



Seward County Kennel Club

A CLUB FOR PERSONS INTERESTED IN DOGS AND THE SPORT OF DOGS.

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Information for the newsletter, including brags, needs to be submitted by the first week of the month to be included in the next newsletter. Please email submissions to the editor.

A DESIGNER DOG-MAKER REGRETS HIS CREATION



The inventor of the Labradoodle believe he created a Frankenstein.

I was in the lobby of a hotel in Toronto waiting to be picked up and taken to the venue where I was scheduled to give a talk. A well-dressed middle-aged woman was standing nearby with a sand-colored curly-haired dog. As I bent down to give the dog a friendly pat, she announced to me, "Molly is a purebred Labradoodle, just like the one that Jennifer Aniston has."

It amazes me how intelligent people can refer to an intentionally crossbred dog, such as the Labradoodle, as "purebred." The Labradoodle is a cross between the Labrador Retriever and the Poodle. It avoids the negative label of "mutt" or "mongrel" because it is a deliberate crossbreeding, and those who market such pups have come to refer to them as "designer dogs," a label designed to give them a hint of sophistication and elitism. There are many designer dogs now available and the majority involve crossbreeding Poodles with other breeds. Perhaps the earliest of these appeared in the 1950s, and it was the Cockapoo, a Cocker Spaniel/Poodle cross, which never achieved much popularity. Nowadays one can find a Goldendoodle (Golden Retriever/Poodle), Schnoodle (Miniature Schnauzer/Poodle), Cavoodles (Cavalier King Charles Spaniel/Poodle), Roodles (Rottweiler/Poodle), Yorkiepoo (Yorkshire Terrier/Poodle), Shihpoo (Shih Tzu/Poodle), Maltipoo (Maltese/Poodle), Poochon (Bichon Frise/Poodle), Lhasapoo (Lhasa Apso/Poodle) to name a few. Although there are other designer dog crosses, the Poodle is frequently entered into the

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NEXT MEETING Oct 18, 2018

Seward Civic Center 616 Bradford St, Seward, NE 68434

Board Meeting 7:00pm - General Meeting 7:30pm

mix in order to provide a non-shedding coat quality and a presumed hypoallergenic trait to the resultant pups.

I was fortunate enough to be able to interview Wally Conron a few years ago—the very man credited with the creation of the Labradoodle. Conron was the puppy breeding manager for the Royal Guide Dog Association of Australia in the 1980s when his boss set him a difficult task. A blind woman from Hawaii had written to ask if they could provide a guide dog that would not shed hair, because her husband was allergic to it. To quote Conron, “I said, ‘Oh yes, this will be a piece of cake. The Standard Poodle is a working dog; it doesn’t shed hair so it’ll be great.’ I tried 33 dogs in the course of three years and they all failed. They just didn’t make the grade as guide dogs. Meanwhile, the woman in Hawaii was getting older and my boss was getting on my back.”

Desperation drove Conron to consider an alternate course of action. The upshot was that he took his best female Labrador Retriever and mated it with a Standard Poodle. This resulted in a litter of three pups. With a long waiting list for people wishing to foster guide dog puppies, Conron was sure that he’d have no problem placing their three new crossbred dogs with a family to be trained and socialized before being enlisted in the guide dog program. Unfortunately, nobody would take them since everyone wanted a purebred dog. So that’s when Conron came up with the name Labradoodle. According to him, “I went to our PR team and said, ‘Go to the press and tell them we’ve invented a new dog, the Labradoodle.’ It was a gimmick, and it went worldwide. It worked—during the weeks that followed, our switchboard was inundated with calls from potential dog fostering homes, other guide-dog centres, vision-impaired people and people allergic to dog hair who wanted to know more about this ‘wonder dog.’”

Conron immediately discovered that since the Labradoodle is a hybrid and not a pure breed, the resulting puppies did not have consistently predictable characteristics. Although all Labradoodles have some common traits, their appearance, working-ability, and behavioral characteristics remain somewhat unpredictable. Even in the nature of their coat—the reason why the Poodle was originally part of the mix—there is lots of variability. Labradoodles’ coats can vary from wiry to soft, and they may be curly, wavy, or straight. Straight-coated Labradoodles are said to have “hair” coats, wavy-coated dogs have “fleece” coats, and curly-coated dogs have “wool” coats. Many Labradoodles do shed, although the coat usually sheds less and has less dog odor than that of a Labrador Retriever. In the Labradoodle, there is also no certainty that the dog will be hypoallergenic. Conrad

explains that the *raison d’être* for having these crosses in the first place was to prevent allergy symptoms, and that characteristic cannot be guaranteed by simply creating a Poodle cross. He complains, “This is what gets up my nose, if you’ll pardon the expression. When the pups were five-months old, we sent clippings and saliva over to Hawaii to be tested with this woman’s husband. Of the three pups, he was not allergic to one of them. In the next litter I had, there were 10 pups, but only three had non-allergenic coats. Now, people are breeding these dogs and selling them as non-allergenic, and they’re not even testing them!”

He continues his lament saying, “Get on the internet and verify it for yourself. All these backyard breeders have jumped on the bandwagon, and they’re crossing any kind of dog with a poodle. They’re selling them for more than a purebred is worth and they’re not going into the backgrounds of the parents of the dogs. There are so many poodle crosses having fits, problems with their eyes, hips and elbows, and a lot have epilepsy. There are a few ethical breeders, but very very few.

“I opened a Pandora’s box, that’s what I did. I released a Frankenstein. So many people are just breeding for the money. So many of these dogs have physical problems, and a lot of them are just crazy.

“You know that American president Obama announced he was thinking of getting a Labradoodle. So I wrote him a letter saying what the pitfalls were. I said ‘If you are going to buy a Labradoodle, check both of the parents, make sure they have a certificate. A lot of them are untrainable, and a lot of them are no good for people with allergies.’ I don’t know if he was listening to me but he didn’t get one in the end.

“Today I am internationally credited as the first person to breed the Labradoodle. People ask me ‘Aren’t you proud of yourself?’ I tell them ‘No! Not in the slightest.’ I’ve done so much harm to pure breeding and made so many charlatans quite rich. I wonder, in my retirement, whether we bred a designer dog—or a disaster!”

I finished my interview with him by asking if he has ever kept a Labradoodle as a pet. “No way!” he told me in a shocked tone of voice. “My dogs are Labrador Retrievers—Rocky and Jazz. I only ever bred 31 Labradoodles. I’m on a pension and live in a little shoebox flat. If I’d gone into breeding Labradoodles for a living, I’d be on easy street. But there was no way I’d do it. My conscience wouldn’t let me.”

*source: Stanley Coren PhD FRSC
2014 | psychologytoday.com*

If you would like to receive this newsletter via email, please contact Cindy Hill at cnolte2@yahoo.com

MEETING MINUTES

August 16, 2018 SCKC Board of Directors met at the Civic Center, attending were Tabitha Dvorak, Mary Bristol, Morgan Ehlers, Chris Corum, Tanya Williams and guest, Chris' mom, Eldeen.

Meeting was called to order by president, Tabitha Dvorak, at 7:10 pm.

President had no business to report.

Reporting for secretary was Tanya Williams, reading minutes which needed corrected as printed in newsletter. June 21 meeting was held at 4-H building for Dog Lovers Day and Rob Corum is a member. Mary motioned to accept minutes with corrections, Morgan second, motion carried.

Treasurer report was read and approved. Chris motioned to accept, Morgan second, motion carried.

Committees reporting:

Obedience: Summer classes had 3 KPT and 5 Basic. Fall classes will start Sept. 10, in the 4 H building at 6:30 pm. KPT is \$45.00, basic is \$50.00, any member will receive

\$5.00 discount. Chris motioned to use electronic ads @ \$40.00 in addition to the usual OB notices that are used by newspaper, Morgan second, motion carried.

Trophy: Tanya presented money saving feature for silver pieces by not using our club logo, which cost \$5.00 each, instead have Seward County Kennel Club written on these pieces for which there is no charge. All present were agreeable.

New business: Chris motioned to adopt the updated version of the constitution, which merely makes gender neutral reference and minor points clear, Morgan second, motion carried.

Tanya motioned to adjourn at 7:35 pm, Morgan second, motion carried.

Since no additional members came and all business was address at board meeting there was no regular meeting held.

Respectfully submitted by Tanya Williams

BRAGS!



Cindy Hill & Flint
NEW TITLE! Rally Novice B
Samoyed Club of America National 9-25-18
Judge: Mrs. Shirley A. Spall



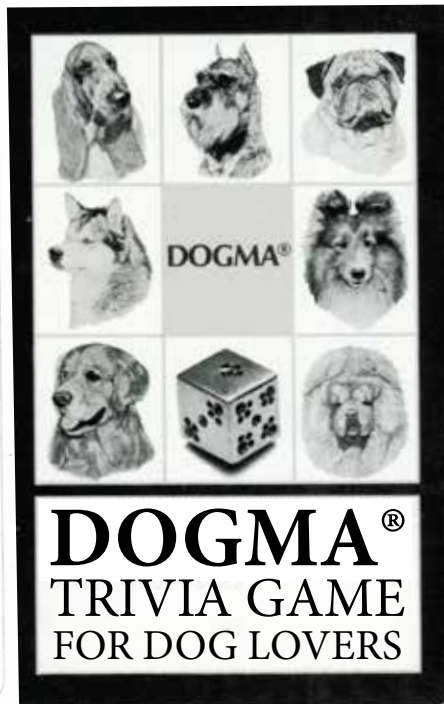
DO YOU NEED
TO REVIEW
YOUR RALLY
SIGNS?

JUST SEE
RYLEE!



Rylee is the niece of Morgan Ehlers.

1. A dog is said to be "cow-_____".
2. What breed is known as the coach dog?
3. A Spaniel or Retriever working off lead or loose is said to work _____.
4. Which AKC terrier is named for both coat and color?
5. What is the name of the St. Bernard accredited with saving 40 lives between 1800 and 1810?
6. What is the Belgian Sheepdog also known as?
 - a. dark angel of Belgium
 - b. Groenendael
 - c. Shepherd's soldier



1. In New York City's Central Park there is a statue of a sled dog. What was the dog's name?
2. What book by Jim Kjelgaard is about the wilderness adventures of a boy and his dog?
3. In what year was the first boxer registered by the AKC?
 - a. 1736
 - b. 1952
 - c. 1904
5. What is a Dutch fishing vessel used particularly in the herring fisheries called?
 - a. dogger
 - b. leash
 - c. whippet
6. Name 5 of the 7 groups of dogs recognized by the AKC.

Answers: Left card 1. cow-hocked 2. the Dalmation 3. non-slip 4. the Soft-Coated Wheaten Terrier 5. Barry 6. b. Right card 1. Balto 2. Big Red 3. c 5. a 6. Herding, Hound, Non-Sporting, Sporting, Terrier, Toy, Working. Did anyone notice 4 was missing from the Right Card? :)

Seward County Kennel Club

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