

North Central Illinois Pekingese Club History – by Bob Jackson, Fourwinds Pekingese



In the mid-60's, several Peke owners met in Joliet with the idea of forming a Club. Several from the Joliet area attended and I remember Dick and Ann Campbell, Dorothy Banfill, Barb Maske and her parents, Jack and Marge Ongenae, E. C. Olsen, Mary Ann and I and probably a few others.

We wanted the club to be named the Pekingese Club of Illinois but the AKC would not give that large an area to one club so they gave us the name, North Central Illinois Pekingese Club, with our headquarters and show sites to be in the Joliet area. The Club was incorporated on January 23, 1967.

Our first Fun Match was soon held with about 50 entries judged by Mrs. Ann Lind, long-time Peke breeder, who along with her husband, Al became beloved members of the Club. Many new members joined and monthly meetings had excellent programs which encouraged many more to join. It took a couple years of fun matches before our first point show. I visited the AKC offices in New York twice to convince them that we were a Club worthy of recognition.

In 1970, we held our first point show in conjunction with the Stone City Kennel Club. We had an excellent entry for our judge, Mrs. Georgina Lane. Then our application for a show on our own was approved and we held our first independent specialty in January of 1971 with Peke breeder, Mrs. Yan Paul from Canada doing the honors.

Most of our shows have been judged by breeder-judges which I feel was why we got such excellent entries from long distances. At each show, we acquired new members so we were a very active Club for quite a few years.

Breeder-judges from England also drew large entries from all over the country. My goal since the club was founded was to have an entry of over 100, and this was achieved in 1987 when Terry Nethercott from England judged.

English judges include Vandella Williams, Mrs. Lillian Snook, Adele Summers, Terry Nethercott, Mrs. Antonia Horn, Mrs. Marian Fern, Mrs. Grace Godwin and Mrs. Joyce Mitchell...all drawing some of our larger entries. At an NCIPC match at Fourwinds, Pat Drew (Mahjon) was the judge. She was temporarily living in Indiana.

Several After-The-Show parties were held at Fourwinds Farm to honor the English Judges. Club auctions are always held with donated items doing so well that they've kept the Club Treasury in great shape to this day. Members and friends of the Club have always been generous in donating exceptional items for the auctions and raffles and everyone has a good time.

Addendum

NCIPC has consistently had entries of 30 to 50 dogs. A highlight for our Club was when we hosted the PCA National in Chicago in 1996. The Sweepstakes entry was 26-30, plus 3 veteran sweeps. The Regular Class entry was 59-55-20-9, plus 3 stud dog entries. An amazing weekend for all.

More recently, we had a very good entry of 50 at our first back-to-back specialties in October 2010. Like other clubs, our members are struggling a bit with the economy and as a club we want to try to attract new Pekingese enthusiasts. To that end, and like several of the clubs highlighted in the previous issue of the OE, we are going to team up with an all-breed club (Little Fort KC) next year and hold back-to-back specialties. Our fall show is right around the corner, September 29, with judge Jason Hoke doing the honors. But come next June, we'll be in

Grayslake, Illinois for a 3-day show weekend with noted Pekingese authority, Luc Boileau, as our Saturday Specialty judge!

At this time in our history, it's sad to see some of our sister clubs struggle for entries and bare existence. It's sad to see our Pekingese numbers dwindle and so few new people getting into the breed. We hope all Pekingese Clubs and breeders will do their utmost to really promote and care for the breed we all love. We are fortunate to have the *Orient Express* still carrying the Pekingese flag high and proud. It's so appreciated. NCIPC wishes Pekingese lovers everywhere the best in their endeavors.

Barbara Stroomke