

YOUR DOG AND MINE

WHAT IS A DOG SHOW?

By EDWARD C. LOUD, JR.

With the first A. K. C. Licensed dog show to be held on the Eastern Shore, approaching rapidly, I thought it would be of interest to some of you readers to have the meaning of a dog show explained. The show in mind is that given by the Talbot County Kennel Club on June 2 at Easton. I hope Kent County will be well represented.

There are many breeds exhibited here as this is an all breed show. At present 91 different breeds are recognized officially. Each breed is judged separately by an expert in the judging ring. Only one breed is in one ring at a time; usually there are three rings so that three breeds can be judged at the same time. For the hour of judging any particular breed, refer to your show catalogue.

Each sex is judged separately, first the males then the females or bitches. They are judged as compared to each other for perfection according to the ideal for the breed known as the standard. Each breed has its own seperate, different standard for the perfect dog of its breed. These standards are based mostly upon physical build, size, shape and proportion; beautiful color and coat, the attractive, count only a little.

When the time is at hand for a certain breed to be judged, the males are judged first. The steward, the judges helper, calls out the numbers in each class. Each dog is numbered as you will note on its stall or bench. Each breed is benched by itself. Dogs must be entered and numbered several days before the show opens and are brought to the show hall on the morning of the first day of the show.

Go to the ringside and watch the judging in order. First the males, the puppy class, dogs six to twelve months old. The judge has all the dogs in the class parade in the ring; each dog must have a person to show it—whether the owner, a professional handler, who makes this his business, or a friend. The number on the arm is the number of the dog and his stall.

Then the judge chooses four as the best: first place, a blue ribbon; second a red; third, a yellow; fourth, a white ribbon, not for official recognition but only so that in case of cancellation of any one of the first three wins, the fourth takes third.

The puppy class moves out and the novice class comes next, for all dogs that have never won first in a class at any previous show. The judge goes through the same procedure as described for the puppy class.

The third class is the American Bred class, for all dogs born in the U. S. or possessions. The fourth is the limit class for all dogs except Champions. The fifth and last regular or point class is open for all dogs without exception, and usually the best dog of the sex is found here. Dogs are usually only entered in one class altho eligible for several classes.

Now comes the thrill of choosing the best dog of the male sex, winners sale, as it is termed. Each one of the first or blue ribbon winners in the five classes are brought before the judge. He picks the best, which dog, the winners male, receives a purple rosette.

To the remaining four dogs, the second or red ribbon winner in the class which the winners male had won, is brought in and the next best or reserve winners male, second best male is chosen, which receives a purple and white rosette.

Now the special classes for males, classes not of the five regular or point classes, are judged, such as local, champion, junior, bred by exhibitor and the like. The winner of each class receives a green ribbon.

Next, all this is repeated for the bitches, beginning with puppy class on through to special classes. And then come the dramatic moments. The best male and the best bitch are brought into the ring and the judge selects the better of the two, who is known as best of winners; a blue and white ribbon is awarded.

This best of winners competes then with any dogs entered in the special class only, that is, very good dogs, usually already champions, who wish to compete with the best of winners for best of breed. The winner here is chosen best of breed, both sexes. If no such dogs are entered, the best of winners automatically takes the coveted honor of best of breed and receives the much prized purple and gold rosette ribbon.

This same procedure is gone through with for each breed. In some breeds only a few dogs are entered and perhaps only a total of three or four classes are judged. In other breeds there may be anywhere from ten to fifty entered and a class may average six or seven dogs.

All breeds have been judged and the last night of the show is at hand. The greatest thrill of all is about to take place—choosing best dog in show of all breeds.

The 91 breeds are divided into six groups, in order sporting, hound, working, terrier, toy, and non-sporting. The best of breed of each breed in the sporting group are brought together and a judge selects the best dog of this group or best sporting dog in the show.

Then the best is chosen for the hound group, and so on to non-sporting.

Now the best of each group, a total of six dogs, come into the ring and everybody is breathless. The judge examines each dog carefully, studies the gait and movement, examines for body and bone structure, and then making his decision, mentally, walks to the trophy table, picks up the large trophy cup for best in show, presents it to the handler of the dog he has chosen as best in all the show, and vast applause is heard from the spectators as the envied owner and dog receive the great distinction.

Just one thing more, a rather complex matter, what is a champion? A champion is a dog that has won fifteen or more points at shows. What is a point? A win based upon the number of dogs entered for the breed. Points are allotted entirely by breed and by sex in the breed. That is why winners male or best male, and winners bitch or best bitch, are so eagerly sought because these are the two wins in each breed which carries championship points. Not more than five points can be won at any one show.

Uncommon breeds get points for only a few dogs and popular breeds need to compete against any more. For instance, at a Chicago show, the best male in 7 Dachshunds would get four points whereas in Boston Terriers, the best male must be best among at least 33 males to get the same number of points. Usually a very good dog must win at five or six shows to get the title.

WORTON

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Williams, Jr., were given a variety shower at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Williams Wednesday evening. Many pretty and useful gifts were received. Ice cream and cake were served in abundance. Those present were: Mr. and Mrs. L. M. Carter, Mr. and Mrs. George T. Williams, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Robinson, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Williams and children, Mr. and Mrs. Barney R. Cooper, Mr. and Mrs. Reginald Cooper. Mr. and Mrs. John Duyer, Mr. and Mrs. Garrett Chaires, Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Dodson, Jr., Mrs. H. T. Williams and son, Albert, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Joiner, Mrs. Thomas Parsons, Mrs. Blanche Loller and son, John Carroll, Mrs. H. S. Rasin, Mr. and Mrs. Norman Baxter, Mrs. Arthur Cooper and son, Carl, Mrs. Thomas Toulson and mother, Mrs. Wheat, Olive Seward, Helen Hurlock, Mary Beulah Hadaway, Mr. and Mrs. Harrison Cornelius, Miss Alice Cruckshank, Mr. Marvin Williams, Mr. and Mrs. James Coleman.

Mr. C. H. Clayville who is suffering with neuritis accompanied by Mrs. Clayville is recuperating at the home of their son, Mr. Everett Clayville and family, of Baltimore.

Mr. and Mrs. John Duyer entertained Mrs. Walter Moffett, Miss Ursula Moffett and Mrs. Franklin Moffett, Tuesday.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Crew and daughter, Thelma, of North East, and Mr. and Mrs. Charles Ford, of Chestertown, visited at the home of their mother, Mrs. Blanche Loller last week end.

Mrs. W. O. B. Knight, Robert and Eben Morgan Knight, Mrs. John Duyer, Mrs. H. Rasin and Helen Hurlock spent Saturday in Wilmington.

Doris Crowding, of Chestertown, was the guest of her aunt, Mrs. Paul Joiner, Sunday.

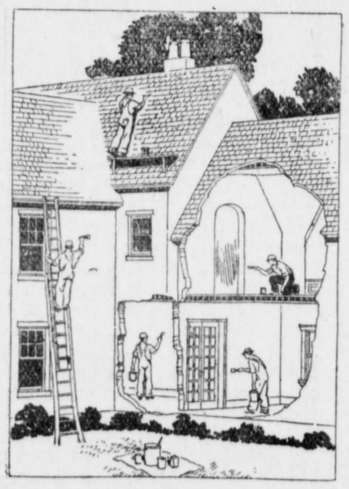
Mrs. James Matthews who was in Church Home Hospital recently for observation has returned home some what improved.

Mrs. Florence Lee, of Chestertown, was the guest of Mr. C. C. Ivens, and family several days last week.

Mr. H. T. Williams who was confined to his bed several days last week from injuries received from falling from a load of fodder is able to be out.

Mrs. Harper, of Chestertown, and Miss Helen Link, of Baltimore, were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. S. J. Lee Tuesday afternoon.





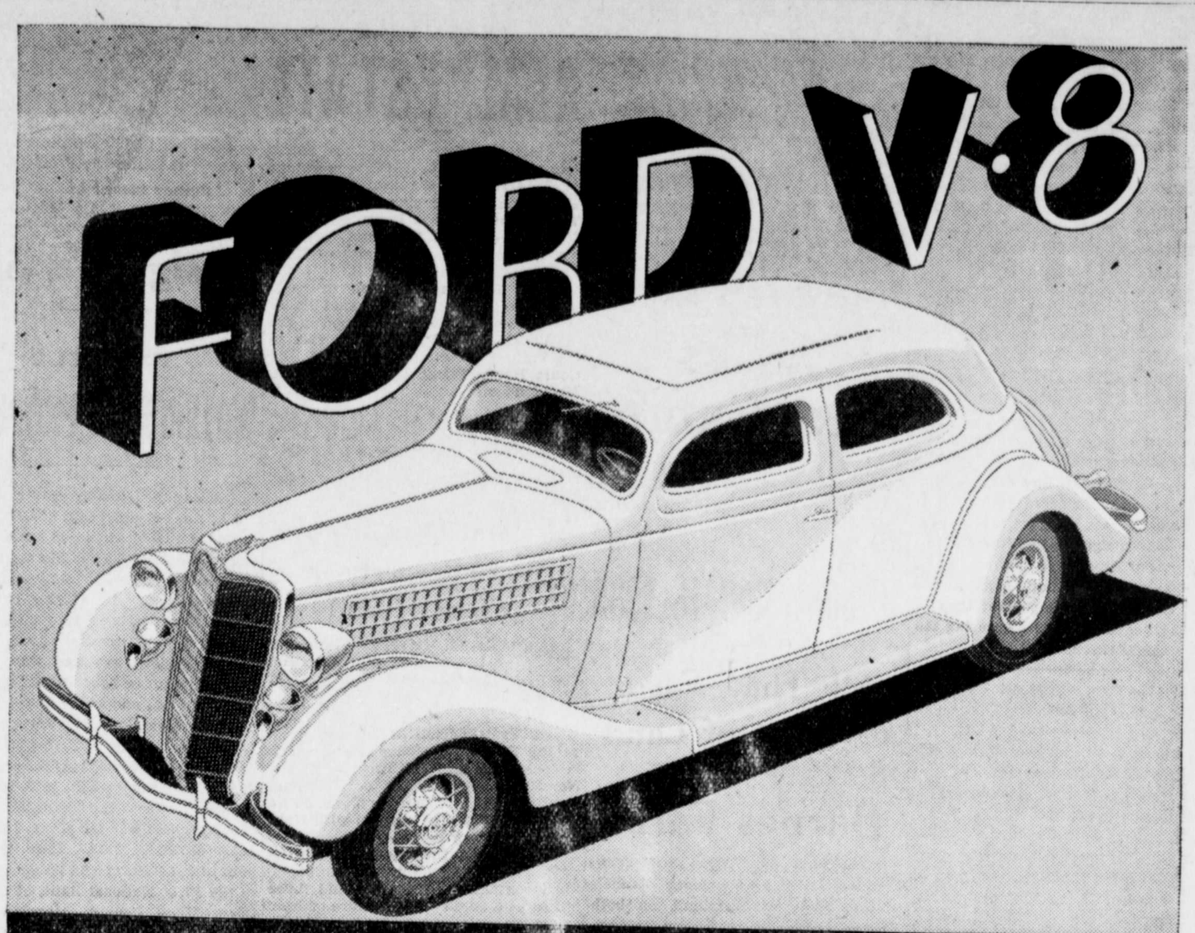
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