



President's Message by Francie Nelson

I'm writing this on the ninth straight day of above-80 October temperatures and I'm grumpy because I just love the fall, and this ain't "it." Nevertheless, fall is certain to arrive and with it will come "sweatshirt weather" – the ideal time to be outdoors with Springers. Enjoy it when it finally arrives!!

In this issue of the Vox, you'll find some great reporting from some VESSA members who attended the 2011 National Specialty in Providence, Rhode Island. It was hot there, too! VESSA members did very well – our Minnesota folks walked away from the National with High in Trial, High Combined, completion of some Obedience, Rally, and Agility legs/titles, and Best of Opposite Sex.

November, for TCVESSA, focuses our attention on our fall event and General Membership Meeting, to be held on Sunday November 13 at Pet Junction (intersection of 694 and Rice Street, Shoreview) from Noon – 3 PM. There will be ring time to show off your puppies, and obedience run-throughs. There's more information in this newsletter so be sure to join us. The General Membership Meeting kicks off 2012 – you'll get a report from our nominating committee, information on next year's specialty shows, and a report on our NEW annual banquet location!

Please join us on November 13

for a casual, fun afternoon with good Springer friends.

Francie (and Felon, who is very focused on "Jake" and "Eddie," northeast Minneapolis' very own pair of neighborhood-wandering wild turkeys. Wonder what they wanted at the bakery the other day.

Conformation by Francie nelson

While web sites and chat lists are readily available to share information about the recent National Specialty, I hope you'll enjoy a couple of paragraphs from this very happy National attendee. The National was my second trip to Providence (the first, in June, was for the two Eastern Specialty shows). I love the show site, and love the advance planning that our growing group of ringside (day) and bar/restaurant (evening) enthusiasts do, in order to ensure our own entertainment from dawn to midnight.

The conformation entry this year was modest in numbers, leading to a relaxed ringside audience with plenty of tent-covered space to sit and enjoy the show. There was a good representation of dogs and bitches from across the country – California to Florida, Washington State to Maine. The class that captured my attention completely was the Bred by Exhibitor Dog class. Not only was it excellent and deep with quality, but it was also, interestingly, comprised of some very interesting variations in breeding/pedigrees. I haven't enjoyed watching a class like that in a very long time.

When we got to Best of Breed, the champions lined up to musical selections that had been chosen to celebrate some important Eastern Springer folks and the sight (and sounds) proved to be quite emotional. At the end of the contest, "Peyton" prevailed as Best of Breed; "Mr. Darcy" was Best of Winners from that gorgeous Bred by Exhibitor Dog class, and our "Bailey" was Best of Opposite Sex, repeating her back-to-back Opposites from the two Eastern shows in June.

Our journey was "capped" by a 1:00 AM hotel evacuation on our last night due to a fire alarm. Truly, we went from the "sublime" of the competition to the "ridiculous" sight of coats-over-pajamas, or less. This hobby requires a well developed sense of humor . . .

Obedience & Rally by Jon Pidde

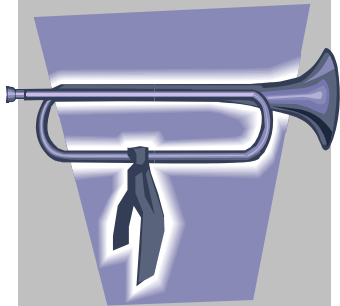
The obedience competition at the Nationals was held outdoors on grass with a little rain to keep things interesting. The dogs from Minnesota did a great job handling the conditions despite almost never competing outdoors. Kathy Patregnani with Splash and Jon Pidde with Benson were the top teams this year. Jon and Benson were second in Utility and first in Open *and* won the High in Trial award. Kathy and Splash were first in Utility and second in Open *and* won a run-off for the High Combined award.



Kathy also placed fourth in Open with her young dog Sizzle. BA Breese with Niki and Kris Radermacher with Willie were also there competing and having a good show. Kris and Willie placed fourth in Beginner Novice *and* third in Novice. BA and Niki placed third in Beginners Novice.

The rally competition at the Nationals was also outdoors on grass. There were off and on showers all day but Kathy Patregnani and her dogs were able to work through the rain and do a great job. Splash was first in Advanced and second in Excellent. Sizzle was third in Advanced and First in Excellent. Kathy with her two dogs won half of the placements in their classes.





TCVESSA

INVITES ALL MEMBERS AND SPRINGERS!!

Join us on

Sunday, November 13, NOON – 3 PM

For our annual fall General Membership Meeting at

Pet Junction

In the shopping center just north of the intersection of 694 & Rice
Street Shoreview, MN 55126-3037
(651) 490-0026

NOON – 1 PM: Show Dog Socialization and Handling Class

Bring your show dogs and puppies for an informal, fun learning session and socializing – no grooming necessary!

1:15 PM – General Membership Meeting

*Slate of officers/directors for 2012
Plans for our 2012 specialties
Preview of the March 10, 2012 annual banquet*

1:45 PM: Introduction to Obedience and Rally with Jon Pidde

Want to start in obedience or rally with your Springer? Join Jon in the ring to learn hands-on about Beginner Novice, Novice, and Rally!

NOTE: There's no room for crates in the facility so bring your dogs on lead or leash and keep them in your vehicles when they're not socializing or learning in the ring.

Treats for people and pups will be provided.

...And don't forget
to reserve
**Saturday,
March 10**
for the annual
awards
banquet—a new
location!
Happy hour starts
at 6:00PM...

Candidate Slate for TCVESSA

In accordance with the TCVESSA by-laws, Section 4, Item B, upon receipt of the nominating committee's report, the Secretary shall, at least three weeks before the Fall meeting, notify each member by US Mail or E-Mail of the candidates so nominated for the next fiscal year.

President Francie Nelson

Vice President Julie Roberts

Treasurer B.A. Breese

Secretary Kathy Raidt

Director Carmen Laing

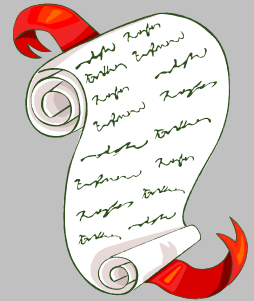
Director Liz Pike

Director Maryevelyn Monty

Director Jon Pidde

Director Kathy Patregnani

Kathy Raidt
TCVESSA Secretary
www.tcvessa.org





Part IV: SPRINGER MOVEMENT—“STRICTLY HIS OWN” by Francie Nelson

Until the 1950’s, our US breed standard contained a very important statement about English Springer Spaniel movement. That statement was “Movement: strictly his own.” To the breed expert, this suggests that English Springer movement is somehow unique, and it can be differentiated from the generic movement traits of the other spaniels, gun dogs, and dogs in general.

Though still photographs may not perfectly convey the concept of English Springer movement as unique, there is a dog that I would like to introduce. His name is *With Touch Holy Moses*. Bred in Sweden by long –time English Springer breeder Anna Lindh and owned by Tarja Hovila in Finland, Moses demonstrates the epitome of unique breed type movement traits:



Let’s see if we can find some words to explain why this picture defines unique, correct breed type movement.

- 1) First and foremost we’d have to point out that Moses has wonderful leg-body proportion. Here is another photograph of him as a puppy:





- 2) His angulation is correct and moderate.
- 3) A straight line from point of shoulder to ischium would be nearly horizontal to the floor.
- 4) He is in obvious excellent condition; good conditioning is a requisite component of good movement in any breed.
- 5) His carriage is naturally “proud and upstanding,” as called for; his neck is of adequate length and his loin is short.
- 6) His propulsion is the result of pushing from his feet, not his pasterns.
- 7) No one attribute is exaggerated.
- 8) His foot timing is perfect.
- 9) Most important of all, among the virtues of type that make English Springers unique among other breeds, is the easy and free quality of their movement.

As an element of type, this easy and free quality, which comes from a combination of attributes, is far more important than generic dog movement virtues and flaws possessed by most breeds.



English Springer Spaniels have undergone significant changes in the US since becoming popular as show and field trial competitors. In our conformation rings, judging now tends to be focused on generic strengths and faults rather than on elements of correct type, and the concept of breed typical movement is mysterious at best to most of us here in the US, who see it seldom and do not necessarily recognize it. In our field trials, the stamina, power and

endurance required for day long hunting is not relevant and, indeed, breed type is not of primary importance. This is so in the country of origin as well as here in the US.

A noted US breeder in a position to understand breed typical movement has said that English Springers cover a great deal of ground in few steps. If you examine the photograph above, you will notice that this Norwegian dog is covering a tremendous amount of ground. What are the general characteristics of this movement?

- 1) It is effortless. We could safely assume that this dog could continue this gait for hours on end.
- 2) It is powerful. This dog has depth, spring of rib, and a short loin – all elements that combine to make this possible.



- 3) The croup drives the action of the rear; this is a correct back/croup/tail set. Remember when we talked about how the croup has been raised and flattened in the US? The reason we want a slightly sloping croup is to enable the easy propulsion that you see above.
- 4) Great reach in front is aided by slightly sloping pasterns and plenty of flex in the joint, as you can clearly see in the photo.
- 5) Superb drive is created by a dog that is built to “push” from his feet, not from his rear pasterns.
- 6) This dog looks like he could “go and keep going,” “built for endurance and reasonable speed.”

Another long time Springer breeder has described breed-typical movement more colorfully, stating that “. . . it’s like water, flowing . . . “



Here’s a photograph (not current, and anonymous) of a moving Springer. The photo comes from a simple Google image search; identity and attribution unknown.

If you’re interested, I’ll convene an informal “chat group” at our General Membership Meeting on November 13 at Pet Junction. We’ll have a “compare and contrast” discussion about how the photo above differs from the photo of “Moses” on the move – hopefully advancing our shared education about breed type – and the wonderful, unique characteristics that make a Springer a Springer.

Bring your questions and observations on November 13!

Francie Nelson

Francie Nelson Associates/Fanfare Springers

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Member Wins and Brags

DarTek'sILeanKode to the Treasure CD
"Kodi"

Barb DiGiovanni/TeklaViker
9/9/11—Des Moines ESS Specialty
Winner's Dog

Championship Finished!

10/15-10/16—Lawrence KC
Rally Novice: First two legs/Score 99

Northwoods Can't See The Forest For The
Trees " Forest "

Shirley Harford
9/9/11 ESSCGD Des Moines, IA
12-18 Puppy Sweeps 3rd Place
Rally Novice 3rd Place 1st Leg

9/10/11 DOTC Des Moines, IA
Rally Novice 2nd leg

9/11/11 DKC Des Moines, IA
Rally Novice 3rd Leg
Rally Novice Title Earned!

9/18/11—CGC & TDI Test Passed
(Forest at 16 months!)

Fox Hollow SpringridgeRedroc RE CDX NA
"Lane"

Loved trained & handled by Brian Schaffer
9/18/11—Rochester KC
Q'd in Graduate Open 182.5 & 2nd place!

Ch. Keepsake 'n' Sunlaine Special Blend
"Bailey"

Breeders: Francie Nelson & Bonnie Regan
9/26/11—ESSFTA National Specialty
Best of Opposite Sex
(also Award of Merit, Keystone Specialty --
preceding the National)

Can. Ch.Spellbound's First Edition CGC TDI
"Booker"

Courtney Hansen
8/7/11—Bismarck KC WD/BOW 2 pts
9/11/11—Des Moines KC 3 pt major
Spellbound's First to Fly "Amelia"
Courtney Hansen

8/4/11—Bismarck KC WB/BOW/BOB
(3 pt major)

8/6/11—Bismarck KC WB/BOW/BOB
(3 pt major)

8/7/11—Bismarck KC WB/BOS (1 pt)

Spellbound's First Half Stache "Stache"
Owners Jim & Pat McGowen &
Courtney Hansen

8/5/11—Bismarck KC WD/BOW/BOB (2pts)

Am/Can/Int. ChWil-Orion's Spellbound's
CGC TDI TD RN "Charm"

8/12/11—Completed her 50th
Therapy Dog visit

GCH Delstyl's Aspen Full Reflection
"Hunter"

Owned by Liz Pike and Carol Hathaway
Des Moines Specialty 9/09/11 – Select Dog
Des Moines KC 9/10/11 – Select Dog
Des Moines KC 9/11/11 – Select Dog
Rochester KC 9/18/11 – BOB and Sporting
Group 2

Rochester KC 9/19/11 – BOB
Mason City KC 10/15/11 – BOB and
Sporting Group 2
Mason City KC 10/16/11 – BOB and
Sporting Group ONE

Aspen-Lace My Husband's Girlfriend
"Girlfriend"

Owned by Elizabeth and Chris Pike
Des Moines Specialty 9/09/11 – RWB
Des Moines KC 9/11/11 – Winners Bitch

