

The Brittany Primer



The American Brittany Club, Inc.

One of America's Most Popular Pointing Dogs

www.theamericanbrittanyclub.org

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The Brittany

The Brittany first appeared in the United States in the 1940's. Since that time, he has become one of America's most popular hunting dogs and companion. With this interest there is a healthy curiosity about the Brittany, his ability and activities.

This is an attempt to answer many of the questions about the breed in a basic manner. The Brittany is a compact, closely knit dog of medium size, between 30 to 40 pounds, and from 17-1/2 to 20-1/2 inches at the shoulder. He is a leggy dog that can cover ground with agility. He is strong, vigorous, energetic and quick of movement.

His small size makes him easy to carry in a car. His short tail, which can be either natural or docked, is an asset. He has enough coat to protect him from the briars but not enough to catch burrs to any great extent. He can be either orange and white, or liver and white, with either clear or roan patterns. He is not a heavily coated dog, but is lightly fringed.

He works in the same manner as a pointer, but without the great range. He points and holds his game. He retrieves both on land and in water. He is used primarily on upland game in the United States, but is used on both fur and feather in France.

He is noted for an exceptionally keen nose and a very biddable disposition. Many of the country's top dogs have been house pets as well as field winners and fine hunting dogs. The Brittany is a high energy dog who is bred to hunt. He does need lots of exercise or opportunities to hunt to keep him happy.

He has a typical friendly disposition and is very willing to please his master. He may be expected to absorb training more easily than some of the other pointing breeds, needing only a sharp scolding or slight punishment. The natural ability of the Brittany sells him as a breed to many neophytes in the field of hunting as he seems to know better what to do than his master.

He gains his admirers from his excellent working ability. The Brittany, with his shorter range, is becoming more popular as hunting becomes limited to smaller fields with more fences. His exceptional nose, which guarantees that he will pass up few birds, also helps to account for his popularity.



The American Brittany Club, Inc.

The American Brittany Club, Inc. (ABC), is a member of the American Kennel Club and is the recognized breed sponsor by the American Field. The ABC is the sponsoring organization for the Brittany in America. It is composed of member or regional clubs in almost all parts of the country. The purpose of the American Brittany Club is to promote cooperation and friendship among the breeders and owners of Brittanyes and to encourage higher standards in breeding, training and showing of Brittanyes in the field and in the show ring; to discourage the breed from becoming split into groups of "field dogs" and "show dogs" and to strive to keep it forever a "dual dog".

The club is composed of many regional (local) clubs located from coast to coast. Membership can be had through joining a regional club. This automatically includes membership in the national organization, the ABC. If there is no regional club, membership may be had directly in the ABC as a Member-at-Large. Either type of membership includes a free subscription to the monthly publication, "*The American Brittany*." The magazine contains reports of trials, shows, and club activities as well as articles on care and training of the Brittany. There are also articles of general interest. It carries a listing of kennels, dogs at stud and trainers.

Regional Clubs may hold licensed AKC trials (up to two horseback and one walking each year) for championship points in the spring and fall seasons. Many hold specialty (conformation) shows and hunting tests also. The regional clubs hold meetings, picnics, fun trials, training sessions, and other events of interest to their members.

The National or Parent organization, ABC, each year sponsors the National Specialty Show, Bench Futurities, Field Futurities, National Championship Field Trial, National Amateur Championship Field Trial, National Open Gun Dog Championship and the National Amateur Gun Dog Championship. In addition to the Nationals, ABC also sponsors a series of Classics/Championships in the various regions named for and run on native game prevalent to each geographic area: Quail, Pheasant, Gun Dog, Prairie Chicken, Chukar and Grouse/Woodcock.

For more information about The American Brittany Club and a Regional Club near you, please go to www.theamericanbrittanyclub.org/secretary.htm or contact: The American Brittany Club Executive Secretary at exec.secretary@TheAmericanBrittanyClub.org

The Dual Brittany

On April 28, 2006 a landmark for our breed was reached with our 500th Dual Champion Brittany. The Brittany has the most Dual Champions of the AKC Sporting Breeds. To be named a Dual Champion, you must have a finished Show Champion and Field Champion of record.

The long history of the Dual Brittany has held strong through the years, with new Duals finishing at a steady pace, and Dual Champions continuing to win National Open, Amateur All Age and Gun Dog Championships (or winners of those stakes going on to become Duals). The breed also saw its first two all-breed Best in Show winning Dual Champions in the past decade. One Brittany has won both a National Field Championship and National Specialty Show, and a Dual Champion has not won the National Specialty show since 1974, but two Duals have won ABC Summer Specialty shows in the past five years.

Thank you to all the breeders, owners, trainers, handlers and supporters whose dedication to the Brittany has made this remarkable number of Dual Champions possible.

American Brittany Club Code of Ethics

Adopted November 30, 1996

The following principles are to be used as an educational guide and a tool for Brittany breeders for the purpose to develop more genetic and disease free dogs, while being ethical in all matters with the public and with our peers.

Objective and Purpose

To promote cooperation and friendship among the breeders and owners of Brittans and to encourage higher standards in breeding, training and showing of Brittans in the field and in the show ring; to discourage the breed from becoming split into groups of "field dogs" and "show dogs" and to strive to keep it forever a "dual dog".

Ethical breeders should:

1. Comply with all ABC and AKC rules and regulations.
2. Maintain a high standard of health, care, and cleanliness for dogs under one's care.
3. Truthfully and realistically represent the Brittany being bred and/or sold in terms of quality, health, and genetic history. Refrain from breeding a bitch or using a stud until they are two (2) years old.
4. Consult with your breeder and with knowledgeable, experienced members of the ABC, regional clubs, or local kennel clubs to broaden your understanding and knowledge of the history of the breed BEFORE breeding your Brittany.
5. Breed only stock which are physically and temperamentally sound and in good health. No dog or bitch should be bred that is known to have serious inheritable defects or genetic diseases, such as:
 - canine hip/elbow dysplasia, primary epilepsy, a seizure disorder,
 - eye disorders - retinal atrophy, undescended testicles,
 - heart defects, extreme shyness, viciousness, other inheritable diseases or defects
6. Not attempt breeding without the ability to distinguish between correct and incorrect physical attributes. This ability requires a careful study of the breed standard, principles of genetics, and a study of both the sire and the dam's pedigrees. Breeders should study and learn the good points within our dogs, looking to both field ability and conformation.
7. Have their breeding stock OFA (Orthopedic Foundation for Animals), GDC (Genetic Disease Control) or PennHip certification numbers for hips on, at least, both the sire and the dam; preferably for three (3) generations on both sides of the pedigree. In addition, other tests (brucellosis, eyes, elbows, and other unspecified tests) should be declared in agreement between owners of the sire and the dam prior to breeding.
8. Refuse to sell to commercial wholesalers, retail brokers, or research laboratories.
9. Have tails docked and dew claws removed soon after birth. Prior to the sale of the puppies, initial shots for known infectious diseases should be given and worming administered. A buyer should be supplied with a four-(4) generation pedigree, registration certificate, information on all veterinary care, and instructions for the care, feeding, and training of the Brittany.
10. Remember your responsibility, as a breeder does not end with the sale of the puppy. A breeder should have contact with the buyer of a pup throughout the life of the dog. This information will enhance breeding knowledge and improve the foundation for a good long-term breeding program. This will also help your regional club to grow with new members and possible participants and workers.
11. Use spay/neuter agreements and/or consider limited registration if it is known or believed to manifest hereditary defects detrimental to the breed. THE LONG TERM INTEREST OF THE BRITTANY SHOULD BE THE GOAL OF EVERY BREEDER.
12. Consider DNA finger printing for all dogs in your breeding programs.

Do I Want A Brittany?

Someone told me that I should look at a Brittany as I was in the market for a hunting dog. I didn't get a chance to hunt often, or for very long hours, but I wanted a dog that I could take off the living room divan and turn him loose in the field and have him find birds. I wanted a pet for the kids and a dog that the wife would like to have around.

First, I looked into all the literature I could find. I found that the Brittany was a relatively small dog, 35 pounds or so, 20 inches tall. This would make him bigger than a Cocker. This was good for he could breast the heavy cover without giving out. He would be smaller than a Setter or Pointer. This was also good as, perhaps, with his shorter length of leg he wouldn't be inclined to hunt in the next county while I was in this one.

His coat also pleased me as it was medium length, smooth or wavy, but never curly. This meant less hair to shed on the divan. This meant enough hair to protect him from briars. It also should not be enough hair to make much of a burr problem in the field.

His short tail was a selling point with my wife. She was tired of the big ambitious hunting dog that came bouncing into the living room and with one sweep of the tail pushed everything from the coffee table onto the floor. To me this short tail meant no more troubles with injured tail tips.

He was touted as a good quail singles dog, good on pheasant and even better on grouse and woodcock. Nothing much was said about his ability as a duck dog, but I was only a sporadic duck hunter and did not much care if he didn't have the coat to stand a full day in the blind in freezing weather.

My next move was to locate some of these Brittansys so that I could see what they looked like, and perhaps see some work in the field. I wrote The American Brittany Club and found out that there was going to be a field trial about 100 miles from my home in a couple of weeks.

We, the whole family, attended this trial. This was to be a family dog and he had to have the family okay. Other Brittansys seemed to be family dogs too. We talked to several participants in the trials and found them all fond of their combination pet-hunting dogs.

We watched the all-age stakes. This was a one course trial and we could all sit in the car and watch the dogs work their birds. We saw some nice birdwork. We saw these little Britts work at a fast pace, whirl in mid air and stab their birds with style that could not be bettered by any other breed. Most of the dogs showed excellent manners, did not chase the birds right out of the country. We could not understand that the handlers did not shoot the birds. We would have liked to see an exhibition of retrieving as well. This seemed like the dog for us. We were well pleased.

I talked to one of the breeders and he told me that he liked his pups to run free and wild as they got more chance to find birds that way. They learned faster where to find birds, how to trail them and all that. He did not expect them to control until they were about 2 years old. This did make sense. I asked him about the fast pace that the handlers had set and he said it was mostly due to the excitement and to the fact that the handler did not want the dog to dawdle and smell around the ground. This was a race to see who could find the birds the fastest and best and that wasted time meant you might lose the trial.

He also said that most of these dogs were hunted all day and would adapt to a day's hunt easily. A smart dog knew that the blank pistol meant the race, the short time afield, and he gave his most for that short time. The shot gun meant an all day hunt and most dogs soon learned to take it easy. Anyway these dogs usually had one eye on the master and if he slowed up they did too.

Registration

A purebred dog is eligible for AKC registration, this is the first of two major registries, if its litter has been registered. When you purchase a dog said to be AKC-registrable, you should get an individual Dog Registration Application from the seller. Once the application has been completed, you should submit it to the AKC with the proper fee. You can also register a dog online. In about three weeks, you will receive your dog's AKC Registration Certificate. When your puppy is registered, you can take advantage of the AKC Pet Healthcare Plan with an introductory 60 days pet healthcare insurance at no-cost to you.

Filling out the Application

The Dog Registration Application must be filled out jointly by the litter owner and the new owner of the dog. The application is color-coded for the convenience of both parties. The litter owner must fill out the most of the application, including the following information:

- Sex of dog
- Color and markings of dog
- Registration Type (Full or Limited)
- Transfer date
- Name and address of all new owners and co-owners
- Signatures of all litter owners

The new owner of the dog must fill out the following:

- Name of dog
- Signatures of all owners and co-owners
- Payment information
- Registration Options (for purchasing pedigrees and videos)

Processing fees are nonrefundable, and all fees are subject to change without notice.

Please note that each litter owner and each new owner must sign the application individually. It is crucial that all sections of the application are filled out correctly. Failure to properly complete the application will result in processing delays.

If you did not acquire the dog directly from the litter owner(s), you must include a Supplemental Transfer Statement for each intermediate transfer with the application.

When the application has been received and processed by the AKC, an AKC Registration Certificate will be mailed to the owner. The owner should examine the certificate carefully and report any errors to the AKC.

You can also register a dog online through their website <www.akc.org>.

If you are buying a dog that is supposed to be registrable with the AKC you should realize it is your responsibility to obtain complete identification of the dog or you should not buy the dog. Failure to get AKC "registration papers" causes more grief for buyers of purebred registrable dogs than any other problem except sickness. It has long been common practice to explain the inability saying "AKC hasn't sent the papers yet." The essence of this and similar excuses is that because the American Kennel Club is at fault, papers are not available. The fact is that the processing of any AKC registration item takes approximately three weeks. If a breeder is doing his paperwork in a regular, careful manner, there is ample time to obtain the necessary "papers" from AKC prior to sale of any puppy. When "papers" are not available at the time of delivery, it is a red-flag warning sign to exercise extreme caution.

AKC Registration and Quality

There is a widely held belief that "AKC" or "AKC papers" guarantee the quality of a dog. This is not the case. AKC is a registry body. A registration certificate identifies the dog as

the offspring of a known sire and dam, born on a known date. It in no way indicates the quality or state of health of the dog. Quality in the sense of “show quality” is determined by many factors including the dog’s health, physical condition, ability to move and appearance. Breeders breeding show stock are trying to produce animals that closely resemble the description of perfection described in the breed standard. Many people breed their dogs with no concern for the qualitative demands of the breed standard. When this occurs repeatedly over several generations, the animals, while still purebred, can be of extremely low quality. Before buying a dog, you should investigate the dog’s parentage (including titles, DNA and pedigree information), the breeder’s breeding practices, the breed standard, and the genetic tests recommended by the Parent Club for the breed. For more information, go to About Buying a Dog and visit the Parent Club website.

About AKC Registration

The American Kennel Club, a not-for-profit organization established in 1884, maintains a purebred dog registry, sanctions dog events, and promotes responsible dog ownership. As AKC does not breed or sell dogs, it cannot guarantee the quality or health of dogs in its registry. AKC reserves the right to refuse or to rescind the registration of any dog for cause.

The owners of registered dogs have access to numerous educational and informational services provided by AKC, as well as to various competitive events. The rules and regulations for each type of event should be referenced to determine specific eligibility and performance requirements.

American Field Registration

The second major registry for the Brittany is The American Field, Field Dog Stud Book (FDSB). Many ABC field trials are also held under the American Field and all ABC Classics and National Championships are considered American Field Championship stakes.

For the American Field registration (FDSB) you should have received a letter sized form to fill out. Be sure and draw the markings of your dog on the diagram and fill in the information completely and send to The American Field Publishing Company, 542 S. Dearborn St., Suite 650, Chicago, IL 60605; you may also refer to their website <www.americanfield.com> for more information.

It takes about 3-6 weeks for the AKC and FDSB to process registrations.

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Sample copy of the magazine,
THE AMERICAN BRITTANY.....\$4.00
Membership per year\$50.00
(Membership includes subscription to the magazine)

To join, go to the American Brittany Club website

www.theamericanbrittanyclub.org/MembershipApplication.htm

or send email inquiries to

membership@theamericanbrittanyclub.org

To find a regional club, go to

www.theamericanbrittanyclub.org/Secretary.htm

This Standard of the Brittany was approved by The American Kennel Club on April 9, 1990 and went into effect May 29, 1990.

General Appearance

A compact, closely knit dog or medium size, a leggy dog having the appearance, as well as the agility, of a great ground coverer. Strong, vigorous, energetic and quick of movement. Ruggedness, without clumsiness, is a characteristic of the breed. He can be tailless or has a tail docked to approximately four inches.

Size, Proportion and Substance

Height - 17 1/2 to 20 1/2 inches, measured from the ground to the highest point of the shoulders. Any Brittany measuring under 17 1/2 inches or over 20 1/2 inches shall be disqualified from dog show competition.

Weight - Should weigh between 30 and 40 pounds.

Proportion - So leggy is he that his height at the shoulders is the same as the length of his body.

Body Length - Approximately the same as the height when measured at the shoulders. Body length is measured from the point of the forechest to the rear of the rump. A long body should be heavily penalized.

Substance - Not too light in bone, yet never heavyboned and cumbersome.

Head

Expression - Alert and eager, but with the soft expression of a bird dog.

Eyes - Well set in head. Well protected from briars by a heavy, expressive eyebrow. A prominent, full or pop eye should be heavily penalized. It is a serious fault in a dog that must face briars. Skull well chiseled under the eyes, so that the lower lid is not pulled back to form a pocket or hawk that would catch seeds, dirt and weed dust. Preference should be for the darker colored eyes, though lighter shades of amber should not be penalized. Light and mean-looking eyes should be heavily penalized.

Ear - Set high, above the level of the eyes. Short and triangular, rather than pendulous, reaching about half the length of the muzzle. Should lie flat and close to the head, with the tip rounded very slightly. Ears well covered with dense, but relatively short hair, and with little fringe.

Skull - Medium length, rounded, very slightly wedge shaped, but evenly made. Width, not quite as wide as the length and never so broad as to appear coarse, or so narrow as to appear racy. Well defined, but gently sloping stop. Median line rather indistinct. The occiput only apparent to the touch. Lateral walls well rounded. The Brittany should never be "apple-headed" and he should never have an indented stop.

Muzzle - Medium length. about two-thirds the length of the skull, measuring the muzzle from the tip to the stop, and the skull from the occiput to the stop. Muzzle should taper gradually in both horizontal and vertical dimensions as it approaches the nostrils. Neither a Roman nose nor a dish-face is desirable. Never broad, heavy or snippy.

Nose - Nostrils well open to permit deep breathing of air and adequate scenting. Tight nostrils should be penalized. Never shiny. Color: Fawn, tan, shades of brown or deep pink. A black nose is a disqualification. A two-tone or butterfly nose should be penalized.

Lips - Tight, the upper lip overlapping the lower jaw just to cover the lower lip. Lips dry, so that feathers will not stick. Drooling to be heavily penalized. Flews to be penalized.

Bite - A true scissors bite. Overshot or undershot jaw to be heavily penalized.

Neck, Topline and Body

Neck - Medium length. Free from throatiness, though not a serious fault unless accompanied by dewlaps, strong without giving the impression of being overmuscled. Well set into sloping shoulders. Never concave or ewe-necked.

Topline - Slight slope from the highest point of the shoulders to the root of the tail.

Chest - Deep, reaching the level of the elbow. Neither so wide nor so rounded as to disturb the placement of the shoulders and elbows. Ribs well sprung. Adequate heart room provided by depth as well as width. Narrow or slab-sided chests are a fault.

Back - Short and straight. Never hollow, saddle, sway or roach backed. Slight drop from the hips to the root of the tail.

Flanks - Rounded. Fairly full. Not extremely tucked up, or flabby and falling. Loins short and strong. Distance from last rib to upper thigh short! about three to four finger widths. Narrow and weak loins are a fault. In motion, the loin should not sway sideways. giving a zig zag motion to the back, wasting energy.

Tail - Tailless to approximately four inches. natural or docked. The tail not to be so long as to affect the over-all balance of the dog. Set on high, actually an extension of the spine at about the same level. Any tail substantially more than four inches shall be severely penalized.

Forequarters

Shoulders - Shoulder blades should not protrude too much, not too wide apart, with perhaps two thumbs' width between. Sloping and muscular. Blade and upper arm should form nearly a ninety degree angle. Straight shoulders are a fault. At the shoulders the Brittany is slightly higher than at the rump.

Front Legs - Viewed from the front, perpendicular, but not set too wide. Elbows and feet turning neither in nor out. Pasterns slightly sloped. Down in pasterns is a serious fault. Leg bones clean, graceful, but not too fine. Extremely heavy bone is as much a fault as spindly legs. One must look for substance and suppleness. Height at elbows should approximately equal distance from elbow to withers.

Feet - should be strong, proportionately smaller than the spaniels', with close fitting, well arched toes and thick pads. The Brittany is 'not up on his toes. Toes not heavily feathered. Flat feet, splayed feet, paper feet, etc., are to be heavily penalized. An ideal foot is halfway between the hare and the cat foot. Dewclaws may be removed.

Hindquarters

Broad, strong and muscular, with powerful thighs and well bent stifles, giving the angulation necessary for powerful drive.

Hind Legs - Stifles well bent. The stifle should not be so angulated as to place the hock joint far out behind the dog. A Brittany should not be condemned for straight stifle until the judge has checked the dog in motion from the side. The stifle joint should not turn out making a cowhock. Thighs well feathered but not profusely, halfway to the hock. Hocks. that is, the back pasterns, should be moderately short, pointing neither in nor out. perpendicular when viewed from the side. They should be firm when shaken by the judge.

Feet - Same as front feet.

Coat

Dense, flat or wavy, never curly. Texture neither wiry nor silky. Ears should carry little fringe. The front and hind legs should have some feathering, but too little is definitely preferable to too much. Dogs with long or profuse feathering or furnishings shall be so severely penalized as to effectively eliminate them from competition.

Skin

Fine and fairly loose. A loose skin rolls with briars and sticks, thus diminishing punctures or tearing. A skin so loose as to form pouches is undesirable.

Color

Orange and white or liver and white in either clear or roan patterns. Some ticking is desirable. The orange or liver is found in the standard particolor or piebald patterns. Washed out colors are not desirable. Tricolors are allowed but not preferred. A tri-color is a liver and white dog with classic orange markings on eyebrows, muzzle and cheeks, inside the ears and under the tail, freckles on the lower legs are orange. Anything exceeding the limits of these markings shall be severely penalized. Black is a disqualification.

Gait

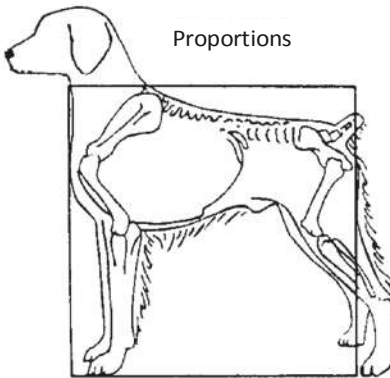
When at a trot the Brittany's hind foot should step into or beyond the print left by the front foot. Clean movement. coming and going, is very important, but most important is side gait, which is smooth, efficient and ground covering.

Temperament - A happy, alert dog, neither mean nor shy.

Disqualifications

Any Brittany measuring under 17 1/2 inches or over 20 1/2 inches. Black in the Coat. A black nose.

The Brittany Illustrated



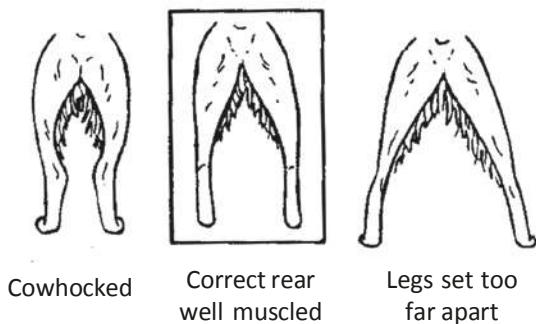
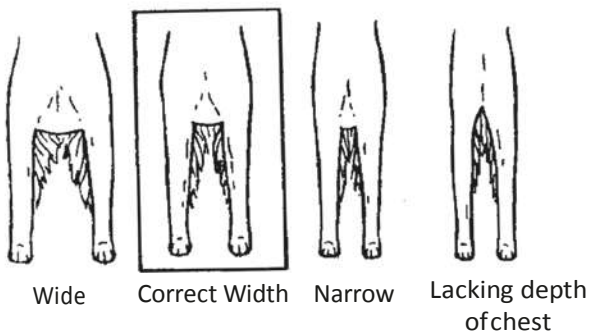
Height - Highest point of the shoulder 17 1/2" - 20 1/2"



Compact, leggy, closely knit dog of medium size.



Expression - Alert and eager with the soft expression of a bird dog.





Nearly 90
degree angle



Straight shoulder -
incorrect



Hock
mod. short



Correct
angulation



Straight
stifle



Over angulated
stifle



Pastern
slightly sloped



Close fitting
well arched toes



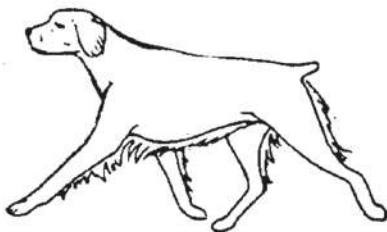
Disqualifications

Any Brittany Measuring
Under 17 1/2" or over 20 1/2"

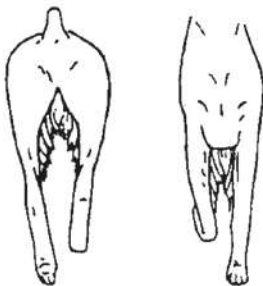
A Black Nose.

Black in the coat.

Proper Gait



Good Reach and Drive.



Legs thrown neither
in nor out.

Dog Shows

Dog shows are competitive events for dogs competing towards a bench Championship (CH). Points towards the title are awarded to the winner in each sex based upon the number of dog defeated, and then both Winners compete with finished Champions to see who will be named Best of Breed and Best of Opposite Sex (to Best of Breed) that day.

Most competitive events held under AKC rules are dog shows, where the accent is on conformation. After being examined by a judge, dogs are placed according to how well, in the judge's opinion, they measure up (conform) to their breed standard.

"All-breed" shows offer competitions for over 150 breeds and varieties of dogs recognized by the AKC. All-breed shows are the type often shown on television. Specialty shows are restricted to dogs of a specific breed or to varieties of one breed. Some clubs designate their breed's classes at an all-breed show as their club's specialty show. Classes are held the same as in any other all-breed show, but wins hold the prestige of being "specialty" wins, and the club normally offers trophies and prizes for the winners.

To be eligible to compete in a dog show, a Brittany must:

- be individually registered with the AKC
- be 6 months of age or older
- be between 17-1/2 and 20-1/2 inches tall
(*measured from the ground to the highest point of the shoulders*)
- not have any black in the coat or nose
- not be spayed or neutered.

How A Dog Show Works

Each dog presented to a judge is exhibited ("handled") by its owner, breeder or a hired professional. The handler makes sure the dog gets into the proper ring at the proper time, keeps the dog alert and in control, and a talented handler will know how to show off the dog's best qualities for the judge to evaluate.

Most dogs in competition at dog shows are competing for points toward their AKC Championships. It takes fifteen points, including two majors (wins of three, four or five points) awarded by at least three different judges, to become a Champion (indicated by a "Ch." in front of the dog's AKC registered name). The number of championship points awarded at a show depends on the number of males ("dogs") and females ("bitches") of the breed actually in competition. These points are awarded based on the number of dogs in actual competition--the more dogs, the more points. The maximum number of points awarded to a dog at any show is 5 points.

Males and females compete separately within their respective breeds. The following classes are offered, and are divided by sex:

- *Puppy* - dogs between 6 and 12 months of age. Usually divided into separate classes for dogs aged 6-9 months and 9-12 months.
- *Twelve-To-Eighteen Months* - dogs 12-18 months of age.
- *Novice* - dogs that have never won a blue ribbon in any of the other classes, and who have won fewer than three first place ribbons in the Novice class.
- *Bred By Exhibitor* - dogs owned and bred by the handler.
- *American-Bred* - dogs bred and born in the US.
- *Open* - any dog of the breed, at least 6 months of age.

After these classes are judged, all the dogs that won first place in a class compete again to see who is the best of the winning dogs. Males and females are judged separately. The best

male (Winners Dog) and the best female (Winners Bitch) receive championship points. Winners Dog and Winners Bitch then compete with the Champions for the Best of Breed award. In the Best of Breed class, three awards are usually given:

- *Best of Breed* - the dog judged the best in its breed that day.
- *Best of Winners* - the dog judged as the better of the Winners Dog and Winners Bitch.
- *Best of Opposite Sex* - the best dog that is the opposite sex to the Best of Breed winner.

The Road to Best in Show

In an all-breed show, each Best of Breed winner advances to compete in the Group competitions. Each AKC-recognized breed falls into one of seven group classifications. The seven groups are Sporting, Hound, Working, Terrier, Toy, Non-Sporting and Herding. Four placements are awarded in each group, but only the first-place winner advances to the Best In Show competition. The seven Group winners compete for Best in Show, in which only one dog remains undefeated that day.

The Role of the Judge

Judges examine the dogs, then give awards according to how closely each dog compares to the judge's mental image of the "perfect" dog described in the breed's official standard, which includes specifications for structure, temperament and movement.

The judges examine ("go over") each dog with their hands to see if the teeth, muscles, bones and coat texture conform to the standard. They view each dog in profile for overall balance, and watch each dog gait ("move") to see how all of those features fit together in action. Since some aspects of the standard are subject to interpretation, there is a different judge for the breed on each day of a dog show, so that dogs have the opportunity to be evaluated by many different judges.

Junior Showmanship

Junior Showmanship is for the kids! Instead of the dog being the focus, kids ages 10-18 show their dogs and are judged on their handling ability. Classes are divided by age and experience, and winners placed 1st through 4th. The 1st place winner from each class competes for the Best Junior Handler award. It is a great way for the kids to get involved, learn responsibility and care of their dog, as well as develop good relationships with their competitors. For information on competing in Junior Showmanship, see the AKC Website <www.akc.org>.

Tips for the First-Time Spectator

- Ask for permission before petting dogs (*remember the dog may have just been groomed in preparation for being judged*).
- If you bring a baby stroller to a dog show, be careful that you do not run over any dog's tail, and that your child does not grab or poke the dogs it can reach.
- Avoid ring entrances, where competitors must enter and exit on schedule.
- If you are considering getting a purebred dog or getting involved in dog shows, talk to the breeders and exhibitors - most will be more than happy to answer all your questions.

First, contact a local breed or kennel club to find out about conformation (*handling*) classes in your area. Meet with local breeders to learn how to groom and present your dog. Attend fun matches (*informal shows with no championship points*) and AKC shows in your area, and talk to experienced exhibitors and breeders about how to get started.

Handling classes offer the best hands-on way to practice for the show ring, while attending shows and observing can help you gain understanding of what judges and other competitors do.

If you do not wish to handle your dog yourself, or have a friend or family member do it, you may contact a professional handler who charges a fee for showing your dog.

Tips for the First-Time Exhibitor

- Make sure your dog is registered with the AKC.
- Be sure your dog is current on all inoculations.
- Join a local specialty and/or all-breed club (kennel club) in your area.
- Familiarize yourself with the AKC Rules Applying to Dog Shows.
- Attend some dog shows to observe your breed being judged and how others present your breed. (*Tip: visit the show Superintendent's website during the week prior to the show to find out when and in what ring your breed will be shown.*)
- Seek and use the knowledge and experience of your dog's breeder, and/or a long-time exhibitor near you.
- Attend handling classes with your dog.
- Learn the proper techniques for grooming and for presenting your dog in the ring.
- Don't be afraid to ask questions.

Grooming Your Dog for the Show

Reprinted from THE AMERICAN BRITTANY

There has never been any official way of trimming a Brittany for show. In France they do not trim their dogs at all. The first Britts shown in this country were shown in an untrimmed state. Alan Stuyvesant, who imported most of the early dogs, was against trimming of any sort and believed that the dogs should be shown in their natural state. So it became a custom not to trim.

In this country we show our dogs in the Sporting Group when they win the breed. In this group they come up against Setters and other Spaniels that are groomed to the ninth degree. An untrimmed dog, to me, looks unkempt in this type of competition. My thinking on the matter is that this is a beauty contest. We are picking the best looking dog. Would you enter a Miss America Contest with your hair hanging at odd lengths down your back, and your everyday work clothes on? You might, but you sure wouldn't win any medals for beauty. When one of my dogs was criticized at the National Specialty show by a breeder-judge who should know what he was talking about for having too much hair I decided to do something about it. The judge said it was a beautiful dog under all the hair but why hadn't I trimmed it enough so that he and ringside could see what was there.

So this is the way I trim my dogs, and some of the reasons for the trimming. First I take a pair of clippers and starting at the breastbone remove all the hair on the front of the neck. This can be done with a pair of thinning shears but it takes much more time. Then I turn the clippers over backwards and comb the hair on the sides of the neck working towards the underpart of the neck. This helps to thin the hair on the sides of the neck. Then I take the thinning shears and carefully taper hair so that the long hair on the back of the neck gradually blends into the short hair under the neck. This removes the thick ruff that obscures the throat line. It also makes the dog look as though he is carrying his head higher. I do this on both my field and bench dogs to make them move with a higher head.

Then, with a stripping knife, I take any scraggly hairs off the ears, both inside and outside. Also, if there is a bunch of hair back of the ear it is removed. This helps to delineate the shape of the ear. By careful trimming you can improve the shape of the ear. Sometimes a nice short ear will look long because of the length of the coat.

Never, never, never take hair off the top of the ear. This is not a Cocker Spaniel with a long lowset ear. This is a Britt and the standard calls for highset, short, triangular ear. You can make a heavy coated dog look as though his ears are higher by removing some of the hair on the top of the head. But I don't recommend this unless it is done by an expert well in advance of the show.

I also don't recommend, as I have seen some do, stripping all the hair from the back of the dog. The standard says the coat may be smooth or wavy but never curly. Perhaps you could remove any straggly ends that stick out on the back or thin out hair on the rump to improve the slope of the topline but any removal of the complete coat that would make a curly coat into a smooth coat; seems to me to constitute faking. And it is against AKC regulations.

Now I remove the whiskers either with the scissors or the clippers. This makes the muzzle look neat and trim. This is only a practice session as whiskers grow rapidly and must be removed at the last minute.

Next I comb the feathers on the legs and remove all snarls. Then, if there are any long hairs that hang out I trim them into a neat feathering. I also remove part of the tail feathers if they are exceedingly long.

The feet come next. I trim the toenails (but not just before going in the ring as I may cut too close and have a lame dog). Then I remove the excess hair from the bottom of the pads. Too much hair underneath will spread the feet. Then remove the feathers from the pastern down in the front and on the back of the hocks in the rear. In case this isn't clear, you take off the hair from the last joint down to the ground. This gives the foot a neat appearance and helps the judge see whether he is down at the pasterns. It gives him a neater appearance going away from the judge for that hair on the lower back legs doesn't brush well and is apt to be short and scraggly. Straggly hair between the toes may be cut off. Angle the scissors so that they are parallel to the leg for this cut.

All of this is done well in advance of the day of the show. Then the day before I bathe the dog with a good dog soap and rinse him with a bluing solution. Brush him well while he is drying and cut off any straggly hair that shows up. Now he is ready for the ring, all prettied up for the beauty contest.

Last thing before he goes into the ring a good brushing, and a final whisker trimming, with maybe a liquid coat groomer for that last minute shine and may the prettiest dog win!



Field Trials

Field Trials are competitive events for dogs competing towards a Field Championship (FC) or Amateur Field Championship (AFC). Dogs run in “braces” of two at a time, and are placed 1st-4th in each stake (Puppy, Derby, Gun Dog, All-Age). Handlers may be on foot, but most often are on horseback. Points towards the Championship title are awarded to the winners, based upon the number of dogs that compete.

Purpose

Field Trials offer practical demonstrations of a dog’s ability to perform the functions for which it was bred. In Field Trials, the dogs compete against each other for placements and points toward their championships. Successful dogs earn an FC (Field Champion) title in front of their names on AKC records. Dogs can also earn Amateur Field Championships (AFC) in Amateur Stakes. (“Amateur” refers to the dog’s handler.) Dogs with both a show Championship (CH) and an FC title earn the distinctive title of Dual Champion (DC). This title has been earned by over 500 Brittanys -- more than all the other pointing breeds combined!

The AKC has offered Pointing Breed Field Trials for over 72 years. Stakes (classes) are offered for everything from puppies who may have little or no training and are judged on their potential, to finished bird dogs who hunt at great range with little direction from their handler. The dogs are run in braces (pairs) around a course on which birds are released so that they can demonstrate their ability to find birds, point staunchly, remain steady to wing and shot, and (in some stakes) retrieve downed birds.

FIELD TRIAL STAKES (CLASSES)

Puppy Stake (Open and/or Amateur Walking) for dogs 6-15 months of age. Horseback handling is not permitted in Amateur Walking Puppy stakes. Puppies must show desire to hunt, boldness, and initiative in covering ground and in searching likely cover. They should indicate the presence of game if the opportunity is presented. Puppies should show reasonable obedience to their handler’s commands, but should not be given additional credit for pointing staunchly. Each dog shall be judged on its actual performance as indicating its future as a high class bird dog. If the premium list states that blanks will be fired, every dog that makes game contact shall be fired over if the handler is within reasonable gun range. At least 15 minutes and not more than 30 minutes shall be allowed for each brace.

Derby Stake (Open and/or Amateur Walking) for dogs 6 months - 2 years of age. Horseback handling is not permitted in Amateur Walking Derby stakes. Derbies must show a keen desire to hunt, be bold and independent, have a fast, yet attractive, style of running, and demonstrate not only intelligence in seeking objectives but also the ability to find game. Derbies must establish point but no additional credit shall be given for steadiness to wing and shot. If the handler is within reasonable gun range of a bird which has been flushed after a point, a shot must be fired. A lack of opportunity for firing over a Derby dog on point shall not constitute reason for non-placement when it has had game contact in acceptable Derby manner. Derbies must show reasonable obedience to their handler’s commands. Each dog is to be judged on its actual performance as indicating its future promise as a high class bird dog for Gun Dog or All-Age stakes. Preference should not be given to one potential over another. Application is more important than range in a Derby. At least 20 minutes and not more than 30 minutes shall be allowed for each brace. All placed dogs must have established a point.

Gun Dog Stake (Open and/or Amateur) for dogs 6 months of age and over. A Gun Dog must give a finished performance and must be under its handler’s control at all times. It

must handle kindly, with a minimum of noise and hacking by the handler. A Gun Dog must show a keen desire to hunt, must have a bold and attractive style of running, and must demonstrate not only intelligence in quartering and in seeking objectives but also the ability to find game. The dog must hunt for its handler at all times at a range suitable for a handler on foot, and should show or check in front of its handler frequently. It must cover adequate ground but never range out of sight for a length of time that would detract from its usefulness as a practical hunting dog. The dog must locate game, must point staunchly, and must be steady to wing and shot. Intelligent use of the wind and terrain in locating game, accurate nose, and style and intensity on point, are essential. A dog that does not point cannot be placed. A dog should not be called back to point after the running of its brace except under the most extreme and unusual circumstances. A dog encountering its bracemate on point must honor. Failure of a dog to honor when it sees its bracemate on point must be severely penalized, and the intentional avoidance by a dog or a handler of an honoring situation must also be severely penalized. A dog that steals its bracemate's point must be ordered up by the Judges. A reasonable move of a dog to mark a bird flushed after a point is acceptable, but this shall not excuse a break or a delayed chase. At least 30 minutes shall be allowed for each brace.

All-Age Stake (Open and/or Amateur) for dogs 6 months of age and over. An All-Age Dog must give a finished performance and must be under reasonable control of its handler. It must show a keen desire to hunt, must have a bold and attractive style of running, and must show independence in hunting. It must range well out in a forward moving pattern, seeking the most promising objectives, so as to locate any game on the course. Excessive line-casting and avoiding cover must be penalized. The dog must respond to handling but must demonstrate its independent judgment in hunting the course, and should not look to its handler for directions as to where to go. The dog must find game, must point staunchly, and must be steady to wing and shot. Intelligent use of the wind and terrain in locating game, accurate nose, and style and intensity on point, are essential. A dog that does not point cannot be placed. A dog encountering its bracemate on point must honor. Failure of a dog to honor when it sees its bracemate on point must be severely penalized, and the intentional avoidance by a dog or a handler of an honoring situation must also be severely penalized. A dog that steals its bracemate's point must be ordered up by the Judges. A reasonable move of a dog to mark a bird flushed after a point is acceptable, but this shall not excuse a break or a delayed chase. At least 30 minutes shall be allowed for each brace.

FIELD CHAMPIONSHIP

A dog of one of the Pointing Breeds will be recorded a Field Champion after having won 10 points under the point rating schedule in regular stakes in at least three licensed or member field trials, provided that 3 points have been won in one 3 point or better Open All-Age, Open Gun Dog, Open Limited All-Age, or Open Limited Gun Dog Stake, that no more than 2 points each have been won in Open or Amateur Puppy and Open or Amateur Derby Stakes, and that no more than 4 of the 10 points have been won by placing first in Amateur Stakes. A Brittany shall not be recorded a Field Champion unless it has won a 3 point or better Open Gun Dog, Open All-Age, Open Limited Gun Dog, or Open Limited All-Age Stake in a licensed or member field trial held by a Brittany Club.

AMATEUR FIELD CHAMPIONSHIP

A dog of one of the Pointing Breeds will be recorded an Amateur Field Champion after having won 10 points under the point rating schedule in regular Amateur Stakes in at least 3 licensed or member field trials, provided that no more than 2 points each have

been won by placing first in Amateur Walking Puppy and Amateur Walking Derby stakes and that it has been awarded 2 first placements, one of which must be a first placement in a 3 point or better Amateur All-Age, Amateur Gun Dog, Amateur Limited All-Age, or Amateur Limited Gun Dog Stake. A Brittany shall not be recorded an Amateur Field Champion unless it has won a 3 point or better Amateur All-Age, Amateur Gun Dog, Amateur Limited All-Age, or Amateur Limited Gun Dog Stake, in a licensed or member field trial held by a Brittany Club.

1. Determine Your Dog's Eligibility - To enter in an AKC field trial, your Brittany must be:
 - AKC registered (individually, not just the dog's litter).
 - Six months of age or older.
2. Know the AKC Field Trial Rules & Procedures for Pointing Breeds. The rules are long and sometimes difficult for a beginner to understand, but you must familiarize yourself them before you start on the road to a field trial title. If you have questions, contact an experienced field trial competitor and ask away!
3. Visit Field Trials - Visit the AKC Website Events Search <www.akc.org/eventssearch/index.cfm> to search for upcoming field trials in your area. Talk to the competitors to determine the best way to observe the dogs in action -- you may be able to ride or walk in the gallery, or possibly watch the dogs working in the bird field, if one is used.
4. Train Your Dog - The best way to learn how to earn field trial titles is to work with an experienced trainer/competitor near you. If there is no one close enough to you, there are books and videos available which will give you a good start. In either case, this is a matter of learning by doing; you will learn more every time you run your dog, so get out and work your dog as often as you can!
5. Find & Enter a Field Trial - Visit the AKC Website Events Search <www.akc.org/events/search/index.cfm> to search for upcoming field trials in your area. Contact the field trial secretary listed to request a premium list, which will give you all the information on the field trial, including an entry form.
6. Get Your Dog's Title! - To become a Field Champion, your dog must win 10 points (*which are based on how many dogs are defeated when your dog wins*). No more than 2 points won in Puppy stakes, and no more than 2 points won in Derby stakes, may count toward your dog's Field Championship. If your dog competes and wins in Amateur stakes, no more than 4 points from those stakes will count towards an FC title (*more wins in Amateur stakes would lead to an Amateur Field Championship, or AFC*). Finally, in order to be named a Field Champion, a Brittany must also win at least one "major" (win of 3, 4, or 5 points) in an Open Gun Dog, Open All-Age, Open Limited Gun Dog, or Open Limited All-Age Stake held by a Brittany Club.

Definition of an Amateur for Pointing Breed Trials

An Amateur is a person who, during the period of two years preceding the trial has not accepted remuneration in any form for the training of a hunting dog or the handling of a dog in a field trial.

For purposes of this definition the word remuneration means payment in money, goods or services.

No member of the household of a person who does not qualify as an Amateur under this definition can qualify as an Amateur.

For purposes of the foregoing definition, the word household means those persons that comprise a unit living together in the same shared dwelling.

An Amateur (as defined above) may run any number of dogs wholly owned by him or her, or members of his or her immediate family (as defined in Chapter 14, Section 5) but shall not run more than three dogs that are not so owned in any amateur stake.

POINTING BREED FIELD TRIAL GALLERY ETIQUETTE

Members of the field trial gallery must remember that they are spectators and should do nothing that would distract dogs in competition, handlers, or judges. The following Gallery Etiquette should help make everyone's experience a good one.

- The gallery must not fan out across the field or straggle too far behind.
- It is important to be courteous to the other members of the gallery.
- Do ride quietly and do not volunteer information unless it has been requested.
- The marshal is in control of the gallery at all times. The gallery may not move in front of the marshal, judges or handlers. Do not ride past a handler who is mounting a horse after casting off, or after bird work. If the dogs in a brace become separated, only the appointed scout may move forward (in the case of a National, the scribe and judge's marshal may also move up) with the handler and judge; unless given permission by the judge to move on, other members of the gallery must remain behind the marshal.
- If a dog or handler is trying to come up through a mounted gallery, move aside and let them through. When a dog is called on point, do not gallop to the dog, but ride quietly behind the marshal to a place where the bird work may be observed. (*Can you imagine what thundering hooves must feel and sound like to the birds, or the dog?*)
- AKC regulations prohibit members of the gallery from talking to the judges. Please keep this in mind and do not distract the judges. It only takes a split second to miss an opportunity to evaluate a dog working. Be sure to practice good sportsmanship and safe horse manship; riding in the gallery should be fun for all.



Hunting Tests

Hunting tests are non-competitive events in which dogs earn “legs” toward the titles of Junior, Senior, and Master Hunter. As with field trials, dogs are run in braces, but in hunt tests they are scored 1-10 in different areas of performance, and all dogs earning qualifying scores get a leg towards their title that day. Junior Hunting is a very basic test of natural ability, on up to Master hunting which requires unquestionable manners, intelligent hunting, and retrieving to hand.

Overview

Pointing Breed Hunting Tests evaluate a dog’s hunting abilities on different elements of pointing and retrieving. Hunting tests are non-competitive events in which the dog’s ability to perform is judged against a standard of perfection established by the AKC Regulations; theoretically, every dog can be a winner! Dogs receiving Qualifying Scores at a number of tests achieve titles of Junior Hunter (JH), Senior Hunter (SH) and Master Hunter (MH); each successive title requires more skill. Most Brittany’s with a good degree of natural hunting instinct are able to earn a Junior Hunter title with only a moderate amount of work. Senior and Master Hunter titles require successively more training, with a Master Hunter being a finished, reliable hunting dog requiring little guidance from its handler.

Hunting tests are an ideal venue for foot hunters, as horseback handling is prohibited. Junior Hunting tests are a good starting ground for novice dogs and handlers, and an excellent way to introduce yourself and your dog to the world of AKC field events.

Purpose

The purpose of Hunting Tests for dogs of the Pointing Breeds is to afford an opportunity for a person to demonstrate a dog’s ability to perform in a manner consistent with the demands of actual hunting conditions. Testing gauges the dog’s natural hunting ability and training.

Junior Hunting Test

The Judges of a Junior Hunting Test must score the dogs on the basis of the following four categories of hunting ability:

HUNTING: A dog is scored from 0 to 10 on the basis of whether or not it evidences a keen desire to hunt, boldness and independence, and a fast, yet useful pattern of running.

BIRD FINDING ABILITY: A dog must find and point birds in order to receive a Qualifying score. Dogs are scored from 0 to 10 based upon demonstration of intelligence in seeking objectives, use of the wind, and the ability to find birds.

POINTING: A dog is scored from 0 to 10 in this category on the basis of the intensity of its point, as well as its ability to locate (pinpoint) birds under difficult scenting conditions and/or confusing scent patterns. A ‘flash’ point cannot be graded as pointing, however, and a dog’s score in this category shall not be influenced by its steadiness to wing and shot.

TRAINABILITY: A dog is scored from 0 to 10 in this category on the basis of its willingness to be handled, its reasonable obedience to commands and its gun response. If the handler is within reasonable gun range of a bird which has been flushed after a point, a blank pistol must be fired. Gun response is included under Trainability in Junior, Senior and Master for purposes of scoring since some degree of training is often involved. ‘Gun-shyness,’ a component of gun response, cannot be tolerated in the make-up of any dog that is being evaluated as a hunting companion. A dog may be restrained (collared) to prevent interference with the dog on point.

Senior Hunting Test

A Senior hunting dog must show all of the attributes expected of a Junior hunting dog

in HUNTING and BIRD FINDING ABILITY, but must be scored in these two categories with less tolerance than would be accorded to the Junior hunting dog. Senior Hunting dogs must also be scored on the basis of the following four additional categories of ability:

POINTING: A Senior hunting dog must point and hold its point until the bird has been shot or the dog has been released.

RETRIEVING: A dog is scored from 0 to 10 based upon the level of Retrieving ability demonstrated. A Senior Hunting dog must retrieve, but a dog need not deliver to hand in order to receive a Qualifying score. If the handler of the retrieving dog assists that dog by walking towards the fallen bird, the handler will run the risk of having the dog's Retrieving ability scored less than 5.0. The Judges shall call back any dog that did not have an opportunity to retrieve during the running of its brace in order to score the dog's Retrieving ability. The call backs to demonstrate Retrieving ability should be limited to those dogs whose scores in the other abilities would otherwise permit them to receive a Qualifying score, but the Judges may call back all dogs that did not have an opportunity to retrieve. Two Official Guns must be used whenever a dog is called back to demonstrate a retrieve.

TRAINABILITY: As in the Junior Hunting Test, a Senior hunting dog is scored based upon its willingness to handle, obedience to commands and gun response, but the Senior hunting dog must be scored with less tolerance than a Junior hunting dog. A Senior hunting dog must stop on a wild flushed bird and may be commanded to do so without receiving a failing score.

HONORING: In order to receive a Qualifying score, a Senior hunting dog must honor; a handler may give a dog a verbal command to honor. In order to receive a Qualifying score, a Senior hunting dog must acknowledge that its braced mate is on point before it has been cautioned to honor. A dog that steals its braced mate's point cannot receive a Qualifying score. After a dog has demonstrated its ability to honor, it may be restrained (collared) by the handler in order to prevent interference with the dog on point when the bird is flushed. If a dog has had no opportunity to demonstrate honoring during the running of its brace, it shall be called back by the Judges so that it can be scored on its Honoring ability. Call backs to demonstrate honoring should be limited to those dogs whose scores in the other abilities would otherwise enable them to receive a Qualifying score, but the Judges may call back all dogs that did not have an opportunity to honor.

Master Hunting Test

A Master hunting dog must show all of the attributes of a Senior hunting dog in HUNTING and BIRD FINDING ABILITY but must exhibit these abilities in the more exceptional manner expected of a truly finished and seasoned hunting companion. Master hunting dogs must also possess all of the attributes of the Senior dog in POINTING, RETRIEVING, TRAINABILITY and HONORING. The Master Hunting Test requirements for these categories are identical to those of the Senior Test, but the Judges must score the Master with full expectation of the following refinements:

POINTING: This category, graded from 0 to 10, reflects a dog's intensity and staunchness. A Master hunting dog must be steady to wing and shot on all birds. A dog shall not be commanded to retrieve until positive steadiness has been demonstrated. A dog that breaks cannot receive a Qualifying score. It is permissible for the handler to caution a master hunting dog on point.

RETRIEVING: A dog cannot receive a Qualifying score if it fails to deliver promptly, tenderly and absolutely to hand. If the handler of the retrieving dog assists that dog by walking towards the fallen bird, the handler will run the risk of having the dog's Retrieving ability scored less than 5.0. As in the Senior Hunting Test, a Master hunting dog must be given the

opportunity to demonstrate Retrieving ability, either during the time its brace is running, or in a call back situation. The Judges may elect to call back only those dogs whose scores in the other abilities would otherwise permit them to receive a Qualifying score, or they may call back all dogs that did not have an opportunity to retrieve. Two Official Guns must be used whenever a dog is called back to demonstrate a retrieve.

TRAINABILITY: The elements of handling and gun response are viewed more stringently in a Master hunting dog. Both handlers shall carry an empty shotgun at all times during the running of the brace. In those instances where the use of live ammunition is not permitted on the back course, blank pistols must be fired. A Master Hunting dog must stop on a wild flushed bird without being given a command to do so. A dog that fails to do so, or a dog requiring a command to stop cannot receive a qualifying score. When a game bird is flushed, following a point, the handler of the pointing dog must shoulder an empty shotgun, and with both hands on the gun, follow the flight of the bird as if a shot were to be fired at it.

HONORING: A Master hunting dog must honor; a dog requiring restraint, either physical or verbal, when honoring, or a dog that steals its bracemate's point cannot receive a Qualifying score. A Master dog may be called into the vicinity of the pointing dog to demonstrate an honor. A Master hunting dog shall not be commanded to honor. Once a dog has established an honor, the handler is permitted to give a quiet verbal caution, but may not use loud vocal or physical restraint. A Master dog must honor throughout the entire flush, shot and retrieve. However, an honoring dog may be heeled off and sent on if the retrieving dog takes overly long, or does not make the retrieve. In such instances, this shall be considered a completed honor and a dog shall not be required to demonstrate an additional honor unless it again encounters its bracemate on point (it must honor on each occasion and cannot receive a Qualifying score if it fails to do so). As in the Senior Hunting Test, a Master hunting dog must be given an opportunity to honor, either during the time its brace is running, or in a call back situation. The Judges may elect to call back only those dogs whose scores in the other abilities would otherwise permit them to receive a Qualifying score, or they may call back all dogs that did not have an opportunity to honor.

1. Determine Your Dog's Eligibility – To enter in an AKC hunt test, your Brittany must be:
 - AKC registered (individually, not just the dog's litter).
 - Six months of age or older.

Females in season are not eligible to enter, or to be on hunt test grounds. If you enter your female in a hunt test and she comes in season before the day of the test, your entry fee can be reimbursed if you supply the club with a veterinarian's note.

2. Familiarize Yourself with the Regulations for AKC Hunting Tests for Pointing Breeds – The regulations are long and sometimes difficult for a beginner to understand, but you must know them before you start on the road to a hunting test title. If you have questions, contact an experienced hunt test competitor and ask away!
3. Train Your Dog – The best way to learn how to earn hunting test titles is to work with an experienced trainer/competitor near you. If there is no one close enough to you, there are books and videos available which will give you a good start. In either case, this is a matter of learning by doing; you will learn more every time you run your dog, so get out and work your dog as often as you can!

4. **Find & Enter a Hunt Test** – Visit the AKC Website Events Search <www.akc.org/events/search/index.cfm> to search for upcoming hunt tests in your area. Contact the hunt test chairman listed to request a premium list, which will give you all the information on the hunt test, including an entry form.
5. **What's Required at the Test**– On the day of the Hunt Test, the test club will provide a program which will have all the dogs entered in the test, listed by their assigned number. This is called the running order, and will give you an idea of approximately what time your dog should run. The running order can be changed if scheduling demands, though, so be prepared and pay attention to what's going on in the field.
When you arrive at the test location, the marshal will check you in to make sure all the dogs are present. Your dog is allowed to wear a flat buckle or snap type collar during the test, and you may approach the line (area where you will release your dog to begin the test) with your dog on a lead. Once you are at the line, remove the lead, and lightly hold your dog's collar until instructed to begin.
You're off! If your dog is running in a Junior Hunter test, the test will normally be 15 minutes long (30 for Senior and Master). Since you've reviewed the Regulations for AKC Hunting Tests for Pointing Breeds, you know what to expect from the test, but you will inevitably encounter the unexpected, so stay calm and have fun!
Scores will normally be available an hour or so after your dog's brace is finished. Visit the hunt test secretary to receive your dog's scoresheets, and rosette if he qualified!
6. **Get Your Dog's Title** – Each ability has categories that receive a score, which the average must not be under 5.0 (you could receive a "0" in a category and still qualify if the average of the ability was a 5.0 or above). Those ability scores are averaged and this will be your score for the test. That average must be 7.0 or above for a qualifying score.

To become a Junior Hunter your dog needs four qualifying scores.

To become a Senior Hunter your dog needs five qualifying scores, or four if the dog has already earned a Junior Hunter title.

To become a Master Hunter your dog needs six qualifying scores, or five if the dog has already earned a Senior Hunter title.

Tracking Tests

Tracking tests are a natural for dogs of all breeds. They are non-competitive events which test a dog's ability to follow a scent on the ground. Qualifying dogs earn a leg toward the title of Tracking Dog, Tracking Dog excellent, Variable Surface Tracking, and even Champion Tracker.

Agility

Agility trials run on the same sort of structure as obedience trials, but agility, dogs show off their ability to run over, under and through obstacles on a course in a set amount of time. Difficulty of the course increases with each title, until a dog is finally eligible to compete for a Master Agility Championship. This is a very popular sport which is great fun for both dog and handler!

Obedience

Obedience trials are mostly non-competitive events which, as the name implies, test a dog's obedience and training. Dogs are scored based upon the AKC's standard of performance in several different areas, and each one who earns a qualifying score gets a leg towards a title that day. Each class also has placements of 1st thru 4th based upon the overall score, and the highest score overall for the day earns the High in Trial award. The Companion Dog class tests basic obedience and manners, and the most advanced competitors may continue on up to the coveted Obedience Trial Championship.

Obedience trials are a sport, and all participants should be guided by the principles of good sportsmanship both in and out of the ring. Obedience trials demonstrate the dog's ability to follow specified routines in the obedience ring and emphasize the usefulness of the purebred dog as a companion to man. All contestants in a class are required to perform the same exercises in substantially the same way so that the relative quality of the various performances may be compared and scored. The basic objective of obedience trials, however, is to recognize dogs that have been trained to behave in the home, in public places and in the presence of other dogs in a manner that will reflect credit on the sport of obedience at all times and under all conditions. The performance of dog and handler in the ring must be accurate and correct according to these Regulations. It is also essential that the dog demonstrate willingness and enjoyment while it is working and that a smooth and natural handler be given precedence over a handler moving with military precision and using harsh commands.

Rally

AKC Rally is a sport in which the dog and handler complete a course that has been designed by the rally judge. The judge tells the handler to begin, and the dog and handler proceed at their own pace through a course of designated stations (10 - 20, depending on the level). Each of these stations has a sign providing instructions regarding the next skill that is to be performed. Scoring is not as rigorous as traditional obedience.

The team of dog and handler moves continuously at a brisk, but normal, pace with the dog under control at the handler's left side. There should be a sense of teamwork between the dog and handler both during the numbered exercises and between the exercise signs; however, perfect "heel position" is not required.

Any faults in traditional obedience that would be evaluated and scored as a one-point deduction or more should be scored the same in Rally, unless otherwise mentioned in the "Rally Regulations".

After the judge's "Forward" order, the team is on its own to complete the entire sequence of numbered signs correctly.

Unlimited communication from the handler to the dog is to be encouraged and not penalized. Unless otherwise specified in these Regulations, handlers are permitted to talk, praise, encourage, clap their hands, pat their legs, or use any verbal means of encouragement. Multiple commands and/or signals using one or both arms and hands are allowed; the handler's arms need not be maintained in any particular position at any time. The handler may not touch the dog or make physical corrections. At any time during the performance, loud or harsh commands or intimidating signals will be penalized.

Rally provides a link from the Canine Good Citizen® (CGC) program to obedience or agility competition, both for dogs and handlers. In addition, rally promotes fun and enjoyment for dogs at all levels of competition.

All rally titles will follow the dog's name.

For More AKC Event Information

For more information about any of the AKC events, contact the American Kennel Club at (919) 233-9767 and when requested, they will send you the booklet on Rules Applying to Registrations and Dog Shows (single copies free) which gives rules for entering, classes, etc. Also available are Rule Books for: Field Trials, Pointing Breeds; Hunt Tests, Pointing Breeds; Obedience; Agility, Rally, and Tracking.

AKC Website <www.akc.org> or AKC Website Events Search <www.akc.org/events/search/index.cfm>.

AKC Code of Sportsmanship

PREFACE: The sport of purebred dog competitive events dates prior to 1884, the year of AKC's birth. Shared values of those involved in the sport include principles of sportsmanship. They are practiced in all sectors of our sport: conformation, performance and companion. Many believe that these principles of sportsmanship are the prime reason why our sport has thrived for over one hundred years. With the belief that it is useful to periodically articulate the fundamentals of our sport, this code is presented.

- Sportsmen respect the history, traditions and integrity of the sport of purebred dogs.
- Sportsmen commit themselves to values of fair play, honesty, courtesy, and vigorous competition, as well as winning and losing with grace.
- Sportsmen refuse to compromise their commitment and obligation to the sport of purebred dogs by injecting personal advantage or consideration into their decisions or behavior.
- The sportsman judge judges only on the merits of the dogs and considers no other factors.
- The sportsman judge or exhibitor accepts constructive criticism.
- The sportsman exhibitor declines to enter or exhibit under a judge where it might reasonably appear that the judge's placements could be based on something other than the merits of the dogs.
- The sportsman exhibitor refuses to compromise the impartiality of a judge.
- The sportsman respects the AKC bylaws, rules, regulations and policies governing the sport of purebred dogs.
- Sportsmen find that vigorous competition and civility are not inconsistent and are able to appreciate the merit of their competition and the effort of competitors.
- Sportsmen welcome, encourage and support newcomers to the sport.
- Sportsmen will deal fairly with all those who trade with them.
- Sportsmen are willing to share honest and open appraisals of both the strengths and weaknesses of their breeding stock.
- Sportsmen spurn any opportunity to take personal advantage of positions offered or bestowed upon them.
- Sportsmen always consider as paramount the welfare of their dog.
- Sportsmen refuse to embarrass the sport, the American Kennel Club, or themselves while taking part in the sport.

ABC Futurity and National History

Nominating a dog for the ABC Futurity

by Judy Robin

Futurities basically is for breeders and owners to show off the potential of our breed.

Within thirty days of whelp, a litter owner who must be a member of the ABC sends in a futurity nomination application (in back of the ABC magazine). This entitles every puppy in the litter to have the option for the new owner to show/run the puppy.

Example: If the puppy was born in 2007, it would be eligible to run/show in 2009. The Futurity Chairman handles the other forfeits. The following year after the puppy was born, the Futurity Chairman will mail to all breeders the forms for each puppy. Since ABC does not have the information as to whom the breeder has sold the puppies, the breeder then has the responsibility to forward to each new owner the paperwork to be completed for the forfeit due in September. Once this second forfeit paid in September is completed, only those owners of dogs paying this forfeit will be mailed the final entry form; and upon receipt of form and fees, be allowed to compete the following year in the futurity field/show events.

The History of the ABC Futurity

by Ella Conable

The American Brittany Club Futurity - a breeders stake - was started as a field event in the late 1940's. Those who were breeding bitches and wished to participate in the first trial, paid a forfeit on bitches bred after October 30, 1946. An additional forfeit was due when the puppies were whelped in 1947. The following summer (August 1948) an individual nomination was due on any pups the owners deemed were of a quality to compete in the stake. A final fee was due on those same pups just before the stake was run. After expenses were deducted, the monies were divided among the four placing dogs with 2/3 of the purse going to the owners of the winners and 1/3 going to the breeders. The first stake was held near Detroit and run in September, before the trial season began. Peg B of Loufel, owned, bred and handled by Lucien Ufford was the winner. The next couple of years the Futurity was held at Crab Orchard, IL, in conjunction with the Illinois Brittany Club's fall trial. In 1951 it was again at Crab Orchard, but this time as part of the Nationals, where it remained (except for the 1967 Futurity) until 1974. The Futurity was strictly a field event until 1963 when Ann White inaugurated the Bench Futurity. In this event, the dogs are separated by sex into three age brackets; senior, intermediate and junior. The three class winners compete for first place; a second money and a third money winner are chose in each sex. First place dog and bitch compete for the two top money spots; Best in Futurity and Best of Opposite Sex to Best in Futurity. The forfeits for the bench futurity are paid in the same manner as the field forfeits. Doc's Shotgun Popper, owned by Dr. John Schuckert, won Best in Futurity at the inaugural event. Best of Opposite Sex went to Holley Haven Marty Star. The show was judged by Jerome Halle who had also judged the first ABC Specialty Show. With the addition of a bench futurity, a Dual Award was also offered in 1963. It was to be given to the dog who placed in

the field and either placed in the show against competition or was a champion at the time of the show. The first Dual Award went to Pinoak Sue owned by Dave and Mable Olund in 1963.

When the Bench Futurity began, breeders had the option of nominating their litter for either field, bench or both. In 1967 the Futurity rules were changed so that a litter nomination covered both field and bench and the choice was made by the owner at the time of the final forfeit. At about this same time, the ABC was being pressured by the AKC to make the Futurities AKC Sanctioned events. This would have had little impact on the Bench Futurity other than requiring that Futurity entries also be entered in a regular class in the Specialty Show. The Field Futurity presented a bigger problem in that it allowed the running of bitches in season, unheard of in AKC trials at that time. When it became apparent that conditions at Crab Orchard were making the running of the Nationals increasingly difficult, and with little hope of improvement, the Lake Murray Grounds at Ardmore were offered as one alternative. As a way of "checking them out" the Board of Directors voted to hold the 1967 Futurity in the Spring of 1968. At the Board Meeting held at Ardmore in February, 1968 the problems of AKC sanctioning were discussed and the Board voted to limit all participation in the Futurities to ABC members and their immediate families.

With a few simple rules and only the couple of changes mentioned earlier, the Futurity prospered. The number of litters nominated, the individual forfeits paid and the number of starters increased during the 50's and 60's. Four of the five years from 1968 through 1972 saw entries between 102 and 129. In 1973, the first major change was made effective with the 1974 running; the Futurity would be split off from the Nationals and run as three sectional events. The Eastern would encompass the East Coast and East Central Regions; the Central would be held within the Central and Midwest Regions and the Western in the West Coast Region. Dogs from eligible litters could be enrolled in any or all of the Sectional Futurities at the time the final forfeit was paid. Initially the sectional futurities were kept as Fall trials, but over the years they have moved to the Spring of the year following. During the early years of the split, entries in the 50-60 range were common and the Central very often drew 70-80 dogs. In the recent past, an entry of 40 is on the high end of the scale.

In the last few years, the ABC Board has made other major changes to the Futurity program, including a National Futurity Run-off (both field and show) for Sectional winners and additional qualifying participants; adopting a "Standard of Performance"; accepting full year nominations (breeding dates October 30 through October 29; whelping dates the full calendar year following, i.e., January 1 through December 31); the addition of an individual forfeit "late penalty" and the elimination of Champions from the Dual Award point schedule.

In 1996 the Futurity Committee was asked to outline recommendations for the addition of a Gun Dog Futurity to accompany the All Age Futurity. The committee report was submitted to the ABC Board at the 1997 meeting. They approved the Gun Dog Futurity under these rules; to be run in conjunction with the All Age futurity and Bench Futurity. Judged on Gun Dog Standards and to be foot handled. It can be run consecutively or concurrently, at the host club's discretion. The July forfeit could be paid for either All Age or Gun Dog or both. At the time of running, those that paid both field forfeits had to make the choice between All Age or Gun Dog as no dog

could participate in both events at the same sectional futurity. The Gun Dog Futurity would have its run-off in conjunction with the Gun Dog Nationals. The first class of Gun Dog Futurities ran in the spring of 2000 with the run-off held at the May ABC Gun Dog Nationals.

ABC National Gun Dog Championships

A National Gun Dog Championship stake appealed to many club members who were participating in the ABC Gun Dog Classic as well as regional gun dog stakes during the late 70's and early 80's. With increased interest in walking gun dog stakes and retrieving in the east and west coast clubs, it appeared that some efforts should be made to make a championship stake a reality. These efforts were spearheaded by the Nebraska Brittany Club. During this period of time the AKC held steadfast to opposing the licensing of an ABC Gun Dog Championship Stake which would be an addition to the already recognized Open All Age and Amateur All Age Championships. The following is a brief sequence of events and highlights leading up to the first running of the Championship in the spring of 1985 and the running of 1986.

At the 1983 Board of Directors meeting, a motion was made that the ABC apply to AKC for permission to have a National Gun Dog Championship stake and that the president of ABC draft recommendations to the AKC to be guided by four proposals from the Nebraska Brittany Club. The formal application did not change AKC's opposing position. A National Gun Dog Championship Committee was appointed by the president to develop viable plans and guidelines to implement an ABC National Gun Dog Championship as soon as possible.

The Board meeting in 1984 brought on more involvement and specifics. The National Gun Dog Championship Committee Chairman presented for approval a proposed hand crafted set of guidelines consisting of sanctioning by ABC, a site, retrieving stakes, fees, trophies, qualifications, etc., for a National caliber stake. The guidelines were approved. The Board approved the Nebraska Brittany Club to hold the first championship event in the Spring of 1985. The championship was billed as a one hour Walking Limited Gun Dog Stake run under the Rules and Procedure of the AKC with the winner to be recognized by the ABC as the ABC National Gun Dog Champion for 1985.

The inaugural running of the Championship was held at the Branched Oak Reservoir Field Trial Grounds near Raymond, Nebraska, on May 8 and 9, 1985. Twenty-eight dogs from fourteen states and one from Canada were entered. Twenty-seven dogs completed the one hour walking stake under moderate to hot weather conditions. Overall bird contact was exceptionally high. The grounds were in good condition for hunting. A permanent rotating trophy was donated by Charlie and Marge Ayres of Ramona, CA. They also donated a keeper trophy. The always full gallery wagon added spice and interest during the running. The clubhouse comforts and environment added to the enjoyment of all.

At the 1985 Board of Directors meeting, the Nebraska Club was approved to be host of the 1986 National Gun Dog Championship. This approval was based on a change in procedure wherein the host club provided two judge's marshalls who would serve as bird spotters as well as perform limited scouting when directed by a judge. In addition, qualifications for the championship to coincide with Chapter 17, Section 2 of the AKC Standard Rules and Procedures covering a Limited Gun Dog

Stake were approved.

The first National Gun Dog Championship was run on May 3-4, 1986. All activities and accommodations were the same as in 1985. There were twenty entries, considerably less than in 1985. However, a quality stake prevailed. Bird contact exceeded all expectations. The winner, Bernie V, CD owned and handled by B. Zamora, pointed birds eleven times with good manners and his retrieve was flawless.

The 1986 Board of Directors approved the Championship Committee's suggestion that the rotation plan previously set forth be implemented. The ensuing years found the Gun Dog Nationals being held in Michigan, Kentucky, Nevada, Missouri, Iowa and Nebraska.

At the 1995 Board of Directors meeting, it was voted to amend the By-laws to create a 4th Vice President to be responsible for the ABC Gun Dog Nationals. At the same time the Board voted to approach the Michigan group for the purpose of making the Ionia site the permanent home of this event. Both the amendment and request were approved and in 1996 the Gun Dog Nationals returned to Ionia under the direction of the new 4th Vice President.

At the 2000 Board of Directors meeting, it was voted to split the Gun Dog Nationals to an Open Gun Dog Championship where horseback handling would be allowed and an Amateur Gun Dog Championship which would be foot handled only.

ABC National All Age Championships

A primary function of the American Brittany Club is the running of the Nationals. Here the best dogs in the nation contend for the honor of AKC title of National Champion. The qualifications for entry and national participation make this the "World Series" for Brittanys.

The ABC held trials exclusively for Brittanys in 1942, 1943 and 1944 but they were not designated as Nationals. The 1943 trial was the first to be licensed by the AKC and the first to include the Specialty Show as a feature. The 1944 ABC trial has been recognized by many people as the "first" National.

The first trials consisted of a Puppy, Derby and Open All Age Stakes. In 1951 the first Amateur Stake was added. The Futurity was incorporated and the Open All Age increased to one hour heats. Later the puppy and derby stakes were dropped. The puppy because of lack of time and derby because it consisted of the same dogs that made up the Futurity.

In 1957 the AKC established qualifications and recognized the Open All Age as a Championship. The qualifications have become more stringent over the years in an effort to keep the entries limited to the top dogs in the nation. Subsequently the American Field title was awarded to all winners through 1962.

The first trials, all half hour heats over one course, rotated among various locations in Ohio, Michigan, New Jersey and Indiana and settled permanently at Crab Orchard Wildlife Reserve near Carbondale, IL, in 1950. The continuous courses on native Bobwhite Quail at Crab Orchard provided a true test for the hunting dog and in 1951 the heats were changed from one half hour to one hour and emphasized the necessity for developing a hunting dog with endurance and stamina.

The Crab Orchard site remained home for the Nationals until 1967 when the deer problem forced the club to search for new courses. In 1968 the Nationals were held at

Ardmore, Oklahoma; 1969 and 1970 Paducah, KY as the locale. From 1971 through 1974, the Nationals rotated between Ardmore and Paducah. Conway, Arkansas was the site of the 1975 running and from 1976 thru 1979, the Nationals returned to Ardmore. The 1980 Nationals first tried the new grounds at Rend Lake, Illinois, and 1981 saw a return to Conway. In 1981 the ABC Board of Directors voted to establish a rotation between Rend Lake and Ardmore commencing with the 1982 running.

It had long been the dream of the ABC to find permanent grounds for the Nationals. In 1986, Lloyd Manck proposed we move the Nationals to new grounds in Booneville, Arkansas. This proposal was accompanied by an invitation from the Governor of Arkansas and the Board voted for the move. In 1987, the Nations were held for the first time in Booneville where they continue to this day to run.

In 1977, the ABC Board voted to petition the AKC to bestow the title "Field Champion" to the winner of the National Championship if the winner did not already hold such title or the win did not complete the established point schedule. At the September 1978 Delegates meeting, the request was approved and made effective immediately.

ABC National Specialty Shows

The first ABC Specialty Show was held in Ravenna, OH in 1943 when Best of Breed was won by Patrice de Sharvogue. In 1946 show interest began to surge about the same time as interest in field trials. The ABC Specialty has been held annually with the ABC National All Age trials since the 1943 event. In 1949 an extra specialty was held with Alan Stuyvesant bringing a prominent French judge, M. Allaire, from Paris for the occasion. His judging in the French manner, complete with critiques proved very interesting and educational. In 1968 the ABC inaugurated a Summer Specialty to be rotated to various sections of the country. This traveling ABC Summer Specialty serves to bring an event of National significance to various regions of the country.

The ABC National Specialty has grown so tremendously that two judges are sometimes required for breed judging. In recent years, sweepstakes for puppy, veteran and Dual Champions along with Junior Handler classes have been added.

ABC Summer Specialty Shows

In 1968 the ABC inaugurated a Summer Specialty to be rotated to various sections of the country. This traveling ABC Summer Specialty serves to bring an event of National significance to various regions of the country.



For more information about

The American Brittany Club and a Regional Club near you, please
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www.theamericanbrittanyclub.org/secretary.htm

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exec.secretary@TheAmericanBrittanyClub.org

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