

PURE-BRED DOGS/AMERICAN KENNEL GAZETTE

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Creating Breed Archives And a Hall of Fame

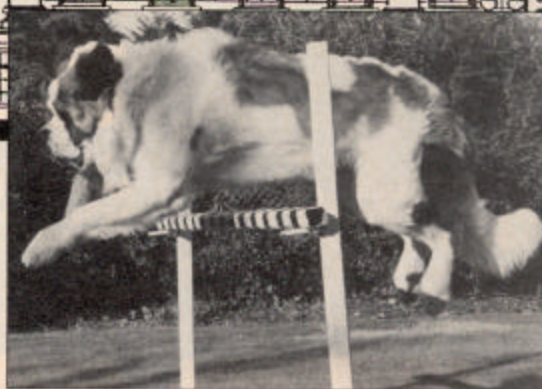
BY JOHN COX



The author's Saint, Nicklus, inspired the creation of his breed's archives and Hall of Fame.

For the last seventeen years, I have been building an archive for the Saint Bernard. Not a building, like the one in our logo, but a huge data base of information available to the Saint fancy. Today, the records in our archive are almost complete and consist of: all obedience titles and scores, all sires of titled Saints, all

The author, a member of the Saint Bernard Club of America and the SBC of Puget Sound, has shown and trained Saints to 33 titles. An obedience judge, the author has also written articles for breed newsletters.



dams of titled Saints, all Best in Show wins, all independent specialty show wins, and all group placements.

This information reaches

back to the year 1889, since the Saint Bernard was among the first breeds registered by the American Kennel Club. To gather the data, I started with the first GAZETTE in 1889 and worked forward to the present issue. There are still a few GAZETTES in the late teens and twenties that are needed to complete this project. The details of how the data base was compiled and how it was used to create and run the Saint Bernard National Hall of Fame are no

John Cox

A Saint Bernard fancier shares with breed clubs his method of gathering data and honoring record-makers.

mystery. It can be handled in the same manner by other breed clubs.

Taken in by The Sport

It seemed so simple back in 1969. I bought a Saint Bernard puppy and named him Nicklus. He was to be just my companion, as I had no idea what was involved in showing dogs. I entered Nicklus in an obedience class to teach him manners, and from there was talked into showing him for a Companion Dog title. I liked the sport of dogs, and my "pet" went on to become the most titled Saint Bernard in breed history—American/Canadian Champion Cherryacres Nicklus Von Hyden, American/Canadian Utility Dog, OFA 901.

It was from this dog's success that I started asking questions about other dogs' wins in our breed, but found there were no comprehensive records kept by the national breed club. I wanted to know how many UD's were in our breed, how many champions there were with UD titles, who the first of all the different titles was, and where my dog ranked in the standings. There were tidbits of information but no complete history of achievements. I wrote to the AKC but still could not get the answers I wanted; its show records from the early years were on a card file system and not broken down to answer my questions.

So, I decided to embark on the research myself. It became quite an involved project, spread over many years, and all because of the questions raised by the success of my first companion.

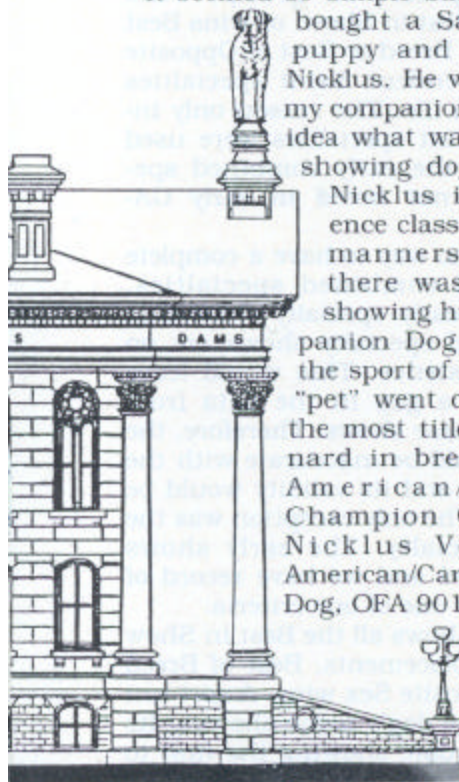
In 1975 I was offered the Saint Bernard Club of America obedience chairmanship. I accepted and started collecting statistics on the obedience Saint Bernards. As I worked on the current year, I collected back issues of the GAZETTE by running ads in dog newsletters. Over a period of time, I collected a complete set back to 1936, the first year of obedience. I also contacted book stores and was able to purchase a few early issues. It was now just a matter of going through each GAZETTE and extracting the material I needed. I made up a card file system on each dog.

Obedience Records

The obedience card file is the most complex due to the different titles, scores, high in trials, and high score averaging that is drawn from this information. All the information on the card is found in the "Awards" section of the GAZETTE. We have on file *every* score a Saint Bernard has earned in the regular classes at an AKC obedience trial.

When this information is entered into the computer, the titles are coded, and the date the title was completed is entered. Then, by the marvels of the computer, one can break down and print out all the dogs in any order desired. Entering the title date allows a chronological sort by title showing who was first to complete each different title. Also, a year-by-year breakdown can be made on the different titles earned. A complete printout will show all the CDs, CDXs, UD's, TD's, TDXs and OTCHs in the order earned and give a total count as to how many of each title has been finished since the inception of obedience. Once the statistics were compiled, we had a solid and *complete* data base to draw up the criteria for the obedience section of the Hall of Fame.

Gathering information on the sires and dams of all AKC titled Saint Bernards proved more difficult than obedience record keeping. In the early GAZETTES, when a dog completed a title, just the dog's name was published.



Conformation Chart

BASKO V. D. REPPESCH (D)		SHOW	
REF #	DATE	NATIONAL CAPITAL KC	WYOMING VALLEY KC
6/53/110	4/21/53		
7/34/108	5/2/54		
10/54/208	8/4/54		
	5/25/55		

ZWINGHOE TORO-BUCK V. ZWINGHO (D)		SIRE: CH HARVEY'S ZWINGHO BARRE V. DANZ	
TITLES: CH	TITLED DOGS	BIRTH	SEX
1. STEGE HEF BRANDY			
2. MAR-CO'S KING MIDAS OF TORO			
3. SCHRY HIEDIE V. TORO			
4. JA-BUR'S TINETTE OF NORCA			
5.			
6.			
7.			
8.			
9.			
10.			

Sire/Dam Chart

of data that can be completed all the way back to 1889. Each Saint Bernard that places in group, wins Best in Show, or wins Best of Breed or Best of Opposite

There was no other information as to the sire, dam, breeder, title date or even owner. This went on from Vol. 1 in 1889 to August of 1952. The September 1952 issue was the first to publish the sires and dams of a titled dog. Research for the sires and dams of titled Saints up to August 1952 had to be done by finding old catalogs, pedigrees, picking the brains of breeders, and sometimes could be found in the Saint Bernard breed column in the GAZETTE. This section still needs more research to complete the early years.

Sire And Dam Information

The card file for the sires and dams lists the titled offspring in order of titles earned. For our needs, just the year of the title is posted. When I can find birth dates, they are posted so littermates can be matched up. As the cards were completed, they were entered into the computer for a sort. A single year can be pulled out showing the top producing Saints. A total printout (which on my old TRS 80 Model II computer takes three and a half hours to print out the 15,000 names now on file) shows all the titled get a sire or dam produced, and from this we can determine and set the criteria for the sire and dam section of the Hall of Fame. Other notes of interest of the past GAZETTES relating to published titles are October 1970—first to publish a dog's sex; April 1973—first to publish owners; October 1975—first to publish breeders of champions; and March 1980—first to publish breeders of obedience dogs.

Conformation Data

The final annex of the archives is the conformation section. In all of our information gathering, we chose the type

Sex at independent Saint specialties has a card on file. The reason only independent Saint specialties were used was because the early combined specialties were not noted in early GAZETTES.

There was no way to have a complete record of all combined specialties. Some of the early specialty clubs that had combined specialty shows are no longer in existence. This would leave too much of a gap in the data from overlooking these shows. Therefore, the data pool would be inaccurate with the dogs left out, and its validity would be in question. The only exception was the national specialty. The early shows were combined and we have record of all of them for one of our criteria.

A printout shows all the Best in Show wins, group placements, Best of Breed and Best Opposite Sex wins. A sort can be done by the dog's name showing its record, or by date showing the first to obtain each honor. Also a club can obtain a printout showing all of its past BB and BOS winners, including High in Trial.

Year-by-year breakdowns can be made for annual reports. It should be noted that Best in Show and group results did not exist prior to 1924, and then only group firsts were listed from 1924 through January 1933. The February 1933 GAZETTE was the first to print the placements of 1st through 4th in groups.

Getting access to the early GAZETTES can be the most difficult part of building an archive. I was fortunate to have a couple of judging assignments in the East that allowed me to visit the AKC Library, which has every issue available for use. It is important to give serious thought to the type of information needed beforehand, so each issue has

Hall of Fame

CRITERIA FOR INDUCTION

Sires And Dams of Titled Get

Sire producing five AKC-titled get:

1. Five champions or
2. Four champions and a fifth get with an advanced obedience title (a CDX or better, or a TD)

Dam producing four AKC-titled get:

1. Four champions or
2. Three champions and a fourth get with an advanced obedience title (a CDX or better, or a TD)

Plateaus of Excellence

Sire producing ten AKC-titled get:

1. Ten champions or
2. Nine champions plus a tenth get with a CDX or TD
3. Eight champions plus two different get with CDXs or TDs or combination

Higher Plateaus figured for each additional five titled get.

Dam producing six titled get:

1. Six champions or
2. Five champions plus a sixth with a CDX or TD

Dam producing eight titled get:

1. Eight champions
2. Seven champions plus an eighth get with a CDX or TD
3. Six champions plus two different get with CDXs or TDs or combination

Higher Plateaus figured for each additional two-titled get.

Conformation Show Wins

1. Best in Show wins: Winning three Best in Shows at all-breed shows.

Plateaus of Excellence

Plateaus figured for each three wins after the induction number.

2. Two Saint Bernard Club of America wins: Winning Best of Breed or Best Opposite Sex, or a combination totaling two.

Plateaus of Excellence

Plateaus figured for each two wins after the induction number.

3. Ten independent specialty show wins: Winning ten Best of Breed or ten Best Opposite Sex, or a combination totaling ten.

Plateaus of Excellence

Plateaus figured for each ten wins after the induction number.

Obedience Titles

Upon close examination of the obedience criteria, notice that a dog must have at least three titles to its name to be inducted, with the exception of

1. Obtain an AKC Utility Title (CD, CDX, UD), or
2. Obtain an AKC Tracking and Companion Dog Excellent title (TD, CD, CDX), or
3. Obtain an AKC Companion Dog plus Tracking plus Tracking Dog Excellent (CD, TD, TDX), or
4. Obtain an AKC Championship with an advanced title (CH, CD, CDX, or CH TD, TDX), or
5. Obtain an AKC Championship with a Tracking Dog and Companion Dog title (CH, CD, TD), or
6. Obtain a Highest Scoring Dog in Trial at an all-breed AKC trial from the advanced classes, Open or Utility—a major accomplishment for our breed

Plateaus of Excellence—Obedience

1. Achieving a 200 score from a regular class
2. Achieving a UDT
3. Achieving a UDTX
4. Achieving an OTCH
5. Achieving an OTCH and TD
6. Achieving an OTCH and TDX
7. Achieving a Championship and UD
8. Achieving a Championship and a UDT
9. Achieving a Championship and a UDTX
10. Achieving a Championship and an OTCH
11. Achieving a Championship and an OTCH TD
12. Achieving a Championship and an OTCH TDX
13. Achieving ten combined scores
14. Additional plateaus for every ten combined scores
15. Achieving fifty qualifying scores from the regular classes of Open and/or Utility
16. Additional Plateaus for every fifty Open/Utility qualifying scores
17. Achieving ten High in Trials at independent Saint Bernard specialties
18. Additional Plateaus for every ten additional High in Trials at independent Saint Bernard specialties
19. Achieving five High in Trials at all-breed AKC trials
20. Additional Plateaus for five additional High in Trials at all-breed AKC trials
21. Saint Bernard Club of America Working Dog Championship

—JC

to be researched only once.

Hall of Fame Criteria

As I was finding out the answers to my early questions, I could see there were dogs with very impressive records. It seemed sad that during the passage of time, many of their accomplishments had been forgotten due to the lack of record-keeping. Now that I had built an archive, those records could be remembered. With all the information I had on the Saint Bernard, I created our Hall of Fame to showcase the great accomplishments of the past and make goals for the future.

Our Hall of Fame is based only on AKC titles. Once the dog meets the criteria for initiation, it is automatically inducted into the Hall of Fame, and a certificate is mailed to the owner. At that time the initials HF may be used after the dog's name. There is no committee to decide who gets into the Hall of Fame and who does not. All Saints are eligible for entry, as all Saints must be eligible in order for the fancy to have a proper perspective on what our breed is accomplishing in conformation, obedience and tracking. The GAZETTE is the only official source of information.

The Hall of Fame has a committee

Obedience Chart

				SAINT BERNARD			
				TITLES	CONFIRMED		
SCAR HEDIE V. TORO				C.D.	65 FEBRUARY 114		
AKC # WA 346370				C.D.X.	66 FEBRUARY 135		
SEX: BITCH				T.O.	67 DECEMBER 174		
BIRTH: MAY 4, 1963				U.D.	68 OCTOBER 147		
SIRE: CH ZWINGHOF TORO-ROCK V ZWINGO							
DAM: ROYAL HEIDIE							
OWNER: KEN & BETTY NELSON OH							
BREEDER: WESLEY WYSE							
FIRST O.D.I.				CLASS	POINTS	PLACE	D.I.O.
REF. #	DATE	YR	SHOW	JUDGE			
12-237	10/18	64	DAYTON DTC	OH J. GIACOMELLI	NOVICE A	191 1/2	
1-199	11/8	"	HAMILTON DTC	OH A. NEARGARDER	NOVICE A	197	4TH
1-199	11/15	"	CENTRAL OHIO KC	OH M. PERSALL	NOVICE A	195	3RD
12-267	10/10	65	QUEEN CITY DTC	OH B. SPENCER	OPEN B	193 1/2	
12-267	10/24	"	DAYTON DTC	OH C. BUSH	OPEN B	187	
1-206	11/14	"	HAMILTON DTC	OH G. PUGH	OPEN B	191 1/2	
2-346	10/7	67	QUEEN CITY DTC	OH G. PUGH	TRACKING	PASSED	
4-314	2/18	68	MIDDLETOWN DTC	KY L. GREEN	UTILITY	189 1/2	
4-316	2/25	"	LOUISVILLE KC	OH A. RECOLL	UTILITY	191	
10-305	7/28	"	MARION OHIO KC		UTILITY	189	

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project, and it is
that decided Saint Bernard Cl

that decided the criteria for induction that fit our breed. The data were divided into the six sections listed in the first paragraph of this article, and each section is called an annex of the Hall of Fame.

A dog can earn entry into any one or all of the annexes. The criteria were determined for each annex by printing out that completed data base. From there, we could see what was obtainable and fair, but not easy. The criteria set are the *minimum* a dog must have to be inducted.

Once the Saint Bernard is inducted into the Hall of Fame, it can still compete to equal or break records and obtain a Plateau of Excellence certificate. For every Plateau earned, a certificate is mailed out; there is no limit. The initials PE are added to HF at the end of the dog's name.

From year to year, the number of inductees and Plateaus of Excellence varies as it is based on qualifications and not on a preset yearly number for induction. Out of the thousands of Saint Bernards registered with the AKC since 1889, there have been over 500 inductees and 100 Plateaus of Excellence earned. See the sidebar, "Hall of Fame" for what works well for the Saint Bernard.

The cost of doing such a project is small. The main ingredient is a devoted person or persons who can envision the project when done and work towards that goal.

The start-up costs are the file cards, certificates, computer disks, envelopes and postage. Our Hall of Fame was retroactive, so the first-year cost was around \$200 to mail certificates. At

present we only mail fifteen to twenty certificates a year, and less than fifty dollars a year is spent on running the project. The Saint Bernard Club of

Puget Sound sponsors the project, and it is sanctioned by the Saint Bernard Club of America. We started by doing one annex at a time and mailed out certificates as each section was completed. The last annex nearing completion is the group wins. The data are complete, and we are now working on the criteria for induction.

Initially, many hours were spent reading *GAZETTES* and entering data on cards and into the computer. Now that most of the research is done, the monthly updates take an average of five hours a month.

A number of people were instrumental in helping to complete this prodigious task. Loretta Griffin double-checked all the obedience scores in the *GAZETTE* every month; Camilla Thorne spent many hours in the AKC Library researching the early champions and sires and dams; Barbara Peck proofread the sire and dam files, which cover 100 years and over 30,000 names; and Cheryl Zappala put together certificates and helped with the mailing. It takes dedicated people to make a project like this work.

The information on file is available to the Saint fancy at no charge. The club does ask for a self-addressed, *stamped* envelope to help defray costs. I feel the most rewarding part of building an archive is that there is now over a century of information on file at one location as a resource, plus a complete data bank reaching back to 1889 ensures no one has been overlooked. The Hall of Fame guarantees that the great Saint Bernards of the past and present that set impressive records are not forgotten. Their records and memory are still living in the archives of the Saint Bernard National Hall of Fame. 