

# BREED COLUMNS

## SPORTING GROUP

### Curly-Coated Retrievers

#### THE LAUNCH OF A NEW CLUB

For several years, Sue Davis and I had kicked around the idea of forming a regional club. We wanted a club that would focus on the diversity of activities that Curly-Coated Retrievers participate in. There is such an overall emphasis on conformation, and our dogs are doing so much more. Also, there are many Curly owners who just want to share their enjoyment of their dogs and are not interested in competition of any kind. We wanted to engage these people.

The AKC has changed the definition of regional clubs. No longer can a club encompass multiple states. At a minimum, the region must be a state. It could also be part of a state. Initially, there must be at least 12 people from the region represented by the club, although anyone can join. In addition, the AKC created an easier way for club formation. It is mentoring



*The newly formed Ohio Curly-Coated Retriever Club held its regional specialty in Canfield in August.*

program with the assistance of an AKC representative, and it bypasses the tedious requirements of holding multiple match events.

In the fall of 2024, we contacted all the Curly people in Ohio to join us. We had an enthusiastic response. In December, we convened a

COURTESY ELLEN MANES

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board meeting and began the process of forming the club. We surveyed members to find out what kind of activities in which they were interested.

There were a wide variety of interests that expressed the versatility of our breed.

To that end, we hosted a Barn Hunt fun session in February 2025, and a general meeting in March. We planned a field demonstration for June, which unforeseen circumstances forced us to cancel. We also participated in a Fast CAT trial in September. In the meantime, we began the process of submitting the paperwork to become a licensed AKC club.

Once we completed the extensive and sometimes frustrating requirements for licensing, we were given permission to hold a designated specialty. Kudos to Sue Davis for being tenacious in filing the paperwork and keeping the process on track. We decided to hold the specialty at the Steel Valley Cluster to be held

in late July-early August in Canfield, Ohio.

The specialty was held on Saturday, August 1, at the Beaver County Kennel Club show. Our inaugural judge was Linda Clark. We had a wonderful entry of two class dogs, five class bitches, four dog specials, six bitch specials, one veteran dog, and one veteran bitch.

Best of Breed was GCh.G Pizzazz Kurly Kreek Raise a Ruckus, owned by Kathy and Scott Shifflett. Best of Winners/Winners Bitch was Fullcurl Pepper North with Pizzazz, owned by Melissa Kime. Best of Opposite was Ch. Daybreak Gullyfluff, RN, JH, owned by Kara Miller. Select Dog was Ch. Gypsy's Soul Fun in Black, FDC, FITB, RATN, DCAT, owned by Mark and Pat Stearns and Jennifer Kofron. Select Bitch was Ch. Jakandy Putn On the Ritz, CGC, BCAT, owned by Michele McGroarty. Winners Dog was Sovereign Soil's Niatross, owned by Lori Walton.

After judging we celebrated

by having a potluck lunch. We conducted a very profitable raffle, which earned the club over \$500. In addition, we got a very favorable review from the AKC rep on our specialty.

All in all, it was highly successful day. A week later, we received notification that we were approved as a fully licensed club.

We want to thank everyone who has supported us in the process. The old cliché that it takes a village is never more evident than when trying to launch a new club. We look forward to holding a variety of events in the coming year and hope you will come out to support us.

—Ellen Manes,

[jollycurl54@gmail.com](mailto:jollycurl54@gmail.com)

Curly-Coated Retriever  
Club of America

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## Golden Retrievers

### IT'S NATIONAL TIME!

As you are reading this, the Golden Retriever Club of America national specialty should be in full swing in Greeley, Colorado.