

SETTER LETTER



June 2025 Issue: Summer Edition



"Kyla in Lupines"

(photo by Julie Sopko)

ESAA President's Message

Greetings, My English Setter Friends!

I am happy to report on some important things in the works. AKC just let me know that our ESAA Fast CAT club license application has been received and placed in the queue by date-received order for management

review. And, our intrepid secretary, Coleen Raber, is diligently pursuing with AKC what is needed paperwork-wise to apply for a license to hold our own scent-work trials. Kathy Cunningham and her National Specialty team are planning with our performance folks to make these two events a reality at our National Specialty in 2026 with plenty of inaugural fun surrounding these two new firsts for ESAA! (Update: We have been Fast CAT approved! You can read our approval letter [HERE](#).)

Keep an eye out for 2025 National Specialty news. The Show Team has some delicious food events planned that will be available for pre-order, along with catalogs. Details will be finalized soon, and Publicity Chair Janet Gray will make sure to spread the news on our website and club Facebook page.

Last but by no means least, I want to shine a light on the recipient of this year's Misty Mondok Myers academic scholarship. A big shout-out goes to Carly Satterfield from the great state of Maine! Congratulations, Carly!

Thank you for reading!

~Julie





"Ash"

(photo by Julia Crawford-Ingvalson)



The Dog Days of Summer are Here! Keeping Your Best Friend Safe

By Shannon Van Meter

Summer's here in full force, and with it comes a number of additional concerns regarding our

pets:

1. Think about walks, exercise, and training. If you regularly walk or run with your dog, or attend any sort of outdoor classes with them, plan these during the coolest part of the day. Instead of a mid-morning or afternoon walk, maybe work on some obedience training in the house. This keeps your dog's brain active and can be a good mental workout to help tire them.

To read the full article about keeping your dog safe this summer, click [HERE](#).



ESAA Top 20 Invitational Celebrates 10-Year Anniversary!

By Leslie Crawford, ESAA Historian

At the 2024 ESAA National in Wilmington, Ohio, the Top 20 Invitational celebrated its 10th anniversary. The theme colors in aqua, black, and gold were stunning, and provided an elegant background for the event. Excitement was in the air as the dogs and their handlers took to the ring on the evening of Tuesday, September 24.

The dogs competing qualified for the competition by ranking in breed, all-breed and (beginning in 2019) owner-handled win statistics for the previous year. There is a panel of three judges, representing a breeder judge, an AKC-licensed judge, and a handler judge. The dog chosen as the Top 20 winner is evaluated using a score card covering head, body, coat, running gear, tail length and carriage, and general appearance and action. The Top 20 winner is the dog who achieves the highest score among the three judges, the Runner-Up winner (beginning in 2017) is the dog who achieves the second-highest score from the judges, and the People's Choice is chosen by ballot submitted by the spectators at the event.

For photos of all Top 20 winners and to read the complete article, click [**HERE**](#).



Central Carolina
English Setter Club
SAVE THE DATES!

Show Superintendent:
MBF

July 24 – July 27, 2025

GREENVILLE CLUSTER
Greenville Convention Center

~AKC S.T.A.R. Title~

The VES committee has approved adding the AKC S.T.A.R. title to the VES1 requirements. An updated application form can be found [HERE](#).

Please note: To be eligible to enter the VES Showcase at the 2025 ESAA National, your dog must have its first VES title by July 31, 2025. The deadline to enter the Showcase will be announced soon, and it will be shortly after July 31, so don't

wait!

Email Sue Johnson, VES Tabulator, with any questions.

TROPHY DONATIONS



Please Support
ESAA MAJOR EVENTS

by donating generously to our trophy fund.
This fund will provide trophies for the following events:

2025 ESAA National Specialty
2025 ESAA National Championship Field Trial

Visit <http://www.esaa.com> or mail your donation, made out to ESAA to:
Kathy Cunningham Roy - 35 Booras Lane - Milford CT 06461

Diving into the Popularity of Dock Diving Dog Sports

By Melinda Benbow

Dock Diving has surged in popularity in recent years, captivating the hearts of both dogs and their owners with its thrilling combination of athleticism and aquatic

adventure. But what exactly is dock diving, and why has it become such a beloved pastime for canine enthusiasts around the world?

Understanding Dock Diving

Dock Diving, also known as Dock Jumping or Dock Diving Dogs, is a canine sport where dogs compete to jump the farthest or highest into a body of water from a dock. The sport originated as a way to showcase the natural swimming and jumping abilities of dogs, and it has since evolved into a highly competitive and entertaining spectacle.

For the complete article on Dock Diving, click [HERE](#).





2025 AKC Canine Health Foundation Parent Club Canine Health Conference



Celebrate 30 Years of Canine Health Progress

CHF's 2025 National Parent Club Canine Health Conference is August 7-9 in Durham, North Carolina.
Registration is open to all!

This year marks CHF's 30th anniversary—a significant milestone in our shared commitment to improving the health of all dogs. The conference will feature new breakout tracks tailored to various interests, expanded networking opportunities, and presentations from leading veterinary experts on topics such as active dogs, breed-specific care, infectious disease, and nutrition.

Whether you're a long-time supporter or new to CHF's mission, this event will be informative, engaging, and inspiring. It's also a great opportunity to connect with fellow club leaders, breeders, and health advocates from across the country.

Event Details

August 7-9, 2025

**Washington Duke Inn – Durham, NC
(dog-friendly and shuttle accessible from RDU)**

30th Anniversary Celebration + *In-Person & Virtual Options*

CE Credits: If you're a veterinary team member, the program is submitted for RACE approval

Click [HERE](#) for more information.

Sleeping with Dogs:

The Ultimate Test of Human Endurance (and Bladder Control)

By Michelle J. Raisor, PhD

There is a reason dog lovers have dark circles under their eyes and a permanent crick in their necks. It's not from stress, taxes, or binge-watching *The Office*. No, it's from sleeping with dogs — an activity that sounds cozy and adorable until you're kicked in the face by a 60-pound fur missile at 3:14 AM.

Humans have been sleeping with their dogs for thousands of years. Neolithic burial sites in the Iberian Peninsula around 4,200 to 3,600 years before our era revealed 26 dogs lying beside their humans in graves. Aboriginal Australians have a custom of keeping dogs close on cold nights. Their reference to a “3-dog night” indicates how many dogs are needed to keep warm. However, dogs now have our sleep habits firmly under their paw control, enjoying every inch of our beds while we crawl out of bed rubbing our aching backs.

To read the entire article on sleeping with dogs, click [HERE](#).



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2025-2027 ESAA National Board

If you've not yet voted for the 2025-2027 ESAA National Board, you have until July 5, 2025 at 11:45 pm ET. A message with a unique access key allowing you one vote was sent to each member's email address. If you have election questions, feedback or want to be removed from future ballot lists, please email **Cynthia Rice**.



**My First ESAA Field Trial:
A Journey of Learning and Community**
By Melinda Benbow

Stepping onto the field for my first AKC Field Trial, hosted by English Setter Association of America (ESAA) was both exhilarating and extremely encouraging. While I've run hunt tests and field trials in the past, participating with the setter community is a new adventure. Fortunately, I couldn't have asked for a better introduction — this experience reinforced not only my love for the breed but also my appreciation for the incredible community surrounding it.

Coming off of a busy week in the conformation ring and heading straight into a field trial, I was struck by the seamless transition of camaraderie from one event to the next. Seeing so many familiar faces from both the show world and past field events made the weekend feel like a reunion of sorts. Whether in the ring or in the field, the passion and sportsmanship among setter enthusiasts remain the same, and it was amazing to experience that firsthand.

To read the complete article, click [HERE](#).

ESAA Board of Directors Videoconference . May 1, 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

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**

alphabetically.

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

**Age of Dog
Breeder(s)
Owner(s)**

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

click [HERE](#) for
NEW TITLE SUBMISSIONS
March/April/May 2025



"Maple Unleashing Her Inner Cowgirl"

(Photo courtesy of Kathy Goodwin)

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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