



## BREED COLUMNS

### SPORTING GROUP

your dog sit instead of standing?

Be prepared, train your dog—use the correct tools, and make your dog shine! Do “the best job you can possibly do.” Hopefully, others will be offering congratulations to you!

—Betsy Horn Humer,  
[tiderunr2@verizon.net](mailto:tiderunr2@verizon.net)  
American Chesapeake Club

### Curly-Coated Retrievers THE END OF AN ERA

Ann Shinkle has written the breed’s column for the AKC GAZETTE for more years than many Curly people have been alive. Last September, Ann made the decision to step away from the column and pass it on to new hands. I received a phone call from Ann, and she asked if I would be willing to take over the column. Needless to say, I was surprised by the request, but after some discussion, I agreed to write the column. I know that I have very large shoes to fill.



Curly-Coated  
Retriever

Ann has served the Curly-Coated Retriever community as almost no one else has. Her commitment to the column and its importance in communicating the numerous aspects of Curly life is unprecedented. In the 50 years Ann wrote the column, she never missed a deadline. Ann kept the many wonderful

attributes of Curly-Coated Retrievers in front of the dog community all these years. In addition, she had many guest contributors add their voices and expertise. Our national breed club owes her a great debt of gratitude for her hard work.

Like Ann Shinkle, I am a charter member of the Curly-Coated Retriever

COURTESY LYNDA BEAM

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Club of America. I purchased my first Curly in 1979. Neither of these facts make me a definitive expert in the breed, but I have seen my fair share of dogs over the years. I have participated in many activities for which Curlies are well suited: conformation, field, obedience, rally, Fast CAT, Barn Hunt, and a few others. I am a firm believer that titles should be at both ends of the name of the dog. Hopefully, these assets will allow me to bring an interesting perspective to the column.

There are two Curly firsts of which I am proud and are at two ends of the very wide spectrum of activities Curlies routinely participate in. I was the owner to the end of his life of the first champion Master Hunter in the breed: Ch. Softmaple O'Dark Thirty, MH, CD, WCQ, HOF, ROM.

I also owned the first Curly to receive the designation Farm Dog Certified: Ch. Sun Devil Nil Volentigus Arduum, CD, RE, MH, FDC, WCQ,

HOF, ROM.

I currently share house space with two Curlies: UKC BIS CH HR R01, VBIS, AKC GCh. Jollycurl Brio Brisbane Royal, FDC, ATT, FITB, FTI, CGCA, CGCU, TKI, DN, BCAT, RN, CD, UWC, WCQ, MH (Aussie), and UKC CH R01 AKC Ch. Day with Yellow Dessert Tornado Beta, RN, BCAT, RATN, ATT, CGC, TKN, FITB, FTI (Dafna).

I hope to tap into my memory (oh, dear!) of this breed that I love so much and pass along information to the next generation of Curly fanciers. I also want to bring others to the column who have knowledge to share about our beloved breed. This column is meant to cover all the many qualities that drew all of us to the Curly-Coated Retriever in the first place. As Ann often did, I welcome all suggestions for column topics.

—Ellen Manes,  
[jollycurl54@gmail.com](mailto:jollycurl54@gmail.com)  
Curly-Coated Retriever  
Club of America

## Golden Retrievers

### GOLDEN RETRIEVER LIFETIME STUDY

In 2023, the Morris Animal Foundation celebrated the 11th anniversary of the Golden Retriever Lifetime Study (GRLS). And they had much to celebrate. During the 11 years since its launch, the study surpassed its goal of enrolling 3,000 dogs, with 3,044 dogs enrolled. Hard to believe, but the owners also agreed to comply with the study requirements over a lengthy period of time.

Of the enrolled participating dogs, 192 owners did not comply with the study requirements one year after their enrollment. (I reserve judgement as to why a responsible Golden owner would not be “all in” to advance the goals of such an important study.) Owners of dogs without a vaccination record (what?) were nearly four times more noncompliant than those with vaccinated dogs. And stranger yet, owners of dogs who slept in the garage (for