

# *The Azawakh Aegis*

*Winter 1999/2000*

*A publication of the American Azawakh Association*



*This issue dedicated to rescue dogs everywhere*

# The Azawakh Aegis

EDITOR: Deb Kidwell

Winter 1999/2000

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### **Features:**

- Points of High Priority in Judging Azawakhs by Herman Burk, FCI Judge, reprinted from the Azawakh Aegis 1993
- You Get the Dog You Deserve!!! or (how I ended up with a pack of spoiled brats), by Susan Sills, reprinted from the Azawakhs Aegis 1993
- In a Class of Their Own: Aggressive dogs learn social skills in "Growl" or "Difficult Dog" classes. reprinted from Feb. 99, The Whole Dog Journal

### **BRAGS & NEWS**

Roster of Members/Subscribers

The next issue of the Aegis will be Spring 2000. Deadline for advertising is March 1, 2000. The AAA welcomes articles from it's members. The Editor reserves 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 the person's identity obvious. Reproduction of contents may be reprinted with permission of the Editor. Send all articles and advertising to: Deb Kidwell, 30083 Rows Mill Rd, Rhoadesville, VA 22542 or email to: [dayyat@aol.com](mailto:dayyat@aol.com). Phone: 540/854-8431 or FAX: 540/854-0796. Subscriptions to Aegis are available to the public for \$10/year domestic or \$20/year foreign. Subscribers in foreign countries, please remit in US equivalent international money order or check from a US bank. Make checks payable to: AAA and send to Chris Ratke, Treasurer,

#### Advertising Rates

Front cover - (color) with 1/2 page print inside newsletter - \$100

Back cover - (color) with 1/2 page print inside newsletter - \$75

Full page - (color) inside newsletter - \$50

Full page - (B&W) - \$35

Half page - (B&W) - \$25

Quarter page - (B&W) - \$15

Litterbox Ad (Approx. 5 lines) - \$5

General Advertising (5 lines) - \$5

Please submit your ads ready to copy or at least give a rough estimate of how you want it to appear. Please print clearly or type your copy. Deadline for advertising is two weeks prior to the publication of Aegis (ie., 1 September for 15 September issue). Payment for ad must accompany the ad copy. Make checks payable to the AAA. Send ads to: Deb

Kidwell, Editor, 30083 Rows Mill Road, Rhoadesville, VA 22542. Ads may also be sent by email to: [dayyat@aol.com](mailto:dayyat@aol.com). Payment for ad must be received before publication will occur.

**Editor's Note:** Well, it's been quite a while since the last issue of Aegis and even with all that time, I've not received a single submission, brag, or ad from any members/subscribers. The only thing I've gotten in all that time is the minutes to the club meeting and pictures of the winning dogs. What would you all like to see in this newsletter? Any ideas would be greatly appreciated.



Sunset over the Sahel

Niger, Africa

Photo by Reinhard Arnold

Dogs are our link to paradise. They don't know evil or jealousy or discontent. To sit with a dog on a hillside on a glorious afternoon is to be back in Eden, where doing nothing was not boring - it was peace.  
-- Milan Kundera

**American Azawakh Association  
General Membership Meeting  
Wednesday, July 28th, 1999  
At Ryon Park, Lompoc, CA**

**Minutes**

**Call to Order:** Gisela Cook-Schmidt, board member, called the meeting to order at 3.30 pm. The meeting was held at Ryon Park after completion of judging of the Rare Sighthound Specialties Show. She welcomed members as well as other guests and thanked Luzia Rock for volunteering to write the minutes of this meeting.

**Officers Present:** Bonnie Saher, Gisela Cook-Schmidt

**Officers Not Present:** Sean McMichael, Christine Ratke, Andy Meier, Nancy Newton

**Also Present:** Jack McGuffin, chairman for the Rare Sighthound Specialties Show, Janis Hannigan, Mr. Saher, Norma Spivey, Jennifer Sheik, Luzia and Bill Rock

**General Discussion: Old Business**

After introductory remarks, Bonnie Saher discussed the question of the „Breed Standard of the Azawakhs“. This is an ongoing issue, no official standard has been worked out yet. It was thought that Deb Kidwell will send a copy of translation regarding the „Standard“ to the president. It should be AKC desired according to their guidelines. Who has done anything in this regard as of yet? What happened to the committee to get the „Standard“ finalized ? Bonnie Saher will get in touch with Andy Meier who wanted to participate on this committee. Jack McGuffin mentioned to use the UKC standard's old version as the base.

**New Business:**

Gisela Cook-Schmidt suggests:

°The next annual members meeting should be held in St.Louis, Mo and not on the East or West Coast, to facilitate attendance.

°A nominating committee should be established for the slate of new officers by Chris Ratke. The nominating committee should then send out post-cards or e-mail for suggestions.

°Sean McMichael has not yet properly transferred the authority to Chris Ratke to write checks.

°How do we raise money for the Azawakh newsletter ? Deb Kidwell has to use her own funds for the Aegis and this should not be the case that our editor has to use her own money. Bonnie Saher will call Sean McMichael in this regard.

°It was suggested that more activity in the coursing events should take place.

°The question was raised if we should have other meetings in between. Affirmatively, we should have more regional meetings in the West and the East.

°Jack McGuffin suggested that the reports of the officers be put into the newsletter.

°The Slughi Fanciers Association of America came out with a descriptive booklet of their breed. It was suggested that the American Azawakh Association should also establish a similar information book. Could we ask Debbie Kidwell to do it? Jennifer Sheik volunteered to help with it.

°Our Membership List needs updating.

°Jennifer Sheik needs application for membership in the society.

°Norma Spivey needs information of interested people who want to buy puppies.

**Adjournment:**

Meeting adjourned at 4.10 pm.

## 1999 Annual Specialty Results



### **BOB - WindnSatin EZ Passage (Left)**

**BOW from BBE**

Dam: Int'l Ch Forty Thieves Aziza

Sire: Kel Simoon Azar

### **BOS - Wind n Satin Killian Red (right)**

Dam: National Ch.WindnSatin Magic Mirth

Sire: WindnSatin EZ Runner

People look for a reflection of their own personalities or the person they dream of being in the eyes of an animal companion. That is the reason I sometimes look into the face of my dog Stan and see wistful sadness and existential angst, when all he is actually doing is slowly scanning the ceiling for flies.

--Merrill Markoe

## When Can You be Considered an Experienced Breeder?

How many litters does a breeder have to have before being considered an experienced breeder?

They should have bred at least one good litter that they can brag on. This will gain them credibility.

They should have had at least one litter that looked great on paper, but turned out to be a disaster. This will teach humility.

They should have held (God forbid) at least one deformed puppy and wept as it slipped into the calm, silent quiet of death. This will provide the heart to be very careful to do everything possible to not see it again.

They should have studied the lines and the traits and the greats and the problems each has produced and read all the books they can get their hands on. This will give them knowledge.

Last of all, they should consult the greats in the breed and never, never consider themselves to be experienced breeders. They are then - possibly, experienced breeders.

Author unknown

You can say any fool thing to a dog, and the dog will give you this look that says, "My God, you're RIGHT! I NEVER would have thought of that!"

--Dave Berry



American Azawakh Association, Inc.  
Application For Membership

\*\*\*For Club Use Only\*\*\*

\* \_\_\_\_\_ \*

\*Received \_\_\_\_\_ \*

\*Published \_\_\_\_\_ \*

\*Approved \_\_\_\_\_ \*

Please type or print in ink.

Mr/Mrs/Ms \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: Home \_\_\_\_\_ Business \_\_\_\_\_

Endorser Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
(AAA Member) Telephone Number: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Endorser Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
(AAA Member) Telephone Number: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

I HEREBY AGREE TO ABIDE BY THE CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF THE AMERICAN AZAWAKH ASSOCIATION, INC. AND CODE OF ETHICS. I FURTHER AGREE TO SUPPORT THE CLUB'S ACTIVITIES WHEN POSSIBLE AND TO PROTECT AND PROMOTE THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE AZAWAKH.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Applicant Date

Return completed application, letters of recommendation from each endorser, and signed copy of the AAA Code of Ethics, together with check/money order for first years dues to:

AAA, P.O. Box 312, Thornburg, VA 22565-0312

Please make checks payable to: American Azawakh Association, Inc.

Dues: Single Full Member: \$20.00/year domestic \$30.00/year foreign  
Junior member: \$5.00/year domestic \$10.00/year foreign  
Associate Member: \$15.00/year domestic \$25.00/year foreign

Junior and Associate members do not require member endorsements and carry no voting privileges.

\*\*\*\*\*  
Optional information which could be helpful to the club.  
\*\*\*\*\*

1. I currently own the following Azawakhs:  
Name/Names: \_\_\_\_\_
2. I offer the following: \_\_\_\_\_ Stud Service \_\_\_\_\_ Puppy sales \_\_\_\_\_ Adult sales
3. I am currently a member of the following breed club/s: \_\_\_\_\_
4. I would be willing to assist the club in the following activity areas:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS FREQUENTLY ASKED ABOUT AZAWAKHS



### What kind of dog is that?

The elegant, graceful animal you are inquiring about is an Azawakh (pronounced Oz-a-wok). It is a unique type of sighthound that is also an impressive guard dog

### Do they all look like that?

Azawakhs are elegant, tall dogs of proud bearing. Lean and muscular of frame, their appearance should indicate swiftness when running. He should be longer of leg than of body, which may seem extreme when compared with other sighthounds. His neck is long and graceful, his head held high when alert. His tail is proudly carried above the line of the back. The breed has pendant ears which are raised to the side of the head in response to sounds. Their movement is spectacular to watch. At the trot, they are light and graceful; at the gallop, they cover ground in great strides. Males range from 25-29 inches in height, females, 23 1/2 - 27 1/2 inches. The short, smooth coat comes in a variety of colors to include, clear sand to dark red, white, black, blue, gray, brindle, grizzle, parti-color and all shades of brown including chocolate. The overall impression is that of speed, power and majesty.

### Where do they come from?

Because their discovery by the "dog fancy" has been so recent, it is easy to trace their migration to America. An African sighthound, the breed originated in Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso. Raised in the Sahel region of the Sahara desert, they are named for the Azawakh valley. Azawakh means "land of the north". They are the guardians, hunters and companions of the Tuareg and other ethnic tribes of the southern Sahel. The breed was first imported to Yugoslavia in the early 1970's by Dr Picar, a Yugoslavian diplomat

stationed in Burkina Faso. The dogs could not be bought, however, Dr Picar received his male as a gift from the nomads. He later bartered his services as a hunter, by killing a bull elephant who had been terrorizing the tribe, in exchange for a female Azawakh. The French military and civil servants also played a significant role in exporting the Azawakhs to Europe.

The Azawakh made its debut in America in the mid 1980's. The first litter was whelped on October 31, 1987. These first American Azawakhs were all red or fawn with white markings. The first brindles came to America in 1989, with the first brindle litter whelped November 27, 1990. In the mid 90's, a parti-color male was imported from Burkina Faso and in 1997, a mixed parti-color and sand litter which was bred in Mali, was whelped in Alaska. It is hoped that an even larger selection of colors will find their way to the U.S. from Africa in the near future.

### Can they be shown?

The Azawakh has a show history that begins very soon after its original importation. They were first shown in the early 1970's under FCI rules as a variety of Sloughis. On January 1, 1981, they were accepted as a bonafide breed and were referred to as "Sloughi-Azawakhs". In 1986, the Azawakh was finally recognized for the unique animal it is, when FCI dropped the word "Sloughi" from the name. In America, the Azawakh is recognized by the United Kennel Club (UKC), the International All Breed Kennel Club of America (IABKCA), the American Rare Breed Association and many other smaller registries. The American Azawakh Association is the parent club for the breed in the US. Although the AAA doesn't recognize the FCI Standard for the breed because of its color limitations, the dogs can be shown in any FCI recognized country under FCI rules which allow only cream to red and brindle, with all other colors disqualified. Their history as show dogs is in its infancy, but their natural regal presence demands recognition.

### What are their temperaments like?

When discussing the temperament of an Azawakh, consideration should be given to individual personalities and contributing backgrounds, both genetic and environmental. However, there are several general characteristics common to the breed. Described in Dog World as a "warrior class dog" and by a new puppy owner as a "Basenji on stilts", they have the intelligence and heart to protect. When approached on his own turf, he is very vocally intimidating. In situations where their duty as guardian



isn't necessary, their reactions may range from friendly, to mildly curious to arrogantly indifferent. Although generally not outgoing, several in the US have found the opportunity to make social contributions as therapy dogs in nursing homes and rehabilitation centers. They seem to possess an uncanny combination of total loyalty and independence. Each new situation presents the potential for the struggle between the dog's natural desire to please and his prideful desire to do things his own way. A firm, fair hand is called for. Properly socialized and trained, the Azawakh will live harmoniously within the family and community.



#### **How do they do with children?**

No one can predict the individual personalities of all dogs in any breed. There are some situations which should be avoided with guard dogs of any breed. Children playing together sometimes squabble. It is natural for a guard dog to protect "his" children from their playmates. Azawakhs, being spirited family participants, freely volunteer their assistance when another family member is being disciplined. This unexpected "assistance" can be frightening for everyone. There are individual dogs of all breeds which do not like children. The Azawakh, as a breed, with care given to the situations mentioned, should fit well into any family structure.

#### **What about other pets?**

Much discussion has been given to the guardiness of the Azawakh, but here we must remember that this is a sighthound. As a rule, they seem to accept other dogs, though sometimes grudgingly, as protected members of their own pack. Many less "gamey" dogs do well with an indoor cat, however, bets should not be placed on the chances of a cat in the yard or the neighbor's Pomeranian. Because comparatively few generations have been removed from the need to hunt daily for personal and family survival, the hunting instinct is very strong in this breed. Another point to mention is that the Azawakh is a very dominant breed. Within a household pack, they will

almost always aspire to the alpha dog position. If there is an existing dominant dog in the pack, this can sometimes cause conflict within the pack.



#### **Can they race or lure course?**

The present status of the Azawakh in America is a source of frustration for owners interested in lure coursing. The breed is extensively coursed and raced in other countries, however, in the U.S they are not officially recognized by the American Sighthound Field Association (ASFA). Since 1996, the breed has been able to lure course under the auspices of the ASFA in the Miscellaneous Stake. However, the Miscellaneous Stake is unable to compete for Best of Breed and Best in Field. Points towards a Field Championship are not tabulated by ASFA and Field Championships are not awarded to breeds running in the Miscellaneous Stake. It is the hope that by the year 2000, the breed will be fully recognized by ASFA and will be allowed to compete in regular stakes for its breed. The Azawakh is recognized by the National Open Field Coursing Association (NOFCA) for open field coursing in the midwest portion of the US as a rare breed.

There have also been supportive offers made by some National Oval Track Racing Association (NOTRA) members.

#### **Is there a breed club for Azawakhs in the U.S.?**

The American Azawakh Association, Inc. (AAA) is the parent club for the Azawakh. The AAA was founded on February 7, 1988 with the goals of promoting the pure Azawakh and guaranteeing the breed a permanent future in the U.S. Further information may be obtained by writing to the American Azawakh Association,

The club publishes a quarterly newsletter, *The Azawakh Aegis*, which is available by subscription to interested persons.

## A Special Story



### From a book , "For Every Dog an Angel" by Christine Davis

Whenever a puppy is born on earth, a guardian angel waits nearby to welcome the puppy into the world and take it under her heavenly wings.

The guardian angel makes herself very small and snuggles in close to the soft, warm fur, telling her puppy how much it is loved and that it has come into the world for a special purpose. Even though the puppy's eyes are closed, it feels the fluttering wings by its heart and knows its guardian angel is there.

All puppies come into the world with unique gifts. As time passes and the puppy grows, the guardian angel helps her puppy to understand what makes it so very special. Whether they are destined to become fast runners, soulful singers or peaceful sleepers, each puppy is perfect and the angel loves it just the way it is.

The day comes when the puppy must go into the world and start traveling down its own special path. Sometimes, the path leads to a loving home, where a family is waiting to take their new four-legged friend into their hearts.

And the guardian angel is happy, knowing her dog will always have friends to play with, bones to chew on and someone to cuddle up next to at night.

Angels like to visit when their dogs are dreaming. You may have seen a dog's paw moving while it is asleep. Perhaps it is on a high hill in a faraway place, dancing with its guardian angel. All dogs bring the gift of love to the world. In that way they are very much like angels. Dogs will share their love with anyone. They don't ask for anything in return. But if someone takes a moment to scratch a dog under its chin or tell a dog how special it is, you can be sure its guardian angel is smiling.

From time to time, when a certain person and a certain dog meet, something happens that is just like magic! It is as if they have

known each other before. Each knows what the other is thinking and feeling. They will be together always. And the two with love, knowing their dog has found its forever person and the person has found its forever dog.

A forever person and their forever dog will share many experiences over a lifetime, like listening to favorite stories and taking vacations together.

They will watch hundreds of sunsets from up on the hill. But the greatest gift these friends will share is knowing what is in the other's heart. Side by side, looking up at the sky on a stary night, a forever person and their forever dog will share all the secret hopes and dreams that are only told to a very best friend.

A dog can never really be separated from its forever person. Neither time nor space can ever come between them. So when the dog comes to the end of its earthly life, and must go on ahead without its person beside them, the guardian angel becomes a loving bridge that connects the two friends for as long as the person remains on earth. Sometimes dogs will cross the angel bridge and visit the earth while they are waiting for their forever person to join them. You can never be certain where they might turn up. You may feel four paws padding along next to you when you are in the park. Listen carefully, and you might hear a familiar voice joinig in when you go holiday caroling. So if you see the blanket rumple softly after you've curled up for an afternoon nap, it's every possible your forever dog has come back to visit and is napping beside you.

Nothing brings your forever dog more joy than knowing you are happy, even if that means bringing a new dog companion into your life. Your forever dog lovingly remembers the special place it had in your life on earth, and is delighted to know another dog will get to share all the love you have to offer.

Your forever dog may even come back and help your new dog discover the best spots for burying bones and show them where to watch for your return at the end of the day. So don't be surprised to see your new dog racing through the house as if it's playing with an invisible friend....it probably is.

As the years go by you and your dog may find yourselves going more slowly as you take your daily walks. The time may come when your dog leaves your side and crosses the bridge to be with your forever dog. In fact, there may be many animals who will share your life during the time you are here on earth.

One day, the angel bridge that your forever dog crossed so many years earlier will appear to you. And with the happy heart of a person who is going home, you will cross the bridge and find yourself welcomed by all the animal friends you made when you were on earth. In the middle of all that love, your forever dog will be waiting for you. It will be like the day you found each other on earth. You will know you have been together before, and nothing will ever separate you again. And the angels will be happy, knowing a forever person and their forever dog have found each other once more.

# **RESCUE, RESCUE, RESCUE**

For more than five years, there has been an Azawakh puppy mill in the state of Oregon. The original dogs were bought from kennels all over Europe and the US. Since the time that it was discovered that the dogs were, indeed, in a puppy mill, we have made a concerted effort to get all the dogs out. After five long years and many failed attempts, in late December '99, that mission was accomplished.

During Summer/Fall 99 donations were being accepted to create a "rescue fund" for these dogs. In an emergency Board meeting, the AAA voted to donate \$800 and to date we've received donations from many other people, but more is needed. I ask now that you open your hearts and pocketbooks to these dogs and help them start a new life. The address to send funds is listed at the end of this page.

First of all, we need money to get the dogs spayed/neutered and pay the expenses of upkeep, then we need PERMANANT LOVING HOMES for these dogs and money for shipping the dogs to these homes.

At present, there are five dogs needing homes. Below is a description of each dog, with pictures of some. At present, most of these dogs are spread over WA and OR in foster homes. It is imperative that we move these dogs as quickly as possible. The people who are fostering at present were the ones who helped us get the dogs out, but are not able to keep them long term.

**Please remember as I describe each dog, that these dogs lived in an outdoor pen all year round with no socialization and very little human interaction. Many are not housebroken and some are very afraid to trust people or be handled. Most, at this point, are crate trained/lead broke to some extent.**

**At the present time, rescue funds are running VERY low. We estimate \$1000-1500 more will be needed to meet expenses and get the dogs into acceptable homes. If every person in the club (who has not already donated) would give \$65-100, we would have enough to meet the expenses and see a happy ending to the sad story of these Azawakhs.**

**Please send all donations and requests for more information about the rescues to:**

**Deb Kidwell**

**30083 Rows Mill Road**

**Rhoadesville, VA 22542**

**email: [dayyat@aol.com](mailto:dayyat@aol.com)**

**phone: 540-854-8431, FAX: 540-854-0796**

**Here's a list of people who have dug deep and given money to support the rescue of these dogs. THANK YOU!**

## **American Azawakh Association**

**Lisa Pinto**

**Mary Childs**

**Andra Walters**

**Jack McGuffin**

**Deb Kidwell**

**Doug Koger**

**Sean McMichael**

**The people in the Swedish Azawakh club, to include:**

**Erika Tonder, Dan Hansson, Susannah Thyni, and Karin Hedberg**

**If I've accidentally omitted anyone, please forgive my poor memory.**