

# The Howler



Monthly Newsletter

MARCH • 2007 Volume 6 Issue 3

**BREED SPECIFIC LEGISLATURE** ◦ **DOG OF THE MONTH** ◦ **MEET THE BREED**



Sierra-Tuolumne  
Kennel Club

•  
AKC Licenced Club  
#4135

•  
Member of  
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Commerce and the  
Tuolumne County  
Human Society

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•  
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**Merced**

**County  
Fairground**

**Our Yearly BIG SHOW**  
will be held in Merced  
in conjunction with the  
Yosemite Kennel Club

**The FIRST  
GOLDRUSH CLUSTER**

starts on April 6  
and the last  
day is April 9th.



**April 8-9**

**We are very excited about  
this event, and looking  
forward to  
see more to come.  
*See you there!***

**at the**

**Big Show**



## Sunshine Report

**LESLIE : Her knee replacement  
in about 6-8 weeks.**

**PATTI : Her hand and foot  
healing slowly.**

**February Birthdays  
PAT, SYDNEY, LESLIE**

**March Birthdays  
MARYLS**

### Did You Know?

Now, you can donate a bag of PEDIGREE® Food for Dogs directly to the shelter of your choice?

“...for every bag that’s donated through Dogsrulegear.com, PEDIGREE® will make a matching donation to the same shelter...”

List price: \$9.99 / EA (22lb. bag)

That makes 2 -22lb bag for \$9.99

to that shelter of your choice.

**FETCH the bags!**

**- NEXT MEETING -**

**APRIL 16TH**

HUMANE SOCIETY OF TUOLUMNE COUNTY

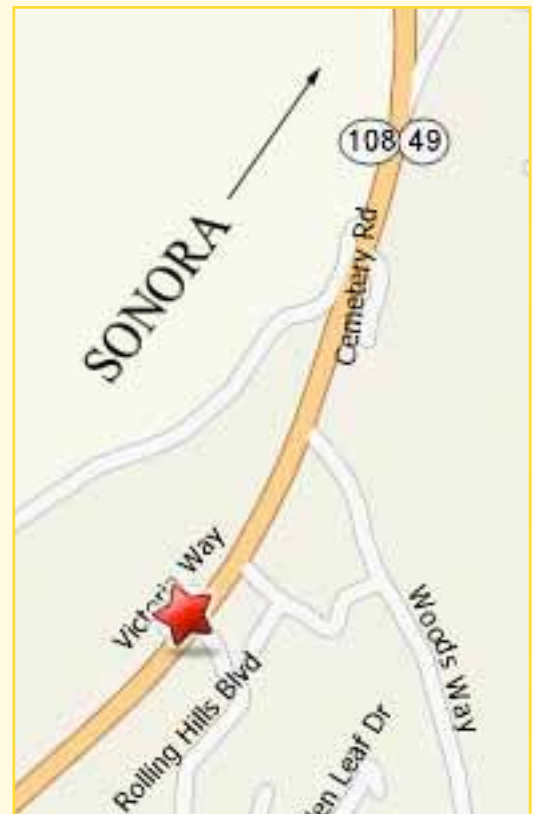
conference room

10040 Victoria Way Jamestown , CA

209-984-5489

### Directions:

From Sonora, after leaving Jamestown’s Main Street intersection, watch for the right turn to Victoria Way.





# Dog of the Month

Because of the popularity of the ads, they were the subject of attacks and calls for censorship by temperance oriented groups. In 1989, the Center for Science in the Public Interest along with Mothers Against Drunk Driving, charged that Anheuser-Busch was pitching the too-cool-for-monogamy-and-sobriety dog to children. Although the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) found no evidence to support that allegation, the ads were dropped.

**T**he marketing dog of the year in 1987 when he first showed up in a Bud Light Beer Super Bowl ad. By the end of the game, Spuds was a marketing success.

The sly ladies-dog (a Bull Terrier) existed not without his share of controversy. Shortly after Spuds' sensational rise to fame it was learned that "he" was actually a "she" (similar to Lassie, Benji, and many other show-biz dogs). The "controversy" was spread through the media. At one point Budweiser employees concealed "Spuds" from cameras, so as to hide her female genitals while she urinated.

It also inspired a satire in the comic strip Bloom County, in which Spuds ran for president in a race that also included Bill The Cat. After drunk driving, crashing into Mother Theresa's car, being rumored to have impregnated Benji, and revealing to Opus the Penguin her true gender, Spuds reveals that another supposedly male anthropomorphic animal in Bloom County is also female. After widespread hysteria and the eventual suspecting of Bill the Cat, Portnoy, Hodge-Podge and Opus, it was revealed that Rosebud the Basselope was actually female.

## Honey Tree Evil Eye

Honey Tree Evil Eye (Spuds' real name) died of kidney failure on May 31, 1993 in North Riverside, Illinois at age 10. An untrue urban legend had Spuds dying of electrocution while filming a commercial.

The character Slurms MacKenzie ("The Original Party Worm") from the television series Futurama is a parody of Spuds, as is Santa's Little Helper's stint as "Suds McDuff" on The Simpsons.

On an episode of Family Guy while at a spring break celebration one unknown character sees a Bull Terrier which he replies to and says, "Hey look, it's Spuds MacKenzie" for which the dog attacks him.

Target Dog is essentially Spuds, but he has a red target around his eye, instead of a black spot. Surprisingly no one is concerned that Target Dog might turn youngsters into shopaholics.

You can own a Target Dog t-shirts. At \$3 a piece, how could you go wrong?

# BREED-SPECIFIC LEGISLATION:

## *What to do for our fellow dog-lovers*

*Conformation, while it is considered a “sport,” faces many challenges that many conventional sports would never encounter. Most baseball or football games don’t have PETA members rallying outside their stadiums, nor do they have many federal laws regulating their equipment. Therefore, as an exhibitor or even an average dog lover, it is important to be well-informed with the laws and legislation that could affect the sport.*

The dog show community is constantly battling laws that could be potentially detrimental to the sport. Such laws include mandatory spay/neuter and micro-chipping, breeding bans, and limits on how many dogs one can own.

The above laws are fairly universal to the dog show world and are a concern to most dog owners. However, another set of laws that can be equally as harmful is referred to as “breed-specific legislation,” and because it mythically does not apply to everyone, it is often overlooked. Breed-specific legislation encompasses a variety of regulations. This can include anything from ear cropping and tail docking, to making it illegal to own or breed a specific type of dog. The most common type of breed-specific legislation is the breed ban, where certain breeds are targeted and outlawed, particularly Pit Bulls, Rottweilers, and Mastiffs. Such laws are commonly overlooked by those who have no involvement with a targeted breed. However, as members of the dog show community, it is important to stop issues like these from passing as early as possible, even though it seemingly does not apply. Allowing legislation like this to pass will only snowball to more anti-breeding, anti-dog laws.

The purpose of this article is to equip those who are unfamiliar with breed-specific legislation with the information necessary to argue the point should such laws be proposed in their area. In addition to many informative websites and literature from several targeted breeds’ parent clubs, I spoke with Jill Kessler-Miller, editor of The Rottweiler Quarterly, about the topic.

“Breed-specific legislation, to me, is a knee-jerk reaction by our society and its politicians who are responding to what they perceive as a danger,” she said. Kessler-Miller has been involved with Rottweilers, one of the most commonly targeted breeds, since 1987. She started doing Rottweiler rescue in 1989 and actively competes in obedience and Schutzhund, a sport that developed in Germany to test a dog’s capability to perform police-type work. Kessler-Miller is also a certified Canine Good Citizen tester for the American Kennel Club. According to Kessler-Miller, banning specific breeds will not decrease the number of dog attacks because there are current laws in place that are not being enforced.

*“Really, when you look at the problems, the problems are generally loose dogs, un-spayed and un-neutered animals that have been breeding, and unsupervised,” she said. “Generally speaking, these people are already breaking the law, whether it’s leash laws, or they’re drug-addicts, or whatever it is, they’re not going to care if you make a law against the dog. You’re going to make the dogs more valuable by pushing them underground.”* Accord-

ing to the Centers for Disease Control, there are approximately 12 people killed by dogs each year, and about 5 million dog bites. This does not include bites that were not reported, nor does it specify the nature of the bite (provoked or not). Kessler-Miller acknowledges this is a problem, but believes that the government should use a different method to solve it. “Do I think that’s acceptable? No. Am I saying that the numbers are a lot lower than other things that kill us? Yes. Look at drunk driving, botched surgeries. So do I think it’s a problem? Yes,” she said.

“But I think that we’d be better off spending money on animal control officers and education in the schools, and just enforcing the laws we already have. We already have containment laws, leash laws, rabies laws. We have them--enforce them. But they keep putting laws on top of laws that they can’t enforce anyway.” In addition, it is important to note that irresponsible breeding has contributed to the high number of dog bites. “When you have a dog that has been bred for intelligence and protection that’s not bred correctly, you can get something very dangerous,” she said. Kessler-Miller notes the history of the Staffordshire Bull Terrier. According to the Staffordshire Bull Terrier Club of America, the breed was originally used for bull- and bear-baiting in the mid-sixteenth century. It is also nick-named “The Children’s Nursemaid” or “The Nanny Dog” because of its tolerance and affection for children. However, irresponsible breeding practices with little concern for temperament has caused the dog to be high on the list of many legislators.

“It depends upon their genetics--some dogs just have really high prey drive and anything that moves has fair game,” Kessler-Miller said. Ultimately, it is important to emphasize that the owners, not the dog, should be responsible for the dog’s actions.

“When dogs can read and understand the law, then you can hold them responsible. But at this time, they are still our property, and the owners need to be responsible,” Kessler-Miller said. To avoid breed-specific legislation, she encourages both humans and canines to be the best citizens they can be.

**“Obedience training and socialization of any sized dog, any breed of dog, is absolutely imperative.** And just making sure your dog is the most well-behaved it can be,” she said. She also urges people to report any unruly dogs in their neighborhood.

“If you have a neighbor with a dog that’s running loose or terrorizing, report it. If you have a dog that bit you, report it,” she said. “Because if that dog bites again or has in the past, unless it’s been reported, animal control can’t do anything.”

In addition, Kessler-Miller urges dog owners to stay alert of their local news for talk of breed-specific legislation. Also, the American Kennel Club website has several canine legislation updates, which can be found on its website: [http://www.akc.org/canine\\_legislation/index.cfm](http://www.akc.org/canine_legislation/index.cfm).

Finally, it is imperative to take a stand should there be talk of breed-specific legislation.

“If it’s coming into your area or even your state, write letters to congressman and your senators, and if you can, go to any meetings. If you can make your voice heard, politicians, generally speaking, will not go forward.”

~ Lindsey Kamrath



Chinese Crested/Mary Bloom © AKC®

## Chinese Crested

**It is believed that Chinese mariners sailed with this breed, believed to have evolved from African hairless dogs, on board.** During the time of the Chinese plagues, hairless dogs were stowed aboard ships to hunt vermin; the diaries of early missionaries describe finding the breed in many port cities around the world. By the mid-nineteenth century, Cresteds began appearing in European art, and entries of the breed in American dog shows began in the late 1800s.

### Two of a Kind

Known as a fine-boned, elegant toy dog that craves human companionship, the Crested comes in two varieties. The Hairless has soft, silky hair on its head (crest), tail (plume) and feet (socks). Wherever the body is hairless the skin is soft and smooth. The Powderpuff is entirely covered with a double soft, straight coat. The two types often come from the same litter.

### Thick Skinned

The Crested's skin is tougher than that of a coated dog and heals quickly if cut. However, because it is exposed, a Crested is prone to more frequent skin irritations, allergies and sunburn than a coated dog would experience, and its owner should always take precautions to prevent this. One unique feature of this breed is that Cresteds actually sweat through their skin to release body heat, rather than panting as most other dogs do.

- \* **The Chinese Crested is AKC's 132nd breed.**
- \* **Earlier names of the Crested include the Chinese Ship Dog and the Chinese Royal Hairless.**
- \* **Although no dog is truly 'hypoallergenic,' Cresteds shed little to no hair and are on AKC's list of breeds recommended for those with allergies**

Chinese Crested  
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*Happy Easter!*



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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED