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- Marion Erp on Tracking

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THE AMERICAN SWEDISH VALLHUND SOCIETY

All Bark!

Welcome!



Skyview's Crimson Flyer jumps into our first newsletter!

Hi everyone, and welcome to All Bark! the newsletter of the American Swedish Vallhund Society. We hope to bring you a wide variety of interesting articles in the coming issues, and we invite you to join in and submit anything you think would be of interest to Vallhund owners and fanciers: pictures, stories, artwork, tips and tricks, anything at all. This being our first issue, most of the content has been generated by those of us directly involved with the newsletter, but we'd very much like to

hear YOUR stories, see YOUR pictures, read YOUR tips, please!

ASVS is affiliated with the United Kennel Club, whose spectacular annual event, Premier, in Kalamazoo Michigan, draws people and dogs from all over. This year ASVS is holding a series of special events in conjunction with Premier; for more information please see the article in this newsletter. In this issue we have an introduction to puppy temperament testing, an article on tracking, how to pick a breeder, and more! In upcoming issues we'll have clicker training, agility training & competition, grooming tips & tricks and hopefully lots more content from YOU!

Let me introduce you to our club officers: President: Pam Abrath; Vice-President: Darlene Sjoberg; Secretary: Yvonne Slusser; Membership Secretary: Amanda Lowery; Treasurer: Marion Erp; Board Members : Lori Schaunaman, Tilli DeBoor; Web Site Manager: Outi Huuskonen. Please visit us online at www.vallhund.net

Amanda Lowery, Editor
amandalowery@charter.net



Sit back, relax and enjoy!

The ASVS Philosophy

The **American Swedish Vallhund Society** is dedicated to the preservation of the Swedish Vallhund as it was originally intended, in appearance, temperament and working ability. We support owners and breeders who embrace this philosophy, and encourage selective breeding of healthy stock, genetic research and education of the general public. We pro-

mote participation in the many areas where this breed excels.

ASVS: recognized as an official United Kennel Club single breed club September, 2004

For membership information, please contact
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BRAG Corner!

Earned a new title
with your Vallhund?
Achieved a goal?
Let us know and
we'll publish it
here!

🏆 Marion Erp's Finn earned the third leg of his Novice Standard Preferred agility title, making his official name Fennican Yahoo Finnboy, **NAP**, NJC, TN-N

🏆 Bonnie Connor's Paige earned her UKC Grand Championship, making her official name **UKC Grand Champion** Caval's Front Paige News

🏆 At the Eden Prairie, MN UKC shows May 7-8:

🏆 Darlene Sjoberg's Brynn (CH Konnonkodun Brynhilde) got a **CH class win** and **BOB**

🏆 Lori Schaunaman's CH Boddatorp Nikita got a **CH class win, BOB and a Group 2**

🏆 Pam and Nicole Abrath's GRCH Westorp's Alexander the Great got a CH class win, BOB and Group 4 on Sunday, finishing his **UKC Grand Championship**

🏆 Cindy Kingsley's Aris (Sunfire Perfect Harmony) went **BIS** at the ARBA Lone Star Classic

🏆 Pam Abrath's UKC GRCH Genesis Rolie Polie Olie CGC RN got his **AKC Rally Novice** title on January 8th from the Rally Novice A classes with 2 3rd placements out of 3 trials. This made him the first SV to get an AKC Rally Novice Obedience AKC title in the US. **CONGRATULATIONS!**



Puppy Temperaments by Bonnie Conner

Buying a new puppy or keeping a puppy out of your own breeding is such an exciting time in one's life. Do you know how to determine if you are choosing the correct puppy for you, i.e. for your expectations of this pup? Let me share with you what I do.

First, as a breeder, I continuously watch the puppies as they are growing. I handle (from day one) the pups many times a day, holding them on their backs in my arms, playing with their feet and ears. Giving them lots of "love" when they come to me. I play "noise" tapes and they hear loud noises (vacuum sweeper and pots and pans, for example). I invite people in to interact with them (everyone loves a "puppy fix"!). I take notes as to who is doing what at what age (such as who jumped out of the whelping box first).

When it is time for them to go outdoors for part of the day, I watch how they react to the new environment the first time. I will look to see who investigates first, who holds back and who follows someone else around. Who sits there and "studies" everything in the new environment. I take more notes.

I also do temperament testing. Before seven weeks of age

puppies are not neurologically developed enough for testing. At 8-10 weeks of age the "fear imprint" stage has started. Therefore, I test on the 49th day of their age.

The test should be done as follows:

- Puppies should be taken to a place they have never been before (off your property), in a secured area, free from distractions.
- You will need an assistant who has never met the puppies.
- Test puppies individually, away from littermates.
- Test before a meal so they are awake and alert (no shots or worming on that day).

The test should be given in the same sequence.

I use the Puppy Aptitude Test developed by Joachim and Wendy Volhard. I use this test because it covers everything I want to know about a pup and because the scoring is done numerically, therefore, making the test more consistent. I also give all of the following to each

person who buys a puppy from me. I keep copies of each puppy's test for future reference. More information can be found at www.volhard.com.

If you have any questions, I would be happy to help at BKC1946@aol.com



Bonnie and Star (Vastgota Desert Star)

Bonnie Conner (Skyview Kennel) has over thirty years' experience as a dog breeder and trainer. She lives in New Mexico, where she teaches clicker obedience classes and breeds Swedish Vallhunds.

www.swedishvallhundsskyview.us

"I will look to see who investigates first, who holds back and who follows someone else around. Who sits there and "studies" everything in the new environment."

Tracking Camp 2005 by Marion Erp

"There were no TV's, no computers, nothing to distract us, just total immersion in tracking."

A few weekends ago, Finn and I went to a tracking seminar in a forest preserve about an hour and a half from here. It was SOOOO much fun, staying in the woods and fields all weekend long. I call it a "Camp" because we were in (very rustic) cabins in this little village, sort of, with a dining hall and a



Finn keeps his eye on things

recreation hall and several conference buildings around. We slept in sleeping bags in the cabins and had to have flashlights because it was pitch black out there at night -- I'm not used to being somewhere where there aren't city lights!!!! There were no TV's, no computers, nothing to distract us, just total immersion in tracking. Lectures in the morning, out in the field all afternoon, coming back to "base camp" ravenously hungry, but the arrangements were that we'd have a cook for breakfast, lunch and dinner on Saturday and Sunday. The seminar speaker loved Finn -- and we



Marion and Finn at Tracking Camp in Montana

got a good start to our tracking program -- now all I have to do is pursue it!

Marion Erp lives in Montana with her Vallhund, Fennick Yahoo Finnboy, NAP, NJC, TN-N, and her Belgian Malinois, Jesse (CH Desperado Del Roble, UD, TD, MX, MXJ)

Some Things To Look For In A Breeder by Amanda Lowery



UKC CH Vastgota Star Fire ("Rakki")

This is by no means intended to be a complete list, however, here are some things I feel are important in a breeder:

1) They want to interview you in some depth. Good breeders don't place their puppies just anywhere, they want to get to know you to make sure you and the puppy will be a good match.

2) They do health tests on their breeding stock, and share the results with you.

3) They know their breed, including why it may not be appropriate for everyone.

4) They don't breed primarily for the income.

5) Their dogs are well cared for, mentally and physically.

6) They require you to sign a contract, which includes a

take back guarantee should you be unable to keep the dog.

7) They want to stay in touch with you to help you with any issues and keep up with how you and the puppy are doing together. A good breeder often becomes a friend for life!

Amanda Lowery lives in Texas with her Vallhund, UKC CH Vastgota Star Fire

ASVS at Premier! Guest Speaker! Pot Luck Dinner! CERF Clinic!

Join us at Premier in Kalamazoo, Michigan for 3 days of fun, agility, obedience and conformation! June 16th-19th, 2005

Come join the fun in Kalamazoo, Michigan from June 16 to June 19th, 2005. 3 days of agility, obedience and conformation, plus ASVS-hosted activities in conjunction with the UKC Premier shows!

Thursday June 16 6-7:30pm

Socializing & Pot Luck Dinner at Econo Lodge Inn & Suites, Conference Room, 3750 Easy Street, Kalamazoo, MI

(609) 388-3551

Refreshments provided, please bring a dish to pass.

7:30 pm A talk from Dr. Andras Komaromy from the University of PA on "Eye Diseases Suspected to be Inherited in the Swedish Vallhund"

Following the talk ASVS General Meeting (all are welcome)

Friday June 17th 9am - 1pm SV CERF Clinic Hazel Gray Building, Premier Fairgrounds (*Please bring your dog's*

registration for CERF papers)

Saturday June 18 Supported Entries, awards ringside Saturday.

CERF Clinic: \$20/dog if received by June 1, \$28/dog day of clinic. Please send payments or questions to:

Pam Abrath, 37350 Forest Dr

Oconomowoc WI 53066

(262) 443-0234

pavonkennels@yahoo.com



Welcome to ASVS and our newsletter!

Suggestions, submissions and general comments are always welcome. You can email me at amandalowery@charter.net, or contact any of us at the addresses listed on our website: www.vallhund.net.

Useful Websites

ASVS: www.vallhund.net
UKC: www.ukcdogs.com
CERF: www.vmdb.org/cerf.html
OFA: www.offa.org
PennHIP: www.pennhip.org
SKV (Swedish Club):
hem.passagen.se/skv76/english/eindex.htm



BYE! THANKS FOR READING!
SEE YOU NEXT TIME!

Vallhund Facts & News:

FACT: The Swedish Vallhund is an ancient Swedish spitz, known for at least 1000 years. The breed was historically a general purpose farm dog and cattle herder in Västergötland and Skåne, Sweden. The stature is inherited, probably selected because it was a suitable size and structure for herding. The breed almost became extinct in the early 1940's. K. G. Zettersten and Björn von Rosen started an extensive search and breeding program to rescue the breed. They succeeded in getting the breed recognized by the Swedish Kennel Club in 1943 and established a breed standard. The official name of the breed was changed in 1953 from Svensk Vallhund (Swedish Vallhund) to Västgötaspets. In Finland the breed is called Län-sigöötanmaanpystykorva, which is a straight translation from the Swedish name Västgötaspets.

FACT: 2005 is the 20th anniversary of the Swedish Vallhund's arrival in the USA!

NEWS: In September 2005, the Swedish Vallhund will enter the AKC's Miscellaneous class!

In future issues:

Clicker Training
Agility
Grooming Tips & Tricks

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Excerpts from the UKC Breed Standard for the Swedish Vallhund

History

The history of the Swedish Vallhund dates back to eighth century Sweden where the breed worked as farm dogs, primarily herding cattle. The breed was nearly extinct in 1942 when Count Bjorn Von Rosen and K. G. Zettersten made a concerted effort to revive the breed. They tracked down the best remaining specimens in the country and carefully bred them to a standard written by Count Von Rosen. The breed was recognized by the Swedish Kennel Club in 1943. In 1964, the name in Sweden was changed to "Vasgotaspets," after the province of Vastergotland where the breed continues to flourish. In Sweden, it is believed that the Vallhund traveled to Wales with Viking raiders and became the ancestor of the Corgi breeds.

The Swedish Vallhund was recognized by the United Kennel Club January 1, 1996

General Appearance

The Swedish Vallhund is a small, sturdily-built, Spitz-type dog, with a wedge-shaped head, prick ears, and close-fitting, hard coat of short-to-medium length. The correct relationship of height to length of body is 2:3. The tail may be natural or bobbed. The appearance of the Swedish Vallhund conveys intelligence, alertness and energy.

Characteristics

The Swedish breed standard says that in type, the Vallhund is a wolf-like animal in everything except size. His short legs, intelligence and energy made him suitable as a herding dog. Those same characteristics today make him successful in obedience, agility, tracking, and any other activity in which he is free to take an active part. He requires plenty of exercise and mental stimulation. The correct double coat with the characteristic "harness markings" are essential features of this breed. Balance, outline, intelligence, temperament, and movement are of overriding importance. The Swedish Vallhund is a thoroughly sound animal willing and able to do its work. This breed matures slowly and individual dogs may not reach their prime until as late as four years of age.

Height and Weight

Desirable height ranges from 12 to 14 inches measured at the withers. Desirable weight ranges from 23 to 35 pounds. Dogs are generally larger than bitches.

Disqualifications

Unilateral or bilateral cryptorchid. Viciousness or marked shyness. Albinism