

AKC Gazette
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F.J.PAGE

THE BCA extends its heartiest wishes for success in the coming year to all good Bulldogs and Bulldoggers.

The Club will start the New Year off toward that goal of happiness with a match show and dinner to be held on Sunday, Jan. 19 at Werdermann's Hall, 160 Third Avenue (just below 16th Street) New York City. George Foster, Absecon, N. J., will "hold Court" as judge starting at 2:00 that afternoon and Mrs. Sherman R. Hoyt has accepted the invitation to act as stewardess. Werdermann has promised his best dinners ranging from \$1.50 to \$2. per plate (by subscription) to be served at 6:00. The Club will do its usual best to make the occasion a memorable one for all who attend. Just one request on behalf of the B.C.A.- please send in your requests for dinner reservations early; it will be of great help to the committee, not to mention Werdermann in planning adequately for the comfortable accommodations which you and your guests deserve.

It is with regret that we hear that North Westchester has disbanded The well-known "N.W.K.C." has been a fixture in dog shows enjoyed by so many fanciers that it will be missed and fondly remembered by all. The B.C.A. held its Specialty with that club in June of '46 at which time North Westchester did every thing possible to help the Bulldog feel at home there. Thanks, North Westchester, and the best of everything to all of you man and dog alike.

For some time now, we (editorially speaking) have been conducting a completely unofficial and somewhat sporadic investigation into the highly controversial and much maligned question of Bulldog Standard. We find that most of the maligning comes from people who have a mistaken idea of what the Standard calls for. For instance, the following are almost verbatim comments gathered from various sources in conversations at Bulldog gatherings: "There are two kinds of backs- flat and roached" . . "A 'wheel-back' is a fault" . . . "Why does the Standard call for longer backs in bitches than it permits in dogs?" A 'screw tail' is permitted but a straight tail is preferred in the Standard" We could go on with several more quotations but believe that these are enough to convince most Bulldoggers that there is a crying need for some of us to take a few moments off and get acquainted with the official description of the breed we love.

When anyone corrects such a misstatement as any one of the above, the result is either an argument or an expression of amazement on the part of the corrected person-amazement at the profound knowledge of the one who is familiar with the Standard. It also results in absolute astonishment on our part at the fact that anyone showing or interested in Bulldogs could be so ignorant of what the Standard says about the breed.

The Bulldog has one of the most complete and clearly written descriptions of what should constitute a perfect specimen of the breed. It can be read in ten minutes. It can be studied in half an hour. It can be learned verbatim in a few hours.

People all over the world have secret formulas, private methods for various things, whether it be making atomic bombs or line-breeding Bulldogs, but there is nothing secret about the Standard of Excellence for any recognized breed of dogs-especially the Bulldog.

Understand that we do not bring up the matter of applying that Standard to individual animals. That is a matter of judging and implies a difference of opinion, which is the very essence of competitive endeavor in the ring, field, arena and race tracks. But the Bulldog Standard is a very definite description of what a Bulldog should look like and is easily available to everyone interested in the breed. It is a pleasure to discuss the qualities and contrast or compare "points" on different individual dogs but to make such a discussion sensible, it must be based upon an understanding of and familiarity with the ideal requirements for perfection. If the Standard should be changed, as some believe, that can be accomplished through the usual channels. It is not the purpose of this article to express an opinion on that subject. It is the sole purpose herein to urge that the present Standard be studied and understood to the extent that we are all familiar with every word in it, to the end that, when next we discuss Bulldogs in relation to the Standard, we will not open our mouths and put both feet into a spot behind the nine-ball (space behind the eight-ball is already over-subscribed!).

Some day, perhaps, a Bulldog, 100 percent perfect in the eyes of recognized authorities, may be bred. If so, may the owner show him at every opportunity- and with a placard bearing a copy of the Standard and Scale of Points. A new Standard could be written around him. Let us, meanwhile, at least read the present one.

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