



# The Ridgeline

Newsletter of the New England Rhodesian Ridgeback Club

November 16, 2021

## SPECIAL POINT OF INTEREST:

- ◆ **NERRC's Annual Holiday Party is December 5th, see page 5 for updated details**

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## President's Letter

I hope this message finds you all well.

I am pleased to say our club is growing. We have had a busy year! It began with holding the club's first introduction to Barn Hunt seminar, Lure Coursing practices and competition. We had terrific weather for the annual meeting, however, the Cranberry Cluster got off to a rough beginning on Thursday but by Saturday the weather was clear and the sun was shining. We also had an introduction to Nosework in October that the attending Ridgebacks thoroughly enjoyed.

We hope you have been able to participate in some of the events the club members worked so hard to put together. Our last event of this year is our annual Christmas Party which is always great fun. Looking forward to seeing you all there!

Barbara  
Sahibu@comcast.net



“Winter is the time for comfort, for good food and warmth, for the touch of a friendly hand and for a talk beside the fire: it is the time for home.”

— Edith Sitwell

# Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

**August 8, 2021**  
**Washburn Park, Marion MA**

Meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM by Barbara Ferguson

Attendees: Board Members: Barbara Ferguson, President, Meghan Terwilliger, Vice President (virtually), Nikki Newton, Treasurer, Chris Greeley, Helen McCune, Julie Paul, Evelyn Strawn, Secretary

Members: Chris and Don Melchior, Xavier Dixon

Guest: Frank Kodzis



## **President's Report -- Barbara Ferguson**

Barbara welcomed everyone.

## **Secretary's Report -- Evelyn Strawn**

There are three membership applicants:

Karen Harvey, Ashford, CT Single  
Sponsor: Nikki Newton

Stephanie Kennedy, Concord, NH Single  
Sponsor: Terra Lyn Joy

Blanca Zelaya, Florence, MA Single  
Sponsor: Julie Paul

In addition to these applicants there have been fourteen (14) new members in 2021.

## **Treasurer's Report -- Nikki Newton**

Nikki distributed an Income and Expense Report. The club continues to be in a strong fiscal position. Evelyn emphasized that there are sufficient funds to purchase some of the lure coursing equipment that is needed.

Rescue Funds	\$2,162.87
General Funds	\$13,170.65
Show Funds	\$2,305.55
Current Balance	\$17,639.55

Details available upon request.

**Evelyn moved and Helen seconded that the treasurer's report be accepted. The motion passed unanimously.**

## **Regional Specialty Show -- Barbara Ferguson**

Barbara reviewed the complicated process that she has had to overcome in order for this event to go forward. There have been changes in the obedience trials because of changes in leadership of the sponsoring all breed club. There have also been judging changes. These are all reflected in the show premiums which will be available on Monday, August 9. The entries close on September 1.



A revised flyer reflecting these changes will be posted and sent to the membership.

Fund raising will focus on a silent auction. Barb has obtained four cranberry boxes that need to be filled with donated items. One of the boxes should have an alcohol theme since those have been very popular in the past. Other donations would be most welcome.

## **Mass Fed -- Chris Greeley**

Chris prepared this report:

News from MassFed (sourced mostly from AKC.org)

The Healthy Dog Importation Act was introduced to the Senate (and had been previously similarly introduced to the House - HR 4239) to require all dogs (including show dogs) to have a certificate of health from a recognized veterinary authority in the foreign country of origin, meeting minimum US requirements upon entering into the United States.

This effort is a result of recently imported dogs from foreign countries carrying infections and or testing positive for rabies after entering the US. In mid July a ban on the import of dogs from 110 countries was implemented by the CDC after a rabid dog from Azerbaijan was brought to the US. More information can be found in the link below:

[U.S. Congress Info: Senators Grassley, Smith Introduce Healthy Dog Importation Act – American Kennel Club \(akc.org\)](https://www.akc.org/legislative-alerts/)

Not in Massachusetts, but certainly worth noting as dog theft has become a problem in many areas.

NH Update: Governor Sununu Signs Bill to Protect Dogs from Theft and Collar Tampering On July 28, 2021, Governor Sununu signed H. 338 into law, making the tampering or removal of a dog's collar or microchip a misdemeanor crime. It also increases the penalty for stealing a dog, from a misdemeanor to a class B felony, for anyone guilty of multiple offenses. These changes, effective January 1, 2022, are expected to act as a deterrent to the theft of dogs in order to sell them for profit and to the obstruction of legitimate working and hunting dogs.

Most of the articles and issues recently posted by MassFed.org (although they only really update their Facebook page) are directly linked from the AKC Legislative Alerts website:

[\(https://www.akc.org/legislative-alerts/\)](https://www.akc.org/legislative-alerts/)

I encourage all members to take a look at the information that the AKC provides. The AKC has put a lot of effort into gathering information and calling out for support of legislative actions taking place across the country.

## **Historian – Vacant**

Chris picked up approximately seven boxes of historical documents from Cathy Ford. The club needs to find a volunteer who would be interested in cataloging these materials.

## **Membership Care – Don and Chris Melchior**

A welcome packet is in the works. In the meantime, Don and Chris have sent cards to the four most recent new members.

## **Rescue – Cheryl Fraser**

No formal report.

RTI recently obtained a litter of puppies from an auction. Two are being fostered in New England and will become available at some point.

## **NERRC Website – Meghan Terwilliger & Cheryl Fraser**

The website is up to date.

## **NERRC Policy & Procedures – Cheryl Fraser**

Nothing to report.

## **Ridgeline – Helen McCune**

Nothing to report.

## **Ways and Means – Cheryl Fraser**

New items including t-shirts and sweatshirts with the 3 Puppy logo are available. Also fleece blankets, lure coursing magnets and slips. NERRC logo items continue to be offered.

## **Bylaws – Alan Fraser**

Nothing to report.

## **Social Media – Meghan Terwilliger**

Nothing to report.

## **Regional News (for The Ridgeback Magazine) – Bonnie Johnson**

No report.

## **Lure Coursing – Nikki Newton and Chris Greeley**

There is now a lure coursing committee of 4 members: Nikki Newton, Chris Greeley, Kate Taylor, and Steph D'Agostino.

Nikki submitted this written report:

Jan 2021 we had a successful practice day-we made a profit (\$303)

March 2021 we had a successful practice day-we made a profit (\$655)

April 2021 we had a successful CAT event. Despite some challenges we had a great weekend, made a profit (\$2778.42) and had a lot of happy participants. We had a lot of help from our members!

We tried to plan a full lure coursing event in July and secured a new field but it fell through shortly after securing it.

We have been collaborating with the Vizsla club of Central New England to host a FastCAT in conjunction with their regional specialty show in Belchertown, MA Sept 25-26. Unfortunately there is another AKC FastCAT within 100 miles on the same dates, so we are unable to host the FastCAT. Our new plan is to host a practice event and call it something else "FastDOG"? This will also serve as a "dress rehearsal" for a future FastCAT hosted by our club. Possibly in conjunction with the Vizsla club.

There is a facility in East Windsor, CT, "Showcase for Dogs" that facilitates FastCAT events "hosted" by other clubs. It turns out they host events almost every weekend through the Fall. When we plan a future FastCAT, we need to look at their calendar or make sure we are choosing a site 100+ miles away.

It is time to be submitting our documents to AKC for our trial in October. We need people to commit to work the event. Our reserved dates are Oct 30-31. I think we should bring back the costume contest! We will use the field in Dartmouth this year, but we have an ongoing need for new fields.

October is it for coursing for 2021, but can we do a practice day or two in early spring? Those were very popular and made a profit!!

**2022:**

### **April CAT**

Spring full Coursing event?? Need location

ASFA??? We need to do something to keep/renew our ASFA certification- we probably need to host a trial- can we work with the new Saluki club? Dara Johnson and Jenna Lowe are in the club and enthusiastic about collaborating

# Join Us for NERRC's Holiday Party and Pot Luck Luncheon!!



## Winsome Riding Academy

384 High St., Randolph MA 02368

**Sunday, December 5th from 12:00-3:00**

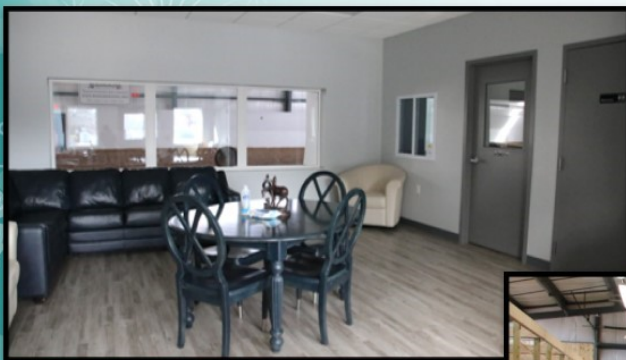
**BOD Meeting starts at 11:00 - all are welcome!**

**Cost is \$10 per person; children under 12 free**

This is a brand new handicapped accessible therapeutic horseback riding facility with a heated indoor arena and attached viewing room where you can stay warm. But, we will also have adult pony/horse rides available to anyone who would like one so dress accordingly and wear warm clothing and boots!

- \* NERRC will provide the entrées from George's Café in Brockton along with paper goods and water.
- \* If your last name begins with the following please bring: A-M—Appetizer; N-Z—Dessert.
- \* We will have a Silent Auction, a raffle table and Ways & Means will be there too so bring some money to buy some nice gifts for friends and family (or yourself)!!
- \* Yankee Swap for dogs—bring a \$25 (maximum) wrapped dog-themed gift and you can join in; it's always a fun event!

Please RSVP to Helen by November 28th via email - [kanzih@comcast.net](mailto:kanzih@comcast.net)



Update: NERRC is providing the main course. See food assignments above!



Summer full coursing event?? Again, need location

FastCAT

### **October AKC trial**

In response to the suggestion that the lure coursing event on October 31 include a costume contest, Xavier Dixon volunteered to help with making that happen.

The club continues to have equipment needs:

-Another bobbinator (\$2500)- 2-3 month lead time after order and then someone to drive to Buffalo, NY to pick it up.

-equipment trailer- under 3500 lb including the equipment loaded into it. We need to evaluate this. Can we put all the equipment in one location and measure/weigh?

-ladder (stadium ladder ~ \$1200)

-smaller items: traffic cones, extension cord, cart for pulleys, toolkit, gas can(s), tables, measuring wheel

The board discussed this list of equipment needs. Everyone was in agreement that the priority should be the purchase of a trailer to store and transport the equipment.

**Evelyn moved and Helen seconded the authorization of \$3500 to be used for the purchase of an enclosed cargo trailer. The motion passed with unanimous support.**

Trailers are in high demand right now so actually locating one in this price range could be difficult. Nikki will write up the specifics so that they can be shared on social media by the club but also by individual members.

### **Unfinished Business**

No unfinished business.

### **New Business**

The board discussed the possibility of finding a more central location for next year's annual meeting and picnic. There are a number of challenges including a large enough space that is dog friendly, fenced and has adequate parking. A request will be made to the membership for locations.

The Holiday Party was on the agenda but given the uncertainty of COVID restrictions in the fall and winter this discussion was postponed.

**Note:** The annual meeting was scheduled to be held at 11:00 AM. Although there eventually were 33 people who came to the picnic, there was not a quorum at 11:00 so no annual meeting was held.

**Next Meeting:** September 13 – 6:30 PM

Virtual/Zoom

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn Strawn

NERRC Secretary

## On Line Motions:

On May 20 Nikki moved and Evelyn seconded that the club should hold a FastCAT event in conjunction with Vizsla Club and authorize her to submit request to AKC. The motion passes with unanimous approval.

On July 3 it was moved by Nikki and seconded by Chris that Xavier Dixon, Andrew Hendricks, Deborah Ahern Ridlon and Christopher Melendez be accepted as members. Five board members having voted in the affirmative the motion passes.

On August 12 Evelyn moved and Julie seconded approval of the minutes for the August 8 BOD meeting.



Number one way life would be different if dogs ran the world: All motorists must drive with head out window.

*~ David Letterman*

# Attention !!

**The club has significant equipment needs to be able to continue hosting lure coursing events.**



## **Big ticket items:**

- Backup lure machine (Bobbinator) \$2500 plus transportation from Buffalo, NY (anyone travel back and forth from there?)
- Stadium ladder (platform 72" tall with railing and folds up-Jarvis) \$1200
- Equipment trailer- must have total weight including contents of less than 3500 lbs, be enclosed, have the door be a drop down ramp and be at least 10 ft long, maybe 12 ft. Hoping to find one (used is good) for around \$2000

## **Smaller needs-does anyone have these items to donate?**

- 1 or 2 shovels (spades)
- Wheeled cart for storing pulleys-and dragging them around the field
- Heavy duty extension cord
- Toolkit for repairs (screwdrivers, wrenches, pliers)
- Distance measuring wheel
- Easy up or other canopy
- Folding table
- Sharp pocket knives for huntmaster
- Something to post scores on at events-magnetic board, wire rack with clips...
- Traffic cones (about 8-10)

**We also could really use some leads on possible fields. We only have the one field and it is only available before May and after September.**

## **Field needs:**

- 7-10 acres
- Mowed grass
- No major holes/terrain hazards
- Safe from road/traffic
- \$300-\$400 for the weekend
- Can park 30 or so cars
- Within 2-3 hour drive of eastern MA



# Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

September 13, 2021 via ZOOM

Meeting was called to order at 6:40 by Barbara Ferguson

Attendees: Board Members: Barbara Ferguson, President, Nikki Newton, Treasurer, Chris Greeley, Helen McCune, Julie Paul, Evelyn Strawn, Secretary

## President's Report -- Barbara Ferguson

Barbara welcomed everyone.



## Secretary's Report -- Evelyn Strawn

There is one new membership applicant:

Carolyn and Richard O'Brien, West Roxbury, MA Family

Sponsor: Bonnie Johnson

In addition to there are three applicants awaiting approval after being published in The Ridgeline.

## Treasurer's Report -- Nikki Newton

The only change in the treasurer's report from August is that there have been two bills paid as approved by these motions:

On 8/31/21 it was moved by Barbara and seconded by Evelyn that NERRC purchase 75 16oz Metallic Water Bottles with the NERRC logo Regional Specialty printed on it to be awarded to the first through fourth place Class placements. The cost not to exceed \$900.00. Six voting in the affirmative, the motion passes.

On 9/7/21 Nikki moved and Evelyn seconded authorizing payment to Helen for invoice from Hodges Badge Co in the amount of \$528.39 for rosettes for Regional Specialty. Six voting in the affirmative, the motion passes.

## Regional Specialty Show -- Barbara Ferguson

She reported that the Ridgeback entry is the largest (55) we have had, and we have the largest entry to date in Sweeps. The stained glass trophies Helen made and the ribbons she ordered are beautiful! The 1<sup>st</sup> thru 4<sup>th</sup> place water bottles with the NERRC Logo are terrific additions as well.

Barb then provided details about the donation for the silent auction and raffle that have been received. Other board members shared the items that they have to go towards these two fund raising activities.



Details for the lunch, ways and means, set up and breakdown were also discussed. Barb emphasized how labor intensive this all is and stressed the need for volunteers to help.

### **Mass Fed -- Chris Greeley**

Nothing to report.

### **Historian – Vacant**

The club continues to need a volunteer to fill this position.

### **Membership Care – Don and Chris Melchior**

Nothing to report.

### **Rescue – Cheryl Fraser**

**PHOTO submissions and pre-orders** of the Rhodesian Ridgeback Rescue, Inc 2022 Ridgeback-a-Day Calendar are now open. However photo submissions close on September 19<sup>th</sup>. Photo submissions and calendar pre-orders can be done here <https://www.ridgebackrescue.org/calendar/orders/order.php>

**FOSTER HOMES NEEDED** - Rhodesian Ridgeback Rescue, Inc. (RRRI) remains in great need for **foster homes**. We continue to scramble when a dog is in need to find a foster home willing to provide foster care. Please consider giving back to our beloved breed by volunteering to be a foster home.

**HOME CHECKS** – With the ongoing pandemic, we have reverted to performing **virtual home checks**. The use of Zoom and FaceTime and other virtual means are being used. If you would be able to perform home checks for potential adoption applicants, please let us know. We have a checklist of questions to ask applicants while virtually visiting them in their home. Help is always needed to vet adoption applicants.

Evelyn agreed to send a message to the mailing list encouraging members to submit pictures.

### **NERRC Website – Meghan Terwilliger & Cheryl Fraser**

Nothing to report.

### **NERRC Policy & Procedures – Cheryl Fraser**

Nothing to report.

### **Ridgeline – Helen McCune**

The next edition will be sent out after the minutes of this meeting are approved and a report submitted on the Regional Specialty.

### **Ways and Means – Cheryl Fraser**

At the Summer BBQ and Annual Meeting, Ways & Means had brisk sales of \$600.00!! Thank you to all who supported the club by making purchases.

The Ways & Means have replenished NERRC Logo wearables of the embroidered 6-panel baseball caps, the Harriton nylon windbreakers with the embroidered NERRC logo, and the Harriton full zip fleece jackets with the embroidered NERRC logo. In addition, we have a healthy amount of T-shirts and sweatshirts with the “3 puppies” printed on the front and back.

Ways and Means will set up at the Regional Specialty.

### **Bylaws – Alan Fraser**

Nothing to report.

### **Social Media – Meghan Terwilliger**

Nothing to report.

### **Regional News (for The Ridgeback Magazine) – Bonnie Johnson**

No report.

A report of the Regional Specialty should be submitted with photos.

## **Lure Coursing – Nikki Newton and Chris Greeley**

Although it was not possible to do a FastCat event on September 25-26 because of a conflict with another AKC approved event nearby, the committee is going ahead with a practice “FastDog” event that weekend in conjunction with the Vizla Club in Belcherown, MA. Nikki will produce a notice to go to all the members.

The club has reserved October 30-31 for a trial but there at the present time there is no field available. Nikki is continuing to work on this. She will check with AKC to make sure the club does not lose this weekend if no event is held this year.

## **Unfinished Business**

The board discussed the advisability of holding an in person holiday party this year. The Fireside Grill in Middleborough, MA has worked well in past years. There was concern expressed about people’s willingness to attend such an event. It was agreed that Evelyn would send a poll the membership to see if how many people would be interested in attending such an event on December 5. She will send that out as soon as Meghan has confirmed availability of that space on that date.

Information on the Nose Work event scheduled for October 3 should be sent in a separate mailing to the membership.

## **New Business**

A slate of officers has been proposed but the nominating committee is awaiting confirmation from one potential nominee. As soon as that is secured, the slate will be sent to the membership.

The timing and location of the next board meeting is dependent upon the decision about a holiday party.

**Next Meeting:** December 5 (tentative)

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn Strawn

NERRC Secretary

## **Additional applicants:**

Joan Brown Holbrook, MA Single Voting

Sponsor: Deborah Ahern-Ridlon

Michelle & Michael Cyr New Durham, NH Associate

Sponsor: Helen McCune

Frank Kodzis Sagamore Beach, MA Single

Sponsor: Evelyn Strawn

## **On Line Motions:**

On September 20 Evelyn moved and Helen seconded that the minutes for the September 13 BOD meeting be accepted. Six having voted in the affirmative the motion passes.

# NERRC's 5th Annual Regional Specialty Report

by Barbara Ferguson, Regional Specialty Show Chair

Planning a Regional Specialty begins soon after the previous year's show has taken place. With the cancellation of our 2020 Regional Specialty, I thought this year would be a bit easier as all the judges said they would stay on for 2021, the trophies were already made, and those who donated money in support of the trophies agreed to remain as sponsors. However, as we have all experienced in the age of COVID, it turned out to be anything but easy!

Planning began with the unfortunate and sudden passing of South Shore Kennel Club's Show Chair, Dan Cavicchi. Linda Flynn agreed to step in and take over as Show Chair, a position she had held for years previously.

The 2020 list of judges originally agreed to remain on as judges for 2021 but as time went on many of the judges resigned from those positions and due to all the health and travel concerns many judges were not accepting new judging assignments which made replacing those who resigned extremely difficult. But Linda plugged away and was able to come up with a good slate of judges for the 4-day cluster of shows.

Thursday, the weather decided not to cooperate in the morning which was the first day of the Cranberry Cluster. The sky literally opened postponing the start of judging by 2 hours. The weather did finally clear but unfortunately the major point wins on Thursday broke. We all learned that day that no matter the weather or the fact that the judging is postponed 2 hours as soon as things clear judging begins and MB-F plays what they called "catch up" meaning that whoever is there and ready to go is judged at that time.



On Friday, because of construction on the Fairgrounds, the entrance and parking were changed but the show went off without any further problems and the major held.

Saturday, September 18, 2021, NERRC successfully held our 5th Regional Specialty at the Cape Cod Fairgrounds in Falmouth, MA. The weather did again threaten not to cooperate but thankfully at the last moment our prayers for the rain to stop and the sun to come out from hiding were granted!

Christine Kitsch of Whirlaway Rhodesian Ridgebacks in Pennsylvania stepped in at the last moment to judge our Sweepstakes entry. Neil McDevitt from Ohio who is a long time Ridgeback fancier and co-owns Ridgebacks with Alice Hunt of Koda Rhodesian Ridgebacks in Colorado was our Breed Judge.

I arrived on the fairgrounds at 7am and claimed a corner of the "Breed Hospitality Tent" to begin unpacking my car which was full of Raffle and Silent Auctions items. Evelyn Strawn arrived shortly after to help as did Alan Fraser. We quickly got the tables set up and filled with lots of Ridgeback themed items and a table for the food for our annual Potluck luncheon after judging was organized.



As soon as we were able, we set up the table with the beautiful Stain Glass Trophies made by Helen McCune and the special Rosettes and Ribbons.





Judging began promptly at 9:45 with Sweepstakes.

There were 55 Ridgebacks entered, once again providing 5 point major wins across the board. They all waited patiently standing with their owners and handlers to be judged on their conformational merit, looking very regal, various ages, sizes, and shades of wheaten.

If you have never attended NERRC's Rhodesian Ridgeback Regional Specialty, you really need to come next year. It is an awesome sight seeing so many beautiful Ridgebacks together in one place.

Go to <https://www.infodog.com/results/results.htm?evno=2021173102&bno=28200&sdt=09/17/21&edt=10/16/21> to see a listing of all the winners and placers.







I especially want to give a big **THANK YOU** to all the members who supported the Regional Specialty by sponsoring the Trophies and Rosettes this year.

**BEST OF BREED** - Kathy Dinneen, Shabani Rhodesian Ridgebacks

**Best Opposite Sex** - Whitney & Brenton Pulsifer, Wild Pack Ridgebacks

**Best of Winners** - Toni Salter & Susan Morrill, In Memory of "Gemini", CH Madeira's Tandiwe Diamond Gem, MCGCTDIHICRNROM

**Winners Dog** - Evelyn Strawn, In Memory of Mac, CH Artemis Layon McDuff of Shabani

**Reserve Winners Dog** - Alan & Cheryl Fraser, In Memory of Neo, CH Freedom's Bahari Zion

**Winners Bitch** - Julie Paul, In Memory of CH Dromkeen's Sweet Temptation

**Reserve Winners Bitch** - In Memory of Bette Rallo

#### Sweepstakes Sponsors

**Best Puppy** - Rich & Linda Brosnan, In Memory of Ch Kibibi Brosnon CGC

**Best Opposite Puppy** - Rich & Linda Brosnan, In Memory of Ch Kibibi Brosnon CGC

**Best Veteran** - Rich & Linda Brosnan, In Memory of CH Tunuka Brosnan

**Best Opposite Veteran** - Rich & Linda Brosnan, In Memory of CH Tunuka Brosnan

**Stud Dog** - Helen McCune, In Memory of Nixon, CH Jendaya's Independence Day CGC

**Brood Bitch** - Helen McCune, In Memory of Gemma, Am/Can CH Jendaya's Akiki of Tumomak SC, HIC, CGC, TT, ET

**Brace** - Amy Mullin

**High In Trial** - Bill & Jean Gamble, In Memory of Mshindaji's Tanner Takuza CD, TT

**Rally Obedience** - Cheryl Cote, In Memory of Shabani's Sweet Sienna

**Sweepstakes Judges Gift** - Toni Salter In Memory of Jewel, Tandiwe's Diamond of Madeira, CGC

#### Rosette Sponsors

**Best Of Breed** - Anita Craven, In Memory of Ulla-Britt Ekengren Shadyridge Kennel

**Best Opposite Sex** - Donna Marie Baribeau, In Honor of Kimba

**Best of Winners** - Anita Craven, In Memory of Ulla-Britt Ekengren Shadyridge Kennel

**Award of Merit** - Rich & Nancy Brown, In Honor of Jendaya Rhodesian Ridgebacks

**Select Dog** - Peggy Newman, In Memory of Pirate GCH, DC Shabani's Royal Fortune

**Select Bitch** Patti Clark & Marsa Hatfield, In Memory of Toren, GCHG Kaluta's Along the Watchtower

**High in Trial & Highest Scoring Rally Novice** Anita Craven, In Memory of Shadyridge Lingana's Cachi CGC, OA



# Judge's Commentary

by Neil McDevitt, 2021 NERRC Regional Specialty Breed Judge

Saturday, September 18, 2021

This regional club's fall specialty was part of the Cranberry Cluster and took place at the Cape Cod Fairgrounds, East Falmouth, MA.

Judging began at 10:45am at this outdoor venue. There was a wonderful entry of 55 Rhodesian Ridgebacks. The ring size was most adequate for this entry of hounds. My very competent stewards, Chris Leitkowski and Evelyn Strawn, were spot on. Chris assembled the classes and Evelyn assisted me with rosettes, ribbons, and the beautifully designed stain glass trophies.

My comments in this discussion will reference the Rhodesian Ridgeback breed standard and the parent club approved illustrated elaboration. The criteria used in selecting my winners is based on my interpretation of these two documents.

Generally, when the class is assembled in the ring, my initial observation is to look at the silhouette from across the ring. I feel that **BREED TYPE** begins with the silhouette. The late Richard Beauchamp stated, "A breed's silhouette defines the breed's physicality by drawing a line around everything required by the breed's standard and serving as a prologue for all that must be understood about the breed's physical appearance."

**GENERAL APPEARANCE** – The Ridgeback represents a strong, muscular and active hound, symmetrical and balanced in outline. A mature Ridgeback is a handsome, upstanding and athletic dog, capable of great endurance with a fair (good) amount of speed. Of even dignified temperament, the Ridgeback can be reserved with strangers. The peculiarity of this breed is the ridge on the back.

Key adjectives in this section are **handsome, upstanding, athletic, strong, muscular, active, symmetrical and balanced**.

I am looking for that balance between power and elegance. The power comes from soundness and conditioning, **not excessive size**. The elegance comes from style, presence and carriage. There should be a clean appearance with body lines blending smoothly. Males should be masculine, not coarse or cumbersome. Bitches should be feminine but strong, not weak or delicate. I want to see an athletic dog, clean-muscled, upstanding, well balanced and smooth in outline. Is the length to height proportion correct? Is the topline level? Is the angulation balanced front and rear? Is the color light to red wheaten? If these characteristics are pleasing to you when looking at the silhouette then the exhibit may be considered typical for a Ridgeback. For me, this pleasing silhouette is one element of breed type. Next, I complete an individual examination to confirm with my hands what my eyes have seen in the silhouette and to evaluate the other four elements of breed type which are character, head, movement, and coat.

**SIZE, PROPORTION, SUBSTANCE** – A mature Ridgeback should be symmetrical in an outline, slightly longer than tall but well balanced. Dogs, 25-27 inches in height; Bitches, 24-26 inches in height. Desirable weight: Dogs, 85 pounds; Bitches, 70 pounds. These weights are guidelines.

In this area I'm looking for a slightly longer than tall appearance, not square and not too long. The keyword is "**slightly**" longer than tall. The length should be carried in the rib area, allowing for ample heart and lung room which gives the dog the required great endurance with a fair (good) amount of speed as stated under General Appearance. I look for 2/3 rib cage to 1/3 loin.

**NECK, TOPLINE, BODY** – The neck should be **fairly long**. It should be strong, free from throatiness and in balance with the dog. Chest not too wide but deep and capacious, ribs moderately well sprung, never

rounded like barrel hoops. The back is powerful and firm with strong loins which are muscular and slightly arched.

In this area I'm looking for the neck to be fairly long and elegantly arched. It should be strong at the insertion and taper to the head. The brisket should reach well to the elbow on a mature dog. The keyword is **"well"** to the elbow. The distance from withers to brisket should equal the distance from brisket to ground. The forechest should be visible from the side. The elbow should fall directly under the withers. The back is strong and firm. Topline flows smoothly from the top of the head down the neck and over the shoulders. The withers should be the highest point of the backline, never lower than the loin or hindquarter, standing or moving. Does the correct outline while standing hold when the dog is on the move? The tail should not be an afterthought but a continuation of the topline inserted not too high or too low and carried with a slight curve upwards, never curled or gay.

**HEAD** – Should be of fair length, skull flat and broad between the ears and should be free from wrinkles when in repose. The stop should be reasonably well defined.

In this area I am looking for the planes of the backskull and muzzle to be parallel and equal in length. The keywords are **"parallel"** and **"equal."** Cheeks are clean and flat, not rounded or bulging. The head should never give a wedge-shaped impression from the front or the side (wedge-shaped would be like of a piece of pie). The keywords are **"clean"** and **"flat."** Bulging cheeks give the head a wedge-shaped look which is not desirable. Eyes should be moderately well apart and should be round. The keyword is **"round"**. Round gives the intelligent hound-like expression. Eye color should harmonize with the color of the dog. Contrary to what some think, the color of the dog in this standard means pigmentation or nose color/eye rims. The color should harmonize with the pigmentation (nose color/eye rims) of the dog. Black-nosed (pigmented) dogs should have a brown to dark brown eye. Liver or brown-nosed (pigmented) dogs should have an amber-colored eye.

**GAIT** – At the trot, the back is held level and the stride is efficient, long, free and unrestricted. Reach and drive expressing a perfect balance between power and elegance.

In this area I'm looking for the head to be carried **slightly above** the level of the back. The backline remains level and firm, the loin is never carried higher than the withers. The tail blends smoothly, carried slightly above the level of the back, never gay nor curled. Gait is effortless, rhythmic, smooth, denoting efficiency, presence and style.

Sidegate is the true test of balance and the fit of the individual parts. Does the dog move as a unit or in individual pieces? Is the head carried slightly above the level of the back? Does the backline remain level and firm? Is there reach and drive?

**RIDGE** – The hallmark of this breed is the ridge and must be regarded as the characteristic feature of the breed. We have desirable ridges, acceptable ridges, undesirable ridges, and serious fault ridges. At this specialty I found all ridges to be either desirable or acceptable.

I am pleased that my top awards went to Ridgebacks I felt carried many of the above listed characteristics of the breed standard.

One concern I have noticed recently in judging ridgebacks is a down trend from the breed standard ideal regarding the rib cage. The rib cage houses the engine that drives the car and that lends to the great endurance with a fair (good) amount of speed required by the standard under the General Appearance section. Shortening the rib cage in length and depth is counterproductive to the key elements of endurance and speed. Keeping in mind the correct proportions in the rib area are; brisket well to the elbow, forechest visible from the side, 2/3 rib cage to 1/3 loin.

Thank you to the club members and show committee for inviting me to judge the NERRC regional specialty this year. It is an honor and a thrill every time I get the opportunity to judge my favorite breed of dog.

# Secretary's Corner

## **Additional First Reads:**

Nora Bond Somerville, MA Associate, Sponsor: Meghan Terwilliger

Maura Bushior and Christopher Wright Coventry, RI Family, Sponsor: Helen McCune

Stephen Sefton Boxborough, MA Associate, Sponsor: Bonnie Johnson

## **Online Motions via email:**

- On September 20 Evelyn moved and Helen seconded that the minutes for the September 13 BOD meeting be accepted. Six having voted in the affirmative the motion passes.
- On November 12 it was moved by Evelyn and seconded by Helen that NERRC contribute \$250 towards the cost of the holiday party on December 5, 2021. The motion passes with unanimous votes in favor.

## **2021 Election:**

Congratulations and a thank you to those club officers who were asked by the nominating committee to continue in their current roles. There were no other names submitted so that they are officially elected to serve as of January, 2022.

Vice President Meghan Terwilliger

Secretary Evelyn Strawn

Board Member Helen McCune

# Treasurer's Report

NERRC Currently has a balance of \$17,046

## **Recent events:**

Ways and Means has brought in \$1091 since August

practice FastCat made a profit of \$45

dues: \$250

August picnic admission collected: \$290

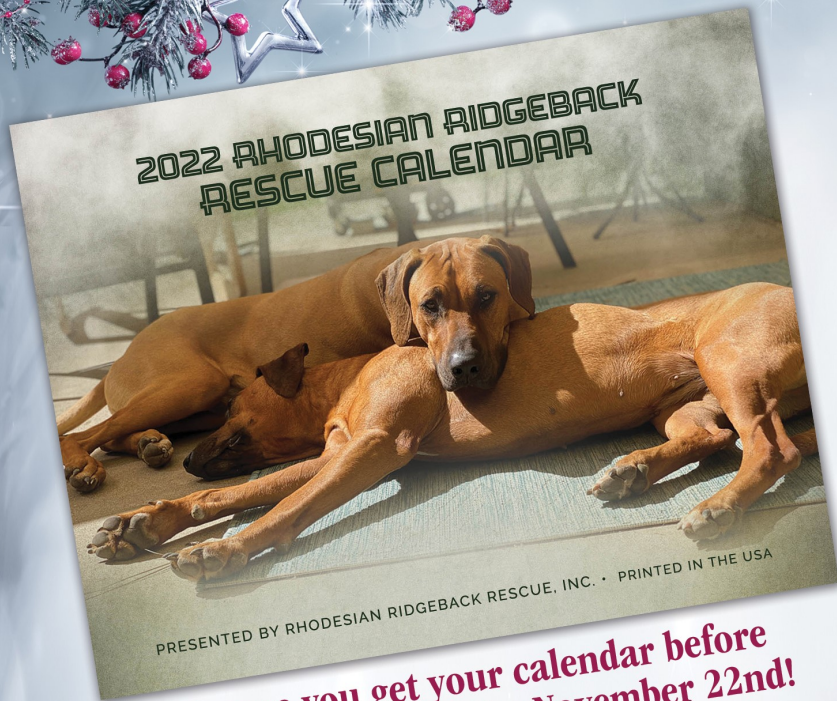
Regional Specialty -\$358 (loss)

Income \$1995

Expenses \$2353

# THE HOLIDAYS ARE RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER ...

*Don't forget to order your new shiny 2022 rescue calendar!!*



**Ensure you get your calendar before the holidays, order by November 22nd!**



**NEW for 2022:**  
An extra week has been added to the calendar. That's right, instead of 365-days you will get 372 days.

This desktop-style calendar has a different Ridgeback picture each day. Beautiful, colorful, and spiral-bound ... suitable as a memento or gift.

**ONLY \$24.95**  
plus shipping



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<https://www.ridgebackrescue.org/calendar/orders/order.php>