

AKC Gazette Column November 2008 —

Parent Club Benefits

Written by AKC Gazette Columnist

Lucy Heyman,

Spring, TX

laheyman@elkincarillon.com

The Bedlington Terrier Club of America, Incorporated is a universal club that welcomes everyone that has enough interest in the breed and the motivation to join. An application must be submitted to the Corresponding Secretary with the signature endorsement of a member in good standing, along with a description of the applicant's interest in the breed and talents, which they may contribute to the welfare of the Club, and the Breed. The applicant must pledge that they have read and will abide by the Club's Constitution and By-Laws and the Code of Ethics of the Club. The Board votes on each applicant and a two-thirds majority is required to be admitted.

During the past decade, an average of over 200 Bedlington Terriers has been registered with the American Kennel Club yearly. During the same period, and some 50 to 60 of our dogs finished the requirements for AKC confirmation titles in a year, a stunning percentage. You could say, we are an exhibitors' breed. These Champions are made up by only a handful of our members, yet the Club currently boasts a membership of 333.

Having a universal membership to the club has proven to be beneficial in a number of ways for both members and the breed. The first perk is our incredible Quarterly Publication, Tassels and Tales, edited by Board member Laurie Friesen. An all-color magazine with good editorial content, in addition to the reporting of regular club business, it's quality is well known in the dog fancy and is well worth ordering for anyone with an interest in the breed.

In addition, the BTCA offers one of the most generous and broad Awards policies of any parent club. We now have six annual awards for breed accomplishments; an award for achievement in every AKC recognized performance event, and a versatile dog award for title achievement in various categories. The club also offers an award plaque for a 5-Point Major and a breed win when 15 or more Bedlingtons compete.

The Breeder of Distinction designation is offered to members submitting records of finishing 20 or more Champions. In order to receive any award from the club, the recipient must

be the primary owner of the dog and a member in good standing.

Our active Health and Wellness committee has spearheaded an ambitious fund drive to support research into the genetic cause for copper toxicosis. We currently have many diagnostic tools, but still have some mysteries to unravel in the genetic makeup of this inherited disease. The committee was most successful in raising funds for this study in By Dr. Diane Cox in Canada. They also report regularly to the fancy in Tassels and Tales.

The parent club's rescue and re-homing effort has been active for 20 years, one of the first clubs to organize the activity. While it is obvious that a rare breed that is treasured by it's owners doesn't have a great need for rescue, an occasional dog does escape from the yard, or it's owner passes away necessitating intervention. The club's committee has worked very effectively to rescue, foster and re-home our Bedlingtons.



Lucy waits for her AKC Gazette and Tassels & Tales!
-owner Lynette Johnson

Finally, our website www.bedlingtonamerica.com is a great source of pride to our club. It is one of the most complete and comprehensive sites offered by any parent club and is most useful to anyone seeking information on the breed.

The opening page features a charming slide show of candid photos of our members' dogs in a seasonal context. There are 55 reference items indexed which gives information on everything from the history of our breed and club, to grooming instructions, rescue, breeder listings, a bibliography and legislative alerts.

If you love the breed, join us.

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