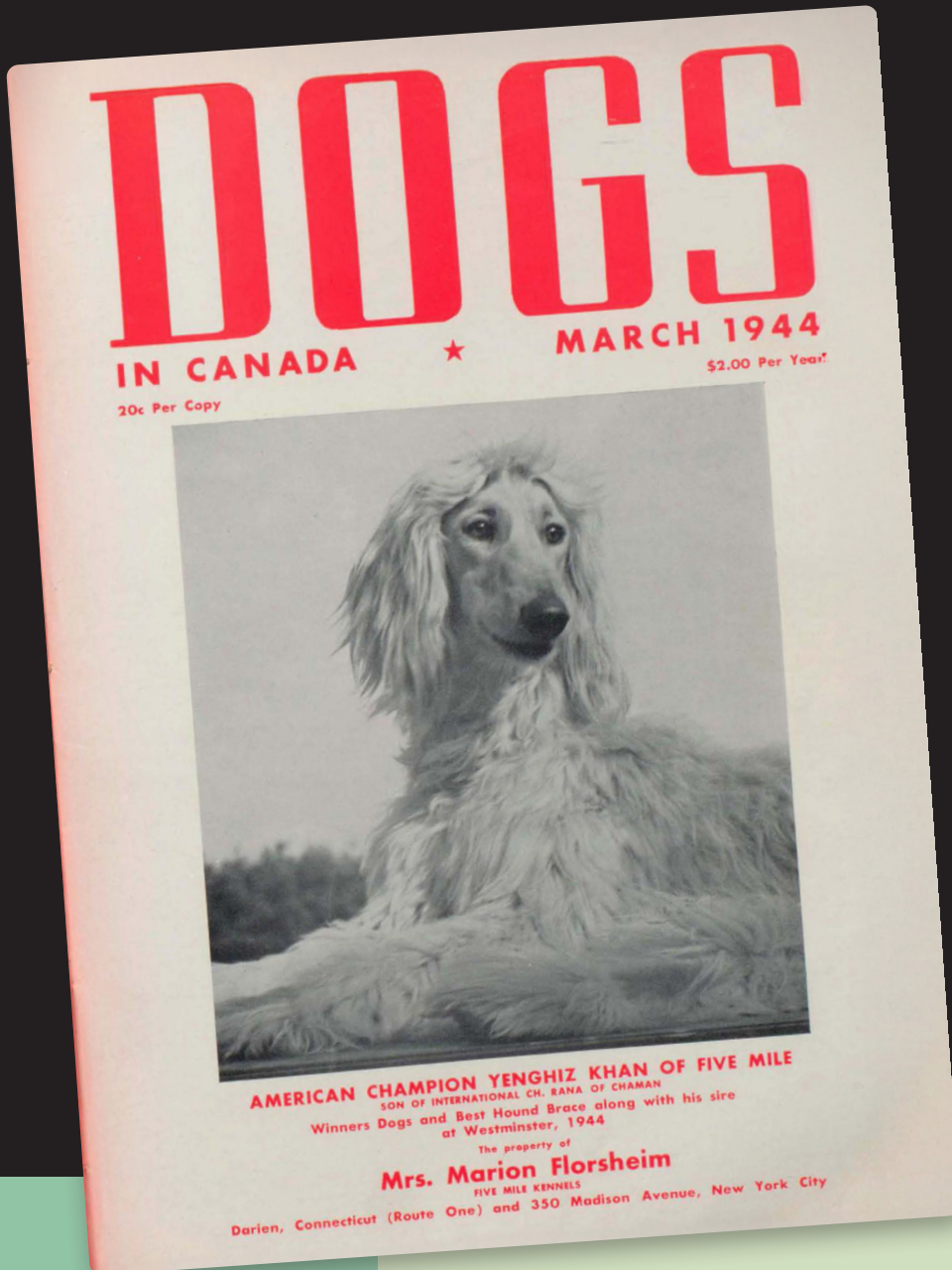




# KENNEL AND BENCH

## MARCH 2026

2026 Tattoo Letter is "P"



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- CKC Celebrates Canadian-bred Best in Show Winner and All Canadian Winners at Westminster
- Celebrating the Top Show Dogs
- Tribute to Lucy Éleine Bender

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## THE CANADIAN KENNEL CLUB CELEBRATES CANADIAN-BRED BEST IN SHOW WINNER AND ALL CANADIAN WINNERS AT WESTMINSTER

The Canadian Kennel Club (CKC) proudly congratulates Penny, the Doberman Pinscher Am GCHP Can GCH Connquest Best Of Both Worlds, on winning Best in Show at the 150th Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show in New York. This historic achievement marks Penny as the 7th Canadian-bred and/or owned dog to earn this prestigious title. Penny triumphed over more than 2,500 conformation entries, cementing her place among the most celebrated dogs in Westminster history.

Canadian-owned and bred by Theresa Connors-Chan and Gregory Chan, along with co-owners Francis and Diana Sparagna of California, Penny delivered a stunning performance under the expert guidance of veteran U.S. handler Andy Linton. The win was especially momentous for Linton, who last claimed Westminster Best in Show in 1989—also with a Doberman Pinscher.



Courtesy of Getty Images for The Westminster Kennel Club

*“On behalf of the Canadian Kennel Club, we are immensely proud to celebrate Penny, a Canadian-owned and bred Doberman Pinscher, on her Best in Show victory at the prestigious Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show,”* said Robert Whitney, CKC Board Director for Ontario East.

*“We extend our heartfelt congratulations to Penny’s Canadian co-owners and breeders, Theresa Connors-Chan and Gregory Chan, as well as her co-owners from California, on this remarkable achievement. We also congratulate all Canadian winners on their outstanding accomplishments.”*

Penny was among more than 75 Canadian competitors representing the nation at Westminster this year. The CKC applauds all Canadian winners and looks forward to sharing all Canadian wins in the days ahead.

### Other notable Canadian wins include:

**Hound Group – 4th Place:** Kaspian the Saluki  
GCHS CH Haefen Phaeton Kaspian  
Breeders: Roberta Parish (Errington, B.C.) & Eric Steel  
Owners: Eric Steel & Frank Ledda

**Herding Group – 4th Place:** Farrah the Bouvier des Flandres  
GCHB CH Quiche’s Vogue Covergirl CGC TKN  
Breeders: Elaine Paquette & Robert Real  
Owners: Elaine & Louise Paquette (Maidstone, Ontario)

**Sporting Group – 3rd Place:** Luca the Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever  
GCHS CH Roaneden’s Shorelander  
Breeders: Christine & Robert Jones (Arva, Ontario)  
Owners: Christine, Robert & Chloe Jones

**Working Group – 4th Place:** Maverick the Samoyed  
GCHS CH Vanderbilt’s Lucky Shot FDC  
Breeders: Judi & Blair Elford (Millbrook, Ontario)  
Owners: Suzanna Danza, Steve Tursi & Judi Elford

To view the full list of Canadian results, click the button below.

[MORE HERE](#)

### Additional Facts

- Penny is also renowned as the #1 Working dog in the United States in 2025.
- Canadian judge Raymond Yurick presided over several Hound group breeds, including Afghan Hounds, Borzois, Greyhounds, Ibizan Hounds, Scottish Deerhounds, and Whippets.
- The last Canadian dog to win Best in Show at Westminster was the beloved Beagle, Ch. Tashtins Lookin For Trouble (“Miss P”).

### About the Canadian Kennel Club

Founded in 1888, the Canadian Kennel Club (CKC) is the primary registry body for purebred dogs in Canada and recognizes 187 breeds. As a nonprofit organization incorporated under the federal Animal Pedigree Act, the CKC represents nearly 19,000 members and over 700

breed clubs nationwide. The CKC registers purebred dogs, regulates dog shows and performance events, and advocates for the health, wellbeing, and responsible stewardship of purebred dogs across the country. For more information, visit [ckc.ca](http://ckc.ca).

## Media Contact

For media opportunities, please contact Karen Ramlall at [communications@ckc.ca](mailto:communications@ckc.ca).

## CELEBRATING THE TOP SHOW DOGS

Congratulations to our Top Dogs in the 2025 Conformation category! We're proud to celebrate the hard work and dedication of these incredible dogs and handlers.

In Conformation shows, dogs are judged based on how closely they adhere to the breed standard, which includes physical appearance, structure, and movement. Judges assess the overall quality of the dog according to the ideal traits outlined for the breed.

### Congrats to our Top 10 Dogs in Conformation:

1. GCHX GCHG Snowmist's Taffy VN RN NTD
2. GCHG Freespirits Fix Me A Double At Terrapin CGN
3. GCHG Lakeridge Put That In Your Hat At Heritage
4. GCHG Souyen's Ziggy Stardust
5. GCHG Bonwild Black Magic Woman
6. GCHG Affirm's Charismatic
7. GCHG Vabril Sulee C.F.C Bryteagle
8. GCHG Dreamchaser's You Had Me At Hello
9. GCHG MistyTrails Caught on Radar
10. GCHG Rush Hill's G.O.T. Dragon Glass @ Allsgold

Once you receive your Top Dogs Certificate, celebrate by snapping a selfie with your dog and certificate!

Post it on Facebook or Instagram, tag Canadian Kennel Club (@CKC4thedogs), and include #CKCTopDogs to share your achievement and be part of the celebration!

Visit [CKC.ca](http://CKC.ca) to see the full list of winners in Conformation. Stay tuned for more Top Dogs updates!

## TRIBUTE TO LUCY ÉLAINE BENDER

It is with deep respect and gratitude that we honour the life and legacy of Lucille (Lucy) Élaïne Bender, who passed away peacefully on February 2, 2026. Lucy leaves behind a profound impact on the Canadian Kennel Club community and the many people and animals whose lives she touched.

Lucy was widely known in the CKC community for her unwavering dedication and support of purebred dogs. She served an extraordinary five consecutive terms on the Canadian Kennel Club's Discipline Committee—2010–2013, 2013–2016, 2016–2019, 2019–2022, and 2022–2025—demonstrating 15 years of commitment to fairness, integrity, and the responsible stewardship of the CKC's disciplinary processes. During this remarkable period of service, Lucy was admired for championing justice, transparency, and accountability in all matters brought before the committee.

Her leadership reached new heights when she was appointed Chair of the Discipline Committee in May 2019, a role she fulfilled with distinction until the end of her final term in 2025. As Chair, Lucy's principled nature, deep compassion for animals, and unwavering moral clarity shaped the committee's work and earned the respect of colleagues across the organization. Her steady guidance and dedication left a lasting imprint on CKC governance and the broader purebred dog community.

Beyond her extensive contributions to the CKC, Lucy was admired for her distinguished career as the Regional Assessment Officer of the Ontario Superior Court of Justice, where she was known for fairness, determination, and a profound sense of care in serving the public. Her intelligence, sharp wit, and principled approach earned her the deep respect of colleagues and community members alike.

Lucy's compassion extended far beyond her professional accomplishments. She was a devoted companion to her beloved Chow Chows, Cole and Fafi, and a cherished friend to many who treasured her humour, candour, and kindness. Her legacy is one of service—to people, to dogs, and to the values she carried throughout her life.

The Canadian Kennel Club, along with all who knew her, will long remember Lucy for her leadership, dedication, and heartfelt commitment to the health and well-being of dogs across Canada. Her work and spirit continue to resonate in the communities she served.

## THE POWER OF JUNIOR HANDLING AND STELLA'S JOURNEY TO SHINE

When Stella turned eight, she didn't ask for a big birthday party with her classmates. She asked to go to a dog show.

There were balloons and streamers decorating the setup, and cupcakes shared ringside. Fellow Juniors sang "Happy Birthday" during competition. She wore a birthday shirt before changing into her ring dress, and in between celebrating, she did what she loves most.



"Going in the ring," Stella says simply, when asked what she enjoys most about Junior Handling.

That love for the sport has grown quickly. Stella began in PeeWee at six years old and finished the 2025 season in Junior Open. In just two seasons, her confidence has soared, something her mom, Rianna, has witnessed firsthand.

"Junior Handling has been night and day for my daughter's confidence," Rianna says. "First season to second season she's a whole new kid. Her personality has bloomed and her confidence has grown so much."

The ring hasn't always felt easy. Stella remembers her first time vividly.

"The first time was really scary and I cried," says Stella.

Now, the nerves are still there, but they feel different.

"Now it's still scary to go in the ring, but it's like an exciting scary. I'm excited all day for my turn, but I still get nervous."

That shift didn't happen alone. Rianna describes a conformation community that shows up for its Juniors in ways big and small.

"The conformation community as a whole wants to see the kids succeed. In every situation, adults are ready to step up on behalf of the kids. Offering dogs, making them aware of ring times, offering encouragement. I'm not sure if other exhibitors know how much those tiny interactions mean to the kids."

She recalls one pivotal show when Stella was still finding her footing. After reaching out for advice on encouraging a young Junior, the response was overwhelming.

"At that show, adults sought her out to tell her how gorgeous her dress was. Another Junior brought her a glittery bag with grooming tools, a little apron, bubbles and candy. When we went ringside someone started playing Dolly Parton's 9 to 5, Stella's favourite song, so by the time she went into the ring she was grinning ear to ear and strutting like a queen."

"That was the turning point," says Rianna.

From that moment on, Stella begged to attend every show and handling class. When she chose to celebrate her birthday at a dog show, the community once again stepped in, decorating, celebrating, and making the weekend unforgettable. Rianna also speaks passionately about the mentorship Stella has received.

"Our rep, Bonnie White, has answered a million and a half questions. Her daughter Madison checks in with Stella every show and talks kid to kid about things to do in the ring. The kids look out for each other, encourage each other, calm each other's nerves." Even





when things don't go as planned, support is immediate. At one specialty, a dog offered to Stella proved too rambunctious.

*“Another handler stepped in before I could even blink. She had Stella pep talked and a new dog to go back out with so fast there was no time for it to be anything but a good experience.”*

For Rianna, that safety net means everything.

*“As a parent I love that feeling of knowing someone always has the kids' backs if something doesn't go as planned.”*

Stella has already handled Miniature Poodles, German Wirehaired Pointers and Golden Retrievers, and has practised with spaniels. Her favourite remains the Mini Poodle.

*“I have fun with the hairdo,” she says proudly. Looking ahead, she is “really excited to go to Zones for the first time” and is determined to earn a Best Overall Junior ribbon.*

*“I got a Reserve, but I don't have that giant one yet,” she says. “So, I'm going to try to get one of those this year.”*

For parents wondering whether to get involved, Rianna does not hesitate.

*“Absolutely do it. I can not believe the difference a single season of showing made, let alone how much she grew in her second season. It doesn't matter if you don't own a dog or have never shown before. The community will help guide you. Everyone watches out for the kids and wants them to have good experiences and succeed.”*

Junior Handling has given Stella more than ribbons and ring time. It has given her mentorship, friendship, courage, and a place where she feels completely at home. And for one determined eight-year-old in New Brunswick, that ring has become a space where she can shine.

Stella's story is just one example of what can happen when young people are given the opportunity to step into the ring and discover what they're capable of. Through the Canadian Kennel Club's Junior Handling program, children across Canada are building confidence, forming friendships, and finding their own place to shine.

If your child is ready to try something new, we invite you to explore Junior Handling and see where the journey could take them.



Find out how to get involved by clicking the button below.

[MORE HERE](#)

*The opinions expressed by authors on the Canadian Kennel Club Blog and those providing comments are theirs alone, and do not reflect the opinions of the Canadian Kennel Club or any of its employees.*

# DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE REPORT

## REPLACEMENT DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE REPORT

The following report is of disciplinary action taken by the Replacement Discipline Committee at its meeting held on January 31, 2026.

**Sylvain Sirois, QC, Member**  
(Complainant – Darrin Pettitt)  
Suspended 6 months.

Violations of the CKC By-laws, Code of Ethics, Chapter IX Board  
of Directors, Policy and Procedures Manual. \$400.00

*Under Appeal*



## CANADIAN KENNEL CLUB MISSION STATEMENT

### Who We Are

The Canadian Kennel Club (CKC) is the primary registry body for purebred dogs in Canada and currently recognizes 187 breeds. As a non-profit organization, the CKC is dedicated to encouraging, guiding, and advancing the interests of purebred dogs and their responsible owners and breeders in Canada and promoting the knowledge and understanding of the benefits which dogs can bring to Canadian society.

The CKC is incorporated under Animal Pedigree Act, a federal statute under the auspices of the Ministry of Agriculture. The organization includes approximately 20,000 individual members and over 700 breed clubs across Canada. The Club registers purebred dogs, regulates dog shows and performance events, and speaks out on major issues concerning dog ownership and the health & welfare of dogs across Canada.

### Mission

As the prime registry of purebred dogs in Canada, our purpose is to serve our members and the public with education, support, guidance and sanctioning of events for all their canine endeavours. Our goal is the preservation of purebred dogs and the health, well-being and enjoyment of all dogs.

### Vision

The CKC with its members, will be the definitive authority in Canada for purebred dogs, and an advocate for all dogs, setting the standard for the preservation of breeds and continuous improvement of health, wellbeing and enjoyment of purebred dogs.

### Values

**Passion:** We are dedicated to purebred dogs with the belief in the value of dogs as an integral part of our lives, our society and the contributions dogs brings to our humanity.

**Preservation:** We are committed to the preservation of breed characteristics while producing healthy well-socialized dogs, with a commitment to continuous improvement and well-being of purebred dogs.

**Knowledge:** We educate and expand public awareness of the contribution purebred dogs bring to society. This includes the vast array of activities and opportunities for purebred dog enthusiasts... as well as a commitment to the principles of responsible breeding practices and responsible dog ownership.

**Commitment:** We protect and enhance the interests of our members, breeders, associated clubs and the public, supporting them with openness, honesty and compassion.

**Integrity:** We uphold the integrity of our registry, the high standards of governance and management of the Canadian Kennel Club.

AN INFORMATION SUPPLEMENT FROM THE CKC

# KENNEL AND BENCH