



Airedale Terrier Club of Greater Philadelphia  
Allentown DTC  
Anthracite Brittany Club  
Berks County DTC  
Berks County Kennel Club  
Bernese Mt Dog Club of Watchung  
Borzo Club of Delaware Valley  
Bull Terrier Club of Philadelphia Inc.  
Butler County Kennel Club  
Butler Dog Training Association  
Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Club of  
Delaware Valley  
Central PA K9 Performance Club  
Colonial Rottweiler Club  
Dachshund Fanciers Assoc. of Berks County  
Dauphin Dog Training Club  
Delaware Valley Dalmatian Club  
Delaware Valley German Shepherd Dog Club  
Delaware Valley Havanese Club  
Delaware Valley Hound Assoc.  
Delaware Valley Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club  
Devon Dog Show Association  
Erie Kennel Club  
Greater Pittsburgh Golden Retriever Club  
Greater Valley Forge Rhodesian Ridgeback Club  
Harrisburg Kennel Club  
Hatboro Dog Club  
Inter-State Shetland Sheepdog Club of PA  
Kan-Do K9 Sports Association  
Kerry Blue Terrier Club of Greater Pittsburgh  
Lancaster Kennel Club  
Lebanon County Kennel Club  
Lehigh Valley Kennel Club  
Liberty English Cocker Spaniel Fanciers  
Lower Bucks Dog Training Club  
Middle Atlantic St Bernard Club  
Obedience Training Class of Harrisburg  
PA Sled Dog Club  
Penn Ridge Kennel Club  
Penn Treaty Kennel Club  
Penn-Dutch Great Pyrenees Club  
Poodle Club of the Lehigh Valley  
Schuylkill Valley German Shorthaired  
Pointer Club  
Siberian Husky Club of Delaware Valley  
South Eastern Keystone Chinese Shar-Pei Club  
Tioga County Kennel Club  
Tri State Dog Obedience Club  
Western PA Dachshund Club  
Williamsport Dog Training Club  
York County Dog Training Club

# Dogs are Barking About...

Pennsylvania Federation of Dog Clubs Newsletter

Volume I, 2023

## Legislative Report

Members of the Legislation Committee of the PFDC were invited to join the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau. This is a huge honor for us. The PFB is 80,000 strong across the Commonwealth and is the “go to” organization for all agricultural policies in the Commonwealth.

I have attended my County PFB meetings, and many things have occurred since then. I have spoken about and explained, particularly, Libre’s Law, which most were not aware that it affects all animals in Pennsylvania. I also spoke about other laws and introductions that would be coming back to haunt us in 2023.

I was extremely impressed with my County PFB organization, their outreach, their community involvement—including the possibility of becoming part of a radio talk show and the Ag Literacy committee that visits schools to educate young children about agriculture and its importance. They even have a “Chicken University” class, and certain farms are considered as Preservation Farms. (Sound familiar?) The participation of the members is also impressive.

Through the course of these meetings, I have been asked to sit on the PFB Policy

**Committee.** This committee works to submit the most important issues to Harrisburg and meets with them at the Capitol. I’ve also been asked to educate and act as advisor for our new area state representative, as well as township supervisors and a county commissioner. They are all PFB members. I am greatly honored and accepted the challenge for all requests. As most should know, it’s important to work with local commissioners and supervisors as well as the state politicians.

I have been introduced to a huge area of statewide resources, including, Congressional, House, and Senate representatives.

One of the township supervisors advised me that he has been asked to sit on a board being formed by the SPCA working to create a “shelter facility” in our county, which would obviously create “humane officers.” He requested that I participate in this board as his dog knowledge is minimal and he is only interested in animal welfare and working with real experts—not animal rights advocates. Several others have also asked for assistance with dog/animal issues. I look forward to this educational opportunity.

The PFDC Legislative Co-Chair, Jonathan Stanley, will be handling his County PFB matters in Eastern Pennsylvania, while I

## Legislative Report (continued)

continue to work in Western Pennsylvania. Jonathan is recovering from recent major heart surgery and will be up and running again very soon.

We are being given full support from our respective PFB counties and that will allow us to encompass other PFB counties throughout the state. I believe the term “clout” fits here!

The PFDC and the PFB are in absolute agreement that we all need to work together. It doesn't matter what animals you have, or if dog fanciers are a commercial facility or a show/hobby breeder. With continued introduction of more rules and regulations for us, and no regulations for animal rights groups, the time has come to fight back and fight back strong. ICAW, the Indiana Council for Animal Welfare, has used the animal rights tactics to fight back and the animal rights groups have been set back on their heels and ducking for cover.

Everybody needs to work together to be effective. Everybody should stop listening to the animal rights rhetoric that's been spoon fed to the public for many years only to enhance their treasury and destroy animal owners' rights, sports, and lives. Granted, there are those who are not up to standard, but many groups are taking control of their own. They are educating and helping those who are not in compliance. They are working with universities and vets, learning the true meaning of the difference between animal rights and animal welfare. We all need to be a part of that educational direction.

Dog fanciers, in particular, have professed for years that they are the real experts. Saying it and proving it are two different things. How would anybody know that you're an expert if you don't show them. Prove it to them. Be involved. Look around beyond your own back yard and speak up. Ask questions. Talk to your local representatives. You don't have to be involved in politics or like them—but you do have to make yourself known. Once you do, while providing factual experiences and knowledge, you'll begin to be recognized as an expert and will be able to assist in the continued protection of our rights and our animals.

And all of this is the beginning of ... Becoming the Expert.

Respectfully submitted,

*Linda D. Witouski and Jonathan Stanley*

Legislation Committee

Pennsylvania Federation of Dog Clubs

## Auditor's Report

I, Dianne Shuck, have completed a review of the records for the Pennsylvania Federation of Dog Clubs, Inc. My review includes income and expenses on the bank statements matching to what was provided on the check register. I also reviewed expense receipts that were provided to me, that show both the check register and the bank statements. This review includes the fiscal year starting September 1, 2017, and ended on March 31, 2022.

It is my opinion after this review that all records are in order that were provided to me. They were all kept in a timely and orderly manner with receipts attached for expenses and most of the income coming in by electronic transfer.

I would only make one suggestion after this review. I would suggest that deposits that are not made electronically would have deposit receipts, and maybe they do but I did not see that they were provided to me.

## Upcoming Events

From Harrisburg Kennel Club:

- March 3-4, 2023: Four (4) AKC Scent Work Trials, to be held at: St. Andrews in the Valley, Harrisburg, PA. Show Secretary: Scores-n-More ([www.scoresnmore.com](http://www.scoresnmore.com))
- April 12-16, 2023: Blue & Gray Cluster All-breed Dog Shows, Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg, PA. Show Secretary: Rau Dog Shows ([www.raudogshows.com](http://www.raudogshows.com))
  - ◇ Five days of special events include: 4-6 Month Puppy; National Owner Handled Series; FSS Open Shows; CGC & Trick Dog Tests
  - ◇ Saturday, April 15, 2023, 4:00 PM, Free Health Seminar: “Glaucoma in Canines” No registration is required but is limited to 60 seats. For more information, contact: Sandie Rolenaitis at email: [rodel@shibas.net](mailto:rodel@shibas.net)
  - ◇ Friday through Sunday, April 14-16, 2023: For Shiba Inu only, Free Gonioscopy Screenings. Pre-registration/scheduling required by April 8, 2023. Contact: Sandie Rolenaitis at email: [rodel@shibas.net](mailto:rodel@shibas.net)

From Dauphin Dog Training Club:

- ◇ Agility: 3 trials; info located at <http://dauphindog.org/trials.html>
- ◇ Obedience: Connie Cleveland Theory and Problem Solving Seminar.  
See <https://www.dauphindog.org/images/forms/clevelandseminar.pdf>

From Butler Dog Training Association:

- Spring Rally and Obedience Trials in Renfrew, PA, on April 28-30, 2023.
  - ◇ Friday: Two Rally Trials under judge Joanie Brobst. Rally entries limited to 50 runs per trial.
  - ◇ Saturday and Sunday: One Obedience Trial each day under judge David Brobst. Obedience entries limited to 8 hours each day.
- Premium can be found on our website: <https://butlerdogtraining.com>

From Obedience Training Class of Harrisburg:

- We at OTCH have multiple UKC conformation shows and trials as well as performance trials in the C-WAGS venue, plus training classes planned throughout the year.
- Full listings and premiums are at <https://www.otchpa.com/index.php/calendar>. Page is updated as new events are confirmed.

Some proposed dates for upcoming PFDC Board & Delegates meetings this year: 3/5 Board

- 5/7 Board
- 5/21 Delegates
- 7/9 Board
- 9/3 Board
- 9/16 Annual
- 10/8 Board
- 12/3 Board

## Board Member Profile: Lorraine Simmons

I have been showing dogs for 40 years. I started with Great Danes in 1976. Dachshunds became part of my life in 1980. I have owned smooths and longhairs over the years. I participate in Conformation, Field, Earth dog, Obedience, and Rally. There are five generations of Dual Champions in the “Stardox” line.

I have strived to promote correct structure as well as health and longevity. I owned and operated a boarding and grooming kennel for twenty-seven years. At the kennel and at all breed clubs, I taught Conformation handling classes to adults and juniors. I am currently teaching show handling classes at a local dog training club. I am a conformation judge for Dachshunds & Great Danes as well as a Dachshund field judge. In this capacity I strive to achieve fairness and integrity. I share my love of Dachshunds with my husband David.

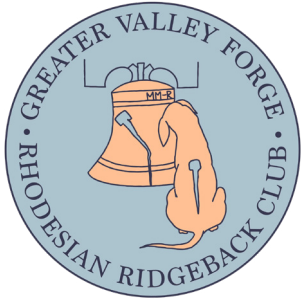
### Club Memberships, Positions and Committees:

- **Dachshund Club of America:** Member 30 years, former (DCA Region 6 Chair) - 3 years, former (DCA National Region Chair) -2 years.
- **Dachshund Club Of New Jersey:** Member 32 years, Current board member, past President (8 years). As a working committee member, I secure the grounds, and judges for DCNJ Field trials.
- **Dachshund Fanciers Association of Berks County:** Member, 10 years. (Chair - conformation Judges selection committee), Chair- (By Laws committee). Field Trial committee member. I secure the judges and grounds for DFABC field trials.
- **Great Dane Club of America** - Member 30 years.
- **Great Dane Club of PA.:** 10 years, former working member.
- **New Brunswick Kennel Club NJ:** Member 20 years. Currently, (Show Catalog Advertising Chair), and serving on the nomination committee for 2021.
- **DCA 2021 National:** Earth Dog Committee- (coordinated the food and grounds on my property for hosting the National Earth Dog). Field Trial Committee- (coordinated the meals and securing the grounds for the National Field Trial).

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## Board Member Profile: Judy Swanson

I have been active in dogs for 20 years. I have shown in conformation and bred English Toy Spaniels. I am an active member of the National English Toy Spaniel Club as well as the Western Pennsylvania Club. I have held the position of President of a club in California and also serve as a board member of the New England club. I have had a female who won best of opposite sex in the breed competition at Westminster and a female who won best of opposite sex as a Veteran at The National Specialty. I will always remember those wins as if they happened yesterday. I currently have two English Toy Spaniels, one of which is 15 years old. Currently, I am showing in conformation a Japanese Chin who needs one major for his championship. I am Membership Chair, board member, and Pennsylvania Delegate for Berks County Kennel Club.



## Club Spotlight

# Greater Valley Forge Rhodesian Ridgeback Club

The Greater Valley Forge Rhodesian Ridgeback Club (GVFRRRC) is an AKC licensed specialty club serving the Greater Valley Forge area and surrounding communities in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Our members are active in conformation, obedience, rescue, agility, lure coursing, and just having RRs as pets.

Our club was founded in 1990 and our objectives are:

- (a) To encourage and promote quality in the breeding of purebred Rhodesian Ridgebacks and to do all possible to bring their natural qualities to perfection
- (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 excellence by which the Rhodesian Ridgeback 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, lure coursing, obedience trials and other events.
  - Fostering a genuinely cooperative attitude among breeders, owners, and fanciers alike.
  - Promoting interest in other activities for Rhodesian Ridgebacks including, but not limited to, rescue, therapy, versatility, and agility.
- (d) To conduct sanctioned and licensed specialty shows, lure coursing tests and trials and other events under the rules and regulations of the American Kennel Club.

We hold an annual Regional Specialty Show, two all-breed lure coursing trials, Fast CAT trials, matches, fun days, and educational programs. GVFRRRC and its members also support entries in conjunction with several local all-breed dog shows. Our website is [www.gvfrrc.org](http://www.gvfrrc.org) and we are on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/gvfrrc>. Questions about the club may be submitted on our website using the submission form, or sent directly to the Corresponding Secretary at [Ridgebacks@mysticrrs.com](mailto:Ridgebacks@mysticrrs.com)

*John Arvin*

GVFRRRC Vice-President, Acting Corresponding Secretary

President: Darin Cox    [President@PAFederationOfDogClubs.org](mailto:President@PAFederationOfDogClubs.org)    717-877-4336

First Vice President: Edith Rysdyk

Second Vice President (Legislative Chair): Linda Witouski    Treasurer: Kim Blyler    Secretary: Bettina Sterling

Board Members: Danna Deimler, Cheryl Demarkis, Melanie Eng, Robin Piorun,

Lorraine Simmons, Jonathan Stanley, and Judy Swanson

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<http://PAFederationOfDogClubs.org>