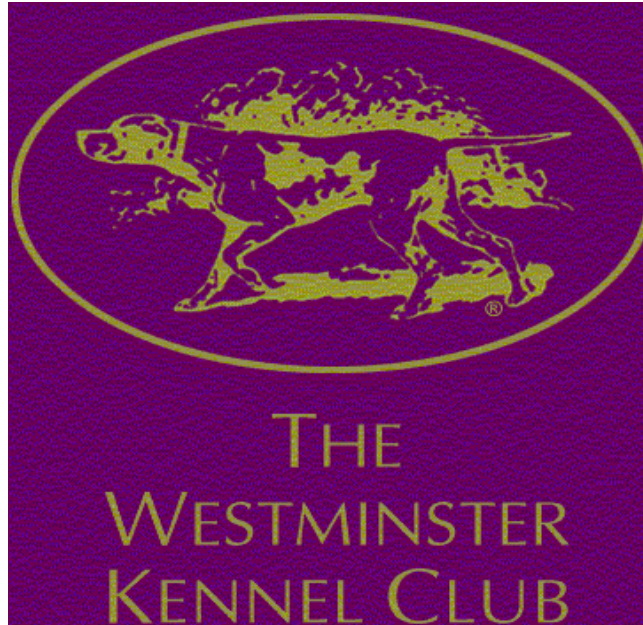


## History of the Saint Bernard Placing in Group at the Westminster KC Shows From 1924 to Date.



| <u>Date</u>                         | <u>Saint Bernard</u>                            | <u>Sex</u> | <u>Placement</u> |
|-------------------------------------|---|------------|------------------|
| February 13, 1924                   | <b>CH Hercuveen Aurora Borealis</b>             | f          | <b>2</b>         |
| February 15, 1928                   | <b>CH Hercuveen Aurora Borealis</b>             | f          | <b>3</b>         |
| February 15, 1933                   | Hercuveen Gloria                                | f          | <b>3</b>         |
| February 13, 1934                   | <b>CH Rasko V. D. Reppisch</b>                  | m          | <b>3</b>         |
| February 13, 1950                   | <b>CH Gerd V D Lueg V Edelweiss</b>             | m          | <b>4</b>         |
| February 13, 1967                   | <b>CH Bowser Waller</b>                         | m          | <b>2</b>         |
| February 08, 1993                   | <b>CH Subira Claim To Fame</b>                  | m          | <b>4</b>         |
| February 13, 1996                   | <b>CH Slatons Piece of The Action <u>CD</u></b> | m          | <b>3</b>         |
| February 10, 2003                   | <b>CH Trusts Gentle Ben V Slaton</b>            | m          | <b>4</b>         |
| <b>1924 First Year of Groups</b>    |   |            |                  |
| <i>From 1924 to 1928 = 4 years</i>  |   |            |                  |
| <i>From 1928 to 1933 = 5 years</i>  |   |            |                  |
| <i>From 1933 to 1934 = 1 year</i>   |   |            |                  |
| <i>From 1934 to 1950 = 16 years</i> |   |            |                  |
| <i>From 1950 to 1967 = 17 years</i> |   |            |                  |
| <i>From 1967 to 1993 = 26 years</i> |   |            |                  |
| <i>From 1993 to 1996 = 3 years</i>  |   |            |                  |
| <i>From 1996 to 2003 = 7 years</i>  |   |            |                  |



An interesting note...

Best in Show was NOT awarded in 1923 at Westminster, nor at any other dog show in the United States that year, because the American Kennel Club put a moratorium on the judging of this prize until a uniform process and regulations could be adopted to insure that the Best in Show of each dog show was determined in the same fashion.

Best in Show was not awarded at Westminster until 1907. Prior to that year, the format for most dog shows held in the United States did not include provisions for awarding Best in Show. The Saint Bernard data prior to 1923 will have to be researched to know for sure if there was a Saint Bernard doing any kind of placing other than Best of Breed, provided any were entered in the early years! The work never ends.

**The Saint Bernard Stars of  
Westminster Kennel Club**



**CH Hercuveen Aurora Borealis  
1924 Group 2**



**CH Hercuveen Aurora Borealis  
1928 Group 3**



**Hercuveen Gloria  
1933 Group 4**



**CH Rasko V. D. Reppisch  
1934 Group 3**



**CH Gerd V D Lueg V Edelweiss  
1950 Group 4**



**CH Bowser Waller  
1967 Group 2**



**CH Subira Claim To Fame  
1993 Group 4**



**CH Slatons Piece of The Action CD  
1996 Group 3**

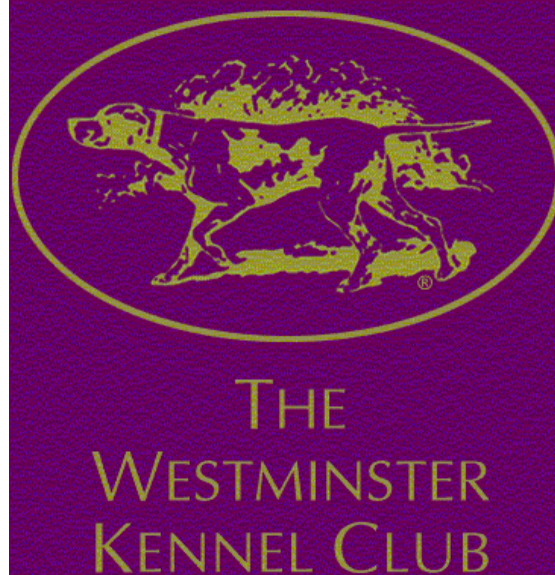


**CH Trusts Gentle Ben V Slaton  
2003 Group 4**



**Who will be next  
& When?**

The First & Only Saint Bernards  
To Win Best Team At  
Westminster In 1924



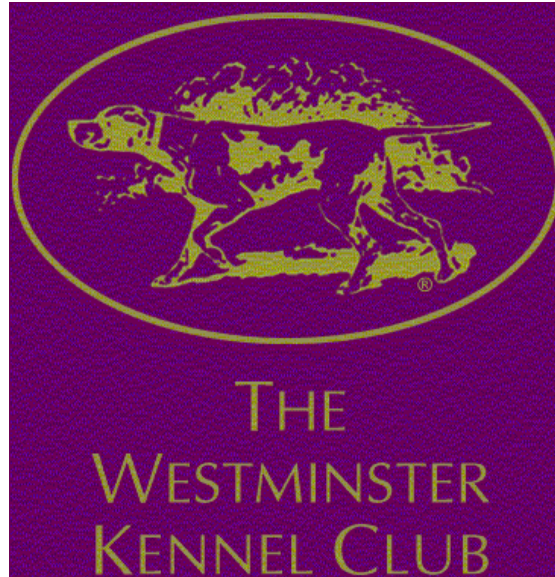
MRS. GERTRUDE DAVIES LINTZ AND HER FAMOUS ST. BERNARDS

The "Saintly" dogs were well represented at the Garden. They always are a popular breed. Mrs. Lintz had the honor of winning the first team and also Best of Breed with her famous Hercuveen Kennels. From left to right the dogs in the picture are Ch. Beauty II of Hercuveen, Ch. Hercuveen's St. Dominic Pearl, Hercuveen Aurora Borealis and Hercuveen Sir Galahad. The winners were St. Dominic Pearl and Champion Beauty II. The Best of Breed went to the typical smooth Aurora Borealis

**Hercuveen Aurora Borealis (third from left in above photo) went on to be the FIRST Saint Bernard to win a Best In Show.**

**She accomplished this breed first at the Maryland Kennel Club's twelfth Annual Dog Show on February 21, 1925.**

The First & Only Saint Bernards  
To Win Best Brace At  
Westminster In 1963



**Judge Virgil Johnson presents Best Brace in Show award to Rex Roberts's  
Wunderbar V Narbenhold & CH Haagen V Narbenholt.  
Miss Jessica Roberts handling.**

# PAVING

*By William F. Stifel*



*Anna Whitney poses with her Saint Bernards in the benching area at the Westminster Kennel Club show in Madison Square Garden in 1897.*

# THE WAY

*With a pioneering spirit and a precise eye for breeding, schoolteacher and Saint Bernard fancier Anna Henshaw Whitney, the first woman to judge dogs in this country, opened doors for women in the sport of purebred dogs.*





**N**ext month, as the Westminster Kennel Club holds its 124th annual show, dogs and handlers from across the country will flock to Madison Square Garden to go before the esteemed judging panel, many of whom are women. Although this may not seem like anything out of the ordinary today, it certainly was more than 100 years ago. And none of it would be possible without the efforts of Anna Henshaw Whitney, the first woman to judge a dog show in the United States.

The year was 1888 and the show was Westminster. When Whitney had finished judging the 117 Saint Bernards that came into her ring, she was presented with a handsome bouquet of flowers. In reporting the event, *The American Field* noted that in selecting her, the Westminster Kennel Club had "made a new departure"; Whitney, the paper reported, "must be congratulated on

Whitney became an extremely popular judge. *The American Field* spoke of her "well-known ability." When she finished her fifth assignment at Westminster, *Forest and Stream* noted that she "got to work on time and, in her usual quiet and confident way, brought either joy or misery to the expectant ones."

#### WHITNEY'S EARLY LIFE

Born in Cambridge, Mass., in 1844, Whitney was the daughter of Asa Hammond Whitney and Laura L. Henshaw. She graduated from the Lasell Seminary in Auburndale, Mass., at 16. Within a year she started teaching and, around 1864, moved to Lancaster, Mass., where she taught for many years at Lancaster Academy, which later became the public high school.

Whitney served on the Board of Library Trustees in Lancaster and on the School Committee — in each case being noted as the only female presence — as well as treasurer of the First Parish Church. It was said that she had considerable artistic talent and that her literary judgement was "of the highest character." Whitney taught drawing and painting in a Lancaster studio she operated with a friend. In 1889, she quit her post at the high school and took up farming on a small, unremunerative scale.

Always fond of nature and of animals — especially dogs — Whitney had, at various times, Greyhounds, Newfoundlands, Mexican hairless, Cavalier King Charles Spaniels and mixed breeds. In 1875, Leroy Z. Collins, the high school principal where Whitney taught, imported some Saint Bernards. Whitney had owned two before, of doubtful pedigree. Collins, who bred and exhibited the breed, offered her the first choice of the first litter. Whitney chose a female and, with her, founded Chequasset Kennels, which became known for Saints and Pugs.

#### HER FIRST ASSIGNMENT

In 1888, on the first day of her first Westminster assignment, Whitney met at the Hoffman House in New York with a group that organized the Saint Bernard Club of

## ∞ CHEQUASSET KENNELS ∞

\* \* \* \* \*

Champion-bred  
ST. BERNARDS.



\* \* \* \* \*

Champion-bred  
ENGLISH PUGS.

\* \* \* \* \*

\* \* \* \* \*

St. Bernard Pups by CHAMPION HERMIT,  
CHAMPION CÆSAR, and ALP II.

Pug Pups by YOUNG TOBY and  
CHAMPION TREASURE.

Catalogue and particulars on receipt of stamp.

P. O. Box 94.

LANCASTER, MASS.

*An ad for Whitney's Chequasset Kennels from the 1895 Westminster catalog.*

the very able manner in which she handled the classes."

Whitney was, according to the paper, "the cynosure of the eyes of the enormous crowds that stood around the ring while she, the first lady who had ever entered a judging ring in this country, was going through her by no means easy task." After her first assignment, Whitney judged at Westminster every year for seven years and then came back, off and on, throughout the balance of her judging career. After that first assignment, however, 13 years would pass, and Whitney would have judged some 30 times, before a second woman would judge at all.

America. She was one of eight who signed a letter calling for the meeting — again a lone female presence — and she was elected president, but held the position for just 24 hours. When the club reassembled the next day, she resigned as president, and was subsequently elected vice president. She served in that capacity through 1896.

In September 1897, the club disbanded and was dropped as a member of the AKC. But in December, in Grand Rapids, Mich., a new Saint Bernard Club of America

was organized and Whitney was elected second vice president. She was still a vice president in 1911, when the club held a specialty show in Grand Rapids.

In 1888, Whitney was also elected vice president of the newly founded National Dog Club of America. The group's stated aim was to advance the interests of American breeders. The AKC then had 30 member clubs; as a governing body, it was seen by some as too small and exclusive. To whom could individual breeders, especially those without club affiliation, address their grievances? How could they make their voices heard? A national club composed wholly of breeders looked like the answer.

### THE NATIONAL DOG CLUB

Unhappily, the organization's brief history is largely recorded in letters to the editor in various newspapers, arguing whether the group intended to aid breeders by cooperating with the AKC or by supplanting it. Then, midyear, AKC President August Belmont Jr. proposed new rules to provide for associate membership. For \$5 (the same dues charged by the National Dog Club), an associate member — meaning any man or woman — would get two free registrations and a year's subscription to *The American Kennel Gazette and Stud Book*. Furthermore, associate members could elect AKC Delegates, one for every 100 associates. The proposal passed and, in January 1889, the first list of 122 associates was published. Whitney was on the list.

Then the National Dog Club, barely 10 months old, voted to disband, subject to all of its 200 or so members automatically being eligible for AKC associate membership. Almost all members who had not already done so joined the AKC. Whether the AKC created associate membership because of pressure from the National Dog Club is not entirely clear, but at its final meeting the NDC president graciously thanked the members for their support and ended with the words, "My task is done."

Whitney maintained her associate membership in the AKC through 1897. (Such membership was offered until 1923.) She was one of the first "Official Judges" listed by



According to the Whitney Genealogy, Anna "most unintentionally became somewhat a public character in connection with dogs."

COURTESY WHITNEY GENEALOGY

the AKC in 1889. When the AKC started licensing judges, she was among the first to be approved, and she remained on the list until at least 1918, the year of her last assignment.

In 1891, Whitney wrote a history and description of the Maltese for *The American Book of the Dog*. This popular compendium on "the origin, development, training, points of judging, diseases, and kennel management of all breeds," was a forebear of *The Complete Dog Book* published by the AKC 40 years later.

### A BUSINESSLIKE ETHIC

To those who knew her, Whitney was the consummate professional. *The New York Times* described Whitney's judging style as "methodical and businesslike." According to the paper, "Dogs seem to take to her as naturally as she takes to them and behaved themselves with the utmost propriety while she

looked them over." Sometimes she "clucked at them with a queer little noise made by pressing her lips together and drawing in her breath." Judge's book in hand, Whitney eyed the dogs critically, asked a question or two of an attendant, and put them through their paces.

Then, her mind made up, her steward (who in 1900 was Westminster member Walker Breese Smith), "would drop the monocle from his right eye and look in her book to help her find the number, and she would smile as

## Dressed for Success

Whitney was such a celebrity in her time that we even know what she wore. In 1900, *The New York Times* described her judging outfit in detail, as reporters sometimes do today. Her dress was dark blue wool, "the skirt of walking length being plaited from the waist down to the hem in wide plaits." The jacket was of the same material "with a black corded silk turnover collar, and revers." It was worn over a shirtwaist "of white stuff heavily figured with dark blue." There was "a stiff collar of the same material" and "a long black lace tie." She wore a bonnet "of black velvet, spangled with jet and with a straw-colored pompom."

though he had relieved her every trouble in this life."

In addition to Westminster, Whitney's assignments included the St. Louis Kennel Club, Ladies Kennel Association of America, Kansas City Kennel Club, New England Kennel Club, Eastern Dog Club, and Toy Dog Club of New England. Whitney's last assignment was at the Ladies Kennel Association of Massachusetts in 1918. She judged Bloodhounds, Otterhounds, Mastiffs, Saint Bernards, Great Danes, Newfoundlands, Old English Sheepdogs, Samoyeds, Pugs, foxhounds and terriers.

Whitney died on Aug. 10, 1922, at age 77. In her obituary in the *Clinton Courant*, her life was remembered as "one of constant industry, with never ceasing cheerfulness." The paper went on to say, "A brave spirit has left us." Which is exactly what Whitney gave the sport of purebred dogs. 🐾

*William Stifel is a former AKC president and Board Member. He is currently writing a history of the Westminster Kennel Club.*