



THE AZAWAKH AEGIS

The Publication of the American
Azawakh Association

Spring 2003

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President's Letter

Dear Friends,

Well here we are a new year has begun, and I wish everybody and all our dogs, a Happy New Year!

As it is, I just had the pleasure of visiting with two nice Azawakhs. They were on their way home from coursing in New Mexico.

I just wish we had some more of them here in the west. Somehow in time, I think we will.

Here in sunny south Arizona some of us dog people are considering the possibilities of founding a coursing club. We are anticipating this to bring some new enthusiasm to all our friends in the dog community.

As President, I feel I should remind everyone of the old adage, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." Let us all try to prevent situations that allow

our dogs to be crowded, and feel threatened. This will help to bypass the possibility of a dog bite. Such a situation can create many unnecessary legal problems as well as the reputations of our wonderful hounds.

Warmest wishes,

Gisela



AAA Election Results

During 2002, the AAA held the election of officers for a two year term. The results are as follows:

President: Gisela Cook-Schmidt, Arizona

Vice-President: Lisa Pinto, California

Secretary: Deb Kidwell, Virginia (last term)

Treasurer—Sean McMichael, Florida (last term)

Board Members:

Andra Walters, Canada
Luzia Rock, California
Jack McGuffin, California

Rescue Success Story—Bederi & Melissa Wellington



Bederi

Conformationally Correct
by Jennifer Grundy, 1998

*I know my ears aren't quite right,
They have a bit of a prick.
My legs aren't all the way
straight,
But today I learned a new trick!!*

*Someone messed up and my tail
is too short,
More like a Schnauzer or Dobe.
Move your head to the left there
Mom,
I missed kissing that ear lobe.*

*I know I'm bull legged and my
chest is too deep,
In a show, they'd give me the
gate.*

*So when you're off showing the
others,
I'll sit here and patiently wait.*

*But I can still hunt and I can still
race,
I'll even give obedience a
chance.
I can still do lots of things,
Without that perfect stance.*

*But the best thing of all you'll find
out about me,
Even though I'm not the first
you'd select.
I'm still witty and bold and have
much love to share,
My heart is conformationally
correct.*

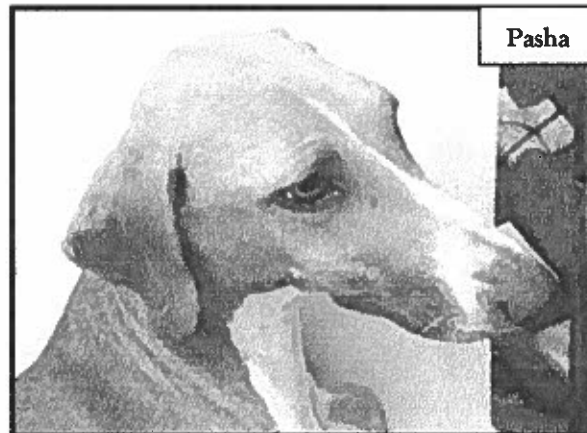
Bederi came from a puppy mill situation. Luckily, he found some caring folks who got him out of there. He then came home with me from Deb Kidwell & Rhonda Mann's house on the 20th of February, 2000. At that time he had little interest in people and would disappear into to his "happy place" whenever I tried to engage him physically, mentally, or emotionally. He was so hard to love! But Rhonda had said "you have to promise to give him at least a year". So I did, and Bederi has been worth every minute of it! She was right, it did take

at least a year, but by May of 2001 he had become Bederi, CGC. More importantly, he has become my sweet cuddle-bug boy. He still has issues, of course~ he doesn't like many people, he will still react badly if he feels cornered, and he still runs first and thinks later. But overall, he's come so far that it is impossible not to love him. For a dog with so many sharp edges he can curl himself up into a little ball that fits next to you anywhere! He sleeps under the covers in my bed, he runs happily up to me in the yard, and we use him as our "strange but non-

reactive dog" when we're doing our CGC testing.

Currently, the "Sweet Bee" lives happily with his Sheltie and Standard Poodle sisters, two Border Collies and two Sheltie cousins, his sire, Awazim (also a rescue) and five indoor cats. They share a fenced acre outside of Raleigh North Carolina.

Rhonda, I promise to love him forever. And whenever those ears lift up and soften, and he gives me that melting look, I make sure to tell him that he's got all the time in the world!



Recent Adoptions

"Pasha," a spayed female from OK recently got a forever home with Ninon Greene of OH. Ninon, came in early April, with her daughter, Monique and her Greyhound, Jenny and took Pasha home, from Deb and Rhonda's house. At last report, everyone is happy and doing well! Many thanks to former owner, Ashley Trice, for letting us find

Pasha a nice home where she can be safe and happy. 😊

Kel Simoon Heluma, now "Sailor" found a great home with Linda Webster and her Azawakh, Khartoum, in Rochester, NY.

Zulu, a neutered male from Norma Spivey, got a super home in NJ with Helene & Tony, their Greyhound,

Honey, and four kids.

Norma still has several other spayed/neutered adults available if anyone is interested. You can contact her at: nlspivey@aol.com or by phone at: 423-442-9059

THE RULES OF SEVENS

THE RULES OF SEVENS

By the time a puppy is 7 weeks old it should have:

1: BEEN ON 7 different surfaces:
Carpet, Concrete, Wood, Vinyl/Linoleum, Grass, Dirt, Gravel

2: PLAYED WITH 7 different types of objects:

Balls, Soft Fabric Toys, Metal Items, Wooden Items, Paper/Cardboard Items, Milk/Soda Jugs

3: BEEN IN 7 different locations:
Front & Back Yard, Basement, Car Garage, Crate, Kennel, Family Living Area

4: BEEN EXPOSED to 7 challenges:

Climb up and down a few Steps, Stand stacked for a Minute, Enter through a Dog Door, Walk over Obstacles, Play Hide & Seek, Get in and out of something, Learned to Back Up

5: EATEN FROM 7 different containers:
Metal, Plastic, Cardboard, Paper, Glass, Plate, Bowl

6: EATEN IN 7 different locations:
Crate, Yard, Kitchen, Basement, X-pen, Car Garage, Kennel

7: MET AND PLAYED WITH 7 new people:
Large Male, Baby, Child, Teenager, Grand person, Someone dressed outlandishly, Someone disabled

8: HEARD 7 different household noises:
Vacuum, Hair Dryer, Doorbell, Fly Swatter, Phone, Television, Alarm Clock

9: HEARD 7 different outdoor noises:
Car Horn, Motorcycle, Garage Door Opener, Lawn Mower/Snow Blower, Vehicle Starting, Neighbors Yelling, Thunder

"The dog wags his tail, not for you, but for your bread." - Portuguese Proverb

AAA REGISTRY

On April 10, 2003, a random test sampling of 14 dogs from our club registry was submitted to AKC along with a detailed two page questionnaire concerning our club and registry practices.

If accepted, the entire registry will be turned over to the AKC Foundation Stock Ser-

vice within the next couple months. All dogs currently in the AAA Registry will receive AKC FSS papers free of charge. Anyone wishing registration for their Azawakh after this time, will be charged the normal AKC rate for registration and will have to provide their own documentation.

Quotable Quotes

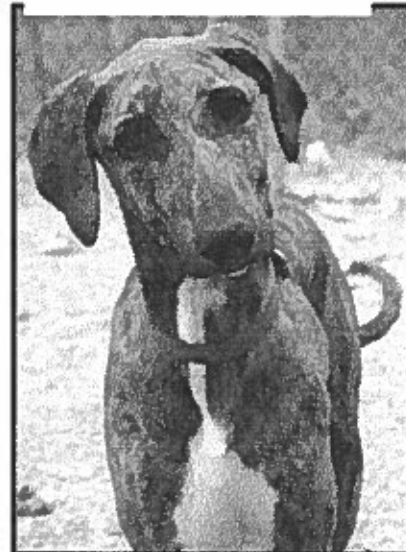
My dog's not spoiled ... I'm just well trained !

"In a perfect world, every dog would have a home and every home would have a dog."

"Maybe you've been looking for love in all the wrong places. A dog will treat you better than anyone you'll meet at happy hour. Trust me. I've been to happy hour."

"My husband and I are either going to buy a dog or have a child. We can't decide whether to ruin our carpets or ruin our lives." - Rita Rudner

In Memoriam Kel Tarbanassen Etambo



Kel Tarbanassen Étambo, owned by Donna Siegal of San Diego, CA, died in late 2002 at the age of 13. Étambo was imported by Deb Kidwell as an 8 week old pup from Gisela & Gervais Coppé of Grezels France and was the sire of the Kel Simoon A litter born in 1990. He is survived by his daughters DiDi and Emma.

Étambo was a great breed ambassador, always friendly, easygoing and charming. He did his "African dance" to the last. He is missed!

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Azawakh Association

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Nothing in Life is Free

Does your dog: Get on the furniture and refuse to get off? Nudge your hand, insisting on being petted or played with? Refuse to come when called? Defend its food bowl or toys from you? "Nothing in life is free" can help. "Nothing in life is free" is not a magic pill that will solve a specific behavior problem; rather it's a way of living with your dog that will help it behave better because it trusts and accepts you as its leader and is confident knowing its place in your family.

How To Practice "Nothing In Life Is Free:"
Using positive reinforcement methods, teach your dog a few commands and/or tricks. "Sit," "Down" and "Stay" are useful commands and "Shake," "Speak" and "Rollover" are fun tricks to teach your dog. Once your dog knows a few commands, you can begin to practice "nothing in life is free." Before you give your dog anything (food, a treat, a walk, a pat on the head) it must first perform one of the commands it has learned. For

example:

YOU:	YOUR DOG:
Put your dog's leash on to go for a walk	Must sit until you've put the leash on
Feed your dog	Must lie down and stay until you've put the bowl down
Play a game of fetch after work	Must sit and shake hands each time you
Rub your dog's belly while watching TV	Must lie down and rollover before being petted

Once you've given the command, don't give your dog what it wants until it does what you want. If it refuses to perform the command, walk away, come back a few minutes later and start again. If your dog refuses to obey the command, be patient and remember that eventually it will have to obey your command in order to get what it wants.

The next issue of Aegis will be July 2003. Deadline for advertising is June 15, 2003. The AAA welcomes articles from it's members. The Editor reserve the right to edit articles and letters submitted for publication. Opinions expressed in letters and articles are not necessarily those of the Editor or of the AAA. The Editor will not publish personal invectives about named persons or where implication makes a person's identity obvious. Reproduction of contents may be reprinted with permission of the Editor. Send all articles and advertising to: Deb Kidwell, Editor, 30083 Rows Mill Road, Rhoadesville, VA 22542. Phone: 540-854-8431, FAX: 540-854-0796, email: dayyat@aol.com. Subscriptions to Aegis are available to the public for \$12/year domestic, \$20/foreign. Subscribers in foreign countries, please remit U.S. equivalent international money order or check from a US bank. Make checks pay-

Make sure your dog knows the command well and understands what you want before you begin practicing "nothing in life is free."

The Benefits Of This Technique

Most dogs assume a neutral or submissive role toward people, but some dogs will challenge their owners for dominance. Requiring a dominant dog to work for everything it wants is a safe and non-confrontational way to establish control.

Dogs who may never display aggressive behavior such as growling, snarling, or snapping, may still manage to manipulate you. These dogs may display affectionate, though "pushy" behavior, such as nudging your hand to be petted or "worming" its way on to the furniture in order to be close to you. This technique gently reminds the "pushy" dog that it must abide by your rules. Obeying commands helps build a fearful dog's confidence; having a strong leader and knowing its place in the hierarchy helps to make the submissive dog feel more secure.

Why This Technique Works

Animals that live in groups, like dogs, establish a social structure within the group called a dominance hierarchy. This dominance hierarchy serves to maintain order, reduce conflict and promote cooperation among pack members. In order for your home to be a safe and happy place for pets and people, it's best that the humans in the household assume the highest positions in the dominance hierarchy. Practicing "nothing in life is free" effectively and gently communicates to your dog that its position in the hierarchy is subordinate to yours. From your dog's point of view, children also have a place in this hierarchy. Because children are small and can get down on the dog's level to play, dogs often consider them to be playmates, rather than superiors. With the supervision of an adult, it's a good idea to encourage children in the household (aged eight and over) to also practice "nothing in life is free" with your dog.

New Members & Applicants

Welcome to Marya Morales, new AAA member!

New member applicant:

April Gochberg of Maryland, endorsed by Deb Kidwell & Rhonda Mann. April, with her husband Joel and their children have three Azawakhs, Bani Bangou, Kel Simoons Gleti and Jakuba and an elderly Labrador Retriever.

Rescue Fund Raising

Rescue fund raising has been going very well of late. The Gochberg family donated \$200 and Pasha was adopted for \$200 minus a vet bill for \$80 for heartworm check and treatment for ear mites.

Andra Walters has donated a truly amazing variety of items to auction on Ebay. Deb Kidwell has donated an ornate ceremonial Tuareg camel saddle bag that she bought during her trip to Africa. Watch Ebay for these items in the next few months.

Monetary rescue donations can be sent directly to our treasurer, Sean McMichael, with checks made out to the AAA. Please note on the check that it's for the rescue fund.

Coursing & Show News

ASFA Top 20

As of December 31, 2002

NOTE: '**' preceding the name indicates pending information that may affect Rank standing. This information is current through the 31st of December 2002.

AZAWAKHS total competing: 8

1. **Tagalas**, Tagalas, FCh. , K. Dammen 10-3-0
2. **Jeloun**, Jeloun 'n shat-ehad D. Kidwell 5-2-0
2. **Essari**, Kel Simoon Essari, FCh, R. Mann 5-2-0
4. **Nissy**, Kel Simoon Hanisi,

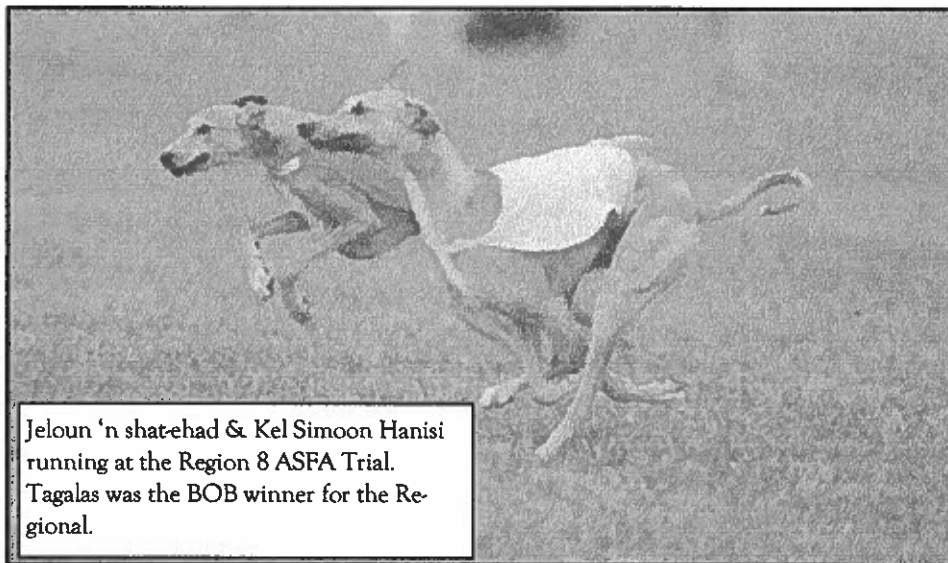
R. Spurling 2-1-0

5. **Mateeka**, Wind N'Satin Ketoto Mateka, Smith/Spivey 1-1-0

5. **Zoe**, Talempt Al-Ifriqiya, M. Morales 1-1-0

Tagalas was the second Azawakh to attain her ASFA Field Championship! Congratulations owners, Kristin and Hugues

Sorry, No show results to report! Anybody showing out there?



Jeloun 'n shat-ehad & Kel Simoon Hanisi running at the Region 8 ASFA Trial. Tagalas was the BOB winner for the Regional.

**"Dogs are not our whole life, but they make our lives whole.
(Roger Caras)**

New African Dog Book!

There is a new book available published by Alpine Press called "Dogs of Africa" by Sian Hall. The book is broken down into sections, Pariahs, Indigenous Southern African Dogs, Hounds, Desert Sighthounds, Mediterranean Sighthounds, Mastiffs, Pet Dogs. There is a super section on the Azawakh with lots of nice photos. It's a beautiful book, available at Amazon.com, and priced under \$35.00!

On the Showing of Dogs

by Jack McGuffin, M.Ed.

Dog shows, as we have come to know them, have a very rich and colorful history spanning the last 150 years or so.

Certainly this is a very brief period of time in relation to man's association with the dog over the past 10,000 years, but nonetheless, one which has undoubtedly played a significant role in the continuing cultivation of the 'pure bred' dog as an integral part of modern life.

The first recorded dog show, described as a "Great Exhibition of the Pugs of all Nations" was organized by William Davenport Bromley on May 30th 1850. The object of the show was to raise funds for charity, and it appears to have been more a social occasion than anything else. The exhibitors (all titled except Mr. Bromley) were listed in order of precedence in Society, and a contemporary illustration shows the exhibits seated round a tea table being served with cake by a liveried footman. The following year an exhibition of a different character was held in the bar parlour of a public house in Denmark Street, London. The Great Exhibition of that year had drawn tens of thousands of visitors to London, and Mr. Aistrop (alias Eastup) the former proprietor of the Westminster Pit, saw a way to turn a reasonably honest penny. He advertised a "Fancy Dog Show" for which the exhibits were provided by some of his old associates, who were made members of a club expressly for this purpose. This appears to be the first association of dog fanciers of which there is any record. All the exhibits were for sale, many at high prices. The Fancy Pets consisted mostly of Toys—King Charles and Blenheim Spaniels, Italian Greyhounds, and Isle of Skye Terriers, and many of unspecified breeds. Stuffed in a glass case, Billy, former Champion of the Westminster Pit, helped to give the public value for the sixpence they paid to enter. The proceedings attracted considerable attention, and soon a rival club began a series of "Grand Shows of Spaniels, Terriers, Small dogs, etc." at the Queen's Head Tavern in London, long kept by the champion prize fighter Jem Burns. The advertisement for one of these shows, on May 11th 1852, stated that imported dogs would be on show and that stud dogs would be available on the premises. From then on Mr. Aistrop and the landlord of the Queen's Head held rival "shows" from time to time. These were merely for the purpose of selling dogs. Public interest was maintained by advertisements announcing new breeds, and the prices of the exhibits were increased by exaggerated accounts of each dog's breeding and abilities.

The first officially recognized dog show took place in 1859 in the Town Hall at Newcastle on Tyne. It catered for two 'breeds' Pointers and Setters and attracted sixty exhibits. This was followed by larger and more ambitious exhibitions, and led to the formation of the Birmingham Dog Show Society, whose first show was held on 1860. This is the oldest Dog Show Society still in existence, and their 1860 show was the first general dog show ever known. It included classes for Mastiffs, Newfoundlands, Dalmatians, Bulldogs, Sheep Dogs, several varieties of Terriers, Toy Spaniels, and Toy Terriers under 5 lb. in weight, and 'foreign' dogs such as Pugs and Italian Greyhounds. 1861 saw shows which catered for an increasing number of breeds at Leeds, Birmingham and Manchester, and in 1862 the first large show in London itself, at the Agricultural Hall in Islington (later for many years the site of Cruft's International Show) attracted nearly 1,000 entries.

In May 1863, the French Acclimation Society Show was held in Paris, and had a comprehensive schedule including various Shepherd Dogs—Alsations, Briards and Welsh—also Pyreneans and St. Bernards, and numerous varieties of Mastiffs, as well as Continental Hounds and hunting dogs, also Hairless Mexican Dogs, King Charles, Blenheim, and Japanese Spaniels, and "Chinese Short Legged Dog" which may have been Pekingese. Under the heading "exotic dogs" were Canadian, Eskimo, Greenland, and Siberian dogs as well as Kangaroo Dogs and dogs described to be 'of the Bazaars in the East'. There was also a class for dogs used for human food.

In 1864 an "International Show" at the Agricultural Hall, Islington, England attracted almost 1,200 entries. The class for Harriers included an entry from the Prince of Wales (later King Edward VII) which scored a popular win. The number of entries grew steadily from this time onward, as did the number of breeds catered for and the number of classes for each breed. At first, most of the classes were for functional breeds such as Pointers, Setters, or Terriers, and it was for each exhibitor to decide for which breed and in which class he would enter his exhibit. As late as 1885, the British Kennel Club were notified that an exhibit had won prizes at a certain show both as a Welsh Terrier and as an Old English Terrier. Relatively few breeders kept any written record, and those who did kept them in no set form. As dogs changed ownership, and names, without any notification to the public, it was difficult, if not impossible, to prove the breed, let alone the identity of any particular exhibit. The same problem affected field trials, which were first held in 1865. A contemporary report of one of the first Retriever stakes stated in all seriousness that some of the entries 'proved not to be Retrievers.' Dog shows had by then become so popular and dog breeding so profitable, that a minority of dishonest exhibitors began to take advantage of the lack of regulations. Adult dogs were entered in classes restricted to puppies, and well-known winners were disguised by dyeing their coats and were entered in classes confined to novices. The existence of these practices began to get the dog shows, and to a less extent, field trials, into disrepute, and it became evident that some kind of ruling body was essential. From 1870 onward a series of successful shows had been organized at the Crystal Palace, London, by a Committee led by Mr. SE Shirley. This Committee provided some degree of continuity and of authority, and in April 1873 it founded the Kennel Club, the first organization of its kind in the world, and the tiny embryo from which grew the international complex of kennel clubs which now extends to every continent.

The advent of registration proved a great boon to serious breeders. Before registration was introduced, it was impossible to know for certain the ancestry of any dog, which made it impossible to establish a breed in the modern sense of the term. The success achieved by the British Kennel Clubs led to a sharp awakening of interest throughout Europe and North America. Numerous breed clubs were formed, and in 1882, the French Societe Centrale Canine was founded, followed a year later by the American Kennel Club, and in 1911, the Federation Cynologique Internationale was formed by a combination of Austrian, Belgian, Dutch, French and German Canine Societies, and has become the recognized international authority on the continent of Europe.

As we can see, the "sport" of dog showing had somewhat dubious beginnings, not always related to the 'purest' of intentions. Almost from the onset, the dog show has been a blend of 'high society', with its pampered lap dogs and the 'gentlemen's working dogs', along with the more 'common man' and the dogs which accompanied him in the tasks, trials and entertainments of everyday life. It has been a combination of promotion of 'curiosities and exotics' as well as the earnest and functional. So where is the dog show today in the year 2000, and what function does it serve?

Personal observation of the 'sport of pure-bred dogs' (a phrase which as seemingly become synonymous with the breeding and exhibition of dogs, exclusive to a large extent of other dog-related activity) over the past 30 years or so in the US, has led me to form a few opinions concerning this question. The modern dog show is, in some ways, what it has always been. In others, it has of course evolved and taken on new character. We still have the remnants of 'high society' as we watch the televised proceedings of Westminster with the judges outfitted in their tuxedos and evening gowns, a testament also to the fact that this is somehow 'serious business' we are dealing with and worth of serious attention, carrying with it some amount of honor and prestige. But what is it to which we are paying this homage? What is it that is being accomplished amidst the "industry" which the dog show has become?

The comprehensive answers to such questions are surely too complex and varied to elucidate here, but a few general observations might be possible. In this writer's opinion, the modern dog show is based on a rich complex of lore, histories and personalities, both canine and human, which interact in such a way as to promote an ongoing attempt to further perpetuate its own historicity. This, of course, is in large part an impossible task, since much of the history of the establishment, development and utilization of the various breeds has very little to do with their ability to be 'shown'

successfully. In the show ring, the Pointer does not need to point, the Retriever does not need to retrieve, the Bloodhound does not need to track, the sighthound does not need chase down game, and so it goes for all the breeds 'designed' for a specific purpose. What each dog must do, theoretically, is 'look like' an idealized prototype which WAS (and theoretically IS) able to perform its intended function, an ideal which of course is always open to some degree of interpretation.

What does this mean for today's breeder, exhibitor and pure-bred dog? Unfortunately, if we rely only on the testaments of the dog show, we are left with the distinct possibility that we might be perpetuating races of dogs which can no longer perform the functions for which they were originally established. The dog show, by necessity and design, is in some ways a demand that dogs of some breeds conform to qualities and/or behaviors which are contrary to their fundamental 'design' and purpose. The Bloodhound which move around the show ring with his nose to the ground, trying to do what he's designed for, will not likely easily become a show champion although he might be the most functional Bloodhound. The guard dog of any a breed which might growl or bark at a stranger (a judge?) approaching his master equally stands little chance of being rewarded, and so on. In short, the shift of focus away from function to form presents us with potentially serious problems to consider.

At the root of 'dog show philosophy' is a belief that "form follows function." In other words, by assessing the physical attributes of a dog, we can theoretically determine, to some degree, a dog's suitability for performing its intended purpose. For the modern fancier of course, the "ideal form" is spelled out in the individual breed standards which have become 'the Bibles' of assessment and the measuring tools against which all dogs in exhibitions are compared. In this context, a 'most excellent specimen' of a breed is therefore equivalent to a judge's/breeder's interpretation of that written standard of excellence and the degree to which the individual dog conforms to it. Problematic, surely, is the basic assumption that conforming to such a standard of physical details does in reality ensure a dog's ability to carry out its intended work should it be called on to do so. Also at issue in such 'competition against a standard' is the fact that there must be a "best" (and "better") dog of its breed and those dogs must ultimately somehow 'stand out' from the others. All other things being equal, this 'standing out' may in reality come to consist of the various components of "showmanship" on the part of the dog and/or the handler, or it may be a 'standing out' of some "exceptional" (for some, this translates to "extreme") physical quality of the dog itself (or a combination thereof). This, in part, seems to be where the 'competitive system' is destined to fall short in its attempt to facilitate the breeding and preservation of "the best specimens" of many breeds. Over time, with "the best" (in terms of function) having been removed from the functional, formative environment in which they were developed, being "the best" often demands adherence to a shifting paradigm. It is no secret within dogdom that many if not most breeds have witnessed some rather significant changes in form subsequent to their introductions as "show dogs." In many breeds there are widening chasms between a 'show type' and a 'working type', all too often with the two segments of a population being no longer interchangeable with any degree of success. Because of the competitive nature of the dog show world (and this certainly applies also to the other venues and species of animals which are 'exhibited' competitively), the potential for rapid change over a relatively small number of generations is enormous. It is certainly not unheard of (and even cherished as an indicator of success) that a single "winning" animal might sire score or even hundreds of progeny which in turn may go on to produce hundreds or thousands more. Other than the obvious possible deleterious effect this poses for the genetic diversity

Albert Schweitzer,
A Philosophical View
By Deb Kidwell

Albert Schweitzer won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1954 in recognition of his humanitarian efforts at the hospital he established in Africa. His idea for the hospital began after reading an evangelical paper about the need for medical missions. He studied medicine from 1906-1913 and became a doctor, then traveled to French Equatorial Africa with his wife, Helene, and established the hospital of Lambarene in the province of Gabon. In his Nobel acceptance speech, he said, "there could be no peace, no harmony among men and nations unless prejudice and nationalism were laid aside, and all human-kind recognized and embraced the universality of life - specifically, all living creatures."

Dr. Schweitzer's most important and lasting legacy is his basic philosophy: Reverence for Life. From an early age, Schweitzer was sensitive to the plight of the animals of the late 1800's. As a child, when he said his prayers each night, he added his own words, "Oh, heavenly Father, protect and bless all things that have breath; guard them from all evil, and let them sleep in peace." He went out of his way to protect and defend animals of all species.

"Dr. Schweitzer grappled with the paradoxes of the man-animal-nature relationship as no philosopher had done before." His philosophy resulted in the enlightenment of attitudes, which led to the passage of laws protecting animal rights in many venues, to include the humane treatment of slaughter animals and laboratory animals.

Schweitzer had a huge following around the world. Many organizations, such as schools, hospitals, and humane societies, to name a few, were formed and dedicated to keeping Schweitzer's spirit and philosophies alive. Although Dr. Schweitzer had a broad base of philosophical ideas and beliefs, this paper will focus on his feelings on the man-animal bond.

In researching the life and times of Albert Schweitzer, I found particular sympathy and feeling in the book, *Animals, Nature & Albert Schweitzer*, edited by Ann Cottrell Free. The book explores Schweitzer's life through his love of animals and also includes an in-depth analysis of his basic philosophy and how it relates to his feelings about animals and nature. He felt that western ethics had been largely limited to the relationships between men and that it was important to have ethics which also included the animals.

Schweitzer had strong feelings that the 17th century philosopher, Rene Descartes, had greatly damaged our ethics with regard to animals and nature. He said, "It would seem as if Descartes with his theory that animals have no souls and are mere machines had bewitched all philosophy." He went on to say that Descartes' philosophy, "I think, therefore, I am", was too abstract and not useful in the real world. Schweitzer felt that one must proceed in the most basic and direct way to, "I am life that wills to live in the midst of life that wills to live."

Schweitzer's philosophy of Reverence for Life, at first glance, may seem too general to provide an ethic to truly live by, but he felt that the ethic of Reverence for Life was the ethic of love, widened into universality. His philosophy keeps us watching for ways to bring about relief and to compensate for the misery that man inflicts on animals.

In his life, he carried out the "law of necessity" in his dealings with the wild animals of French Equatorial Africa. He felt that, to cause injury or death to any kind of life, he had to be quite certain it was necessary. Schweitzer said that, "To the man that is truly ethical, all life is sacred, including that which from the human point of view seems lower in the scale." It falls to man to decide which of two lives must be sacrificed in order to preserve the other and that man bears the responsibility for the life which is sacrificed. Dr. Schweitzer lived his philosophy every day of his life. When called upon to make a life or death decision, he always considered each case separately, always hoping that the continuation of life could be justified.

Schweitzer felt strongly that we must never be callous about the taking of life and that, through a reverence for life; we should feel the consequences of our action more strongly and profoundly. In keeping with his philosophy for killing only for necessity, he abhorred hunting for sport and felt that animals should be killed only if they were destructive to man and crops, and that they must be killed quickly and humanely. He asked, "When will we reach the point that hunting, the pleasure of killing animals for sport, will be regarded as a mental aberration? We must reach the point that killing for sport will be felt as a disgrace to our civilization."

For Dr. Schweitzer, life without animals was barely worth living. He spent his life surrounded by a variety of tame "wild" animals: antelopes, monkeys, chimpanzees, birds and the more traditional dogs and cats. One of his favorite pets was a pelican named Parsifal. He wrote a small children's book about Parsifal, in which the pelican tells his life story.

Dr. Schweitzer's philosophy extended to the plant kingdom as well. He abhorred the planting of flower gardens, because he didn't want to harm the plants by cutting them to bring them inside. When building roads, he was also known to transplant entire groves of palm trees so that they could continue living. When constructing buildings in his hospital compound, he was always careful to avoid injury to any small creatures that may have been harmed by the construction process.

He stated his philosophy in a variety of ways. One story involved a tree that grows, bears fruit and, after a certain time, it ceases to bear, withers and dies. This is a problem of roots that were not sunk deep enough. He felt that humanity has the same problem: our roots are not deep enough. He writes, "It [humanity] has not found sustenance and fresh impetus, because the ethical code on which it was based was too narrow and didn't have a deep enough foundation." Our ethics have given only cursory attention to our relationship with other living beings and, in so doing, has put down shallow roots in our humanity. Dr. Schweitzer continues, "For only if we have an ethical attitude in our thinking about all living creatures does our humanity have deep roots and a rich flowering that cannot wither."

I find Albert Schweitzer's philosophy to be a refreshing note of sanity in an insane world. I marvel at the diversity of the philosophical views within his basic philosophy: Reverence for Life. Dr. Schweitzer's philosophy is neither right nor left wing; it fits right in the middle of how life "should" be lived. I feel that, if all of humanity lived by Schweitzer's simple belief, the world would truly be a better place. What if we all lived with a reverence for each other, for each living creature? If we, on the whole, had greater concern for the well-being of each individual on Planet Earth, there would be less fighting and suffering, and greater effort expended on pursuits that would lead to love, peace and harmony among people of all cultures, all races.

Dr. Schweitzer's view on euthanasia, or mercy killing as he calls it, is also a philosophy that I can embrace wholeheartedly. Schweitzer believed in euthanasia. He stated that, "to put an end by mercy killing to the suffering of a creature, when that suffering cannot be alleviated, is more ethical than to stand aloof from it."

What could be more humane than to end suffering that could not be alleviated? Many "humaniacs" (my word for people who believe that life should be preserved at all costs) believe there is no reason for euthanasia of animals, regardless of the degree of neglect, pain and suffering.

Having been involved with animals in some capacity for my entire life, I've seen the suffering and neglect endured by many of our animal friends. One incident in which I had to make a decision to end suffering and pain involved my beloved dog, Kesia. Kesia had a problem with swallowing, but it was intermittent. I had taken her to veterinarians numerous times, and their diagnosis was always the same: "There is nothing wrong." At times, Kesia would start to swallow convulsively, and then chew and swallow indiscriminately. This extended to the corners of blankets, articles of clothing, and other inappropriate items, during the episodes described above. Finally, when she was nine years old, my roommate Rhonda traveled with her by train to my sister, who, at the time, operated a veterinary hospital in Wisconsin. My sister performed an endoscopic examination of Kesia's throat and found that her entire throat and larynx were deeply cancerous and very painful. A flap of cancerous tissue was closing her throat, which caused the convulsive swallowing episodes, and it was her attempts to push that flap of cancerous tissue down that caused her to eat the inappropriate things. My poor girl! The three of us made the decision to put her to sleep immediately while she was still under anesthesia from the procedure. Was it the right decision, the humane decision? I have to believe that it was. It is my belief that reverence for life does not relieve me of my responsibility to end suffering.

I greatly admire Dr. Schweitzer for the effect he had on the development of the Animal Welfare laws of today. In 1966, the Laboratory Animal Welfare Act was enacted, albeit without the specific pain reduction measures that Dr. Schweitzer endorsed. Amended three times in 15 years and now called the Animal Welfare Act, it primarily regulates acquisition and care of selected species of animals. Humane groups still lobby for stronger pain reduction regulation and the discontinuation of the use of laboratory animals, but it was Schweitzer's beliefs that made these kinds of laws a reality. Many Animal Welfare societies worldwide were created following Schweitzer's philosophy. People saw Schweitzer as a leader and spokesperson for animal welfare and, thus, others were able to pick up the ball and work for the more humane treatment of the animals of the world. A Schweitzer medal was cast in 1954 by the Animal Welfare Institute that included one of his outstanding quotes, "We need a boundless ethics which will include the animals also." The medal has been awarded almost every year thereafter for outstanding service to animals.

Albert Schweitzer died at Lambarene on September 4, 1965, at age 90. He knew on his death that, by answering the questions he asked as a young boy, he had given guidance to those whose hearts were hurt by the suffering of animals and the destruction of nature.

Then & Now

Dayyat 'n shat-ehad, CGC, TT, Therapy Dog

(Ch. Yaris X Ch Dazol In Chenan)

bred by Ursula & Reinhard Arnold, Lindenfels Germany

Date of Birth: July 13, 1990 & still going strong!



His sire & dam

Left: Yaris (Imp. Niger)

Right: Dazol In Chenan (Imp. Mali)

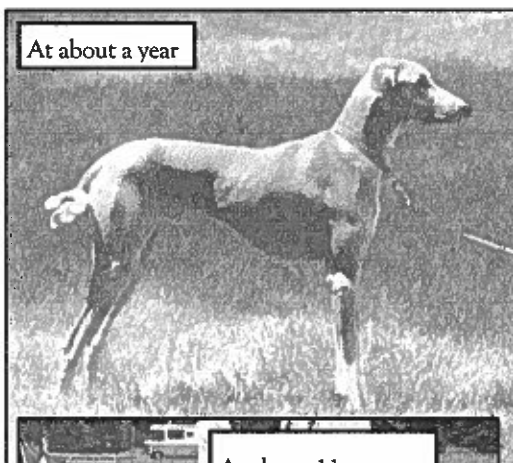
Both imported by Ursula & Reinhard Arnold



At six weeks in Germany



At about a year



At about 11 years



Dayyat was the first CGC, TT, Therapy dog in the US. He was the sire of the Kel Simoon C & D litters. Dayyat competed in the first ASFA field trial where Azawakhs were recognized to run and participated in the ASFA International Invitational where the Azawakh was the official test dog prior to recognition. An injury ended his official coursing career, but he still enjoys a short practice from time to time



Winning Best Veteran at the specialty—about 9 years

At coursing practice—11 years

