

# TATTLETAIL

## NEWSLETTER OF THE ALBANY KENNEL CLUB



WINTER EDITION

VOLUME 28, ISSUE 4

**The Albany Kennel Club** was founded in 1943, as an affiliate of the American Kennel Club, serving for the greater Albany Area in the State of New York. Their objectives as stated in their constitution and by-laws, Article 1, Section 2, are “(a) to further the advancement of all breeds of pure-bred dogs: (b) to conduct dog shows, obedience trails, rally trails and sanctioned matches under the rules of the American Kennel Club.”

In more recent years, the club has taken the incentive to educate our members and the public about purposely-bred dogs. By the club's definitions, purposely-bred dogs may or may not be pure-bred, but have been bred to be healthy; by health-checked sires & dams; have been whelped in well-suited conditions; and by knowledgeable breeders striving for the well-being of dogs as whole.

With a fairly small kennel club membership that averages around 30 members, the members' interests include a range of conformation, obedience, rally, agility, tracking, rescue, and barn hunt.

The club holds two point shows a year in October at the Eastern State Exposition Center located in West Springfield, MA in conjunction with the Troy Kennel Club. They also host a local fun match in June. The Club is also licensed to conduct AKC Temperament Test. More information can be found within, or by reaching out to a club member.

### IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

**MARCH MEETING - ALBANY FIRE DEPT WILL BE THERE TO THANK US. PLEASE BE THERE TO REPRESENT THE ALBANY KENNEL**  
*MORE ON PAGE 14*

**MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE NOW PAST DUE**

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## OFFICERS

### **Corey Heenan** - *President*

Loudonville, NY 12211  
(518) 253-5044  
revewhippets@gmail.com

### **Penny Kretchmer** - *Vice President*

Ballston Spa, NY 12020  
(518) 899-4074  
pennybgl@nycap.rr.com

### **KC Gottschalk** - *Secretary* 25 Mountain View Avenue East Greenbush, NY 12061 (518) 424-8596 kcg4@me.com

### **Jeannette O'Hanlon** - *Treasurer*

Selkirk, NY 12158  
(518) 767-9719  
JOHanlon@msn.com

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Larry Brown  
Annie Garwood  
Don Gillett  
Ilene Kaplan  
Calley Rupp-Potts  
Paul Sargent

## AKC DELEGATE

KC Gottschalk

## PAST PRESIDENT

Penny Kretchmer

## COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

### **POINT SHOW**

Penny Kretchmer  
pennybgl@nycap.rr.com  
(518) 899-4047

### **MATCH SHOW**

Corey Heenan  
revewhippets@gmail.com  
(518) 253-5044

### **PARLIAMENTARIAN**

Larry Brown  
lwb.oes@gmail.com  
(518) 785-4467

### **PUBLIC EDUCATION**

Jeannette O'Hanlon  
JOHanlon@msn.com  
(518) 767-9719

### **CLUB EDUCATION**

Corey Heenan  
revewhippets@gmail.com  
(518) 253-5044

### **TATTLETAIL EDITOR**

Calley Rupp-Potts  
ruppcalley@gmail.com  
(518) 813-3163

### **WEBMASTER**

Larry Brown  
lwb.oes@gmail.com  
(518) 785-4467

### **ADCNYS**

Larry Brown  
lwb.oes@gmail.com  
(518) 785-4467

### **SUNSHINE**

Annie Garwood  
annie.garwood@gmail.com  
(518) 505-5895

### **LEGISLATIVE LIAISON**

Larry Brown  
lwb.oes@gmail.com  
(518) 785-4467




# PRESIDENT MESSAGE

Hello to the Albany Kennel Club members,

I highly encourage everyone to come to the March meeting to be there to receive thanks from the Albany Fire Department for the safety-face masks we donated to them some time pre-covid. We really would like to represent a large gathering of our dog family giving back to the community. So please be there to help with that!

As for our planned events, so far everything is a good to go. Once the weather warms up we will be having handling lessons at the park again along with our Fun Match sometime in June. We are looking forward to a good turn out this year!

Stay healthy and happy everyone!  
Corey Heenan  
President



DON'T FORGOT  
TO PAY YOUR  
MEMBERSHIP DUES!  
PLEASE SEND THEM  
IN TO JEANNETTE  
O'HANLON ASAP.

# MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

**Name:** Barbara & Harold VanSchoick

**Kennel Name:** Springfire

**Breed(s):** English Springer Spaniels

**What do you do, or plan to do, with your dogs? (Breed, handle, obedience, rally, conformation etc...)** Confirmation – maybe obedience

**How long have you been in dogs?** Over 50 Years

**How did you get started?** My neighbor raised Doberman Pincher & Harold married into it.

**How long have you been a member of Albany Kennel? Have you played a role in the club? If so what years?** Member 2 times, so years don't add.

**What made you join the Albany Kennel Club?** My Dogs, my city, and my responsibility to those who show.

**What other clubs are you are member of? Any roles in those clubs whether current or previously held?** None

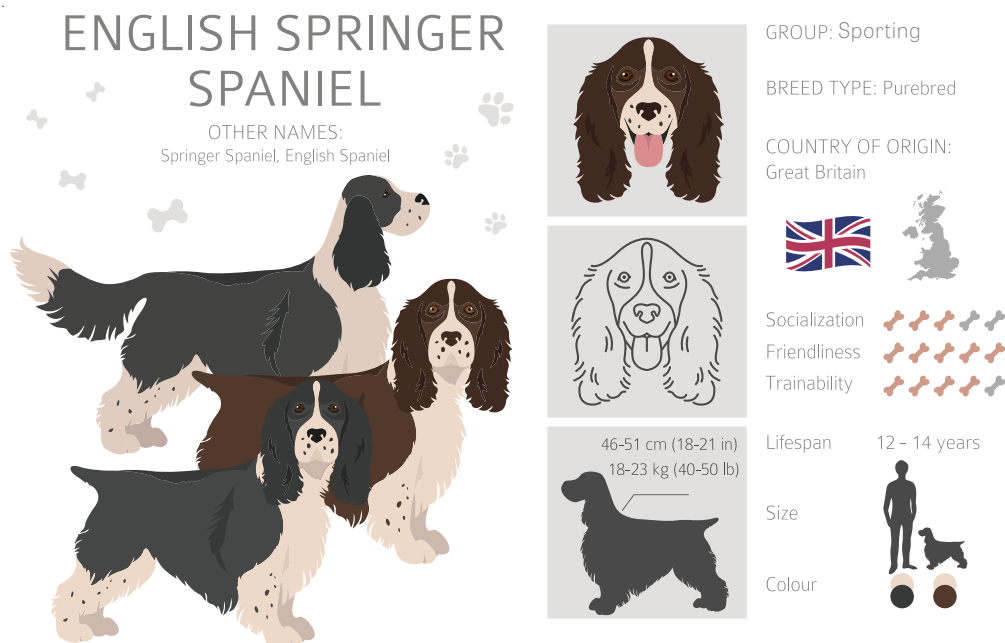
**What do you feel like is your biggest win/accomplishment in the sport or your breeding program?** Not Sure

**What is your best memory with your dogs that may not be associated with a win?** Bo, our oldest, just likes to watch from the grooming table and he is fun to watch.

**Where do you want to go from here with your sport/breed?** I am too old to go anywhere except to help monetarily for research.

**What is a fun fact about you that you would like to share with the fancy?** I love my dogs, they are my family, ALL dogs

**Tell us a little about yourself away from the dogs:** Harold and I both working government. We both own our own business. We have four children each have 2 children (8 grandchildren) and 2 great-grandchildren. Traveling with our dogs in what we do. I guard at Saratoga and Harold does honor guard duties.



IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE FEATURED IN OUR MEMBER HIGHLIGHT YOU CAN EITHER REQUEST A FILLABLE FORM OR WRITE YOUR OWN BIO AND SEND IT IN TO THE EDITOR AT [RUPPCALLEY@GMAIL.COM](mailto:RUPPCALLEY@GMAIL.COM).





"Cricket"

## Staffordshire Terrier Club of America 2020 National Obedience Trial

HIGH IN TRIAL: "CRICKET" — MACH ESOTERIC'S TACOMA THIRD TIME'S A CHARM  
CDX BN RE MX MXB MXJ MJS XF CA SWN SEA SCA TT ATT THDN RATO TKI CGCA  
STCA VERSATILITY DIAMOND, OWNED BY JOHN & JEANNETTE O'HANLON & EMILY  
O'HANLON, HANDLED BY JEANNETTE O'HANLON

## 2020 National Rally Trial

ADVANCED B — 1ST PLACE: "LILAH" — ESOTERIC'S ALAINN LILAH CD BM RI  
MX MXB MXJ MJB XF SWAE SIEE SCIE SEE SHDN RATN TKA CGCA STCA  
VERSATILITY PLATINUM, OWNED BY JOHN & JEANNETTE O'HANLON  
& ANLON, HANDLED BY JOHN O'HANLON



"Lilah"

## 2021 National Rally Trial

ADVANCED B — 1ST PLACE: "RUNE" — SCHABER'S WHEN THE LAST  
RUNE IS CAST @ ONE STONE RI AXP OJP NFP CGC TKI ATT  
OWNED BY JOHN & JEANNETTE O'HANLON,  
HANDLED BY JOHN O'HANLON



"Rune"

STCA Versatility Diamond Award:  
ESOTERIC'S ALAINN LILAH CD BN RI MX  
MXJ MXB MJB XF RATN SWAE SIEE  
SCIE SEE SHDN TKA CGCA ATT STCA  
VERSATILITY PLATINUM (LILAH)  
OWNED BY JOHN & JEANNETTE O'HAN-  
LON & EMILY O'HANLON



"Lilah"

ALBANY  
KENNEL CLUB  
MEMBER  
Braggs



# MEET THE MUDI: AKC'S NEWLY-RECOGNIZED DOG BREED IN 2022

BY RANNY GREEN

PUBLISHED ON AKC.ORG JAN. 04, 2021



The Mudi (pronounced moody), one of two newly-recognized American Kennel Club breeds gaining full recognition January 1, brings a little bit of everything to the table.

But make no mistake about it, this herding breed with Hungarian origin comes with a few caveats.

"If not mentally and physically challenged, the Mudi can be barky and demanding," says Susanne Bergesen, of Tracy, California. Bergesen, Mudi Club of America corresponding secretary, adds, "This is not the breed for a first-time dog owner. While some may call the breed stubborn, I see it as getting bored if constantly drilled. They are thinkers, love to learn, learn quickly, and do not need lots of repetitions to acquire most skills."

## WHAT TYPE OF DOG IS THAT?

The Mudi's pathway to full recognition didn't come overnight. In fact, it is still a rare breed with only an estimated 450 in the United States and 3,000-4,000 worldwide. It was first recorded in the Foundation Stock Service in 2004 and has been eligible to vie in AKC companion events since 2008.

Sometimes mistaken for a "doodle" mix by the public, one fancier compared the breed to a cross between a Miniature Poodle and a German Shepherd Dog both in look and temperament. Yet another noted it gives the impression of a curly-coated small Spitz. From a familiarity standpoint, the Mudi takes a back seat to its two other Hungarian farm brethren, the Puli and Pumi, all of which faced near extinction following World War II.

What you see in puppyhood isn't what you get later. Mudi are born with floppy ears, which will gradually become pricked. Sometimes Mudis are born without a tail or with a natural stump tail that is not regarded as a fault.

Connecting with a Mudi is like working a crossword puzzle. It can come from many directions.

For Cynthia Protheroe, who saw her first Mudi in 2003 at an agility trial in Spokane, Washington, it was a Pumi breeder (yes, that's right!) who helped her contact a Mudi group and she imported her first dog from Sweden in the fall 2004.

And since then, it's been quite the ride.

From puzzled "What type of dog is that?" questions and her response, "A Mudi," onlookers are still left shaking their heads. "Other than the unique curly/wavy coat and/or the merle-colored dogs, the Mudi is common looking and frequently identified as a mixed breed," says Protheroe.

## LIFE WITH A MUDI

This breed boasts lots of sizzle, from the farm to the front room. Colorfully fluid and versatile, it competes in AKC sports such as conformation, agility, rally, tracking, herding, flyball, Frisbee, lure coursing, and barn hunt. Protheroe smiles, "My Mudis' favorite things are doing anything with me!"

Living on five fenced acres, her Mudis are on vermin control – and pursuit – constantly. "Their prey drive keeps the ground turned over as they dig following vermin tunnels," she says.

When it comes to giant transition, Mary Mytych has seen it all. In 2008 she was showing and breeding Smooth Coat Chihuahuas and discovered a Mudi while reading a book, *Legacy of the Dog*. "There was a single page with a photo and description of a herding breed, a handy

size and easy-care coat."

Later that day, she contacted the Mudi Club of America secretary and asked numerous questions about the breed. Her first Mudi puppy, a yellow male named Beacon, arrived at the Sacramento airport from Chicago 10 days later. Two years later she traveled to Hungary to purchase a second.

Her next 180-degree turnabout came recently when she and her husband, Joe, moved from warm-weather Lodi, California, where the dogs sometimes trialed in 100 degrees, to St. Ignatius, Montana, on a 60 acre-ranch with plenty of sub-freezing days. The dogs have adapted well, Mytych adds. "They love getting into the creek on our daily walks.

"Sports that involve using their noses seem to be the universal favorite among all of my dogs,"

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# RETIRED ASTRONAUT LELAND MELVIN & HIS RHODESIAN RIDGEBACKS

BY MARA BOVSUN. THIS ARTICLE ORIGINALLY APPEARED IN THE AWARD-WINNING AKC FAMILY DOG MAGAZINE.

PUBLISHED ON AKC.ORG SEPT. 13, 2021



He seems like someone who had to have been conjured up by an adventure novelist— space explorer, pro football player, scholar, educator, musician, inspirational speaker, chemist, engineer, writer, wanderer.

Leland Melvin has been all of those things, but he is very much a real person and, despite the more than 565 hours he logged in space, surprisingly down-to-earth.

On top of all of that, Melvin is also a man who loves dogs. Rhodesian Ridgebacks hold a special place in his heart.

The world got to know him as the “coolest astronaut in the galaxy” through an iconic 2009 photo that, thanks to the web, became nearly as famous as Betty Grable’s World War II pinup poster. No one could forget Melvin’s official NASA portrait, known as the “Astro Dog” shot.

AKC Family Dog had the opportunity to chat with him about dogs, life, and his part in the second season of the Netflix series Dogs.

The documentary follows the retired astronaut

as he attempts to climb 14,000- foot Columbia Point in Colorado. The U.S. Department of the Interior placed a plaque at the peak in memory of the seven astronauts who died when the space shuttle Columbia broke apart upon reentry in 2003. Melvin’s goal: Hike up there to touch the plaque in honor of his friends and mentors.

Bad weather forced him to stop when he tried with his first dog, Jake, a Rhodesian Ridgeback mix. Netflix recorded his second attempt, years later, with his new pack, Ridgebacks Zorro and Roux.

**FD:** Tell me how you chose this breed.

**Leland:** I always loved Rhodesian Ridgebacks because they were athletic, they were smart, they were loyal, and they love to travel. When I traveled first with Jake and then with Scout, it was just like a road crew, a bond, so I wanted a similar type of dog.

**FD:** Both Jake and Scout died around 2014, and you had no dogs for a few years?

**Leland:** I had been living in an apartment that



didn't allow dogs. In 2017, I moved to this farm in Lynchburg, Virginia. As soon as I moved here, I knew it was time to get another dog.

**FD:** How did you find Zorro?

**Leland:** I called the president of Rhodesian Ridgeback Rescue, and I said, "Hey, do you guys have any puppies?" She just started laughing. She said, "This is Rhodesian Ridgeback rescue, OK? We usually rescue dogs that aren't wanted. Older dogs." And I said, "Well, OK, I'm going to keep looking for some puppies, but I'd like to get some rescues." A week later, she calls me back, and she says, "Mr. Melvin, I stand corrected. We just rescued a mother from Texas, and she has 14 pups in her belly. ... And you can have the pick of the litter." I got Zorro at 8 weeks, flew up to Boston to get him.

**FD:** And you remember when you first met Zorro?

**Leland:** She had turned their summer cottage outside Boston into the puppy playland. They were born there, and they had all of these

trapezes and cans on strings and things to get them socialized to noise. When I walked in, I think there were 12 dogs left. They ran over to me, and then they all ran to their little playground, and then they jumped in their big bed and went to sleep. She said, "I think the dog for you would be Zorro." He had a little red bow and a little red collar. And I walked over, and I just felt connected. He had these really big, white feet for his body. They were huge.



**FD:** Why did the rescue pick him for you?

**Leland:** I've been doing speaking ever since I retired from the astronaut corps in 2014. I wanted dogs to take on the road with me and

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# 2022 REVISIONS TO THE RULES APPLYING TO DOG SHOWS

AS PUBLISHED IN RULES APPLYING TO DOG SHOWS; AMENDED JUNE 8, 2021, APPROVED BY AKC DELEGATE DEC. 12, 2021

As of March 29, 2022 these revisions to our American Kennel Club *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* guidelines state that:

*Replace the existing Chapter 3, Section 2 with the following:*

**SECTION 2.** No class shall be provided for any dog under six months of age except at sanction events when approved by The American Kennel Club.

For all classes, the age of a dog shall be calculated up to and inclusive of the first day of a show. For example, a dog whelped on January 1st is six months of age on July 1st of the same year, 12 months of age on January 1st and 18 months of age on July 1st of the following year.

In a single show with multiple days of judging, the first day of a show is considered to be the first day on which there is regular conformation judging in accordance with Section 3 of this chapter. (Sweepstakes and Futurities are not considered regular conformation classes).

*Replace the existing Chapter 3, Section 4 with the following:*

**SECTION 4.** The Puppy Class shall be for dogs that are six months of age and over, but under twelve months, that are not champions. Clubs may further divide the puppy class into two age groups consisting of six months of age and under nine months, and nine months of age and under twelve months.

*Replace the existing Chapter 3, Section 5 with the following:*

**SECTION 5.** The Twelve-to-Eighteen Month Class shall be for dogs that are twelve months of age and over, but under eighteen months, that are not champions. Clubs may further divide the Twelve-to-Eighteen Month Class into two age groups consisting of twelve months of age but under fifteen months, and fifteen

months of age but under eighteen months.

*Replace the existing Chapter 3, Section 8 with the following:*

**SECTION 8.** The Bred-by-Exhibitor Class shall be for dogs that are:

Six months of age or older as of the first day of the show;

Not Champions on the date of closing of entries for the show;

Individually registered with The American Kennel Club as of the date of the show;

Owned or co-owned by any of the breeders of record as of the date of the show.

Clubs may further divide the Bred-by-Exhibitor class into two age groups consisting of Puppy, for dogs that are six months of age but under twelve months, and Adult, for dogs that are twelve months of age and older.

The person handling the dog in this class must be a breeder of record and an owner of record of this dog.

In any subsequent classes for which a dog from the Bred-by-Exhibitor class or divisions of it becomes

*Replace the existing Chapter 3, Section 11 with the following:*

**SECTION 11.** The Winners Class shall be divided by sex and each division shall be open only to undefeated dogs of the same sex which have won first prizes in the following classes and all divisions of: Puppy, Twelve-to-Eighteen Month, Novice, Amateur-Owner-Handler, Bred-by-exhibitor, American bred or Open Classes. There shall be no entry fee for competition in the Winners Class.

After the Winners prize has been awarded in one of the sex divisions, the second prize winning dog, if undefeated except by the dog

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actually have at my presentation to interact with children. I couldn't do that with Jake because he would let you pet him, but then he'd bite you if he wasn't feeling right. I guess she saw something in Zorro that might be good for my traveling and speaking.

**FD:** Then, a year later, you went back to the rescue and got Roux.

**Leland:** Roux was 1 year old, and she had been through a lot of trauma; lots of things went on with her. She was really sick and malnourished. There was a family who fostered her, and they had a mixed Rhodesian and a brown Lab. They were playing in the yard, and I brought Zorro into the mix. And they sniffed a little bit, and all took off, like gazelles, chasing each other around the yard. She's the one, I said.

**FD:** How do the dogs differ?

**Leland:** Once I brought Roux here with Zorro, she's been fine, just a great, great dog. She's a hunter, though—a hound that will go after anything. Catch the scent of a squirrel, run up

a tree, get a groundhog, a deer, everything, whereas Zorro would just look, Oh, OK. You go have fun. I'm just going to hang out here. I called Zorro Shadow because he's always by my side. And Roux's, like, always somewhere else. So Shadow and Anti-Shadow.

**FD:** Do you find the dogs make it easier to reach the kids during your speaking engagements?

**Leland:** Dogs break the ice with young kids, with old kids, with everyone. Anytime I bring the dogs on with me, there's another level of excitement that I see. They're like, Oh, he's got the dogs. Those are the picture. They're expecting that these are the dogs in the "Astro Dog" picture. It was so long ago, but I guess that picture is living its own life on the internet.

**FD:** You have this custom-made camper that you designed for the dogs, and you travel with them a lot. What's it like when you get out on the road together?

**Leland:** You never feel alone. You always feel like they're happy. They're smiling. When you get out, you take them for a walk in this new place. It has new smells. It's this moment of Zen where your family is with you, no matter where you go. And the dogs are happy to be along, again, along for that journey. It doesn't matter where you are going.

**FD:** In your book, *Chasing Space*, you mention that having dogs breaks the ice with strangers.

**Leland:** I was having lunch in this restaurant in Idaho, and the waitress, a young white girl, had never met a Black person before. She had all these misconceptions. Then, when we walked out to my van, I had a different camper van then, with Jake. To see her face change, because now I was even more OK because I had this dog. It was priceless. And I think that another part of dogs is they bring people together who may never have been brought together. And then you can tell stories, the ability to have a conversation. And then you can change. People can change.

*\*\*\*Responses have been edited for length and clarity.*

# ADCNYS REPORT

Our Associated Dog Club of New York State Chair reports that the end of the year brought three canine related bills into laws. Those that passed were in favor of the ADCNYS being beneficial of both dog and their owners.

These are the new legislation as according to the New York State Senate:

## **Senate Bill S4254**

Prohibits insurers from refusing to issue or renew, cancel, or charge or impose an increased premium for certain policies based solely on the breed of dog owned.

## **Senate Bill S4248**

Relates to requiring the best interest of a companion animal to be considered when awarding possession in a divorce.

## **Senate Bill S5023**

Requires veterinarians to report suspected animal cruelty.

For more information on these new laws or to see what else is being proposed you can visit <https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation>.



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awarded Winners, shall compete with the other eligible dogs for Reserve Winners. No eligible dog may be withheld from competition.

Winners Class shall be allowed only at shows where American-bred and Open Classes shall be offered. All other regular classes are at the option of the Club. A member

club holding a show with restricted entries may include Winners Classes, provided the necessary regular classes are included in the classification.

For more information please visit [akc.org](http://images.akc.org/pdf/rulebooks/RREGS3.pdf) or download the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* here: <http://images.akc.org/pdf/rulebooks/RREGS3.pdf>



she says. "Whether it's tracking, scent work or hunting for rats, my Mudis enjoy leading the way. In Montana, shed hunting is a big deal. My youngest Mudi, 4-months-old Triton, an import this year from Poland, surprised us by bringing an antler out of our hayfield. Since then we have acquired quite a collection of deer bones, thanks to Triton."

## INTRIGUED BY THE BREED?

Asked to list a few adjectives or descriptive phrases that capture this breed, the three cited whip-smart, fast learner, protective, funny, dependable, devoted, quirky, and driven. A bored Mudi is not a happy Mudi. And yes, it can be barky, having been bred for many generations to sound off while moving livestock and alerting shepherds to intruders or danger. "Being constantly on the alert, an unattended bored Mudi will bark nonstop," adds Protheroe.

## STILL INTRIGUED?

The Mudi Club of America website has an excellent assortment of information, including breed history and frequently asked questions.

The Q&A section notes "the average Mudi is neither shy and fearful nor exuberant and overjoyed when meeting new people. . . . Still, he is first and foremost a herding dog, and as with most herding breeds he can display a certain aloofness during initial meetings. Once he knows and trusts a person, however, he is generally easy-going, playful, and affectionate. The Mudi does well with children and other animals when exposed to them from puppyhood."

While this outdoors-loving breed is a natural

herder, it is well-suited to the house but should not be relegated to living the backyard or you will have a barker on your hands.

Boasting a wash-and-wear coat, it is easy maintenance and a light-to-average shedder. Black is the predominant color but numerous others are allowable. According to the AKC standard males range from 16-18½ inches tall and weigh 24-29 pounds; females, 15-17 ½ inches tall, 18-24 pounds.

Because of the breed's rarity, there are fewer than a dozen reputable breeders in the United States. Prices range from \$1,500 for pet quality to \$2,500 for a show equivalent.

## THE FUTURE OF THE MUDI

As with any new breed and increased media attention, parent club members are concerned about its quality moving forward. Protheroe explains, "Breeding for good temperament is necessary, otherwise it quickly reverts to a breed unsuitable for living off the farm. The reality is that most U.S. Mudis do not reside on working farms.

"There are concerns among our breed's fanciers about the Mudi being used for 'designer dogs' by opportunistic breeders who are now whelping mixed-breed litters."

Mytych adds, "Those who are newer to the breed don't seem to care about the historic purpose and character of the Mudi. I have seen newcomers talk about changing the temperament of the Mudi to be 'more appealing to and compatible with the modern U.S. family.' I tell potential puppy buyers that adding a Mudi to the family is much more like adding another family member than adding a pet."



# UP COMING MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

ALBANY KENNEL CLUB MEETINGS TAKE PLACE ON THE FIRST  
TUESDAY OF THE MONTH AT 7:00 PM AT THE GATEWAY  
DINER.

No January Meeting

No February Meeting

**\*March 1, 2022**

**April 5, 2022**

\*Board Meeting takes place immediately prior  
to the membership meeting

**ALL MEETINGS WILL BE HYBRID UNTIL WE CAN HAVE  
OUTDOOR MEETINGS OR THE THREAT OF THE CORONA  
VIRUS IS MITIGATED.**

## COMING UP...

### MARCH MEMBERSHIP MEETING

For the March meeting, we are back at the  
Gateway Dinner.

We will also have the Albany Fire Dept there to  
thank us for the gift of the safety-face masks.  
We are hopefully to get the news there as well.  
We would love to have a large membership  
there to represent! Make sure to dress  
appropriately, either in your Albany Kennel Club  
shirt, something red for our kennel club color,  
or just something nice.

# MATCH SHOW

The Albany Kennel Club will be having its Match  
Show at the Henry Hudson Park. Date to be  
determined.



## ALBANY KENNEL CLUB TROPHY PLEDGE

\_\_\_\_ FRIDAY TBD

\_\_\_\_ SATURDAY TDB

BREED \_\_\_\_\_

CLASS \_\_\_\_\_

TROPHY DESCRIPTION \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

It is agreed there are no verbal understandings in any way part of this  
pledge. It is further agreed that in the event the undersigned does not pro-  
vide the above described trophy in sufficient time to be presented at the  
above named show(s), the named club has the right to substitute a trophy  
of equal value or description and bill the undersigned.

SIGNED \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_





## NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Hello to my fellow members!

My apologies for this issue being late! As always please share your brags, any information you might find important to the club members, or anything you find interesting! Anything would be great!

We all hope to see you at the March meeting to welcome the Albany Fire Dept!

Remain *paws-itive*!  
Calley

