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should be “smooth” and “frictionless,” as these simple demands eliminate dogs whose movement is any way jarring or unsound, and the required movement will result from construction that is correct for the breed.

To summarize, given that a dog is put together as the breed standard requires, exhibited in the optimum condition, and moved at a sensible speed, it should show movement that is every bit as important as a contributing factor to breed type as any physical characteristic. —A.H.B.

Thank you, Andrew.
—Helyne E. Medeiros,
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American Pointer Club

Nederlandse Kooikerhondjes 2021 NATIONAL SPECIALTY APRIL 8–11, IN ALBANY, OREGON

The NKCUSA’s 2020 national specialty weekend that was originally to take place in the Pacific Northwest last spring and was cancelled due to the pandemic will now take place April 8–11, 2021, at the same location—Albany, Oregon, in conjunction with the Chintimini Kennel Club’s all-breed shows. So, we hope you’ll join us for “Waggin’ Tails on Oregon Trails” this April! Events will include the national specialty, performance events,



seminars, judges’ education, the annual membership meeting and awards banquet, three days of supported entries, individual dog evaluations by our Dutch judge, and other highlights of what will be a very enjoyable get-together of Kooikers and their owners.

One exciting aspect of the week will be an educational presentation by Dr. Marty Greer, well-known reproductive veterinarian, author, speaker, and experienced breeder. Marty will discuss the basics of breeding and cover such topics as the importance of testing and timing, various insemination methods, the birthing process, common infertility issues and treatments for stud dogs and bitches, the science behind back-to-back breeding, and spay-neuter updates. She will answer those questions you have always wanted to ask about breeding, stud dogs, bitches, and timing but never

had the chance. Marty received her DVM in 1981 from Iowa State University, and her law degree from Marquette Law School in 2010. She and her husband own Veterinary Village in Lomira, Wisconsin, where she has developed specialized expertise in canine pediatrics and reproduction and operates the Canine Semen Freezing Center, International Canine Semen Bank—Wisconsin (ICSB-WI/IL). She is a PennHIP and Fear Free—certified veterinarian.

A prolific writer, Marty has contributed articles to *Veterinary Economics* and a number of AKC breed-club magazines. NKCUSA members who attended the Perry shows may recall one of her articles on tube-feeding neonates in their packet. Marty is the author of the popular veterinary text *Canine Reproduction and Neonatology*.

Auction fundraiser kicks off this week. Speaking of the national specialty, starting January 15, look up “Nederlandse Kooikerhondje Club of the USA—Auction Fundraiser” on Facebook and bid on some great dog-related items. This fun online sale always offers some fantastic stuff and helps to raise money for our club and our national specialty.

For more details on the 2021 national specialty and information about Kooikerhondjes in general, visit the parent club website below. [Nederlandse Kooikerhondje Club of the USA](http://www.NederlandseKooikerhondjeCluboftheUSA.com)

Curly-Coated Retrievers SWEET POTATO NEWS

I have never appreciated sweet potatoes as much as I have since acquiring our latest Curly-Coated Retriever puppy. She joined our family at a few months of age, and right away I noticed little problems with her gastrointestinal system. Something was upsetting her tummy, and I needed to remedy it. Each morning I would arise to a big mess, and believe me, it took a long time to clean up both puppy and crate.

I tried different foods, all slowly introduced, and different little over-the-counter remedies. Also, we had activities to attend, and I asked friends for advice, with no luck; nothing seemed to work, and yet she was perfectly normal throughout the day and had a very good appetite.

I finally recalled a Curly owner friend of mine who had encountered a similar problem quite a few years ago, and I spoke with her. With her Curly, she had tried a certain limited-ingredient dog food that worked. It contained just three ingredients, in kibble form, one of which was sweet potato. I kept her on that food for many months, and by then she had matured enough that I could venture into trying adding some fresh-cooked meat, which worked just fine along with the kibble ingredient.

Everything was going well when she started

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Curly-Coated Retriever

what I call “the empty-stomach syndrome.” Each night she would regurgitate a small amount of bile. I had been giving both my Curlies a dog biscuit last thing when I put them to bed, but evidently that was not the answer to helping her with this problem. I had one or two other Curlies over the years who demonstrated this same problem—but theirs was not every night, rather just every so often, and they soon grew out of it.

We have a delightful little bungalow in Mt. Dora, Florida, that carries outstanding products for dogs and cats. I decided to check with the proprietor there to glean her ideas. She suggested a couple of slices of cooked sweet potato. That did it! No more empty-stomach problems. Not only are sweet potatoes (also called yams, I believe) good for humans, but for my Curly girls, over the years, they have been good for them too!

Speaking now of another subject to do with our Curlies, the once-a-year Curly-Coated Retriever national specialty, which was supposed to take place in the lovely state of Colorado September 2020, was cancelled due to the coronavirus. However, at this time our first field event has been planned for October 2020, in Pennsylvania. The Curly-Coated Retriever Field Committee chairperson, MaryAnn Minner, has, with the committee members, scheduled a field event

in Pennsylvania that will be attended by a limited number of Curlies.

One big plus about field events is that with planning, it appears to be easier to space dogs and their owners than at any indoor event. There are quite a few of us looking forward to getting back into Curly activities, and this appears to be a very worthwhile beginning!

—Ann Shinkle,

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Curly-Coated Retriever Club of America

Golden Retrievers

COMFORT LIKE NO OTHER

In times of tragedy and loss, comfort can take many forms: a hug or warm cup of tea with a friend, perhaps a quiet place to pray or meditate. Or, in the case of the fire-ravaged communities in California and Oregon, a visit from the Lutheran Church Charities (LCC) K-9 Comfort Golden Retrievers.

In September, three teams of these Golden therapy specialists were deployed to Southern Oregon, an area especially hard hit by the fires. Their mission, as always, to offer furry comfort to the victims who had lost their homes and possessions.

Rich Martin, LCC Director of K-9 Deployments, and Goldens Ruthie, Cubby, and Isaac arrived, with their handlers, at the

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