

Next Deadline:

## **OFFICERS**

### **President**

Richella Veatch

hollicovecollies@aol.com

### **Vice President**

Mary Sonner

ms83612010@gmail.com

### **Secretary**

Jeanne Ferguson

labsnbcs4me@gmail.com

### **Treasurer**

Susan Varrasso

svarrasso@charter.net

### **Board of Directors**

**Courtney Kleiman**

cfkleiman81@gmail.com

**Cindi Chilbert**

seugenhof@aol.com

**Sandy Morris**

morrissandy07@yahoo.com

### **Training Director**

Bonnie Hornfisher

hornfisher@comcast.net

### **Training Committee**

Becky Malivuk

Sharon Zickler

David Miller

Lisa Varrasso

### **Membership Chair**

Sandy Morris

morrissandy07@yahoo.com

### **Woofer**

Deanna Leveque

4woofernews@gmail.com

### **Communications**

Tina Winkler

orkctn@gmail.com

### **Web Master**

Wendy Smith

ORKCweb@gmail.com



Oak Ridge Kennel Club  
est. 1944

# The WOOFER

Oak Ridge Kennel Club, Inc.

March 2026

Est. 1944

[www.orkc.org](http://www.orkc.org)

## Club News

I wanted to let the membership know that Robert Veatch, Richella's husband, suffered a massive heart-attack last Saturday (March 14th). He was rushed to the Hospital in Crossville and was admitted to the ICU.

He has since received surgery and had two stints inserted and is currently home recuperating.



Board Members have been in contact with Richella and we have made the decision that the club will gift them \$200 in Visa Gift cards and provide some home cooked meals for them to put in the freezer for Richella to be able to heat and serve for them both. We are also ordering flowers to be delivered to the home this week.

Mary Sonner will be going to Richella's home in Crossville to deliver on Sunday.

Courtney Klieman will be making some chicken noodle soup for them this week and Cindi Chilbert will be delivering Spaghetti next week.

If you are interested in wanting to cook some heat-n-serve meals for them please respond to this email. It will be several weeks before Robert is able to get back to normal activities. Richella does not drive. But luckily Richella's son lives nearby and is able to help provide care.

I am sure that both Robert and Richella would love to receive get well cards. They can be sent to the following address:  
7010 Vandever Rd Crossville, TN 38572

Jeannelove Ferguson

# Club News

**Classes start Monday March 23rd end April 18th**

**All classes are 4 weeks unless noted in schedule**



## AKC IMPACT IN TENNESSEE

The American Kennel Club® (AKC®) is a not-for-profit organization established in 1884 to promote the study, breeding, exhibiting, and advancement of purebred dogs. Together with our clubs and affiliates, AKC works to advance the health and wellbeing of all dogs, protect the rights of dog owners, and promote responsible dog ownership. We represent nearly 5,000 dog clubs nationally, including **96 clubs in the state of Tennessee**.

The AKC sanctions over 28,000 dog events each year, which generate significant economic benefits to local communities in addition to the millions of dollars AKC dog owners in Tennessee spend annually on their dogs.

2025 TN DOG  
EVENTS

601  
EVENTS



63,200  
PARTICIPANTS



2

### DISASTER RELIEF TRAILER DONATIONS

AKC Pet Disaster Relief is a lifesaving program in which AKC Reunite® partners with AKC clubs to donate trailers stocked with equipment to help create a safe, temporary shelter for at least 65 pets before, during, and after a disaster is declared. The trailer's crates and generator can be set up as co-location shelters, where owners can evacuate with their pets, as well as emergency animal shelters for displaced animals.



\$631,000

### SUPPORTING CANINE HEALTH RESEARCH

The AKC Canine Health Foundation® (CHF) has invested over **\$631K in canine health research** at Tennessee institutions statewide through the support of **21 projects, research grants, and educational studies to benefit dogs**. This research has spanned topics related to general canine health including the landmark mapping in the dog genome, blood disorders, dermatology, and allergic disease, endocrinology related to Cushing's syndrome and the thyroid function, hepatic disease, musculoskeletal conditions and disease, oncology including lymphoma, ophthalmology and tick-borne disease at the **University of Tennessee**. There are currently **4 active grants** that comprise projects studying the loss of Y chromosome in canine solid cancers, the formulation of radiopharmaceuticals to treat B cell lymphoma in dogs, the effect of obesity on adult stem cell function for regenerative therapies in dogs and the investigation of peptide epitopes from Ehrlichia canis and Anaplasma platys and the potential to be used as vaccine candidates. CHF prioritizes a One Health and comparative medicine research approach to diagnose and treat health conditions that affect both ends of the leash while advancing canine health for all dogs.

**\$2.15 million** ←  
**ECONOMIC BENEFIT OF DOG  
SHOW WEEKEND**

Surveys demonstrate that exhibitors at AKC conformation dog shows spend an average of **\$982 per show weekend**. This means spending by AKC dog show exhibitors for a show weekend could **inject more than \$2.15 million into the local economy**. And because AKC dog shows are an educational and family-friendly event, large spectator gates can generate additional revenues for cities and towns statewide.

### AKC REUNITE ADOPT A K-9 COP GRANTS

AKC Reunite® and AKC Clubs work together to fund the purchase of law enforcement K-9s for police departments around the United States.



### 20 ← TENNESSEE POLICE AGENCIES THAT RECEIVED GRANTS

18th Judicial District Drug Task Force  
23rd Judicial District Drug Task Force (2)  
Bartlett Police Department  
Carroll County Sheriff's Office  
Cleveland State Campus Police Department  
Dickson County Sheriff's Office  
Dickson Police Department (2)  
Fayetteville Police Department  
Gallatin Police Department

Gleason Police Department  
Hendersonville Police Department (2)  
Lebanon Police Department (3)  
McEwen Police Department  
McKenzie Police Department  
Montgomery County Sheriff's Office  
Portland Police Department  
Smyrna Police Department (2)  
Sumner County Sheriff's Office (2)  
Unicoi County Sheriff's Office  
Wilson County Sheriff's Office

FOR DETAILS CONTACT [DOGLAW@AKC.ORG](mailto:DOGLAW@AKC.ORG) OR VISIT [WWW.AKC.ORG](http://WWW.AKC.ORG)

# Club News

## 2026 – 2027 ORKC Nomination Committee Report

Below are the people nominated for Officer/Director and AKC delegate positions, along with a short biography of their dog-related activities. We, the nominating Committee, are submitting a group of people who are members in good standing with the club, will be active members of the club's Board of Directors, and are committed to the further successes of ORKC. If additional members wish to run for a position, the procedures are listed below.

President – Richella Veatch

Vice President – Deborah Reed

Secretary – Jeanelove Ferguson

Treasurer – Susan Varrasso

Training Director – Bonnie Hornfisher

AKC Delegate – Mary Sonner

Board Member – Sandy Morris

Board Member – Courtney Kleiman

Board Member – Mary Sonner

### **From the By-laws Section 3 NOMINATIONS**

C. Additional nominations may be made at the April meeting by any member in attendance at this meeting, his/her proposal shall present to the Secretary a written statement from the proposed candidate signifying his/her willingness to be a candidate or, if in attendance, does not decline when their name is proposed.

Sincerely,

Debora Doney

Deborah Reed

Jennifer Gueho

# Canadidate Biographys

## **Richella Veatch nominated as ORKC President**

In the first few months of 2022 I offered to help ORKC by filling the office of President. A club needs to have leadership to survive. I'm not saying I'm a leader, but I have belonged to several kennel clubs and do know some of the workings of them. First of all, I've been a dog lover, breeder and shower since 1962. I've had several breeds and mixed breeds in my time but settled on collies in 1965. I've been active in most dog sports, trained many dogs and handlers, and enjoyed showing in conformation, obedience, rally, and CGC. I've finished 69 champions, 6 obedience titles, and many rally titles through RAE3. I've chaired many obedience trials, rally trials and shows, including ORKC shows, TVKC trials, and collie specialties, including our national shows and trials. I currently hold the office of President of ORKC, President of the East Tennessee Collie Club, and serve as AKC Delegate for TVKC. I'll do my best for your kennel club in this coming year if elected. I'm open to new ideas and wishes of the membership as a whole. You'll find I'm a working president and try to be involved in the whole club.

## **Deborah Reed nominated as ORKC Vice President –**

I own, show, breed and compete in agility with Shetland Sheepdogs and most of my time outside of work revolves around training, trialing, showing and spending quality time with my dogs. Among my shelties, 1 is AKC pointed, 1 has his CH and 2 have their GCH. I also put a GCHB and a Westminster AOM on my co-owned Lagotto. Two of my shelties are competing at the masters and excellent level in agility. I became a member of ORKC soon after moving to the Knoxville area in 2024. Prior to that, and starting in 2013 with our first sheltie, I've been an active member of several breed clubs including the Greater Charlotte Shetland Sheepdog Club, the Triangle Shetland Sheepdog Club of North Carolina, the Central Kentucky Shetland Sheepdog Club, and our national breed club, ASSA (American Shetland Sheepdog Association). My experiences with these clubs have brought many years of joy! It has been a privilege to represent the breed in everything from marching in Thanksgiving parades, enjoying picnics and potlucks, volunteering in agility demonstrations, and attending seminars, workshops, clinics, continuing education, and showing and trialing in every sport that my dogs are interested in and eligible for: obedience, flyball, scentwork, herding, agility, FCAT, coursing ability, and of course conformation!

I have a science background with an MS in molecular biology, and I work as an analytical chemist in Oak Ridge. I enjoy researching dog related issues, including diet, health and genetic testing, canine structure, holistic therapy, and reproductive issues, and I look forward to helping find knowledgeable speakers on topics that provide the membership with useful information and promote good breed stewardship.

With my involvement in agility and herding, I'm also very excited about helping to support our training programs and promote performance events and activities for the club! I believe that club support of these events will attract and retain younger members, which helps secure the future of purebred dog ownership.

Thank you for the opportunity!

# Canadidate Biographys

## **Jeannelove Ferguson nominated as ORKC Secretary –**

I have been a member of the BOD for ORKC for the last 3 years. I initially served as a member at large and the membership director, and was elected as the secretary starting in 2024/2025. Additionally, I have served as an instructor for the club; teaching STAR puppy, puppy class, Advanced Beginner Obedience Class, and a Canine Good Citizen Instructor. I am a CGC evaluator. I have served as the Trophy Chairperson for the Smoky Mountain Cluster for ORKC in 2025 and currently serve as the Assistant Show Chair for ORKC (Smoky Mountain Cluster 2026).

As well as being a member of ORKC, I am a member of the Greater Atlanta Labrador Retriever Club and a member of the parent club, Labrador Retriever Club, Inc and the American Border Collie Association.

Prior to serving on the board for ORKC, I served as the Secretary for the BOD for Lowcountry Lab Rescue for 9 years and was a Board Member at Large for Phoenix Rising Border Collie Rescue of South Carolina for 7 years.

I have volunteered at the Sheepdog Finals for the United States Border Collie Handlers Association (USBCHA) at Historic Belle Grove Plantation twice and at multiple USBCHA sanctioned Sheepdog trials. I also served as a volunteer for the Labrador Retriever Inc Nationals at Purina Farms in October. I recently volunteered at my first NACSW trial held in February in Maryville, TN

I have owned Labrador Retrievers for over 30 years and working line Border Collies for close to 20 years. My current Border Collie is Vanda. I have participated in agility and herding (USBCHA) with her. Tenasi's Vanda ACT1 ACTJ1 TKN CGC ; Vanda recently turned 12 yrs old and is enjoying her retirement and being the token Border Collie Cheerleader for Team Tenasi Labradors!!

I currently compete with my male Labrador Retriever, Camden in Scentwork. In 6 trials, Camden earned his overall Scentwork Novice Title, Scentwork Advanced Titles. He has earned his NACSW ORT and earned a 1st placement and 2 "pronounced" judges awards at his first NW1 trial. He is currently working on completing his Scentwork Novice Elite Titles and Scentwork Excellent Titles. Camden loves scentwork and has earned multiple 1st,2nd, 3rd, & 4th placements during his Scentwork career.

Camden participated in the Labrador Retriever Nationals in October where he earned the Nina Mann Award- Dog for All Reason Award and a special recognition award from the Greater Atlanta Labrador Retriever Club Fall Specialty for his achievement of earning 7 titles in 12 months. JusrightTenasi's Carolina Dream TKN STR CGC SWA ORT

# Canadidate Biographys

## **Jeanelove Ferguson nominated as ORKC**

Additionally, I recently added a new Labrador Retriever Puppy to the mix, Ashland Southern Grace at Tenasi, "Gracie-Jo", who will be entering her first BPUP (4-6mo puppies) conformation ring for the first time in April and will begin her conformation career at the Fletcher Shows in late May.

I enjoy being a part of the Board of Directors for ORKC and help shape the future of our club and look forward to serving another term. I enjoy being part of a club where my dogs can take classes and I can interact and socialize with like-minded people. I am an admissions recruiter for Lincoln Memorial University Doctor of Physical Therapy program. When not traveling to universities for recruiting events, I travel to trials and shows.

## **Susan Varrasso nominated as ORKC Treasurer –**

I joined the ORKC board in the spring of 2022 as Treasurer to negotiate and correct a tax situation that the club was in. I am originally from Columbus, Ohio, and a graduate of the Ohio State University. I have had Chesapeake Bay Retrievers for over 35 years. My current dog, Gemma, and I have been successful training and showing in obedience, rally, scent work, barn hunt and tracking. I currently am an assistant instructor in the ORKC scent work program. I also serve as the chair person for the club Obedience/Rally shows as well as scent work trials. I look forward to continuing my role as club treasurer.

## **Bonnie Hornfisher nominated as ORKC Training Director –**

My dog journey started when I was 13 years old, I took the family dog to a community obedience class. That led to joining 4-H and earning my first AKC obedience title at age 15. I have titled dogs in obedience, rally, and agility, been active in several therapy dog groups and spent years instructing dog obedience. Our current companions are a 'Toller' rescue and a Lab mix.

In 2010 I became an AKC obedience judge, additionally a rally judge in 2013. Besides my dogs, I share my life with my husband, Russ, also an obedience and rally judge. Before our permanent move to Tennessee in 2019, I spent 12 years as an officer with Wolverine Dog Training Club in Farmington Hills, MI, serving as treasurer or training director during that time. I am a current instructor and the Training Director at ORKC.

## **Mary Sonner nominated as ORKC Board Member and AKC Delegate –**

I have three Shelties. Mama, Tai is thirteen years old; daddy Storm at six has achieved master level agility; and daughter, Jazz is three years old and actively competing in Agility with an excellent level in Fast and Jumpers which I can contribute to our training at ORKC. I currently teach Beginning Obedience and hold Vice President position.

# Canadidate Biographys

## **Courtney Kleiman nominated as ORKC Board Member –**

Greetings fellow Oak Ridge Kennel Club members,

Thank you for accepting my nomination for the Oak Ridge Kennel Club Board of Directors for the 2026-2027 term. I have served on the board for the past two years and have very much enjoyed contributing to the club in this role. I have taught ORKC Puppy One class with Carol Jeffrey and Ashley Miller for the past three years and have worked with many dedicated volunteers to complete club projects during my four years as a member of ORKC. I have three Shetland sheepdogs who I love dearly and compete in AKC FastCAT, CATB and Barn Hunt with my boy Beaux.

As top five in his breed, Beaux was invited to the FastCAT Invitational in both 2024 and 2025 and we were able to attend and represent the Shetland Sheepdog in 2025. Beaux took home Best of Breed as the fastest Sheltie at this national event and also earned his Barn Hunt Championship in December of 2025. Our goal for 2026 is to become more involved in herding and hopefully be ready to attend an AKC herding trial within the next year.

In 2026 I will be serving as the trail chair for the Great Smoky Mountain Cluster FastCat where I hope to make a valuable contribution to both ORKC and TVKC as we share the love of fast dogs. I look forward to continuing to serve as an ORKC board member for 2026-2027 terms so that I can continue to grow our club and assist with future endeavors to serve our members and their dogs.

## **Sandy Morris nominated as ORKC Board Member –**

I currently live in Clinton. I was born & raised in southwest Michigan. I retired from county government work in 2023 & moved to Tennessee to be closer to my family. I've had Chesapeake Bay Retrievers since 1991. At the present time I have two Chessies. Flame, 8 years old & Ranger 11 months. I'm a breeder/owner/handler showing in both conformation & agility. In Michigan, I was a member of the Kalamazoo Kennel Club and held the office of secretary for over 10 years. I also served on many committees. In 2008, I received the AKC Outstanding Sportsmanship Award and in 2014 the AKC Breeder of Merit Award. I've served on the ORKC Board of Directors for one year. In October, I became the Membership Chairman. I've enjoyed my first term and am asking for your support to continue serving on the ORKC Board of Directors. Thank you for your consideration!

# Up Coming Events

## Obedience and Rally Trial

When: Mar 28, 2026 8:00 am

Where:

Ultimutt Knoxville

11225 Threadstone Ln

Knoxville, TN

Trial runs March 28 – 29, 2026.

2 Rally trials and 1 Obedience trial on both Saturday and Sunday.

Set Up on Friday Afternoon.

## Sniff & Go

Apr 4, 2026 10:00 am

Where:

ORKC Campus

Containers and Buried –

Novice through Excellent  
More details to come.



# Up Coming Events

## Agility Trials

When: Apr 10, 2026 7:00 am

Where:

East Tennessee Agricultural  
Exposition Center

276 Patton Lane, Harriman,  
Tennessee 37748

Trials run April 10 – 12, 2026

Friday – Std, JWW, Premier  
JWW, & FAST

Saturday – Std, JWW, Premier Std & T2B

Sunday – Std, JWW, & Premier (both)



ENTRIES OPEN AT 8:00 am, Wednesday, February 4, 2026

[Premium](#)

[Entry Details](#)

## Scent Work Trials

When: May 2, 2026 8:00 am

Where:

Ultimutt Knoxville

11225 Threadstone Ln

Knoxville, TN

Trials run May 2 – May 3, 2026.

2 trials per day.

Containers – Novice through  
Master.

Buried – Novice through Master.



Interiors – Novice and Advanced only.

Exteriors – Novice and Advanced only.

Premium to come.

## !!! Brags, Brags, and More Brags !!!



Koda earned his AKC Grand Championship at the Raleigh NC conformation shows under judge Mrs. Chris A Levy. He is now GCH CH EmberMist Stand By Me. So proud of this boy. We've had a lot of fun together and will continue our journey focusing on Scent Work and competition Obedience. He is lovingly owned by Sandy & John Hunn

Brothers Eiger and Uncle completed the requirements to earn their Novice Working Pack Dog (NWPD) titles, with the help of their humans Jimmy & Carol Ellis and Debbie Echols.



# !!! Brags, Brags, and More Brags !!!

Some Puppy 1 graduation pics from last session

Autumn  
Salem  
Archer

Courtney



# !!! Brags, Brags, and More Brags !!!

The Oak Ridge Kennel Club was well represented at the Greater Louisville Training Club's scent work event on February 28-March 1, 2026, at the Crooked Creek Boy Scout Camp in Shepherdsville, Kentucky.

Several club members were present and successfully competed at various levels earning the following:

Lorrie and Joe Johnson (Sammie) – Advanced Buried title, Advanced Containers title, Advanced Interiors title, Advanced Exteriors title, Overall Advanced title, High in Trial Advanced award, many placements.

Lisa Wood (Chili) – Overall Advanced Elite title, 3 High Combined Advanced Awards, High in Trial Advanced award, many placements.

Karen Orr (Harrison) – Master Exterior Elite title, Advanced Buried Elite title, Advanced Exterior Elite title, Advanced Interior Elite title, 5 first placements.

Kathy Ambrose (Stormy) – Advanced Buried title, Advanced Exterior title, Overall Advanced title, many placements.

Ashley Miller (Tildy) – Handler Discrimination Advanced title, Excellent Exterior Elite title,



# !!! Brags, Brags, and More Brags !!!



Topic: richella veatch's Zoom Meeting

Time: Apr 3, 2025 07:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

## Classified Section

Our board of directors has approved this classified section for our members with the following conditions. Items must be dog related goods, no live animals, and limit of \$500 per item.

Send your sale, wanted or give away listings to [4woofernews@gmail.com](mailto:4woofernews@gmail.com)

## Buy, Sell, Trade, or Give Away

### New Members

Please introduce yourself and your dog(s) here on the Woofers. Send me a short bio and photo so that club members can welcome you, and get to know a little about you.

send to me Deanna Leveque, at [4woofernews@gmail.com](mailto:4woofernews@gmail.com) along with your brags.

## The Woofers:

Please send those show brags, volunteer opportunities, upcoming events and other items of interest to share, to me, Deanna, at [4woofernews@gmail.com](mailto:4woofernews@gmail.com) **for the next newsletter.**

