



# THE AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB

## Registered Handlers Newsletter

1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2018



### THE AKC ANNOUNCES ROYAL CANIN'S SPONSORSHIP OF AKC REGISTERED HANDLERS PROGRAM

PRESS RELEASE dated January 24, 2018.

**New York, NY** – The American Kennel Club® (AKC®), the world's largest purebred dog registry and leading advocate for dogs, is pleased to announce that Royal Canin®, a global pet nutrition brand known worldwide for feeding champion dogs for 50 years, will be the new sponsor of the AKC Registered Handlers Program (RHP). The RHP strives to maintain high standards and integrity among professional handlers within the sport of purebred dogs.

"We appreciate Royal Canin's dedication to dogs and, with their assistance, we look forward to adding resources to the AKC Registered Handlers Program which establishes criteria and standards for responsible, knowledgeable professional handlers," said Timothy Thomas, Vice President, Dog Show Judges. "Royal Canin's invaluable support allows us to conduct critical events that promote the longevity of the sport and help grow dog shows, like our Junior Showmanship and adult handling clinics run by RHP members."

For 50 years, Royal Canin has been focused on making the most precise and effective nutrition for dogs based on breed, size, age and lifestyle. The brand is a long-time sponsor of the AKC and its programs, including the Breeder of Merit Program, Breeder Education Network, the Breeder Newsletter, as well as being the title sponsor of the largest dog show in North America, the AKC National Championship Presented by Royal Canin.

"Purebred dogs are at the heart of our company. Like the AKC, we share a commitment to quality dogs and the sport of purebreds," said Jason Taylor, National PRO Sales Director for Royal Canin. "Professional Handlers play a vital role in the sport of purebred dogs and have long been recognized as experts on breeds, training, as well as presenting them in the show ring. We are pleased to add our endorsement and support for the AKC Registered Handlers Program."

The AKC Registered Handlers Program establishes criteria and standards for responsible, knowledgeable professional handlers. All handlers enrolled in the Program have made the commitment to follow the guidelines and Code of Ethics as set forth by the AKC.

### RHP MEMBERS WIN AT THE AKC NAT'L CHAMPIONSHIP AND WESTMINSTER KC

Our RHP members once again made us proud by presenting beautifully conditioned dogs at the recent AKC National Championship and Westminster Kennel Club shows.

#### AKC National Championship December 15 – 17, 2017

Kim Calvacca - BBE Toy Group 2 – Min. Pinscher  
Geoff Dawson - Terrier Group 4 – Cairn Terrier  
Diego Garcia - Non-Sporting Group 3 – Tibetan Spaniel

#### Westminster Kennel Club February 12 – 13, 2018

Ernesto Lara - Terrier Group 1 – Norfolk Terrier  
Tara Schultz - Hound Group 3 – Bloodhound

### ANGIE LLOYD – Dog News Professional Handler of the Year

We congratulate RHP Member Angie Lloyd for being the winning "Professional Handler of the Year" at the Dog News Show Dogs of the Year Awards dinner, which was held Saturday, February 10, 2018 in New York City. Congratulations, Angie Lloyd!

From Angie:

"How can I find the words? I thought with a little time it would have been easier.... the best I can come up with is GRATITUDE. Thank you to those who have come before me and paved the way.

Thank you to those who have guided me, helped me and taught me. The dogs have my heart ♥ always, without them I could not enjoy this wonderful ride I call my job!"

# RHP REGIONAL REP CONFERENCE CALL

**Tues., March 6, 2018 - 3:30 – 4:12pm EDT**

**Reg. Rep. Attendees:** Shane Hooper, Laura King, Angie Lloyd, Frank Murphy, Debbie Struff

**Absent:** Gretchen Conradt, Linda Williams

**Staff Attendees:** Tim Thomas, Mary Dukes, Pattie Proctor, Gina Wieser, Susan Judge

## STATUS OF RENEWALS

**Susan Judge** reported that twelve members still have not paid their dues. **ACTION ITEM:** **Susan** will send out a reminder to them. Regarding cost of Care, Custody and Control insurance, **Tim** said there are a lot of variables determining the cost of the insurance and if any of the Regional Reps learn that there is a tremendous increase let us know. **ACTION ITEM:** **Susan** will make a list of other insurance carriers besides Mourer-Foster that are currently insuring members and distribute to membership.

## NEW APPLICANT STATUS

**Susan** reported that she followed up with applicants on March 2. The Team affirmed that incomplete applications should be followed up 4 weeks after their “incomplete” letter. **Susan** will follow up with a friendly “how can we help” letter, encouraging them to submit the rest of the missing paperwork.

## INVITES

**Tim** reminded the Regional Reps of the Invite process that began last year including people recommended as possible members. We will start a follow up process. **Tim** asked the Regional Reps to continue giving us names to invite. We are not worried about the numbers, rather trying to strengthen the Program.

## OUTSTANDING CURRENT COMPLAINTS

**Susan** reported that there is one complaint closed and one regarding a person who is no longer a member.

## APPRENTICES

**Susan** reported that we have 5 RHP Apprentices and encouraged members to have their assistants apply.

## ROYAL CANIN – SPONSOR

**Pattie** reported that the team had a conference call with Royal Canin contact Erica Vogt. It was shared that there were several ideas discussed as to how to recognize the members at Westminster but time did not allow for plans to be secured. The Team shared it is

very encouraged by the evident enthusiasm of Royal Canin. **Tim** said for any member that is an ambassador to other food companies, there is no conflict. Members are not expected in any way to use Royal Canin because they sponsor the RHP.

## NEWSLETTER

**Tim** said the upcoming newsletter will include clarification of a rule of moving a dog to open class. Also, for those that have juniors assisting, a proposal is going to the Board that would permit Junior-eligible assistants to participate in NOHS the weekends they assist handlers. This is currently restricted.

## EDUCATIONAL SEMINARS – Social Media

**Susan** reported 3 scheduled: Timonium–April, W. Springfield–July, Kalamazoo–Nov. **ACTION ITEM:** **Susan** will send the Outline to the Regional Reps.

## ADVERTISEMENTS

**Mary** reported that she ran the usual ads after big shows. In Dog News she ran the Westminster ad featuring Ernesto Lara, and the Dog News handler of the year nomination ad: Angie Lloyd (who won). Congratulations, Angie!

## VEHICLE INSPECTIONS

**Susan** reported that 12 members have not had their vehicles inspected for 2017.

## ENCOURAGING MEMBERS – DUES DISCOUNTS

**Tim** reported what was agreed upon in the preceding conference call with the TEAM. In 2019 dues discounts of \$25 will be given to RHP members who are 1) members of clubs, 2) Junior Showmanship judges. **Tim** pointed out that this is consistent with the theme about promoting the longevity of the sport and giving back. This will be reported in the Q2 (June) newsletter.

## FIELD REP MEETING

**Gina Wieser** reported that a 2017 RHP recap was given at the recent Field Rep meeting. To help with cohesiveness, we are asking Field Reps and the Reg Reps to reach out to each other. Also, let the clubs know about the GWSF Scholarship and that we happily take donations, which will benefit the future of the sport. **ACTION ITEMS:** **Susan** will send out brochures to the Regional Reps.

## **RHP BOOTH AT ORLANDO SHOW in December 2017**

**Tim** reported that he thought it went well and asked for any feedback. **Tim** shared the intent to have one at this year's National Championship.

## **FACEBOOK**

**Gina** asked for Reg. Reps to snap a photo of our members if they go Best in Show or win at a National. Photos should be sent to Mary Dukes who will post them on the RHP Facebook page. **Tim** added, "and share, share, share".

## **RALEIGH, NC SHOWS – TAPING FOR GROOMING SPACE**

**Frank Murphy** informed us that since CJ Favre will not be at the Raleigh shows in March, that he will be collecting the donation checks from clubs for taping. **Frank** will give the checks to Mark Desrosiers to give to Susan, or will send to Susan directly.

Meeting adjourned at 4:12pm.

## **JUDGING JUNIORS SEMINARS**

**Edison, NJ – Sat., March 24**

**Vallejo, CA – Sat. March 24**

**Freehold, NJ – Sat., May 26**

**New Castle, PA – Sat., May 26**

**Kalamazoo, MI – Sat., May 26**

**Wrentham, MA – Sat. June 2**

**Cambridge, MN – Sat., June 23**

**Houston, TX – Sat. July 21**

**Canfield, OH – Sat. August 4**

**Topeka, KS – Saturday, August 18**

Contact AKC Judging Operations:

Kathy Caruana [kac1@akc.org](mailto:kac1@akc.org)  
(919) 816-3862

## **Clarification for Moving from Bred-By-Exhibitor or Amateur-Owner-Handler Class**

By Bri Tesarz

Rules Applying to Dog Shows Chapter 11, Section 6 defines the movement of entries from a class the dog is determined to be ineligible for by its owner/agent to an eligible Open class.

Effective immediately, if a dog is determined to be ineligible for the Bred-By-Exhibitor or Amateur-Owner-Handler class because the eligible owner/exhibitor cannot exhibit the dog in the class, the dog may be moved to an eligible Open class as long as the breeder-owner or eligible amateur-owner, as applicable for the originally entered class, does not exhibit that dog in the Open class.

Please feel free to contact me for any clarification needed at [bri.tesarz@akc.org](mailto:bri.tesarz@akc.org).

## **Delta Air to tighten rules for onboard service animals**

Submitted by Mary Dukes

(Reuters) - Delta Air Lines is tightening the requirements for passengers traveling with onboard service and emotional support animals, the carrier said on Friday, following a sharp uptick in pet-related safety issues in recent years.

Effective March 1, Delta, the second largest U.S. airline by passenger traffic, said it will require passengers seeking to fly with pets to present additional documents outlining the passenger's need for the animal and proof of its training and vaccinations, 48 hours prior to the flight.

This comes in response to what the carrier said was a 150 percent increase in service and support animals - pets, often dogs, that accompany people with disabilities - carried onboard since 2015.

Alongside that increase has been an 84 percent spike in the number of reported animal incidents since 2016, including urination and/or defecation, biting, and a high-profile 2017 mauling of a passenger by a 70 pound (32 kg) emotional support dog.

## AKC RHP Adult Clinics

By Pattie Proctor

While we all seem to recognize the huge responsibility and effect when we participate in an AKC RHP Junior Clinic, along with the multitude of benefits those clinics serve the sport, perhaps it's time to share that focus to teach and guide the adult relatives of those juniors.

For the most part, the Adult Clinics are set up by our RHP Area Reps. with clubs that they feel would welcome an enhancement to their show. Sometimes clubs themselves request an Adult Clinic. Either way, as long as one of our RHP members or RHP Coordinators is responsible for a clinic, an Adult Clinic is relatively easy to offer and conduct.

Some of the best times to schedule an Adult Clinic would be if the club has a lunch hour and all/most of the rings break at the same time. This frees up the rings, the Pros and the participants. Group time offers the same convenience.

Think about asking clubs whose show setting is comfortable, i.e., nice rings, plenty of tenting, a show chair who is willing to make announcements during the day and/or posting flyers around the ground/building.

With all of the new activities for new exhibitors that the AKC and clubs are offering, there seems to be a new crop of adults who need the in ring training that we all can offer to them.

Recently, the number of participants has risen – some Adult Clinics had up to 40 and 60 participants – mostly adults even though Juniors are also welcomed. This is a huge give back to the sport and a positive public relation between the Pros and the amateurs.

Your first step is to have the club contact Susan Judge at smj@akc.org, 919-816-3590. Should you have any questions or hesitations, please feel free to contact one of your area RHP Reps. or Tim, Mary, Gina or myself.

### NOTICE

*In each Newsletter, the RHP lists the number of complaints received and/or closed during the last quarter and if disciplinary action was needed.*

One complaint was received this quarter,  
which is now closed.

## FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK

If you are not already aware, the RHP has been ramping up our postings on Facebook to include at least one posting EVERY DAY. These include features on RHP members, BIS wins by our members, helpful and inspiring “MEMEs”, results from handling clinics and general information helpful to the RHP and the fancy at large. Mary Dukes has been spearheading the postings from the field and would welcome any photos of members' BIS wins. You can forward Mary a text at 951-283-4770 or to her email at mnd@akc.org.

So if you are not already following us on Facebook – check it out!

**Our page is entitled simply:  
AKC Registered Handlers Program**

## UPCOMING RHP CLINICS

### FOR JUNIORS:

EDISON, NJ – SAT., MARCH 24  
TIMONIUM, MD – SUN., APRIL 22  
BIRCH RUN, MI – SAT., APRIL 28  
MARSHALL, TX – SAT., MAY 5  
NEW CASTLE, PA – SAT., MAY 26  
FREEHOLD, NJ – SUN., MAY 27  
W. SPRINGFIELD, MA – SAT., JULY 7

### FOR ADULTS:

WICHITA, KS – SAT., APRIL 7  
LUMBERTON, NC – SAT., APRIL 28  
NORWALK, CT – SAT., JUNE 9  
HENRIETTA, NY – SAT., JUNE 23  
CAMBRIDGE, MN – SAT., JUNE 23  
LONGVIEW, TX – SAT., JULY 28  
APALACHIN, NY – SAT., AUGUST 18





## Finger Pointing

By RHP Member Kelly Lyn Marquis

People are busy pointing fingers. Sometimes, I may do it, sometimes you may do it, sometimes those around us do it. We all do it to varying degrees. This type thinking breeds anger and hostility and leaves people feeling like victims in their own lives. When we live this way, we feel powerless. When we believe someone outside of ourselves has to change, then we've given our power away. We always have a choice. If we focus on what we can change within ourselves, we can have a profound impact in our own lives and the lives of others.

One simple strategy I learned was to play the role of observer in my own life. Instead of reacting to things personally, I would pause, step back from my feelings and witness the dynamic as an outsider. For instance, several years ago, I had a client become very angry at me for not going in on her Doberman in the winners bitch class. Someone told her that if I hand her dog off in the winners class, it means I don't want her dog to win. As is stated in my client/Handler agreement, I explained it is always my policy that all of my clients' dogs are presented to the best of their ability regardless of which dog I am committed to show. She did not believe me. Rather than take her lack of trust in me as a handler personally, I chose to step back and truly listen to her truth. Rather than try to change her mind, I said, "If you ever hire a handler and you feel they are letting down on your dog, you should fire them. If you believe that I would do that, then I think it is best that we not work together." A part of me wanted to change her mind and prove to her that her belief wasn't true, yet I also acknowledged that if I engaged in trying to prove myself to her, in the end, I would be setting myself up for much future frustration. I chose not work with a client that didn't trust me. This scenario left both of us feeling empowered. (BTW, the dog never finished!)

When we make choices from a place of loving empowerment, everyone benefits. I encourage you to pause and consider the choices you are making in your life right now. Each time you have a decision to make, ask yourself, "How will I feel about myself if I make this choice? How might my decision impact those around me?" Instead of focusing on what isn't right, let's focus on what we can shift within ourselves to bring ourselves more peace, more love. Let's be trendsetters. Let's make a difference in the world of dog shows not based on how many ribbons we've won or top rankings we've earned, but by the number of people whose lives we touched in a positive way. Let's each do our part in creating a brighter, happier, dog show community.

## Family-Friendly Sport

By RHP Member Stacy Threlfall

My heart goes out to families trying to exhibit in this "family-friendly sport". My husband shared his experience with me as a kid growing up in the sport. I feel it's a worthwhile story to share with everyone that might need a reset on their outlook on families at the dog show.

As a kid Evan went to dog shows as did many other kids of owner handlers and professional handlers. In general, everyone felt welcomed and were accepted families with kids. No one stressed out about a club being kid friendly or if they could use a stroller to take the kids to their setup. As kids they knew not to bother the dogs and people but they were allowed to be kids. Evan had left the sport of dogs as a teenager but after years of being away, realized that the welcoming atmosphere and the dogs were what he missed the most. Now he is giving back to the sport and has his own family who owns dogs and will be future exhibitors as well.

As a parent I will not let this be the last story like this that happens in our family. As a person that has the passion and love for all the right things that this sport has to offer, I will also support fellow families and anything that may encourage new people to the sport.

In today's age where the entries have dropped, we need to ask ourselves why. I have had multiple owner handlers, when they see our children stop to chat. All too many times I have heard a story of an unwelcoming atmosphere for their family. Just today one woman mentioned that she only shows when her husband can take a day off of work because she does not feel welcome with her child at the show. That kind of story breaks my heart. We need to embrace everyone, no matter what their story is and together try to keep our sport we love alive.



Evan Threlfall, with Judge Harry Miller in 1988.

## WORDS FROM THE WISE

By RHP member Amy Booth

"I was told by a distinguished person/judge in dogs when I asked why they didn't like my dog, "when you step foot into the ring with your dog you are putting him on display for everyone and not everyone is going to like him. So you must be able to take the compliments as well as the criticisms." I live with that echoing in my head. My choice in dealing with the good and the bad comments comes down to 3 simple rules.

1. I read and reread my standards. If my dog rings true to his standard (and knowing that no dog is perfect), I stand confident in him and am willing to discuss the standard with anyone who wants to do so in a calm and respectful manner.
2. I consider the source. This is competition and we are all human with jealousy and flaws (no human is perfect either).
3. I let it go. The sooner everyone can do this the better.

In our sport, it's not just the dogs that get talked poorly of. People often get accused of doing things they didn't do just so they look bad to others. Often even posted about on FB. Slight facts get twisted and made 10x worse. Mostly this is done to make themselves feel better.

In this country we've been given the freedom of speech. I'm proud of that fact. I just wish each individual would CHOOSE to use it for POSITIVE instead of NEGATIVE.

### REGISTERED HANDLER PROGRAM STATISTICS:

NUMBER OF CURRENT MEMBERS: 73  
NUMBER OF CURRENT APPRENTICES: 5

**RHP WELCOMES THIS NEW RHP MEMBER:**  
NONE THIS QUARTER

**RHP WELCOMES THESE NEW APPRENTICES OF  
THESE RHP MEMBERS:**  
NONE THIS QUARTER

## How has Social Media Affected Our Sport?

This will be our RHP Educational Program topic for 2018. Give it some thought...

Has it affected you, your business, or perhaps your personal life? Have you been a target for negative posts? What is the best way to respond to an attack on SM? Do you think AKC should have SM guidelines, ethics, or best practices for Registered Handlers, AKC Judges, and exhibitors? What impact, positive and negative has SM had on the sport?

These are just a few example questions that can be brought to the round table discussion. As in the past, the seminars are open to all and are held following a show. RHP members will be responsible for coordinating, organizing, and conduct the seminars.

If you are interested in conducting a seminar for 2018, please contact Susan Judge at [smj@akc.org](mailto:smj@akc.org).

### 2018 Educational Seminar Topic:

## How Social Media has Affected the Sport

**Open forum discussion, to be hosted by  
an RHP Member or  
RHP Field Coordinator**

**Timonium, MD – Sat., April 21**

**W. Springfield, MA – Sat., July 6**

**Kalamazoo, MI – Sat., Nov. 10**

**If you would like to coordinate an  
RHP Educational Seminar  
at a show of your choice  
contact Susan Judge at [smj@akc.org](mailto:smj@akc.org)**

## THE 15+ CLUB

THESE CURRENT RHP MEMBERS HAVE  
VOLUNTEERED AT 15 OR MORE RHP  
JUNIORS/ADULT CLINICS OVER THE YEARS:

TUNI CONTI – 38  
TARA HARTMAN – 35  
CLIFF STEELE – 32  
DEBBIE STRUFF – 32  
KAREN MAMMANO – 31  
SARA GREGWARE – 29  
PHIL BOOTH – 24  
KIM CALVACCA – 24  
NINA FETTER – 24  
RC CARUSI – 21  
ANGIE LLOYD – 21  
KATHY MINES – 21  
GWEN DEMILTA – 20  
LISA GALLIZZO – 20  
GREG STRONG – 20  
CYNTHIA HUCKFELDT – 19  
ERNESTO LARA – 19  
MARY NORTON-AUGUSTUS – 17  
LORI SARGENT – 17  
LINDA WILLIAMS – 17  
FRANK MURPHY – 16  
GRETCHEN CONRADT – 15  
ROSLYN MINTZ – 15  
CARISSA SHIMPEN – 15

WE EXTEND OUR SINCEREST  
APPRECIATION  
FOR THE TIME AND EFFORT GIVEN  
TO BENEFIT THE JUNIORS  
AND OUR OVERALL SPORT !

## 20 Questions...

**Name: Dave Slattum**

**LOCATION: Lake Elmo, Minnesota**  
**RHP Member since 2009**

**Full Name: David Slattum**

**# of yrs. professionally handling dogs: 15**

**Favorite judge: Robert Hutton**

**Favorite outfit to wear in ring:**

**Suits that match**

**Favorite bait: Hot dogs**

**Favorite breed to handle: Dalmatians**

**Favorite circuit: St. Croix Valley Kennel Club**

**Favorite restaurant: Taco Bell**

**Favorite way to spend days off:**

**Seeing my Granddaughter**

**Interests other than dogs: Fishing**

**Favorite movie:**

**"The Good, the Bad and the Ugly"**

**Favorite actor or actress: Clint Eastwood**

**Favorite musical artist: Kenny Chesney**

**Favorite subject in school: Gym**

**Favorite food: Ice Cream**

**Favorite holiday: Christmas**

**Favorite state: Wisconsin**

**Whom do you most admire?: Stan Flowers**

**Little-known facts about you:**

**Drag Muscle Cars**

**Beach or Mountains? Beach**

## RHP Adult Handling Clinics

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**St. Paul, MN – Sat., January 6, 2018**

Sponsored by the Land o' Lakes KC  
Attendance: 50

**Coordinator: Dave Slattum**

**Non-Members:** Darrel Cooper Sandra Cooper  
Tim Peterson Tessie Savage  
Sandy Slattum Ed Thomason

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## **RHP Adult Handling Clinics** **Continued.....**

**Kansas City, MO - Sat., March 10, 2018**

Sponsored by the Leavenworth KC - Attendance: 16

**Coordinator:** Cindi Huckfeldt

**Members:** RC Carusi Laura King  
Linda Williams

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## **Latest RHP Juniors Clinics**

**Richmond, VA – Sat., January 27, 2018**

Sponsored by the Middle Peninsula KC  
Attendance: 10

**Coordinator:** Angie Lloyd

**Members:** Greg Strong Evan Threlfall

**Non-Member:** Kimberly Langlands

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**Denver, CO – Sun., February 18, 2018**

Sponsored by the Colorado KC - Attendance: 28

**Coordinator:** Field Rep Diana Wilson

**Non-Members:** Tiffany Marzluf  
Clint Livingston Kristy Wilson

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**Tallmadge, OH – Sat., March 3, 2018**

Sponsored by the Medina KC - Attendance: 21

**Coordinator:** Mary Norton-Augustus

**Members:** Gwen DeMilta Nina Fetter  
Allison Sunderman

**Non-Member:** Joe Catin

=====

### **AKC REGISTERED HANDLERS TEAM**

#### **FIELD COORDINATORS:**

TIM THOMAS (DIRECTOR) TJT@AKC.ORG (919) 816-3639  
MARY DUKES MND@AKC.ORG (951) 283-4770  
PATTIE PROCTOR PPJ@AKC.ORG (203) 482-2121  
GINA WIESER GXW2@AKC.ORG (813) 318-1290

#### **LIAISON MEMBER-AT-LARGE:**

BOBBY FISHER (440) 813-6388

#### **RALEIGH PROJECT MANAGER:**

SUSAN JUDGE SMJ@AKC.ORG (919) 816-3590

## **RHP REGIONAL REPS**

WEST – SHANE HOOPER (909) 268-8745  
SHANEHOOPER99@YAHOO.COM

MIDWEST – LINDA WILLIAMS (816) 510-7130  
CROWNCORGIS@GMAIL.COM

UPPER MIDWEST – LAURA KING (309) 236-5942  
DAYBREAK\_KENNEL@HOTMAIL.COM

OHIO VALLEY – GRETCHEN CONRADT (419) 509-7888  
SAHLOFFG@AOL.COM

SOUTHEAST – FRANK MURPHY (352) 408-6472  
FMKENNELS@GMAIL.COM

MID-ATLANTIC – ANGIE LLOYD (703) 622-5808  
ANGELALYNNLLOYD@AOL.COM

NORTHEAST – DEBBIE STRUFF (860) 573-6218  
RAKLYNBOXERS@HOTMAIL.COM

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**AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB HANDLERS DEPARTMENT**

**8051 ARCO CORPORATE DRIVE**  
**RALEIGH, NC 27617**

**PHONE: (919) 816-3590**  
**FAX: (919) 816-4225**

**EMAIL: HANDLERS@AKC.ORG**

**CONTRIBUTORS:** AMY BOOTH  
MARY DUKES  
KELLY LYN MARQUIS  
PATTIE PROCTOR  
BRI TESARZ  
STACY THRELFALL  
GINA WIESER

**EDITOR AND DISTRIBUTOR: SUSAN JUDGE**