

January 2020

## Upcoming Club Events

January 18, 2020

BCOD Board Meeting  
10:00AM  
BCOD General Meeting  
11:00am

Green Valley Ranch Library  
4856 N Andes Court  
Denver, CO 80249

Upcoming Local Shows  
Colorado Kennel Club  
February 14, 15, 16  
Entries Close Jan. 29 at 12pm  
[Click Here for Premium List](#)

## Member Updates

*Birthdays, Anniversaries,  
Milestones & Announcements*  
[click here to view more](#)

## Member Spotlight

Get to Know Ken & Sherry Sanford



## Happy New Year!

Cheers to a great 2019 as we welcome a new year and a new decade! With the beginning of a new year, we are looking for new ways to enhance your Bulldog Club of Denver experience. Your enthusiasm for our club is valued!

We are looking forward to expanding our social media & newsletter interaction. Please don't hesitate to share your successes, tips, writing skills and photos for use in club publications.

## President's Corner

### A Personal Message From Bulldog Club of Denver President, John Thompson

Dear Members,  
As we wrap-up 2019, I want to thank you for your contributions to our club. This year brought exciting changes and new growth to our club. It was a thrill to experience. Here are some highlights (from the last six months alone!):

- Welcomed 2 new members;
- Put on several successful Bulldog club



events, such as, the ice cream social, the summer picnic, the B-match and Bulloween;

- Chose a new site location for our specialty show; and
- Kept the “special” in our specialty show by continuing as a standalone show.

I am so thankful for each and every one of our club members and your individual contributions, whether that be time, talent or treasure (and sometimes all three). 2020 is an opportunity to renew our commitment to both our Bulldogs and our bulldog club. Participate on a committee. Consider signing up to help with our specialty show. And of course, bring a Bulldog friend to a club meeting or event this year and share the magic of Bulldogs and dog showing with others.

[READ MORE](#)

## 2020 Bulldog Club of Denver Specialty Shows

April 24, 25 & 26  
Arapahoe County Fairgrounds, Aurora, CO  
25690 E. Quincy Ave., Aurora, CO

*Join the Bulldog Club of Denver Specialty Show Facebook group!*

[Click Here to go to the Facebook Group](#)

### Conformation Judges Panel

Friday, April 24

AM Mr. Rudy Kilgus (Illinois)

AKC Event #2020181301

PM Mrs. Jan Lewis (Tennessee)

AKC Event #202018302

Saturday, April 25

AM Sweepstakes Mr. Bill Fletcher (South Dakota)

AM Mr. Carlos Albuquerque (Brazil)

AKC Event #2020181303

PM Mrs. Judy Wade (Texas)

AKC Event #2020181304

Sunday, April 26

Bulldog Club of America Div. IV Show

AM Mr. Marcel Daignault (California)

Show Secretary  
Mr. Shawn Ashbaugh

New Show Site  
Excellent Hospitality  
100 Entry Limit, Each Show  
Friday & Saturday  
(Saturday AM show includes Sweepstakes)

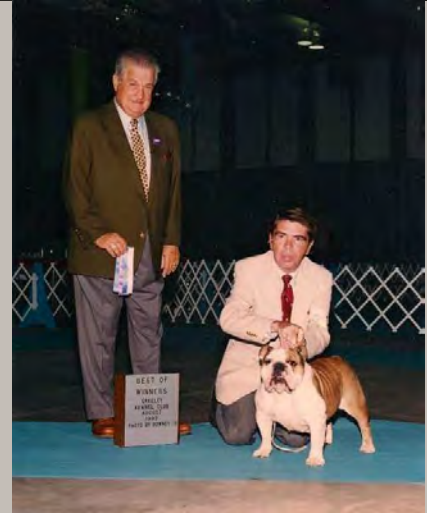
## Taking a Look Back With Ken & Sherry Sanford - Member Spotlight



Sherry Sanford with  
CH JC's Delilah  
Check out those shoes!!!



Ken Sanford with  
CH KTJ's Classic Diana of JC



Ken Sanford with  
CH KTJ's Sherries Jubilee

### [Read the Q&A with Ken & Sherry by Clicking Here](#)

Bulldog Club of Denver is fortunate to have many longstanding members. We are taking a moment this month to recognize Ken and Sherry Sanford in a *Then & Now Member Spotlight*. They even provided some awesome photos to go along with their Q&A interview. Thank you, Ken and Sherry, for your decades of dedication to Bulldogs and Bulldog Club of Denver. We hope everyone enjoys getting this peak in to your Bulldog past & present.



Ken Sanford with  
CH KTJ's Genuine Absolut  
(Jenny)



Ken Sanford with  
CH KTJ's Spenser



Sherry Sanford with  
C's Wee Bit of Sass  
(Sassy)



# BCOD Meeting Minutes

December Board Meeting Minutes – 12/4/2019 [Click Here for a PDF Version](#)

Meeting was called to order at 7:25pm by president John Thompson.

Board Minutes printed in the December Wigglebutt were discussed. Sara French made a motion to approve the minutes as written in the Wigglebutt, seconded and motion carried.

## **Secretary's Report**

There was no secretary report Stacie Gleeson has voted in at the last general meeting and this was her first board meeting.

## **Treasurer's Report**

There was no Treasurer's report at the meeting. Karen Trevino was not present. Karen provided a hard copy of the Treasurer's report to the Board after the meeting and that report is included in these minutes.

## **Show Committee**

The judges for the specialty show were discussed. John stated that the judges that had accepted were Jan Lewis, Rudy Kilgus, Carlos Albuquerque, Marcel Daignalt and Bill Fletcher for sweeps. There was one other judge but John could not remember the name.

## **Unfinished Business**

Stacie Gleeson is the new secretary. Moira Bright will take over as the Wigglebutt editor in January 2020.

Dues notifications need to be sent out. Rod Peterson mentioned that the dues notices are typically sent out by email by the secretary and a notice was placed in the Wigglebutt. The dues are due on January 1<sup>st</sup> but the bylaws give a grace period to the end of February. Stacie does not have a membership list. John said that he will provide the membership list to Stacie along with an email list.

The yearly financial audit committee was discussed. Prior to the meeting, John contacted Shawn Ashbaugh, Landon Richards and Susan Rohringer and they had all agreed to be on the audit committee. Further, discussion was made that a board member should also be on the audit committee. Rod volunteer to be on the audit committee. It was further discussed that four members might be too many members of the audit committee. The committee should be small to try to get the audit done as quickly as possible. One board member and two general members should be sufficient. Sara made a motion that the audit committee should include Rod Peterson, Shawn Ashbaugh and Susan Rohringer, seconded and motion carried.

The 2020 club meeting dates were booked for January and February. Booking at the libraries can only be done 90 days ahead of time. Sara booked the dates at the libraries and Karen called to pay for the rooms. The January meeting will be held at the Green Valley Ranch library because of the Western Stock Show. The February meeting will be held at the Valdez Perry library. The meeting dates that John provided to Sara will be put on the website.

The times of the board meetings were discussed. It was discussed that, since we reserve 2 hours of time at the library for the general meeting, it was suggested that the board meetings be held before or after the general meeting. The club typically does not take up two hours for the meetings. Also, by having the board meeting before the general meeting, more club members could attend the board meeting and the time commitment for board members would be one day a month for meetings. It was further discussed that sometimes the board votes on or discusses items that need to be addressed at the next general club meeting, so it would be better to have the board meeting before the general meeting. To see if it works, it might be worth trying to hold the board meeting in the hour before the general meeting on the same day that the general meetings are held. Motion made by Sara, for the January board meeting only, to hold the board meeting in the hour before the general meeting at the Green Valley Ranch on January 18th, and the board will evaluate the location and time of any future board meetings at the January meeting, seconded and motion carried.

Club awards committee was discussed. John contacted Nancy Brown as to whether should wanted to continue to run the club awards committee and Nancy said that should would like to continue. The awards forms are due to Nancy by the end of March and the awards are typically handed out at the summer picnic. John has updated the awards form and put the new form of the website. Information about the club awards and the form will be placed in the Wigglebutt. Nancy will continue to be the chair of the club awards committee.

The trailer was discussed. Rod stated that he didn't know that the spare tire rim was a smaller size than the rims on the trailer. John stated that, upon driving the trailer and

further inspection he thought that the trailer were not safe and he made the call, at the time, to buy new tires and a new properly sized spare rim and tire. The trailer was in transit and there wasn't time for a board discussion to approve the cost of the tires, so John volunteered to pay for the tires and rim. The tires have been changed and John paid for them. John volunteered to pay for the tires and rim and did not seek reimbursement for the costs. Rod mentioned that the club should reimburse John for the costs associated with trailer's tires and spare tire. Rod made a motion that the treasurer reimburse John for the expenses paid for the tires and spare rim on the trailer, seconded, the vote was 3-2 against, motion failed.

### New Business

No new business was discussed.

Sara made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded and motion carried.

Meeting adjourned

TREASURER'S SUMMARY REPORT: December 2018			
	12/1/18	12/31/18	Diff.
<b>ASSETS</b>			
OPERATING ACCOUNT	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
SAVINGS ACCOUNT	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
CHECKS	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
OPERATING ACCOUNT	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
SAVINGS ACCOUNT	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
CHECKS	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>
<b>NET CHANGE</b>			
OPERATING ACCOUNT	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
SAVINGS ACCOUNT	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
CHECKS	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
<b>TOTAL NET CHANGE</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>
<b>MONTHLY INCOME VS EXPENSES</b>			
INCOME	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 0.00
EXPENSES	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 0.00
<b>NET CHANGE</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>

### Treasurer's Report

[Click Here for a PDF Version](#)

### Upcoming Meetings

Board of Directors: Jan 18, 10AM-11AM

General Meeting: Jan 18, 11AM-12AM

### Board of Directors

#### Board Officers

President, John Thompson  
Vice President, Sara French  
Secretary, Stacie Schilling-Gleeson  
Treasurer, Karen Trevino  
Past President, Danny Trevino

#### Board Members

Jacqui Bester, Kim Bolas, Brianna McGee, Rod Peterson

### Upcoming Meetings

Board of Directors

General Meeting

### Bulldog Club of Denver

Member of the [Bulldog Club of America](#) and the [American Kennel Club](#)

The BCD was founded to encourage and promote the breeding of purebred Bulldogs and to do all possible to bring their natural qualities to perfection. We urge our members and breeders to accept the standard of the breed as the only standard of excellence and protect and advance the interests of the breed by encouraging sportsmanlike competition at dog shows.

The Wigglebutt is published solely for the information and pleasure of the Bulldog Club of Denver and its membership. Opinions expressed herein are those of the editor and do not necessarily

reflect those of the officers and members of the club. Permission is granted to reprint in whole or part, provided credit is give to the Wigglebutt publication of the Bulldog Club of Denver.

## Conformation Show Achievement

Help us celebrate the success of Bulldogs and club members at conformation competitions! We want to feature your significant wins and achievements in sportsmanship, handling ability, acts of kindness and other notable achievements should also be submitted.

If you have a success you would like to have considered for publication in the Wigglebutt, please email a photo and description to [wigglebuttbcod@gmail.com](mailto:wigglebuttbcod@gmail.com). Please note that by submitting a photo, permission is granted to use the photo on Bulldog Club of Denver social media and other marketing.

Please keep in mind that photos should be of a quality resolution for best viewing.



Don't forget to let us know about the photo! Include information such as Date, Show Location, Judge, Handler, Owner & Breeder Names, Name and Age of the Dog and all titles the Dog has earned.



Email Photos to [wigglebuttbcod@gmail.com](mailto:wigglebuttbcod@gmail.com)

By providing photos, you consent to BCOD use the photo for promotional and archive purposes.

## Performance Event Achievement



Photo Courtesy of Bulldog Club of America  
<https://bulldogclubofamerica.org/vents/civic-achievement/>

### Bulldogs in Performance and Civic Activities

Bulldog Club of America has launched a new area of its website dedicated to honoring bulldogs in performance and civic events. Check out the BCA Fun Zone in the link below.

Provide us with your Bulldog participating in performance and civic events! Email a photo and description to [wigglebuttbcod@gmail.com](mailto:wigglebuttbcod@gmail.com) to be included in this special section of the Wigglebutt!

[Bulldog Club of America Fun Zone!](#)





ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

## Dues are Due!

\$15 per person is to be delivered to Karen Trevino by January 1. If you have not paid your dues, please be sure to provide payment ASAP.

Please send dues in the amount of \$15 per person to  
BCD Treasurer  
C/O Karen Trevino  
2006 26th Avenue Court  
Greeley, CO 80634

Questions? Contact Karen Trevino, Treasurer  
[karen\\_a\\_trevino@msn.com](mailto:karen_a_trevino@msn.com)

## Training Opportunities

Please help us build a list of trainers & training opportunities throughout our area!

Email [wigglebuttBCOD@gmail.com](mailto:wigglebuttBCOD@gmail.com) to have a trainer or training event added to this list.

[Link to Training Resources](#)



### Fun Match Opportunities! AKC Sanctioned B-Matches

Sunday January 12  
Riverdale Reional Park, Brighton, CO  
AKC Event 2020062606  
Hosted by Terry-All Kennel Club

Sunday, February 2  
Boulder County Fairgrounds, Longmont,  
CO  
AKC Event 2020062308  
Hosted by Flatiron Kennel Club

Sunday, February 9, 8:00am

### Evolution in Dog Training by Eric Salas

Many people fall in love with a specific breed through the physical attributes and characteristics. Breeds with old working lines were bred for specific jobs and traits that included strong work ethics, working independently and working without direction from their master.

[Click Here to Read More](#)

Eric Salas will be teaching a 2-day all breed workshop in Fort Collins, CO  
March 28 & 29

Do you have training tips to share? Please consider writing a training article for the Wigglebutt! Email [wigglebuttbcod@gmail.com](mailto:wigglebuttbcod@gmail.com) to let us

The Ranch, Larimer County Fairgrounds,  
Loveland, CO  
AKC Event 2020083525  
Hosted by Buckhorn Valley Kennel Club

know your topic and when you would like  
to submit your article!

Thursday, February 13  
National Western Complex, Denver, CO  
AKC Event 2020041121  
Hosted by Colorado Kennel Club

## Fundraising

Every dollar matters!  
Click on any of the  
following for more  
information

[King Soopers Fund  
Raising](#)

[Wigglebutt Advertising](#)

Show Catalog Advertising  
(Coming Soon!)

Show Sponsorship  
(Coming Soon!)



*Albert & Arrow – June 2019, Colorado Springs, CO, Arrow's first major awarded by AKC Judge Marcie Dobkins*

Thank you, Albert Nishimoto, for volunteering your time as the Wigglebutt Editor!  
Albert served as editor through 2019 and has turned over the reigns of the newsletter to allow time for new endeavors. Please be sure to give your appreciation to Albert the next time you see him.

Bulldog Club of Denver |  
[www.bcod.org](http://www.bcod.org)

[Link to Show Info](#)



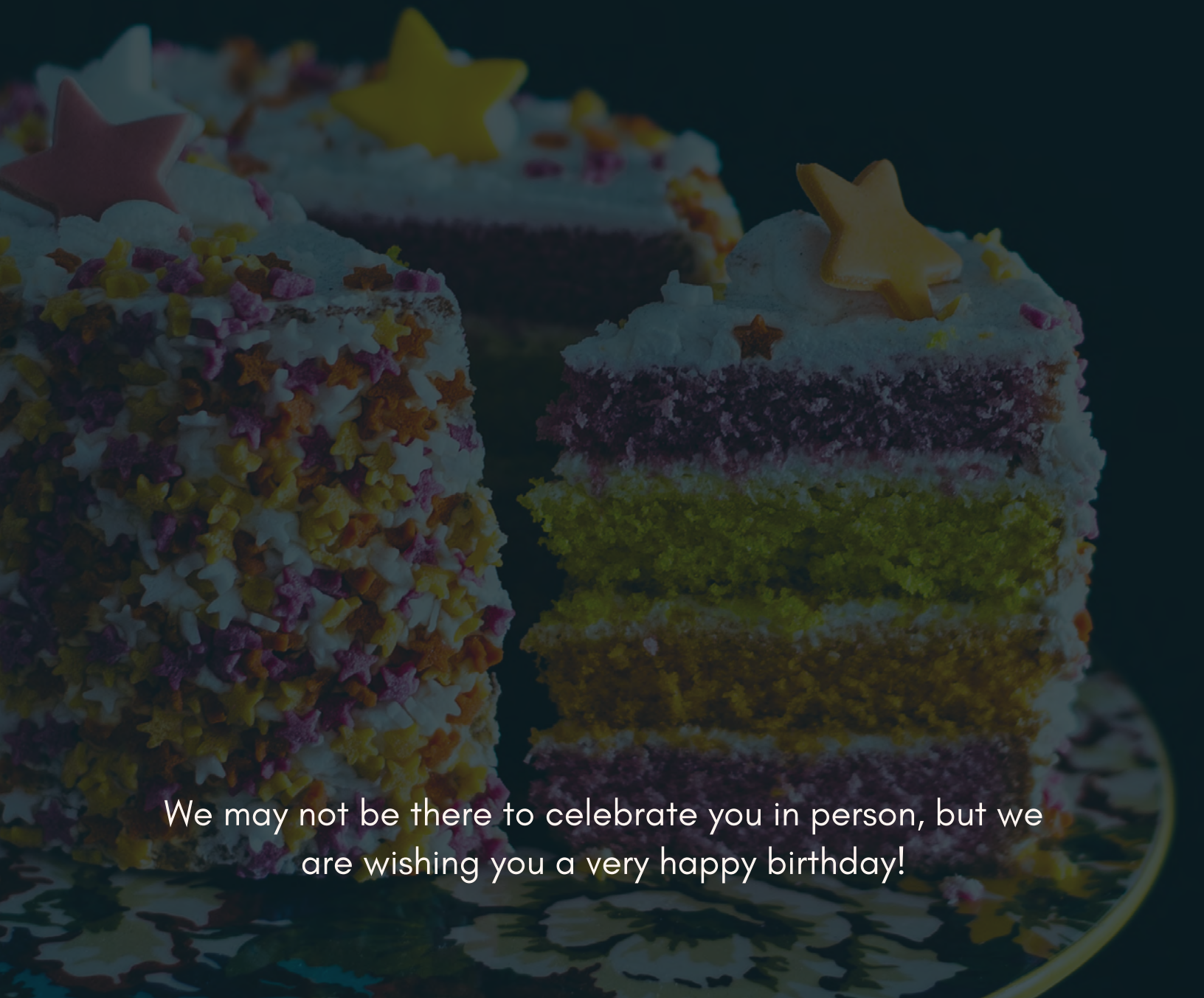




HAPPY BIRTHDAY FROM BULLDOG CLUB  
OF DENVER!

## Club Members Celebrating Birthdays in January

**5th Laura Anninos**  
**10th Moira Bright**  
**11th Shawn Ashbaugh**



We may not be there to celebrate you in person, but we  
are wishing you a very happy birthday!



### **President's Corner**

Dear Members,

As we wrap-up 2019, I want to thank you for your contributions to our club. This year brought exciting changes and new growth to our club. It was a thrill to experience. Here are some highlights (from the last six months alone!):

Welcomed 2 new members;

Put on several successful Bulldog club events, such as, the ice cream social, the summer picnic, the B-match and Bulloween;

Chose a new site location for our specialty show; and

Kept the "special" in our specialty show by continuing as a standalone show.

I am so thankful for each and every one of our club members and your individual contributions, whether that be time, talent or treasure (and sometimes all three). 2020 is an opportunity to renew our commitment to both our Bulldogs and our bulldog club. Participate on a committee. Consider signing up to help with our specialty show. And of course, bring a Bulldog friend to a club meeting or event this year and share the magic of Bulldogs and dog showing with others.

Our January 2020 meeting on Saturday, January 18<sup>th</sup> will be special. We will have the club board meeting from 10-11am and the general meeting from 11-12pm. I invite every club member to attend the board meeting, if for nothing else, just to see what goes on in a board meeting. The board is experimenting with it's meeting times to, in part, make attendance by club members easier.

At the beginning of 2020, I want to remind everyone that our membership dues were due on January 1<sup>st</sup>. If you haven't done so already, please send your dues payment (\$15 per member) to Karen Trevino as soon as possible.

Again, thank you for being a member of the Bulldog Club of Denver. Best wishes for a very healthy and prosperous new year and I look forward to seeing you at our next club meeting.

Bulldog Club of Denver is fortunate to have many longstanding members. We are taking a moment this month to recognize Ken and Sherry Sanford in a *Then & Now Member Spotlight*. They even provided some awesome photos to go along with their Q&A interview. Thank you, Ken and Sherry, for your decades of dedication to Bulldogs and Bulldog Club of Denver. We hope everyone enjoys getting this peak in to your Bulldog past & present.

*Q: How long have you been showing Bulldogs?*

Sherry 1977 / Ken 1984

*Q: Do you have a favorite memory from your showing or breeding history that you would like to share?*

Sherry: We had multiple entries in a show. "Jenny" took WB; "Spenser" was entered as our Special. Ken had to take him in for Breed so he told me to take "Jenny" in. He assured me "she will show herself" ! We enter the ring; get in line; "Jenny" rolls over on her back & puts all four feet in the air & grumbles. The Judge turned around & said "Jenny, get up" ! She pops up & shows beautifully & took BOS & "Spenser" took Breed.

*Q: What have you found to be a secret to your success showing Bulldogs?*

Accentuate your dog's strong points instead of focusing on their shortcomings & make sure they have fun!

*Q: How have dog shows and Bulldogs changed over the years?*

Overall the Bulldogs have improved, especially healthwise. There are more professional handlers in the bulldog ring these days & AKC has added the National Owners Handler Series.

*Q: If you could give advice to a new person starting out in Bulldogs, what would you say?*

Study the standard; know your dog's strengths & faults. Focus on the strengths. Make sure you & the dog have fun, win or lose!!

*Q: What is the funniest memory you have of a Bulldog or a dog show?*

*Q: Which of you is more competitive?*

This is a tossup; we both like to win but our dogs never know they didn't win !!!

*Q: Which of you spoils your Bulldogs more?*

Sherry is the spoiler; Ken is the trainer !!

*Q: Think of when each of your Bulldogs was a puppy. Was there a puppy who grew up to surprise you with success?*

"Jenny" surprised Ken by finishing so quickly! "Jubilee" surprised me by taking longer than I had thought. There was nothing feminine about her. She was once mistaken for a male by a judge. He worked us hard against a very nice male special. In the end, he turned to the spectators & said "the standard says if all is equal with a male & a female, the bitch gets the breed so BOB goes to the bitch."



*Q: Was there a puppy that you knew immediately was very special? Do you have a puppy which has been your favorite?*

CH KTJ'S Classic Diana of JC's

*Q: When not in the ring, what does your Bulldog (or Bulldogs) like to do?*

Sit on the couch & go for walks! All of them love to go for rides!!

*Q: Who gets more excited to go to a dog show?*

The dogs! I think their enthusiasm is our motivation!

*Q: When considering the dog fancy, what are your hopes for Bulldogs and dog shows in the future?*

That the comraderie between all of us improves; all Bulldoggers should enjoy our hobby.

*What is the biggest misconception your fellow competitors may have about you?*

I don't know how to respond to this one !! LOL !!

*Other than raising Bulldogs, what hobbies do you enjoy?*

Gospel music concerts!

*Is there anything else you would like to share?*

We miss the shared meals after the shows, especially the Saturday evening get together Specialty weekend. Our out of towners, the judges & our locals shared stories, memories & laughter.

## **Bulldog Club of Denver**

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### **New Business**

No new business was discussed.

Sara made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded and motion carried.

Meeting adjourned



<b>TREASURER'S SUMMARY REPORT: December 2019</b>					
		Jan '19		Dec '19	Dec 4
OPERATING ACCOUNT	9661	\$ 3,849.86		\$ 3,280.57	
SHOW ACCOUNT	9653	\$ 5,228.76		\$ 9,693.36	
SAVINGS ACCOUNT	2884	\$ 10,927.09		\$ 11,830.23	
SAVINGS CD		10,350.34		10,642.31	
TOTAL		\$ 30,356.05		\$ 35,446.47	
<b>INCOME:</b>					
OPERATING ACCOUNT:				\$ 0.00	
SHOW ACCOUNT:				\$ 0.00	
SAVINGS ACCOUNT:				\$ 100.29	
(Savings Deposit + Int.)					
TOTAL INCOME:				\$ 100.29	
<b>EXPENSES:</b>					
OPERATING ACCOUNT:				\$ 190.00	
SHOW ACCOUNT:				\$ 0.00	
SAVINGS ACCOUNT:				\$ 0.00	
TOTAL EXPENSES:				\$ 190.00	
<b>MONTHLY INCOME VS EXPENSES:</b>					
INCOME				\$ 100.29	
EXPENSES				\$ 190.00	
CASH FLOW (POSITIVE/NEGATIVE)				- 89.71	
THE INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS FACTUAL TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE AND IS SUPPORTED BY WELLS FARGO ONLINE BANKING.					
THE TREASURER SHALL NOT BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY MISTAKES ON THIS REPORT.					
PREPARED BY: KAREN A TREVINO, TREASURER					

# EVOLUTION IN DOG TRAINING

by Eric Salas





*Dog breeds were created to do specific jobs whether it is working on a farm, guarding, searching or helping gather food. Back then when they were bred for specific jobs being the family Pet was an afterthought.*

Many people fall in love with a specific breed through the physical attributes and characteristics. Breeds with old working lines were bred for specific jobs and traits that included strong work ethics, working independently and working without direction from their master.

Depending on where you get your dog today you can get one that was bred to be a companion and although it may look identical to the working line it is void of the primitive instincts for working. Many people go to the wrong place for the companion dog and seek out the best breeder possible and now you have a dog that has incredible drive for it's specific job and if you're trying to make it your companion, the inbred desires create a craving for the dog to do what it was bred to do. When these needs are not met that is when negative behavior can be the outcome.

People by nature have certain characteristics and desires such as music, hiking backpacking, swimming, and some have generations of family

members that have artistic genes such as music or painting. We are not bred to do specific jobs like the dogs but still have strong genetic desires. Imagine if your desire was to create music and the person you lived with would not allow you to fulfill that desire. How unhappy and resentful you would be?

Fast-forward to the popularity of showing dogs, performance events, dogs with jobs and all the fun activities that are available to us today. Many people in these events seek out the best breeders they can find. Many of those breeders go back to very strong working lines. Those are not dogs that will be easily trained with traditional training techniques. These dogs have very primitive instincts and those primitive instincts come with rules in a dog's world. Hierarchy, communication, trust and respect to name a few.

Putting this into perspective; Go to YouTube and search the wild animal Jackal. You will find that they are very primitive, not social, and very independent. They don't even communicate or so-



cialize with other families of Jackals. If you were to try and train one you would fail miserably with conventional training techniques.

The Answer? Start off by selecting a dog in your trainability level. If you know you are going to select a dog beyond your training limitations then follow these instructions, be patient and don't try to get ahead of schedule.

Don't make the mistake of establishing dominance and training the dog too quickly. You have to earn the respect and trust before a dog with strong working lines will let you into its world. Go to YouTube and subscribe to the Official Eric Salas Training Chanel. This Channel is filled with many detailed exercises and examples of how to train difficult/smart dogs. Some of the videos will demonstrate the use of FitPaws balancing pads to earn respect and trust. Your goal is to get the dog to simply touch the equipment with its paw or paws by using hand signals and or body language. Nothing can be forced at this stage and verbal commands are secondary. This allows you and the dog to learn how to communicate in a fun way.

The other skill at this point is called the "Head Straight" Watch the video call "The Complete Head Straight Video" This will allow you to earn total respect and trust from the smartest of dogs with the most primitive instincts. It is very important you watch the video before you attempt this exercise. Watch the video.

## STEP 1. THE INTRODUCTION

Allow the dog to familiarize it's self with the new surroundings and you. Take a minimum of 3 days and just watch your dog and let it watch you. Do not establish eye contact, as this is pressure, let the dog feel as if it were invisible. After the third day introduce treats and toys but still no eye contact. Let the dog learn that you are not a threat, you are fun, you have good treats and you respect its space. Be consistent on feeding times like 8:00 and 20:00 daily. Put your hands in the food to get your scent on it and stand over the bowl and make them wait until you release them to eat. Always make fresh water available; give great treats for rewarding good behavior, plenty of time to earn mutual respect.

## STEP 3. TRAINING

Once the dog willingly follows all your commands with the FitPaws equipment with no hesitation and does not fight you during the head straight process now you are ready to train for the ring or performance event. There are five major parts in preparing a dog for the conformation show ring. Conditioning, exercise, nutrition, grooming and truly learning the history of your breed includ-

## STEP 2. PRE-TRAINING





ing all the available standards should be met with the same intensity.

1. Entering the ring
2. The exam
3. Patterns
4. Gaiting
5. The finale
6. Entering the ring:

Many people need to put more emphasis on this very important skill that is widely overlooked. This sets the pace of how your dog will show, it tells the dog it's time to work. It is also the first impression on what your judge sees in you and your dog, preparing for this skill teaches you how to make your dog stand out and look good within seconds! Set up a ring entrance including obstacles like chairs or boxes in front of the entrance. These obstacles represent people and dogs that hang out in front of the entrance blocking you from entering. Practice coming in from many angles with the goal of being at a perfect gait the second the dog crosses the entrance to the ring.



## THE EXAM

This skill teaches you how to present your dog to the breed standard so that your judge can examine your dog with no effort on their part. You may have the best dog at the show but if you don't stack it correctly and if you cant control your dog from pulling away, moving feet not standing correctly or many other breed specific requirements then the Judge cant award your dog. Practice the Head Straight position multiple times a day. If your dog is still fighting you with this then you are jumping ahead and need to go back to Pre-Training. Don't rush this; many people try to bypass this by free stacking. How are you going to get a good winners photo if you can't stack your dog? A well-trained dog allows the Judge to see all the angles, foot placement, expression and stands out as a worthy competitor at the next level of compe-



tion. Free stacking while the dog is standing on all four paws on the balancing pads strengthens the dog's body core and creates very impressive stacks. If your dog requires the use of tail, ears as part of expression you wont get this without proper practice. You must earn this respect. Pre-Training and head straight is the solution for your success here.

## PATTERNS

Patterns are a way for the Judge to evaluate, foot placement, reach, drive, correct movement for the breed and a way for the Judge to confirm what they saw and felt during the exam. It is your responsibility to move your dog at the correct speed for the angle your Judge is evaluating it, side gait speed may be different than observing the dog from front or rear. It is your responsibility to gait your dog so it is directly in front of the Judge. Don't make your Judge move to see what they need to see to evaluate. Keep your dog on the center of the mat or in a straight line with the Judge. It is your responsibility to not distract your dog or impede the movement by; improper communication with your body language, stringing the dog up on a tight lead, or staring down at your dog with eye contact making your dog look up at you. Practice every pattern possible; down and back, L, triangle and even a tee. You may never need to do this but if you continuously PRACTICE these on a regular basis you teach your dog to always look to you for direction. Practice all patterns with the lead in your left hand, with the lead in your left & right hand and without a lead in a secure area.



## GAITING

The final go around is where the Judge is really starting to make decisions on the final selection. You need to be flawless, happy and in total control of speed and your surroundings here. Practice gaiting counter clockwise with the lead in your left hand, then clockwise with the lead in your right hand, then using your right and left hand without a lead. Body language and hand communication is the key here. The dog must be focused on your lead hand with your palm pointing the direction you want to go. Practice with other dogs in front of you and behind you. This will fine-tune your communication skills between you and your dog so that your dog is focusing on the signals of your hands and not the other dogs.

## THE FINALE

This is where all of the dogs are being presented to the Judge after the final go around for the final selections. Train your dog to be presented in five totally different positions so if your Judge looks like they are having a tough time with their selections you can show them something that may make them point your direction! By training five different positions you will also prepare yourself and your dog for great winners photos! Present your dog in a position until your Judge shows no interest in your dog. When the Judge is not looking then switch to a different position. Position #1 The hand stack, Position #2 the free stack, Position #3 ¾ stack into the ring with you out of the line of sight, Position #4 and #5 watch the complete head straight video with Eric Salas at [www.EricSalasWorkshops.com](http://www.EricSalasWorkshops.com)

These 5 steps can be a program where you teach one each week, then one each day before a show then 1 each minute at the show as a warm up before the ring. Please don't rush, focus on pre-training until you and your dog are ready to be a team. You will make it easier for the judges to find your dog and harder for your competition to beat you.

## TRAINING OPTIONS

Go to YouTube and search for the Official Eric Salas Training Channel, hit Subscribe and you will be notified every time a new video is posted. On FaceBook search Eric Salas Workshops and join the group, you will see tips and short videos on training show dogs and overcoming problems. Go to [www.EricSalasWorkshops.com](http://www.EricSalasWorkshops.com) and see many ways for Eric Salas to be one of your mentors in the world of showing, conditioning, training and grooming dogs. Look at the schedule page for upcoming workshops to attend. If you don't find anything near you, there are other solutions; contact Eric Salas at [Info@EricSalasWorkshops.com](mailto:Info@EricSalasWorkshops.com)

and see how easy, fun and profitable it can be to host a workshop in your area. If you don't want to host a workshop then find a great facility in your area and put Eric Salas in touch with that facility, if all goes well you may even get a free workshop for finding the facility! Eric Salas is also available for private training and the website describes this in detail. You may want to try on-line training with Eric Salas. Whatever your choice is, the community of people helping others worldwide is growing daily, you can find these people by searching #EricSalasWorkshops

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