



# Newsletter

## THE TAR HEEL BOXER CLUB OF GREATER RALEIGH

*For the Betterment of our Breed*

FEB/MAR 2008

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2007-2008

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### BETTER BREEDING

#### The Puppy Contract: Essential Groundwork

*by Arliss Paddock, Spring 2007 AKC Breeder Newsletter for Breeders reprinted with permission.*

A well-thought-out puppy sales contract is an important tool in ensuring the best future for the puppy you've so carefully bred. Whether you are creating a contract from scratch or improving an existing one, a good starting place is the advice of experienced breeders—in this case, three AKC Breeders of the Year—regarding some of the key issues.

Cathy Nelson, 2004 AKC Breeder of the Year, has been raising and showing Dandie Dinmont Terriers for more than 30 years. During that time, she's learned the value of a good sales contract in starting a puppy and its new owner off right. "I believe the healthiest way to view a puppy sales contract is not as a means of control, but as a way to clearly establish each party's expectations and responsibilities concerning the lifetime of the dog" she says. "The points in a contract serve as an educational tool. When all parties are clear and in agreement on these, this lays the groundwork for a long-term and mutually successful relationship, and establishes a safety net for the dog."

Clarifying expectations is especially important with novice owners, explains Belgian Tervuren breeder Janina Laurin, the 2002 AKC Herding Group Breeder of the Year. "I specifically find puppy contracts useful for first-time owners, to define expectations such as attending puppy classes, and establishing communication between myself and the buyer for the future."

#### Getting Started

The language of a puppy contract needn't be formal or legalistic, the key is to simply put into writing the important details and conditions regarding the sale of the pup, for the benefit of all involved.

"A good contract makes agreements clear to both parties, and helps you avoid any misunderstandings at a later date" says Miniature Schnauzer breeder Beverly Verna, who was the 2006 AKC Terrier Group Breeder of the Year.

## **DIRECTORS**

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**SHERRYL SHULTZ (1 YR)**

## **NEXT MEETING**

**MARCH 22, 2008**  
**SATURDAY-SHOW SITE**  
**General Meeting 3PM**  
**PICNIC TO FOLLOW**  
**AT APPRX. 4PM**  
**Bring your chairs to**  
**sit on!!!!**

**APRIL MEETING**  
April 13<sup>th</sup>-Board &  
General Meeting 1pm  
Regular location.

**MAY MEETING**  
May 18<sup>th</sup>  
Annual Election!!  
General Meeting 1pm

## **MEMBER NEWS**

Received e-mail from Julie Delaney hoping "all is well with everyone. We're all doing fine. Cherie is due to have puppies the week of February 11 by Bishop."

We got an updated e-mail address and phone number from Rachel Botts who was an active member until a move to Florida—we miss her!

A first step is to consider some of the basic elements that experienced breeders include in puppy contracts:

- .AKC identifying information and pedigree.
- .Full contact information for buyer and breeder.
- .Date of sale and price paid.
- .Health guarantee/warranty.
- .Spay/neuter requirements.
- .Expected care of the dog.
- .Conditions regarding return/rehoming of dog.
- .Showing/titling requirements.

### **Some Key Elements**

#### **A Healthy Outlook**

Coverage of health matters is a vital aspect of every puppy sale. The breeder should provide the new owner with their pup's complete health record, and most contracts guarantee that the puppy is healthy at the time of the sale. Many require that the new owner have the pup examined by their veterinarian soon after taking it home.

"My contract requires the new owners to have the dog examined by their veterinarian within 72 hours," says Nelson. "If a health issue is found, I am to be called by the owner and the veterinarian. I will take the dog back, treat it, and return it in a well condition, or return their money and keep the puppy. This is an important clause for several reasons," she explains. "It ensures that all parties know that the puppy was healthy at the time of transfer. Also, as my breed is not often seen, it ensures that the veterinarian recognizes some typical breed features as normal, rather than abnormal or unhealthy."

Many puppy contracts also include a warranty against serious health conditions or certain breed disqualifications. Along this line, the contract can require the owner to have the dog tested at an appropriate age for specific conditions that may affect the breed.

Verna's contract specifies that the owner must have the dog examined by a vet at least once a year. If a disease is diagnosed she must be notified immediately, and she has the right to have the dog seen by a vet of her choice for a second opinion.

"The value of this health guarantee is twofold," Verna explains, "One, it lets the buyer know that I am a caring breeder who is willing to back up her pups. Two, it ensures that I will be notified of any hereditary defects so I can alter my breeding program if necessary."

### **Spay/Neuter Requirements**

With the sale of a strictly pet pup, the breeder will have already discussed spaying or neutering with the potential owner as part of the screening process. "the point here is to discuss with the new owner the benefits of spaying a bitch not intended for breeding," says Nelson. "If suddenly there is some hemming and hawing about maybe wanting to have some puppies, it's time to rethink the sale."

Breeders often employ the AKC Limited Registration option for such pups, as well as requiring proof of spay/neuter," notes Verna. "This is important, because I feel it helps to protect the breed from unscrupulous people who might unknowingly produce dogs with genetic disease."



**MARCH 22, 2008**

**AT THE SHOW SITE AT THE NC STATE FAIRGROUNDS—LOOK FOR HARRY SANDERFORD OR BARRY & JUDY'S RV'S—WE WILL MEET AROUND THERE AT 3PM --- THEN THE PICNIC WILL BEGIN AROUND 4PM  
BRING YOUR CHAIRS AND MONEY FOR THE RAFFLE!!!!**

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*MEMBERS!!!*

*PLEASE DON'T FORGET TO E-MAIL DANCERDOG@AOL WITH ANY NEWS YOU WANT TO SHARE WITH THE MEMBERSHIP---  
THANKS, EDITOR*