

Following is an extract from THE AUSTRALIAN SHIH TZU BULLETIN of October 1964. Many thanks to Thelmas Burnell for lending me this piece of club history, Ed.

THE SHIH TZU CLUB by Gwen Teele

During 1958, around about June, I sent out the first "Newsletter", which was just one typed page; this was made up of about six carbons and the original, and went out to a Shih Tzu owner in Queensland, one in South Australia, two in New South Wales and three in Victoria. Of these folk, the Queensland lady and two of the Victorian ladies are no longer active in the breed, but the rest remain.

Humble though this beginning was, it was indeed a start in banding together those interested in our breed.

During the first twelve months we added more names and addresses of enthusiasts and the one typed page grew to sometimes even three and it all had to be retyped to produce enough carbons.

So we made our next step forward and sent out a letter asking if the folk would be interested in banding into a Club and paying a small fee towards covering the expenses, which to date I had paid myself. All but one person wrote or phoned to say "go ahead and good luck" and so we looked around for some method of duplication and began our "Bulletin".

At first it was produced on a small silk screen duplicator which I had purchased privately and the cover was a hand drawn design on a coloured paper. The Bulletin originally came out monthly and had eight pages, but we found that news did not come in as readily as we had hoped, and so we changed to a quarterly issue and the magazine began it's growth to the present size of 24 pages.

With members being so scattered, it was not suitable to elect an actual committee but we went along with members sending in all the news they could muster and myself in the role of Editor putting it all together and sending out the resulting magazines.

Our next step forward was the printed cover; then Mrs. Reeves came in as Co-Editor and later took over the duplication and posting as her facilities were better able to cope with the ever-growing list of subscribers.

Mrs. Bode (Eng.) had been a wonderful help to us in sending out breed information and so we asked her to accept an Honorary Membership, which she was pleased to do. Thus began our overseas postage, which has now grown to cover two other complimentary copies (Sweden and France) and several other subscribers in England and America as well as nearer-to-hand New Zealand.

When necessary I have gone "banker" for the Club to help out with finances and spread purchases of covers, badges, etc., over a two/three year period. In this way we have managed to carry on with only a very small rise in subscription fee. To satisfy the many who asked about some sort of Club trophy, we purchased the present Club spoons which are on offer to Members sinning a CC at a Royal Show and as we grow we hope to add more trophies for competition in the various States.

Now we take another step forward and this is a very important one indeed. To date we have been a sanctioned Club only, as no State had enough to warrant actual K.C. affiliation and actual breed shows. However, with the increase of Shih Tzus in the Victorian Showring, we decided to ask the K.C.C. to review our application for fixtures. To comply with K.C.C. rules, we have now drawn up our Committee and submitted our Club Constitution.

The formation of our "sanctioned" Club at no time precluded the formation of an official Club in any other State, but to my knowledge, no other State has made any

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THE SHIH TZU CLUB by Gwen Teele continued.....

move towards the formation of such a Club. With the separate K.C.s in each State it is not possible to actually have an Australia-wide affiliation, so we had to choose one K.C. alone to become affiliated with and because those interested are in Victoria and the Bulletin is Victorian by birth and production, we have chosen the Victorian K.C.C. and therefore will have a Victorian Committee.

This will not affect the Shih Tzu Bulletin in any way - we may perhaps have a "Club" page to give all news of fixtures, meetings, etc., but otherwise the Bulletin will remain your magazine.

However, we do realise that interstate and overseas members will not be able to benefit directly by our meetings or our fixtures in the main and because of this it is proposed that we have Full Members (resident in Victoria) and Associate Members. The latter will remain at the present subscription and the Full Members will pay a little more.

Shortly we will hold our first fixture, which will be a Christmas get-together and Members' Competition. The K.C.C. allow three classes for each sex and "novelty" classes at such a fixture; so with novelty classes, such as "Best Head", "Best Gait", "Best Parti-Colour", etc., etc., we hope to work out a good program. We hope to have about 18 trophies on offer, plus a stall or so with which to build up Club finances.

It is hoped that we will be granted an Open Parade date for 1965 (The K.C.C. has allotted us Sunday, 29th August, 1965 for our Open Parade, J.Reeves), along with several Members' Competition dates and if we are able to satisfy the K.C.C. that the entries for these fixtures are satisfactory in number, we will be granted permission to hold a Shih Tzu Championship Show.

Victorian shows have very few trophies which are listed as "Members Only", so it is expected that trophies at our various fixtures will follow this rule, with perhaps the exception of Perpetual trophies which are governed by a rule laid down by the K.C.C. and must stay in the hands of the Club. Visitors from interstate (or indeed overseas) will be accorded our usual Victorian whole-hearted welcome, and competition warranted, we will perhaps arrange for an interstate class as do other Clubs.

Office bearers are: President: Gwen Teele
Hon.Secretary/Treasurer: Joan Reeves
Vice Presidents: Alan Wilkins and Joan Thoday
Committee Members: Margaret Fletcher, Joyce Gaspero,
Judith Morgan, Janet Pavlinovich,
Betty Teele, Laurie Reeves and
Bill Burnell.

WARNING!! WARNING!! THIS CAN KILL!!
NOW THAT WE ARE INTO SUMMER, A TIMELY REMINDER NOT
TO LEAVE YOUR DOGS IN THE CAR, EVEN FOR A SHORT
TIME - THE TEMPERATURE INSIDE THE CAR CAN RISE
VERY FAST WITH DISASTROUS RESULTS - DON'T TAKE
THE DOGS OUT IN THE CAR ON A HOT DAY UNLESS
ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY !!!