly blended, and spread onto cookie sheet so mixture is about 1/2" thick. Bake for 20 minutes. When cool, cut into whatever-size squares you prefer. *Makes great show bait or training treats!*

#### Optional Ingredients/Flavors

- 1 tsp. ground ginger
- 1 tsp. sesame seeds
- 1/2C plain yogurt (opt for 1C corn meal)
- 2 tsp. oregano and about 1/2C parmesan cheese
- 1 can sardines in water (if you can stand the smell!)

Be creative! As long as the mixture is quite thick, it'll bake up fine, and your furkids will love it. It's been my experience that this quantity will *easily* last through two days of showing. If you don't feed a lot of bait in the ring, it'll go four. And, my dogs have never gotten diarrhea from eating these brownies.



## Treasurer's Report 9/23/04

<b>BEGINNING BAL. 9/23/04</b>	\$224.72
<b>INCOME</b>	
Income from 2003 Specialty	3,000.00
Checking Acct Interest	.07
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 3,000.07</b>
<b>EXPENSE</b>	
BARRC Specialty Catalog Ad	<b>50.00</b>
Erffmeyer & Son Co., Inc./medallions	<b>114.60</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<b>\$164.60</b>
<b>BALANCE 10/23/04</b>	\$3,060.19
<b>REGULAR SAVINGS 10/23/04</b>	\$3,516.80
<b>CD SAVINGS 10/23/04</b>	\$6,377.28
<b>TOTAL 10/23/04</b>	<b>\$ 12,954.27</b>
<b>SPEC. CHK. ACCT. 10/23/04</b>	<b>\$ 1,359.64</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL 10/23/04</b>	<b>\$14,313.91</b>

## Treasurer's Report 10/22/04

<b>BEGINNING BAL. 10/22/04</b>	\$3,060.19
<b>INCOME</b>	
Checking Acct Interest	.21
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$ .21</b>
<b>EXPENSE</b>	
Rambles Printing/Postage (Nudo)	<b>278.11</b>
Sales Table Merch. (Robbins)	<b>77.04</b>
AKC Spec. '05 Application Fee	<b>50.00</b>
AKC Awards Subscription	<b>69.00</b>
Florida Assoc. of Kennel Clubs	<b>250.00</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<b>\$724.75</b>
<b>BALANCE 11/19/04</b>	\$2,335.65
<b>REGULAR SAVINGS 11/19/04</b>	\$3,517.45
<b>CD SAVINGS 11/19/04</b>	\$6,382.90
<b>SPEC. CHK. ACCT. 11/19/04</b>	\$1,347.64
<b>TOTAL 11/19/04</b>	<b>\$ 13,583.64</b>



Orange Coast Rhodesian Ridgeback Club  
*Ridgeback Rambles* – Editor  
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Fallbrook, CA 92028  
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We're on the Web!  
[www.ocrrc.org](http://www.ocrrc.org)



## DON'T FORGET TO...

...pay your membership dues by February 1, 2005. For detailed information, see page 5.

...try something new with your RR this year!! Plan to attend a straight-racing or lure-coursing event. Your RR can earn titles for doing what he loves to do—RUN! See "What's Happening..." on page 4 for upcoming events.