

# The Lundehund Link

Newsletter of the Norwegian Lundehund Association of America, Inc.

October 2006



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## 2006 National Specialty

by Diane Anderson

(Diane Anderson judged the NLAA, Inc. National Specialty in September)

It was a great honor for me to judge the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Specialty held in San Rafael, California. I want to thank the Norwegian Lundehund Association of America, Inc. for organizing a spectacular weekend. Your hospitality and enthusiasm are unmatched. Kudos to all of you. Special thanks to Sharon Pederson, who worked with me for weeks to produce the seminar handbook and saw to my every need during my stay in California... even though I am aware of her great involvement in the breed, she did not show under me. In fact, I had never met any of the exhibitors until after the show, when we bonded as if we were old friends. We were all honored to have Sofie Schonheyder, my mentor, attending with her husband and son.

With an entry of 32, and several more on the grounds but not showing, it's estimated that more than 10% of the U.S. population was on hand.

I was first introduced to the Lundehund while living in Norway and have always had a deep admiration and love for this breed. In 1975, I was licensed by the Norwegian Kennel Club/FCI to judge. Since then, there have been many improvements in the breed. The quality of dogs at this show was absolutely exceptional. You have done a superb job of taking on the task of preserving the breed in America and I am certain that many of the exhibits under me at this show could win in Norway.

That is the greatest accomplishment that a rare breed club can attain. It is due to serious and dedicated breeders who are honest and who work together for the betterment of the breed. In this large entry, there was really only one exhibit with serious faults. That is quite incredible! I spoke with Sofie after the judging and she agreed that the overall quality of dogs at this show was outstanding.

Having said all that, it was difficult to choose my winners in many classes. My Best of Breed, Eriksro Fagre Kettel, was for me an ideal specimen of the breed as was his daughter, Cliffhanger Fancy Footwork. They were so correct throughout and exemplified their sex. My Best Veteran was Prairie Gold Dorthea who was in such excellent condition that she certainly did not show her age. It was

wonderful to see so many of the “oldies but goodies”. The puppies were very promising, but Cliffhanger Faust could not be denied the Best Puppy award. I am certain he will have a very bright future.

I was pleased to see so many AKC judges ringside and was able to critique each exhibit for them and the other spectators and exhibitors. Most of the dogs were handled well. Even with all the cheering, clapping, and fierce wind all the dogs performed well. This is a true sign that their temperaments are excellent. This continued at the seminar and in the club stand at the all breed show. All of the dogs were happy and did not resist any of the “hands on” during the whole weekend. They were true ambassadors of the breed and gained many admirers.

I also want to thank my ring stewards for their capable help which was a challenge in the wind. The rosettes were most attractive and the glass prizes created by Mindy Ebey were exquisite. The total experience from the show to the seminar to the banquet was not only enjoyable, but educational ...and I shall always treasure the opportunity of sharing it with you and your Lundehunds. The devotion and spirit of your club is as unique in the dog world as your breed.

## Ask the Vet

By Susan L. Torgerson, D.V.M.

(Submit your Lundie health questions and member-vet-Lundie owner Susan Torgerson will answer them in upcoming issues. E-mail questions to Susan at [suelyntorg@aol.com](mailto:suelyntorg@aol.com).)

Mary asks: “Should we feed our Lundehund scraps from the table?”

Well, Mary, dogs in general should not receive table scraps for many reasons:

1. A good quality dog food has all the nutrition that a dog needs.

2. People food is very rich in calories, so they receive far more calories than they need and will tend to become fat, with all the health problems that entails.
3. Frequent feeding of scraps will cause them to expect it, leading them to ignore dog food in favor of tastier items, and can produce begging behaviour.
4. Most dogs’ digestive system is unused to rich food and diarrhea may result.
5. Some people food is actually toxic to dogs, like chocolate, grapes, raisins and possibly xylitol, an artificial sweetener.
6. Rich foods can cause pancreatitis, a serious illness.
7. Cooked bones are not digestible and might cause intestinal obstruction, or an ulcerated colon.

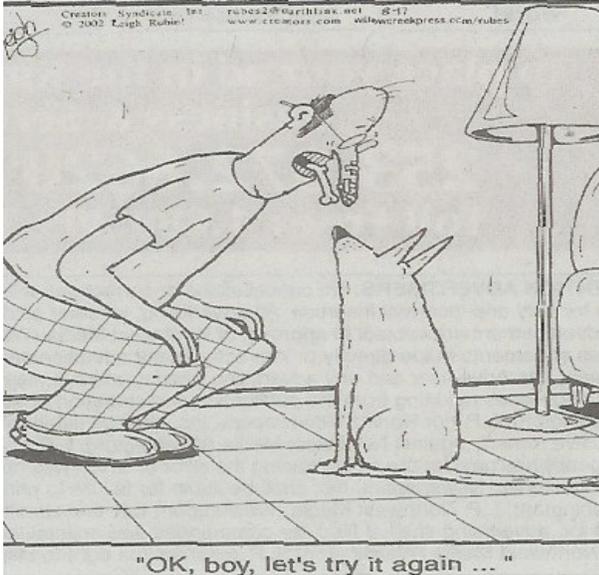
Lundehunds in particular are prone to digestive upsets, so feeding rich food should be considered a no-no. Certainly feeding sensible portions of healthy items like lean meat and vegetables will not harm their system, although it may make them spoiled. Most dogs have low levels of the enzyme that digests lactose in milk so feeding dairy products should occur in minimal amounts, if at all.

That being said, I will admit that my Lundies get to lick our plates and snarf up un-eaten people food, but it is usually small amounts. When I find a pile of vomited spaghetti on the carpet, I know I have only myself to blame.

“Man is a dog’s ideal of what god should be.”

Holbrook Jackson

1894



## Lundehunds on the Go

by Susan Torgerson Taylor, DVM

Poulsbo, a small community on the western edge of Puget Sound, was founded by a Norwegian immigrant in the late 1880's and was settled predominately by Norwegian and Finnish settlers. In fact, the main spoken language was Norwegian until WWII. The Sons of Norway maintain a thriving lodge there.

A member of that lodge invited us to introduce our Lundehunds to the children attending their annual camp in June. The camp was designed for the kids to have summer fun while at the same time learning something of their Scandinavian heritage which includes Lundehunds, of course.

On a sunny weekend, I packed up my husband Bill, my son Kristofer and all four Lundehunds and headed to Poulsbo. While I was buying souvenirs for our Northwest Lundefest, the Lundehunds created pedestrian congestion on the sidewalks as tourists interrogated Bill and Kris about the dogs.

We arrived at the Lodge where the activities director had reserved an hour for Scandinavian

animals. Our Lundehunds joined a pair of Norwegian Elkhounds, Swedish Valhunds and Norwegian Buhunds. Outside the Lodge, there was an Icelandic Pony ready for petting. The camp consisted of about fifty children from 8-12 years of age.

Each dog breed was presented by their owners, who gave a short speech about the dogs. I was grateful that the Buhunds and Elkhounds went before us, as I had not written up a speech like they had. But years of answering questions about the dogs from passers-by and potential buyers gave me a ready answer to this dilemma; I told my husband to do the talking.

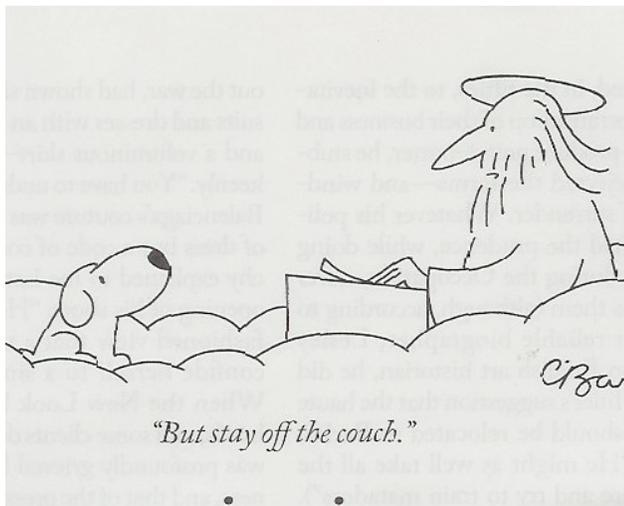


Bill did a good job without having prepared anything. He really does love to brag about Lundehunds more than I. I piped in with the few things he forgot to mention. The children were probably not listening very closely; they wanted to see and touch, rather than hear. After the Vallhund presentation, the kids got their wish: they were divided into groups to pet the dogs and the pony.

Our Lundehunds are about as social as Lundehunds get. Elfy (Midnattsol Elfrida) and Torrey (Medina Arne den Fyrste) are the best at tolerating the attention of strangers. They seemed to endure the maulings they received from the kids without panicking. At the end of

the designated hour, we were released with many “thank you’s” from the director and the kids.

The director has already expressed interest in having the dogs visit again next year and also at camps in other locations. Every May, Poulsbo has a huge Norwegian festival involving the entire town. We hope to return to this lovely community for that.



## Member-to-Member

Michelle Ritholz writes: “I would love to hear some suggestions from other members of ways to engage my Lundie in play activities. He always enjoyed playing with squeaky toys, but now that he’s 12 years old, he plays for just a few minutes before he stops.” If anyone has suggestions for Michelle, please e-mail them to the editor at [rwaldmann1@mac.com](mailto:rwaldmann1@mac.com). If you have a question for members, please e-mail the editor.

## Brag

Anneli Haggblom has some brags to report:

At the Swedish Askersund Show August 12th, Trofast av Venterskogen took Best of Breed and Skreppeng’s Tommy Tigerutt was Second Best Male. Anneli’s Mountjoy Ultra Eriksro was

Best Opposite Sex. Silvershound’s Hippi-Hortensia took Third Best Female, got her certificate and the Swedish Champion title.

## Dog Haiku

I sound the alarm!  
Garbage man—come to kill us all.  
Look! Look! Look! Look! Look!

How do I love thee?  
The ways are as numberless as  
My hairs on the rug.

## Please Contribute...

Send news, brags, tips, memoriams, jokes, photos to [Rwaldmann1@mac.com](mailto:Rwaldmann1@mac.com). If you change your e-mail address, *please* let me know.



Donna Dunrud sends this photo of Cliffhanger Edoras “Olle” hard at work in the Napa Valley pre-fighting Donna’s hot air balloon.

“Acquiring a dog may be the only opportunity a human ever has to choose a relative.”

Mordecai Siegal