



## BREED COLUMNS

### SPORTING GROUP

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finale—usually with several hand-made quilts, decoys made by famous carvers (sold for \$1,100 apiece) and handcrafted wooden signs with a Chesapeake motif.

Field events were held the previous weekend, with back-to-back AKC Hunting Retriever tests (Chesapeakes only). Saturday's Master Test had 23 running, 12 Passes; Senior: 12 running, 8 Passes; Junior: 18 running, 13 Passes. On Sunday, Senior: 14 running, 10 Passes; Junior: 17 running, 13 Passes.

On Monday, ACC Working Dog tests were held, leading to WD, WDX, and WDQ titles. Field events were chaired by Jennifer and Tom Martin, David and Michelle Keehn, and Rick Rusz.

An all-breed agility trial was sponsored by the ACC on Wednesday, with 22 Chesapeakes running in agility, chaired by the Martins.

We thank all the chairs

and co-chairs: Tina Cox, Michelle Keehn, Deb Rusz, Deb Rhodes, Rebecca Kowalski, Carolyn Johnson, and everyone else who jumped into help run another successful "separate specialty." It takes an entire village to run our national, with all the events that are part of it, as we strive to keep and present the versatility of our all-American breed!

Plan ahead to join everyone in South Jordan, Utah, this fall, on September 13–15. Show chair is Sonia Cunningham ([sonia.cunningham@gmail.com](mailto:sonia.cunningham@gmail.com)).

Comments welcome.

—Betsy Horn Humer,  
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**American Chesapeake Club**

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### Curly-Coated Retrievers

Our author once again is Jenny Dickinson, who looks at the topic of stewarding.

### THE BEST SEAT IN THE HOUSE

If you haven't learned to steward, you are missing out! Being in the ring with a judge is an unmatched learning opportunity.

Often folks who are new to showing find stewarding intimidating. The steward appears to have secret knowledge. But believe me, the chief steward and obedience chairperson will welcome your interest. They will want to initiate you!

There are several ways to learn the procedures for stewarding. I come from the obedience side of the sport, and I will start with that venue.

When I have taught competition obedience, I have always urged (and probably pressured) my students to learn to steward. Seeing the mechanics of ring setup, especially in the advanced classes, gives the steward an important perspective on how a good routine develops. It is completely different from watching from outside the ring.

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*Curly-Coated  
Retriever*

So how does one learn to steward in obedience? The best method is shadowing an experienced steward. The judge has to be in on this, and certainly may or may not allow this. The inexperienced person must stay silent and must position herself exactly where told. Talking or asking questions must wait until between routines. We certainly don't want to interrupt the flow of

the class. Competitors need to get in and out without interruptions.

Your obedience instructor has presumably had you steward at run-thrus and matches, and has talked about what the steward needs to do at each point of the class. Another important option is stewarding clinics put on by all-breed clubs.

The all-breed clubs are

more likely to give stewarding clinics or programs in conformation stewarding skills than in obedience, but members have a chance to suggest further training in the club. Since all-breed clubs create the shows, they absolutely must have capable stewards to make the event run smoothly. The judges expect this from us.

The AKC has printed guides that describe

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stewarding skills. The guidelines for judges are also a terrific resource for stewards. These are part of your homework!

Stating the obvious, we cannot have our wonderful trials and shows without the support of the stewards who keep the rings running efficiently. I encourage you to join their ranks! —J.D.

Thank you once again, Jenny!

—Ann Shinkle,

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Curly-Coated Retriever  
Club of America

## Golden Retrievers

### RESCUE: CANDLES IN THE DARKNESS

In this era of disposable everything, society looks to rid itself of anything used, inconvenient, or unnecessary. Witness the waste dumped on highways, beaches, and parking lots.

Sadly, that same mentality often includes society's pets. We've all seen the throw-aways: the dogs, cats, and other animals that roam



the streets at the mercy of speeding cars, freezing weather, and abusive human beings. The fortunate ones end up in shelters, waiting and hoping

The most recent estimates are that about 4 million dogs and cats enter shelters every year, with an estimated 350,000 of those pets euthanized. A percentage of dogs entering shelters are purebred, and over the years a plethora of purebred rescue services have been created, each one devoted to salvaging its

own breed.

The Golden Retriever Club of America (GRCA) was among the first to come to aid of their breed. By 1991, the GRCA had 32 rescue services, and today that number has grown to well over 100 full-service rescues.

This network of Golden rescue groups represents the best in dogdom. The breed is blessed with a national cadre of dedicated volunteers who donate countless hours to the rescue and rehabilitation of

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