

SETTER LETTER



April 2025 Issue



"Waiting for Peter Rabbit"

(photo of Jelly and her carrot patch courtesy of Renee Metz)

ESAA President's Message

Greetings, My English Setter Friends!

Your board of directors has been hard at work since my "Did You Know" message of February 21st. We have had two meetings since then and approved three new "Firsts" for ESAA.

For the first time ever, ESAA will be holding a National Specialty at

Purina Farms. This has been talked about at board meetings for at least 15 years, and thanks to the hard work of VP at Large Kathy Cunningham and the intrepid Regional VP Judi Hunter, it has become a reality.

ESAA's super organized secretary, Coleen Raber, compiled a list of National Specialty show sites recommended by other parent clubs. Kathy and Judi evaluated the many recommended sites, obtained draft contracts, and waited patiently for a proposal from Ohio's Roberts Centre. It was disappointing to finally hear that the Roberts Centre could not commit to anything in 2026 because of the uncertainty of their renovations schedule. It was also disappointing to realize that other highly rated facilities – with fabulous recommendations from the Great Dane Club, for example – would just not work for us because of the requirement to commit to a number of room nights we could never meet. So, call it karma, luck or fate that Purina Farms said they have room in the 2026 schedule for ESAA! Our dates are Monday, November 2nd through Sunday, November 8th. There is a Fast CAT event scheduled there the weekend before. The weekend after is wide open for Fast CAT if ESAA decides to run our own event. Jill Warren and her team are busy studying the schedule to provide feedback, and their desired timing and dates for the performance events. As we go to press, Kettle Moraine is planning back-to-back regional specialties on the following Saturday.

The second "First" is approving ESAA's presence on Instagram. Thanks to the hard work of your VP at Large Janet Gray, she assembled a startup team and recruited Diana Sullivan to manage content. Never fear, my Facebook lovers, Instagram is not replacing Facebook. It is an alternative source of news and information for many folks, and is something we can use to widen our audience and promote our wonderful breed. ESAA news and information will be posted on both sites to supplement our website and newsletter.

The third "First" is approving an ESAA Auction account on Facebook. Again, thanks to Janet Gray, she assembled a startup team and recruited Maureen Day to assist in launching this new money-making endeavor for ESAA. Maureen has had great success running auctions for the Winter Garden Specialty and has developed a detailed playbook of forms, schedules and procedures. We are so thankful for her expertise and guidance as we develop new ways to raise revenue for ESAA.

In other board news, we approved Health and Genetics Chair Michelle Raisor's recommendation to help fund a grant for epilepsy research using money from the Canine Health Foundation account. We supported junior Carly Satterfield with a stipend for her appearance at Westminster. We supported the National Bird Dog Museum, OFA's Dick Fox Memorial (OFA matches our donation), and Bright Spot

Therapy dogs with our recurring annual donations. And, good news reported by our AKC delegate and field trial guru BJ Parsons: the February Field Trial made a profit of \$2,350.30!

We were sad but grateful to receive a generous donation by Hudson English Setter Club in memory of their longtime member Natalie Wells. And lastly, the board unanimously agreed to dedicate the 2026 National Specialty to Dave and Judy Mates.

Thank you for reading!

~Julie



ESAA Mourns the Loss of Beloved Breed Ambassadors Dave & Judy Mates



On March 17, 2025, Dave Mates wrote: "I lost my beloved Judy this morning. ...I am not sure what life will look like without her and for now I am appreciative of all the support, love and prayers you have given us both over this last year."

Just days later, on March 20, Dave passed away as well.

Longtime friend Harvey Wooding is composing a tribute to Dave and Judy Mates, which will soon be sent to our membership as a stand-alone Belton Blast. Please be on the lookout for this email.



"Adele"

(photo of courtesy of Kayla Kozak)



~ Buckeye English Setter Club ~
~ English Setter Club of Ohio ~

2025 Specialty . May 23-26

In conjunction with
Cincinnati Kennel Club
Echo Hills Kennel Club

Hamilton, Ohio

MAJORS!

Show Superintendent: Executive Dog Shows

**Please join us for four specialties as well as opportunities
with the local clubs each day. Plenty of grooming space.
Indoors, in our usual barn.**

Judges (Sweeps)

Buckeye

Friday, May 23:

Martina Friedeberg

Saturday, May 24:

Barbara Scherer

Sunday, May 25:

Hunter Richardson

ESCO

Monday, May 26:

Judges (Classes)

Buckeye

Friday, May 23:

Karrie Dollar

Saturday, May 24:

Robert Shreve

Sunday, May 25:

Carol Spritzer

ESCO

Monday, May 26:

ESAA NATIONAL 2025

Let's go shopping!!

Ordering available for the ESAA National 2025 merch right here 🛒 <https://techriff.shop/esaa3>

Warning: the Facebook page "ESAA NATIONAL 2025" is not an official ESAA page. Its objective is to sell unauthorized logowear.

ANNUAL AWARDS REMINDER**Deadline MAY 31, 2025**

It's time to apply for the 2024 Annual Awards! The 2024 award year coincides with the 2024 calendar year (shows held 1/1/24 to 12/31/24). All wins must appear on AKC.com or CKC.ca (for Canadian awards).

All applicants must be ESAA members. Click [here](#) for the awards application and worksheet.

Each entry must include your dog's AKC or CKC registration form, AKC reports, and the awards worksheet.

ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED ON OR BEFORE MAY 31, 2025. Emailed applications will not be accepted. If you have any questions, please contact the tabulator, [Kendra Huber](#): kendrahuber23@gmail.com



Can Dogs Get Bird Flu?

By Michelle J. Raisor, PhD

In the “Expert Advice” section of AKC’s website is an excellent article that should be of interest to any pet owners worried about their dog’s exposure to H5N1bird flu. Are dogs at risk for bird flu? According to the CDC, the

short answer is yes. While it helps to be aware of infectious disease outbreaks, dog owners don't need to be overly alarmed. There have been **no** confirmed cases of dogs contracting bird flu in the US, but there's been one reported case in Canada, where the dog chewed on an infected wild goose, got sick, and died. Although bird flu isn't prevalent in dogs, here are some tips to keep your dogs safe.

- If your pets (including pet birds, cats or dogs) go outside and eat or are exposed to sick or dead birds, dairy cows, or other animals infected with avian influenza viruses, they could become infected.
- Prevent pets from interacting with wild birds, backyard poultry, cows, or other outdoor animals.
- The CDC does not recommend feeding commercially produced raw pet food or unpasteurized milk.
- Do not touch sick or dead birds, their feces, litter, or any surface or water source (ponds, waterers, buckets, pans, troughs) that might be contaminated with their saliva, feces, or any other bodily fluids.
- Avoid places where bird flu has been reported.

If your pet has been exposed to an infected or dead animal, you should seek help from your veterinarian to monitor signs of fever or infection. Such symptoms are:

- Fever
- Fatigue
- Low appetite
- Reddened or inflamed eyes
- Discharge from the eyes and nose
- Difficulty breathing
- Sneezing
- Congestion
- Coughing
- Neurological symptoms, such as tremors, seizures, incoordination, or blindness

As with any type of influenza, the primary treatment for dogs is supportive care according to the American Veterinary Medical Association. This includes giving your dog water, food, and antibiotics if they develop a secondary infection. Some dogs may need appetite stimulants or intravenous fluids if they're not eating. In general, the best way to protect your dog is to keep them in good health, well-vaccinated, and don't allow them to be in contact with wild birds, domestic fowl, or dead birds.

RESOURCES

www.akc.org/expert-advice/news/bird-flu-in-dogs/

www.cdc.gov/bird-flu/risk-factors

<https://rivma.org/page/avian-flu-resources>



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Meet the Breeds

Hi all! I am the ESAA public education chairperson, and I have the ES club's official breed cards to be used at Meet the Breeds events. Please feel free to reach out to me and I will mail them to you. Also, if you already have breed cards and hold a booth during an MTB event, please let me know so that we can keep track of our participation.

Thank you,
Denise Parker
Public Education Chairperson





Carly and Jade at Westminster
(Photos courtesy of Jennifer Necker)

Westminster 2025

By Carly Satterfield

At least in Maine, February can be a pretty cold and snowy month. However, until Covid, it was brightened by the Westminster Dog Show, something we all anticipated each year. In 2020, right before everything shut down, my grandparents took me to the Garden to watch the groups and best in show. As a fairly new handler, I was dazzled by the lights, suits, and dogs. Just one year later, I had the honor of competing at Westminster located at Lyndhurst Mansion in Tarrytown, New York. Last May, I was able to compete again at the Billie Jean King National Tennis Center. Both venues were beautiful and fun in their own way, but neither

offered the New York City experience. Both were incredible venues, however, I had never competed in the city. When I qualified for juniors this year, my mom and I were determined to experience the city.

Originally, my plan was not to show an English Setter. The Setter I typically show, Deacon, lives in New Mexico. During February, it would be too difficult to transport him to New York City.

Luckily, I was prepared to show my Welsh Springer Spaniel, Gavyn. What I've learned about the English Setter community is that there are always people willing to help you. After the Royal Canin AKC National Championship, Michaela Masi offered me an English Setter named Jade to show in the big city. Jade's story is different compared to the dogs I have handled in the past. She had only been living with Michaela since February 10th of the previous year. Michaela said that

Jade was ill when she picked her up and weighed only thirty-six pounds. Jade spent the rest of 2024 bouncing back thanks to "love, vet care, a huge yard with lots of dog friends, and physical therapy," says Michaela, who had shown her twice prior to my introduction to Jade in January 2025. When I received this offer, I knew it would take a lot of work and support to show Jade at Westminster just about a month later.

Complicating the situation was that I live about three hours away from Jade and Michaela. Multiple times over the following weeks, my mother and I traveled to Massachusetts so that I could work with Jade. Although the time to prepare Jade was relatively short, Jade loved to work, please her people, and was simply tireless (as long as you had plenty of cookies in your pocket). Alongside Michaela, Jennifer Necker was an incredible mentor and major helper in Jade's show journey during January. Jennifer has been one of my mentors in showing English Setters over the past few years, and she has taught me so much when it comes to grooming, caring for, and presenting an English Setter. With Jade, it was no different. Each dog is different, and going from showing a dog to a bitch was a big change for me. Jade was much more sensitive to small movements of my body, and I had to learn all the little things that helped her click. But with lots of help from Jennifer, and countless moments where I had to be reminded to drop the lead loose when free stacking Jade, we started to grow stronger as a team.

Faster than you could blink an eye, Westminster week approached. My mother and I had planned to drive down to New York on Sunday, February 9th, but as luck would have it, we had a major s

nowstorm the day of my league championships for indoor track and field. While I show dogs, I also compete in three sports a year, perform in theater, am the president of my school's National Honor Society chapter, and am an active member of many other clubs. Balancing my schedule is not easy, and the championship meet was then moved to Monday, February 10th. To be fully transparent, as someone with a Type A personality, I was absolutely thrown off my game. But one thing showing dogs has taught me is how to get up and keep working. My mother and I figured out a solution. We would make the five-and-a-half-hour drive after the meet and be ready to compete at Westminster the following day. That evening, we met Jennifer in New York City. She had been gracious enough to offer to drive Jade to New York City for us and we couldn't have been more thankful.

It was a late night, but we were all very excited to show the following day. No matter what, I was proud of the work that had been contributed in getting Jade ready, and overall grateful for this incredible opportunity. Westminster was just as dazzling as I had expected. I had on my yellow suit that had been picked out since September, and the dogs seemed to be loving the experience. Both Jade and my Welsh Springer Spaniel (who had come to compete in breed) seemed to be enjoying the city. The show site was incredibly well put-together and I was so excited. As I groomed Jade for juniors, countless people came up to us proclaiming just how gorgeous and unique she was. I can understand why: When I first started showing dogs, I was obsessed with English Setters. Even though I didn't know the name of the breed at first, I thought their coats were the most stunning thing I had ever seen. Even though I am now seventeen, I still get a childish joy out of grooming Setters. Mostly because I can't believe that I get to blow dry such a gorgeous coat.

That day, Jade and I performed the best we had yet. I had shown her only once prior to Westminster. We had driven to West Springfield, Massachusetts the prior Sunday, where the two of us competed in juniors. I wasn't able to compete on Saturday because of a school conflict, shortening the opportunities to compete before Westminster even more. However, I couldn't have been happier with our performance.

For one, *we were there competing*. Jade had gone from being ill to running around the green carpet at one of the most prestigious dog shows in the country in only a year. And on top of that, she was loving every second of it. My mind always comes back to what Judge Patricia Trotter said when she judged Best In Show at Lyndhurst Mansion in 2021: **“Not all pets are show dogs. But I can assure you, all show dogs are pets.”** I felt

this described my experience with Jade perfectly. Even though we walked out without a ribbon, we walked out with a smile, feeling incredibly fulfilled because of the work we had put into being there. I couldn't have gotten here without the immense support from Jennifer and Micheala, along with my mother. I am left with so much gratitude to everyone who has supported me in my juniors career over the last four years.

ESAA Board of Directors Videoconference . March 4, 2025

Click [here](#) for board minutes

NEW TITLES:

Information received after the *Setter Letter* deadline will go into the following month's issue.

Click [here](#) to educate yourself on all of AKC's titles and abbreviations listed alphabetically.

Click [here](#) to view all AKC sport titles.

Do you have a new field, agility, obedience, conformation or other title on your English Setter?

Please submit the following information to **Ross Rice**:
in the order listed below:

Complete Name of Dog
New Title (acronym only)
Month Title was Attained
Age of Dog
Breeder(s)
Owner(s)

NOTE: in the email subject line, please write **NEW TITLE**

NEW TITLE SUBMISSIONS
January/February 2025

CH Full Circle N' Honeygait Lady Annabelle

CH: January 2025

Age: 15 months

Breeders: Van Jacobsen and Lee Afdahl; John and Mary Nowak

Owners: Van Jacobsen and Lee Afdahl

**CH Esthete Under Pressure BCAT SWNE SWE
SCM SEM TKI VES₂**

CH: February 2025

Age: 5 years

Breeder: Jill Warren

Owners: Erin and Stephen Altman



(Photo courtesy of Annette Hicks)

[ESAA Website](#)



Thank you to everyone who contributed to this

**newsletter! If you have any suggestions or requests,
please contact *Linda Lauby*, *Setter Letter* editor.**

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