



AIREDALE TERRIER CLUB OF METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON, DC, Inc. *Newsletter*

www.airedales-dc.org

August 2024



ATCMW members with their dogs at the Brady memorial, Congressional Cemetery.

Club Officers

President	Bill Nelson
Vice President	Corally Burmaster
Secretary	Jackie Peebles
Recording Secretary	Elaine LaMontagne
Treasurer	Jeanne Esmond

Directors

Pam McKusick
Nancy Nykamp
Karl Broom
Jessica Rabin

Committee Chairs/Coordinators

Airedale Rescue	Pamela McKusick
Breeder Referral	Pamela McKusick
Newsletter	Jessica Rabin
Specialty Show	Corally Burmaster
Trophies	Mary Morningstar
Website	Karl Broom

Website: www.airedales-dc.org

The Club Objectives

- (a) To encourage those who breed Airedale Terriers to do so responsibly and with the welfare and improvement of the breed having highest priority.
- (b) To urge members and breeders to accept the standard of the breed as approved by the American Kennel Club as the only standard of perfection by which Airedale Terriers shall be judged.
- (c) To do all in its power to protect and advance the interests of the breed by encouraging sportsmanlike competition at dog shows and obedience trials.
- (d) To conduct sanctioned and licensed specialty shows under the rules of the American Kennel Club.
- (e) To institute and maintain programs which promote the welfare of individual Airedale Terriers through rescue and education, and through any other means which the Club considers helpful.

Newsletter Disclaimer: Newsletter articles are the views and opinions of the authors and are not official Club policy. Club policy is made only by motions passed by the Board or by the voting membership.

From the President

In my last Letter, I mentioned some of my past experiences with my terriers in dog sports including conformation, obedience, rally obedience, barn hunt, agility and FastCAT (100-yard lure chase). However, there are several new dog sports that the American Kennel Club (AKC) has started that have piqued my interest since they both involve fun activities with our canine companions.

The first new AKC program I would like to discuss is FIT DOG. There was a FIT DOG level I class held earlier this year from January 28 into March. The sessions were held virtually via Zoom and taught by Anne Hennessey, a certified AKC instructor. In the last class, we had three Airedales participate including ones owned by Corally Burmaster with Chaos, Debra Bohle with Justice, and Lynn Nelson with Alex. Other breeds participated with their owners including a Border Terrier (Jamie), an Irish Setter (Rogan), a Corgi (Hazel), and a Siberian Husky (Symon).

There are ten exercise behaviors tested in the Level I FIT DOG training program and the dogs must pass at least eight of the exercises. The good news was that many owners have trained some of these skills already with their dogs such as a tuck sit, nose touch, shake a paw (left and right), and cookie stretch to the left and right. Some new skills for some of our less experienced dogs were learned during the weekly training sessions including front paw targeting, spinning in a clockwise and counterclockwise circle, a fold back down, walking over 5-6 Caveletti poles, and pivoting on an object by having the dog move its rear legs. Since we were allowed to lure our dogs with treats, all of these new skills were relatively easy to train. As a result, all of our dogs passed the test of these behaviors and earned points towards a FIT DOG title.

We have invited Anne Hennessey, certified AKC FIT DOG instructor, to the next meeting of the Airedale Club at Frying Pan Park on September 14, 2024. She will discuss the various tests and exercises required for the different



Alex doing a "tuck sit."

FIT DOG titles and demonstrate some of these exercises with her dog. We are all welcome to practice with her.

The other new AKC event is called AKC Fetch. As the name implies, this program involves playing ball (fetching) with one's dog. While some breeds are natural retrievers, AKC Fetch is a pass-fail noncompetitive test designed for all breeds. It has four levels of titles: Novice, Intermediate, Advanced and Retriever. In the Advanced and Retriever levels, the dog must respond correctly to signals.

AKC Fetch is the newest AKC sport and I have not yet participated in it. It's certainly something to consider since it would involve a fun activity with my Alex and he already has some innate ability to fetch and retrieve things. However, I definitely need to work on having him hand the ball, stick, or other object back to me!

I look forward to seeing many of you at the next meeting on September 14, 2024 in Frying Pan Park, West Ox Road, Herndon, VA.

Best regards,

Bill Nelson

ATCMW President

SAVE THE DATE
FALL PICNIC MEETING
Frying Pan Park
September 14, 2024

A flyer will go out shortly with the details of our next meeting. It will be held at the popular Frying Pan Park, with lunch available from The Corner Bakery. Instructions for ordering your choice of lunch will be included in the flyer.

Two items of importance will be voted on. The first is our slate of officers for next year. The slate, as reported in an email to the entire membership is as follows:

Club Officers

President	Bill Nelson
Vice President	Corally Burmaster
Recording and Corresponding Secretary	Jackie Peebles
Recording Secretary	Elaine LaMontagne
Treasurer	Jeanne Esmond

Directors

Pam McKusick
Nancy Nykamp
Karl Broom
Tarry Faries
Deb Todhunter

The second item to be voted on will be proposed changes to the Constitution and By Laws that will streamline the running of the Club's business. All Club members will receive by email a copy of the Constitution and By Laws and the proposed changes so they can be aware of what the changes are!

Years ago I came across this wonderful article on a blog called *See Spot Grin*. I printed it out at the time because I felt that it was such a positive approach to what can absolutely become a sticky situation!

So many people don't have a clue about proper dog-dog greeting behavior, or even dog-people greeting behavior. Too many people allow their dogs to run right up to another dog, getting into the face and space of the other dog. It isn't just awkward or inconvenient. It can be frightening for a timid dog, and dangerous if the dog being approached is aggressive or defensive. And it is just plain RUDE. You wouldn't consider running up to complete strangers and greeting them by putting your hands on them or some other inappropriate behavior, so why would you believe that your dog should be allowed to do that?

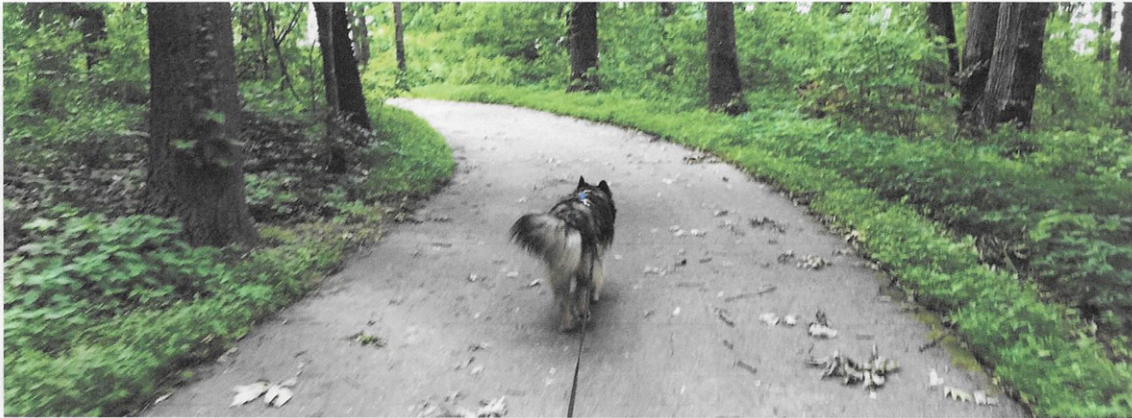
I reprint it here with the author's permission and approval.

Corally Burmaster

See Spot Grin

Is It Best to Stay Away?

June 05, 2019 / See Spot Grin / Cindy Knowlton



My dog Swift and I were enjoying our walk in the park this morning when I saw a man and his dog off in the distance, heading our way. As they got closer I noticed a very happy Doodle who was hoping to have an encounter with a new K9 buddy. I asked Swift to come to my side, shortened the leash and readied myself to ward off an overly exuberant dog and his enthusiastic person.

"Good morning," the man said. **"Is it best to stay away?"**



I stood gobsmacked, completely unprepared with an answer to THAT question. Then I smiled and said, "Yes. Thank you." And off we all went on our merry ways.

"Is it best to stay away?" What a brilliant question! It sets everyone up for success instead of conflict.

Hopefully people who walk their dogs looking for pooch playmates (or people without a dog who just want to say hi to yours) politely ask, "Can we say hello?" But this requires those who aren't interested in a canine social interaction for whatever reason to say NO, instantly creating an unspoken awkwardness between parties.

"Is it best to stay away?" takes conflict off the table because the Pooch Smoocher or Playmate Seeker gets the answer RIGHT. Bonus: the answer might actually result in an invitation for a social interaction with the dog!

Dog walkers not interested in a social interaction for their dogs do so for many reasons.

1. Their dog is reactive towards other dogs or people.
2. Their dog isn't particularly interested in socializing with other dogs or people.
3. Their dog is busy enjoying a good sniff.
4. They're in the middle of a training session.
5. The owner is simply looking for some quiet time with their dog.



For these folks "Can we say hello?" sets up the weird dynamic of having to defend their dog's right not to have a social encounter. **"Is it best to stay away?"** relieves that pressure and leaves the person feeling appreciative that their dog's needs were considered.



The next time you'd like to interact with someone else's dog try **"Is it best to stay away?"** It's a WIN/WIN for all involved.

Many thanks to the stranger and his super cute dog who took the time to ask this morning.

New Application for Membership*

Christopher Chappelle has applied for membership in the ATCMW and we will be voting on his application at our next meeting.

Chris lives in Maryland and has two Airedales. He has shown one of his Airedales to her Championship and is interested in Pet Training, Rescue, and Pet and Show Grooming. He recently whelped his first litter and has one puppy available.

* While recently reviewing the By Laws, I realized that they call for applicants for membership in the ATCMW be published in the newsletter prior to our next meeting. That will be the case going forward.

Corally Burmaster

Congressional Cemetery Tour, June 9, 2024

The American Kennel Club FIT DOG program is designed to provide a structure for dogs and their owners to be active together through titles. A core component of the FIT DOG program is walking with your dog. The Airedale Club of Metropolitan Washington DC sponsored a walk and tour of Congressional Cemetery on Sunday, June 9. Debo West joined us for the tour along with seven others along with their dogs including the following:

- **Juno** (Mary Morningstar)
- **Tucker** (Karen and Jeff Miller)
- **Huck** (Jeanne Esmond)
- **Alex** (Lynn Nelson)
- **Jamie** (Bill Nelson)
- **Kris** (Anne Hennessey)



The tour of Congressional Cemetery was very interesting, and we all learned some new facts about the cemetery and the people that are interred there. We didn't realize that the cemetery had been on the decline until a few years ago when some canine owners persuaded the trustees to allow dogs on the cemetery grounds, essentially turning it into a dog park every day except Saturdays. Fees are collected for the dog registrations and that source of revenue amounts to over a third of the cemetery's budget. As a result, the Cemetery now has enough funds to keep the grounds manicured and staffed to regulate entries to the grounds.

The cemetery is the resting place for many senators, U.S. Representatives including a former Speaker of the House, a Vice President, a Supreme Court Justice, and many veterans from every American War. Also interred there are other famous Americans including J. Edgar Hoover, John Phillip Sousa, Cokie Roberts, Mathew Brady and many others. The Matthew Brady memorial was quite extensive and included photos taken by Brady of the Civil War and notable celebrities. These are the etched in granite photos of some of Brady's more famous works, including some that were made into stamps and even the Lincoln penny!



Another person of note buried at the cemetery is Belva Ann Lockwood. I don't believe any of us on the tour ever heard of her, but the docent told us of that she played a major role as a women's rights pioneer. In the 19th century, she earned credits for a law degree at George Washington University but the administration would not give her the law degree she earned because she was a woman. She then appealed to Ulysses S. Grant, U.S. President at the time who happened to also be Chairman of the GWU Board of Trustees. Grant saw to it that she was given



the law degree that she had earned and went on further to force the DC Bar to admit her and later to allow her to practice law before the Supreme Court.

Belva Ann Lockwood then got involved in politics and eventually ran for President in 1840 and again in 1888. While women were not allowed to vote at that time, she did obtain an estimated 4100 votes, all from men of course. Furthermore, she received one-half of an electoral vote from Oregon. That was a bit of historical trivia that was quite a surprise to all of us.

We are considering other walking opportunities for the Club members and their canines. If you have any suggestions, feel free to submit them to me directly at bnelson@grf.org and I'll see if we can arrange it.

Bill Nelson

ATCMW President

Columbia Terrier Association of Maryland
ATCMW Specialty Show
April 19, 2024



Judge Allison Sunderman judging an entry at the ATCMW's Specialty Show



Best of Breed
CH BOBCAT STELLALUNA



Best of Opposite Sex
CH GLENROYAL HIGHLAND LAD OF HOLLYBRIAR



Winners Bitch and Best of Winners
TRAYMAR'S PEANUT BUTTER BANDIT



Winners Dog
TIERRA FOLLOW YOUR HEART SWN RATN CGC TKN



Mary Morningstar, Trophy Chairperson for the ATCMW, showed up bright and early to set up the trophy table!