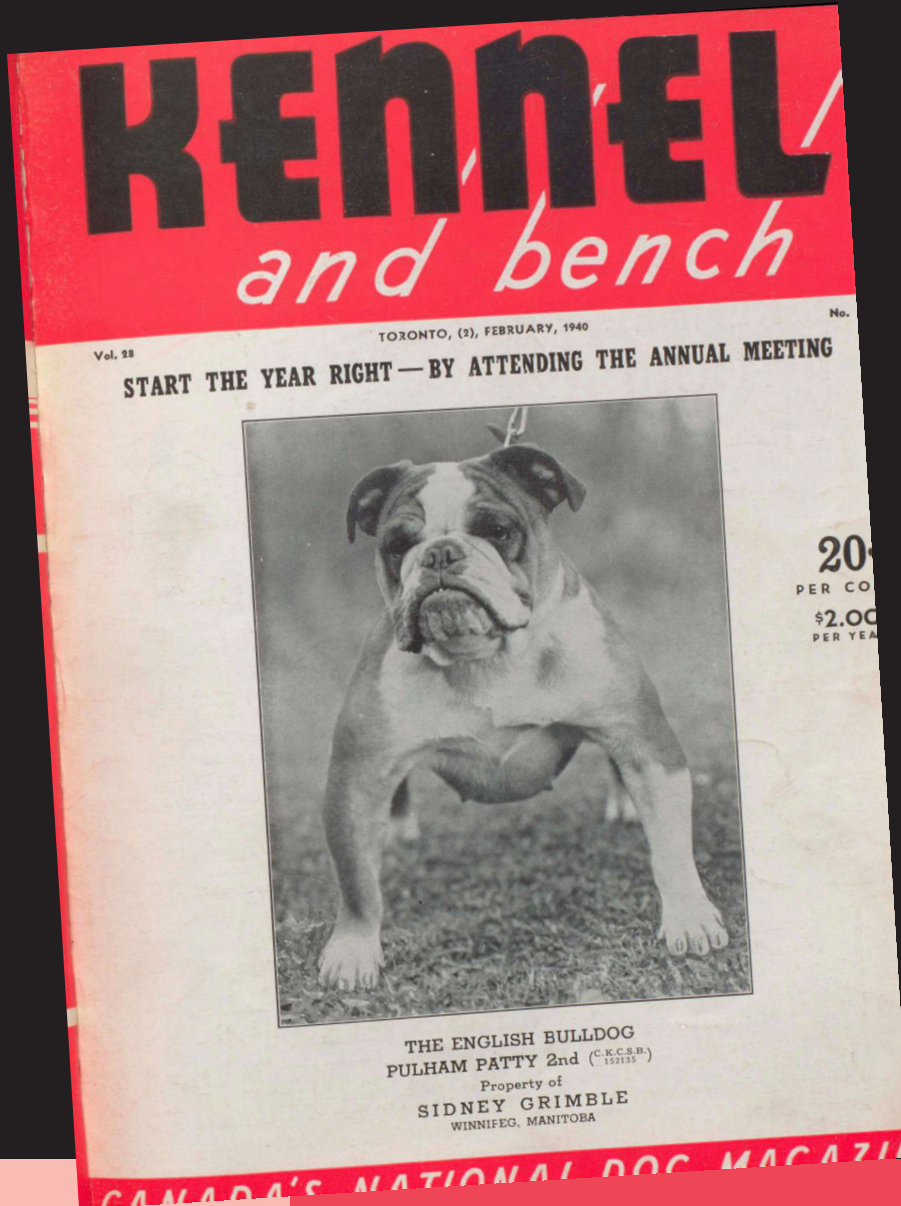




# KENNEL AND BENCH

**FEBRUARY 2022**

2022 Tattoo Letter is "K"



From our archives:  
This issue of  
***Kennel and Bench***  
was published  
in February 1940.

**Follow US!**



- New Year's Update from the ED
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- Meet the Akita

**PLUS MORE ...**



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## NEW YEAR'S UPDATE FROM THE ED

Happy New Year!

Check out the video below for a quick update from Jeff Cornett, CKC's Executive Director, as we embark on a new year with CKC.

Having trouble linking to the above video? Follow this link instead: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LiMdfMLhf5s>

The Board of Directors, Clubs, and CKC staff continue to keep a close eye on changes to that could impact events. We thank everyone in advance for their understanding and courtesy shown to Club and event staff as they navigate during this time.

To catch up on all our past updates, check out our YouTube channel.

## NEW - VERSATILITY TITLE PROGRAM

Are you and your dog involved in multiple CKC events? Do your dog's titles take up more room on Facebook posts than their registered name? Have you earned your first title and debated which event to try next? CKC's Versatility Title Program is for you!

Free for CKC members, our new Versatility Title Program recognizes the achievements and successes of dogs and their handlers throughout a dog's life. It includes over 30 events and has six different Versatility titles!

Versatility Novice (VN)  
Versatility Advanced (VA)  
Versatility Excellent (VE)  
Versatility Bronze (VB)  
Versatility Silver (VS)  
Versatility Gold (VG)

How to Earn/Apply for a Versatility Title

Step 1: Visit our website to read the Versatility Title Program breakdown pdf.

Step 2: Decide on which Versatility title you would like to achieve with your dog AND/OR review your dog's current titles (including titles earned through non-CKC title recognition programs) and determine which level your dog has already achieved.

Step 3: If you haven't achieved enough titles for a Versatility title level, earn all the required titles needed for the level you are striving for.

Step 4: Complete a CKC Versatility Title Application and submit it to [eventapps@ckc.ca](mailto:eventapps@ckc.ca) with the subject line "Versatility Title".

Learn More About our [New Versatility Title Program](#)

## NEW REQUIREMENTS AND CERTIFICATES FOR EXPORTING DOGS, CATS AND FERRETS TO THE EUROPEAN UNION

As part of our ongoing work with CFIA, we are sharing the following CFIA update:

Please note that the European Union (EU) has implemented their Animal Health Law with new import requirements and export certificates for commercial movements of dogs, cats and ferrets to the EU. The EU considers commercial movements of these animals to include travel for the purposes of

- transiting the EU,
- sale or transfer to another owner,
- non-commercial movements of more than 5 animals, and
- non-commercial movements of animals travelling more than 5 days earlier, or 5 days later, than the movement of the owner.

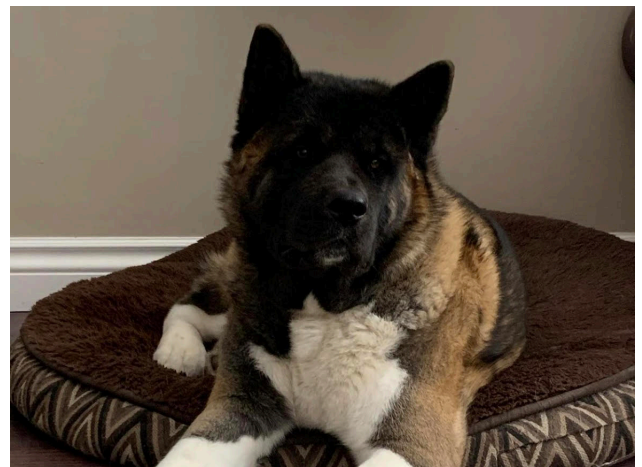
These changes are effective **January 15, 2022**. As of January 15, 2022, the EU's new import requirements must be met, and the new export certificates must be used. Any certificates signed by an official Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) veterinarian dated on or before January 14, 2022, will be accepted by the EU until March 15, 2022.

The new export certificates and information on the new requirements will be posted as soon as it is available. Please continue to check the CFIA website regularly for the most up-to-date information regarding exports to the EU.

If you need to export a dog to the EU using the commercial export certificate before they are available online please contact the Animal Health Office in your area for assistance.

[The import requirements and export certificates for non-commercial movements \(as defined by the EU\) of dogs, cats and ferrets to the EU have not changed.](#)

## MEET THE AKITA



The Akita is a strong, proud, and celebrated Japanese breed. In their native land, they are a symbol of good health. So much so that when a child is born, the family will usually receive a small statue of an Akita signifying health, happiness, and long life. If a person is ill, friends will often send a small statue of an Akita to express their wishes for a speedy recovery.

Although the Akita is now a symbol of Japan, the original Japanese dogs were all small to medium in size, and no large breeds existed in the country. In 1603 in the mountainous region of Akita, Akita Matagis lived, originally bred to hunt bear and boar. In the late 1860s, Akita Matagis were crossed with Tosa Inus and Mastiffs. As a result, the size and power of the breed increased. At that time, the breed was unfortunately used for dogfighting. Thankfully, in 1908, dogfighting was prohibited.

During World War II, it was common to use dogs as a source of fur for military garments. In some regions, the police ordered the capture and confiscation of all dogs other than military-trained German Shepherds. Some fanciers tried to circumvent the order by crossbreeding their Akitas with German Shepherd Dogs to avoid the cull. Even with that effort, after World War II ended, Akitas had been drastically reduced in numbers.

Author and educator Helen Keller is credited with bringing the first Akita into the United States in 1937. Following that initial introduction to North America, the breed's popularity in the United States following World War II may be attributed to American service members who got to know and admired these noble dogs and brought them home to their families. Americans were attracted to the Akita because of the breed's intelligence, loyalty, and adaptability to different situations.

There are two separate breeds of Akita. The Akita discussed in this blog is often referred to as the "American Akita," a member of the Canadian Kennel Club's Working Group. But don't worry, we'll talk about the Japanese Akita in a future blog. CKC member and Akita Breeder Marissa Prokopchuk has been involved with the breed for over 23 years, and I was lucky enough to talk to her about her beautiful Marqway Akitas.

Initially, Marissa was immediately charmed by Akita's sweet and calm personality. She also loved how incredibly fastidious and quiet they are. Akitas tend only to bark when necessary, and even then, it's merely 2-3 warning barks. Marissa enjoys their quiet nature and how their grooming needs are not as demanding compared to many other coated breeds.

When I asked Marissa to describe Akitas' personality, she said, "They are incredibly loyal, it's as if they can sense your moods. For instance, when you are in a vulnerable state they seem to be even more drawn to you. They generally want to be near you but are never overwhelming and never need to be constantly on top of you or are needy. They are also strong and independent."

She then explained to me that Akitas are "cat-like" in a few ways. They are immaculate, and they usually pick one spot in their yard where they prefer to go to the washroom. They're also quiet. Not only at home but in the way they hunt. They silently stalk prey like a cat and are never vocal while on the hunt.

A weekly brush will keep an Akita looking sharp. They do not require baths as often as other breeds. They have a thick double coat that protects them from both the heat and the cold that must never be clipped. It comes in any colour, white, brindle or pinto. Shedding is usually minimal except twice a year when the undercoat will "blow," causing clumps to appear on the dog and fur to drop in the home. A good daily brushing and great vacuum are recommended during these times. Akitas who are active in conformation will require more regular coat care, and all Akita nails must be trimmed every 10-14 days to keep them comfortable.

Akitas are also pretty low-maintenance, considering their size in terms of exercise. While a show dog will require more physical conditioning, a pet Akita will be happy with a daily leashed walk and some playtime. Due to their thick double-coat, they tend to be more active in the winter and love the snow (which means Akita owners might want to invest in great outdoor gear for walking the cold!).

You can find Akitas competing in almost every dog sport. While Agility isn't always where they shine, Barn Hunt has become incredibly popular among members of the Akita community as an event that tests a dog's nose, speed, and surefootedness. The right Akita and owner match can also make for an excellent therapy or emotional support dog.

I had to ask Marissa if Akitas are hard to keep with other dogs. While researching the Akita, every site and book I looked at warned that they could be troublesome with other dogs - and Marissa supported this, stating that Akitas generally aren't good with other dogs. She explained that "They are extremely dominant, not a breed that should ever go to the dog park or be off-leash in a public environment. They have a strong sense to be innately aggressive to dogs of the same sex and are very prey driven, as their initial purpose was to hunt bear and wild boar in Japan." Marissa added that she has been fortunate enough to socialize both sexes together well until they hit sexual maturity. Then Marissa's Akitas are paired off into male/female pairs, which she rotates so that her dogs are always good with different dogs of the opposite sex.

Marissa explained that Akitas can be great with children if the dog is raised with respectful children and has a calm, assertive and consistent adult owner. They are not a breed recommended for first-time dog owners, so an experienced Akita owner is best. No dog of any breed should ever be left unsupervised with a child, but Marissa has seen wonderful bonds form between Akitas and children under the right circumstances.

Akitas are strong and beautiful dogs with a proud demeanour. The right owner for an Akita is ideally someone with previous large, dominant dog breed experience. New owners to the Akita breed should be willing to be incredibly consistent with training, be committed to keeping socialization ongoing throughout the life of the dog and work closely with their breeder for training advice.

*In closing, I asked Marissa if there was anything she would like everyone to know about Akitas. She gave this advice: "Do lots of research before you start to talk to breeders. This is not a breed for just anyone. An Akita must fit your household and lifestyle perfectly. Absolutely ensure you seek out a reputable, experienced breeder who health tests their dogs. Their breeding dogs should generally be conformation champions and come from a great lineage so that they truly meet the breed standard and are a great physical representation of the breed. You can easily tell a well-bred Akita from one which is not. The breeder's dogs must have great temperaments for the breed. They should be social with people and stable. The breeder should have a thorough application process and take the time to get to know you before deciding to sell you a puppy. A responsible breeder will place the most suitable puppy with you, for you and your family. And most importantly, will support you during the duration of your dog's life. It should be a lifelong relationship between owner and breeder."*

#### **The Akita might be the breed for you if:**

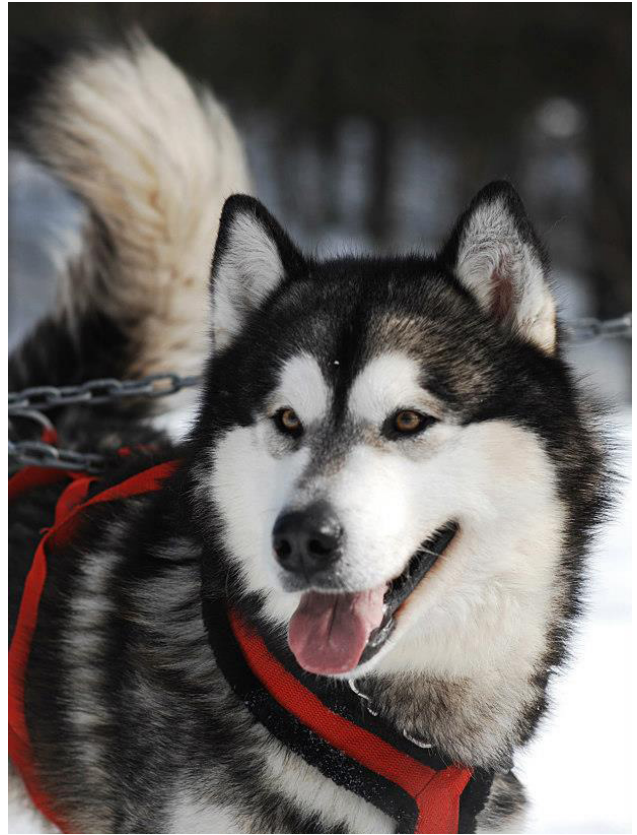
- Can behave as a calm and assertive leader at all times.
- Are dedicated to consistent training and understand the importance of socialization.
- Have experience with large, strong and independent thinking dogs.
- Can handle heavy shedding periods twice a year.
- Have a secure fenced yard.
- Want a profoundly loyal dog.
- Bonus points: enjoy winter outings.

#### **The Akita might not be the breed for you if:**

- Have little to no experience with large dogs who have dominant personalities.
- Want a dog that you can take to the dog park or let off their leash wherever you please.
- Often times have people coming into your home unannounced.
- Suffer from dog allergies.
- Don't have the space to safely exercise an Akita.

*This blog would not have been possible without help from CKC member and Champion Akita breeder Marissa Prokopchuk of Marqway Akitas. Marissa is an Akita fancier of 23 years with 18 years of breeding experience. Thank you, Marissa.*

## MEET THE AKITA



### **Powerful, loyal, and funny**

Built tough to last, the Alaskan Malamute always gets the job done. From their deep chest to their large size, thick bone, and double coat, the Alaskan Malamute is made to work.

Often mistaken for a "big Husky," the Alaskan Malamute is a different Spitz-type breed from another part of the world and are used for a similar but different task. While Siberian Huskies move lighter loads fast, Alaskan Malamute move heavier loads slower. Think of Siberian Huskies as speed racers and Alaskan Malamutes as freighters.

The Alaskan Malamute's name comes from the Mahlemtut, Inuit people who resided in northwestern Alaska. The relationship between the two was vital for making life in such a harsh environment possible. The Mahlemtut people utilized their incredible ability to work together in packs to haul heavy loads at low speeds over long distances. They were also used for arctic hunting. The Alaskan Malamutes could locate seals using their sense of smell over ice and would help bear hunters by locating polar bears sleeping in their winter dens. During the brief summer months, they used their muscles to carry packs for their people.

To learn more about this fascinating breed, I asked my friend Jennifer Remazki. Jennifer and her husband, Edmund, acquired their first Alaskan Malamute in 1996 and bred their first litter in 1998. They breed under the prefix Spiritrun Permanently Registered Alaskan Malamutes and are CKC Master Breeders.

Growing up in Toronto, two neighbours in Jennifer's community had Alaskan Malamutes, and as a child, Jennifer knew she would have one in her life one day. Ironically, these two gentlemen that owned the Malamutes that imprinted on Jennifer as a child now own Spiritrun Malamutes today! Jennifer and Edmund did not start off looking for a show dog but did start to attend dog shows and working events like sledding, backpacking, and weight-pulls with their Malamute, and once they tried conformation, there was no turning back!

Jennifer told me that the personality of the Alaskan Malamute was shaped by the environment and purpose of the breed. This breed is thought to be one of the oldest and largest sled dog breeds. The Inupiat/Inuit people were nomadic and moved about the vast northeastern coastal regions of the arctic, rarely meeting other family groups. The Malamute dogs and their people had a symbiotic relationship upon which their survival in the harshest environment depended on each other. Jennifer explained that today that history translates into a dog that lives with you and not for you. Alaskan Malamutes are highly intelligent, independent thinkers who may or may not be obedient. They learn tasks quickly, get bored easily, and will make up their own rules if their human isn't quick to catch on. Jennifer told me that Alaskan Malamute owners have to have a good sense of humour as Malamutes are often considered the class clown. Watching an Alaskan Malamute in performance events or classes can, at one moment, have you entirely impressed by their majesty and dignity, and in the next moment, laughing so hard to the point of tears and frustration. Jennifer tells new owners that they have to stay one beat ahead of this breed at all times, as they are that smart. The Alaskan Malamute should have a very friendly disposition; they should be "playful in invitation," as the Official Breed Standard states. Invite them to engage, and you might be met with a high five or a giant leap and face cleaning. Pack-oriented in nature, they form strong attachments with their family but are not one-person dogs. They will easily bond with the person who has the treats in their pocket.

I love Jennifer's Instagram page @spiritrunmals. She's always out on adventures with her dogs. I asked Jennifer to describe living with an Alaskan Malamute and what one needs to know before committing to the breed. She said that "They require active humans who love the outdoors in all types of weather, who possess a great sense of patience and humour, but also maintain a firm and fair disposition. An Alaskan Malamute, highly attuned to pack hierarchy, requires clear leadership, structure, and consistency. Without this in place, the Alaskan Malamute will see the void and need to fill it. This is where an Alaskan Malamute may exhibit signs of resource-guarding, prey drive, dominance, or reactivity. All of this can be managed through early socialization and continuous training for both the humans and the Malamute. They need a lot of exercise

and mental stimulation, or else they get bored, which leads to destructive behaviour and howling, which your neighbours may not appreciate. An Alaskan Malamute who is getting all he needs in terms of stimulation will be a more relaxed and affectionate companion when indoors with the family. An Alaskan Malamute requires a securely fenced-in yard with no escape loopholes. They are master diggers, so if you love a landscaped garden, their idea is more of a moonscape, so give them their own area to do with it what they will. They can climb over a fence but are more apt to dig under or go through, so ensure they are secure before leaving them unattended for long stretches of time. They love the cold and winter snow, and when the temperatures drop below freezing, good luck coaxing a Malamute to come inside!"

Jennifer also explained how they are with children. "This breed is affectionate towards children when properly socialized with them, ideally from a young age. Common sense dictates that this is a large, powerful breed that possesses big paws, great strength, and a big, exuberant personality, which can mean trouble for small children or frail adults. A big paw extending for a handshake can cause unintentional damage to the skin or knock a child to the ground. As with any breed, the Alaskan Malamute should never be left unattended in the presence of young children. Accidents can and do happen, and the blame falls on the dog. It is up to the responsible adult to ensure these situations are safely managed."

The Alaskan Malamute is a pack animal and is highly attuned to pack hierarchy, and because of this, they can be same-sex dog aggressive. They also have a high prey drive. Alaskan Malamutes can do well with small dogs or household cats if raised and properly socialized with them from puppyhood, but neighbourhood cats, squirrels, porcupines, and other small critters are fair game, and that includes small dogs running wildly through parks. Jennifer said, "In my opinion, off-leash dog parks are not a good idea for an Alaskan Malamute based on these inherent breed characteristics. The breed does boast some angels, but they are the exception and not the rule. A male and a female Alaskan Malamute, living together, is often a successful formula for a multi-dog household."

The Alaskan Malamute has a high exercise requirement. They enjoy daily walks and hikes, at the very least. Owners of Alaskan Malamutes can find energy outlets for their active breed by enrolling them in Agility classes, taking them backpacking, purchasing a kick-sled, dog sled, or cart, and running them in harnesses. Many local breed clubs run weight-pull events that they love and other performance-related activities.

The Alaskan Malamute is a double-coated breed whose harsh, dense coat serves a very important function — to protect the dogs from the harshest of weather conditions. The outer topcoat, or guard hair, acts like a GoreTex shell, while the downy undercoat provides insulation. As temperatures warm up, the downy undercoat will release. Dog folk call that "blowing coat" or shedding. During this phase, you need to

# NOTICE BOARD

keep up on daily brushing and combing, or use a powerful forced-air dryer (Jennifer recommends doing this outdoors) to blast away the loose coat. Regular trips to the dog groomer will keep an Alaskan Malamute's coat in great condition and keep dust bunnies to a minimum in the home. The breed does not have a strong odour, and if brushed regularly and bathed every couple of months, dander can be kept down as well. They do shed heavily when they blow coat, so Jennifer advises people to steer clear if this is a red flag for a potential owner. This purposeful double-coat should never be shaved unless it is a medical necessity. The integrity of the coat will be compromised for a very long time. Shaving a double-coated breed like a Malamute for warmer weather does not keep them cool. In fact, it leaves them more susceptible to heat exposure. See this blog on shaving a double coat: <https://www.ckc.ca/en/The-Dish/June-2018/To-shave-or-not-to-shave,-that-is-the-question>

I asked Jennifer who she thinks makes an ideal Malamute owner. "The Alaskan Malamute is a challenging breed for any owner, but especially the first-time dog owner. Having said that, it was my first breed! I was a sponge, willing to be mentored and learn all I could. If one assumes this breed will be like a Golden Retriever or other popular breed, they will have an awakening. The ideal Malamute owner enjoys the outdoors and an active lifestyle, and they want to include their dog. They have a great sense of humour and do not require that their home and yard be pristine and magazine-ready at all times. They possess the patience, a firm and fair disposition, keep up with training, structure, and consistency, not only for their Alaskan Malamute but for their own skillset as well."

Finally, I asked Jennifer if there was anything Jennifer would like everyone to know about the Alaskan Malamute. She said "They are an amazing companion. Breed clubs have instituted working title programs to encourage breeders and owners to participate and earn titles with their Malamutes in sports like backpacking, weight-pulling, and sledding. This fosters a strong sense of community amongst people in the breed. A Charter Member of the Alaskan Malamute Club of America, respected breeder and dog musher, Natalie Norris, was quoted as saying:

*The Malamute is too fine and distinguished a breed to be changed into anything but what centuries of adaptability to its environment has produced. Our efforts should be to breed not only beautiful Malamutes, but as good specimens physically as were originally found in Alaska. It isn't a question of breeding a better Malamute, but as good an Alaskan Malamute."*

**The Alaskan Malamute might be the breed for you if:**

- You are active and love the outdoors
- You enjoy the winter and snow
- You have a strong personality, great sense of humour and love a challenge
- You are committed to training and working with your dog on an ongoing basis
- You enjoy a good Malamute serenade

**The Alaskan Malamute might not be the breed for you if:**

- You love a well-manicured garden and lawn
- You abhor dog hair on your furniture and clothes
- You have very young children in the family
- You have to leave your dog home alone for long periods of time
- You do not have time to commit to training, socializing, grooming or exercising this robust breed

*Thanks to the help of CKC Member and Breeder Jennifer Remazki, I'm able to share this information on Alaskan Malamutes with you. Jennifer has bred Alaskan Malamutes since 1998 with her husband Edmund.*  
<https://spiritr Malamutes.ca/>

# DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE REPORT

The following report is of disciplinary action taken by the Discipline Committee at its meeting held on October 30 and 31, 2021.

**Wayne Brennen, Calgary, AB, Member**

(Complainants – Bonnie and Frank O’Grady)

Dismissed

Violations of the Sporting Spaniel Field Trial Rules and Regulations

**Paul Medeiros, ON, Member**

(Complainant – Boxer Club of Western Ontario)

Dismissed

Alleged violation of the Code of Ethics.





# 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