

Hav News & Views

Official Publication of the Havanese Fanciers of Canada

Winter 2023



In This Issue

President's Message

Message from the Newsletter Committee

Wags & Brags

National & Regional Specialty Results

Health Article: A Silent Killer

Know Your Breed Standard

Performance Sports

The Grooming Table & Product Review

Interview with Judge Sylvia Barkey

Take 5 with Gabrielle Kube

Winter Recipe

President's Message

Winter is definitely in the air. Here in BC, we went straight from shirt-sleeve temperatures to below freezing.

September was an exciting month for the HFC, with a National and Regional Specialty as well as puppy sweeps, junior handling, and obedience and rally. The BC Committee did an outstanding job with this large show and donated so much time, merchandise, money, and talent to make this a great event for everyone. If you attended, I hope you enjoyed the show as much as we all did.

We had club members from several provinces and participants from both the US and Canada. Everyone helped everyone, and we all got to meet new friends as well as meet up with old ones. We are planning at least one 2024 Regional, and our Nationals will be in Ontario next year. Stay posted.

I'm happy to introduce this fabulous copy of the Newsletter. We had a bit of a break in publishing due to a change in committee members,, and we all missed the newsletter very much.

President's Message, continued

We now have a new team, ready to jump in and offer great commentary, articles, features, and, of course, photos. Welcome back, Newsletter!

Lauren Goebel
President,
Havanese Fanciers of Canada



Message from the Editors

Welcome to the winter issue of the Hav News & Views. After many years of solid service, Claire Paulson has taken a deserved break from publishing our newsletter, and Rita Thomas, Melissa Keevil, and Dawn Oosterhoff have taken on the task.

The transition has taken a little work, so we apologize for skipping a fall issue. We hope you'll bear with us as we sort out new software, figure out how best to distribute the newsletter, secure fresh and relevant content for you, and just find our way around the project. There are still more kinks to work out, but we are also exploring some exciting changes that we hope will engage you.

Watch for the regular features we are building and some new features to come. We're also recruiting contributors to provide us with articles about pet food, training, agility, and rally obedience. Please let us know if there are other topics you'd like us to try and cover.

We also want to feature content from our members and readers. **Our extended thanks to this issue's contributors: Lynda Hand, Sylvia Barkey, Laurie Thompson, Wanda Brown, Gabrielle Kube, and all who shared their brags. We could not have put this issue together without you!** Everyone, please send us your photos and notes about your celebrations and achievements. We'd also love to get your reports from trials and shows and your articles and reflections. Send your content to HavNewsAndViews@gmail.com.

We'd also love your feedback: What did you like about this issue of the newsletter? What didn't you like? What else could we change or add to the newsletter? Again, send your comments to HavNewsAndViews@gmail.com.

We hope you enjoy what we've put together for you in this issue. We look forward to keeping you informed about Havanese and club activities. With our wishes for a happy holiday filled with joy, love, and light,

Rita, Melissa, and Dawn

Wags & Brags



Lynda Hand shares that Flare (Ch Seda's Walking On Sunshine) was given the Award of Merit BC Regional Specialty. Flare was bred by Lynda Hand.



Anthony Moore and Harrison Oakes of Cubano Havanese are proud to share that Soleil (Seda's Sun-Kissed Shores For Cubano) recently debuted as their first baby puppy. In her first three weekends, Soleil went MBBPIB, BBPIG, BBPISS, and BBPIS. Soleil is bred by and co-owned with Lynda Hand of Seda Havanese. All three are thrilled with Soleil's early success and excited for her bright future!

Wags & Brags



Melissa Keevil shares that River (CH Sonrisas Riverdance at Alegria) was awarded Best Puppy in Group and finished her CKC championship at Wine Country Kennel Club under Judge Tony Vandendool. River was bred by Rita Thomas of Sonrisas Havanese.



Melissa Keevil shares that Harlow (CH Alegria's A Curious Sort Of Bird) finished her CKC championship at Trillium Lakelands District Kennel Club under judge Honey Glendinning. Harlow was bred by Melissa Keevil of Alegria Havanese.

Wags & Brags



Gabrielle Kube shares that Sydney (Del Sol's She's Back in Black 4 Chickadee) finished her CKC Championship in style with a Group 2 at the Edmonton Kennel Club show in August. Sydney is bred by and co-owned with Margaret Wardle of Del Sol's Havanese.



Gabrielle Kube shares that Nellie (Chickadee Always On My Mind) finished her CKC Championship in July at the Prince George, BC show. Nellie was also awarded Best Puppy in Show in Grande Prairie, Alberta. Nellie is bred by and all owner-handled by Gabrielle.

Wags & Brags



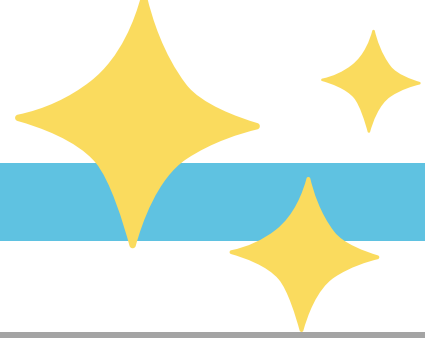
Renata Reneiro shares that Rico (GCH Havadah Rico Sauve NTD) was awarded best Stud Dog and get at the Regional Specialty and Best Stud Dog at the National specialty. Rico was bred by Deborah Dahl and handled by Renata Reneiro.



Debra Weatherford shares that Merlot won her second Best Baby Puppy in Show on Sunday at Credit Valley Kennel and Obedience Club under judge Elizabeth Muthard.

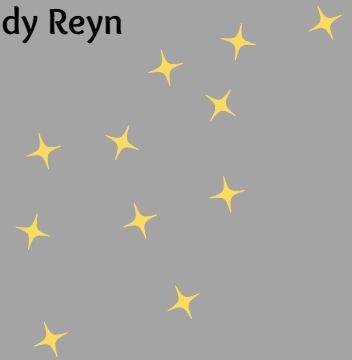
MBBPIS Amyla's Marilyn Merlot at Weatherford
Bred by Myriam Archambault
Owner-handled by Debra Weatherford

Wags & Brags



Rose Kimber shares that Jolly (Twinkle's Daring Carefree N Jolly CGN) won Group 4th and Best Puppy in Toy Specialty at the Maritime Toy Dog Club in September. Jolly is bred by Rose Kimber.

Photo credit: Wendy Reyn



Rose Kimber shares that Ryder was four times BOB and four times Group 1st at the Moncton Kennel Club. Ryder is now the #3 Havanese male in Canada and the #8 Havanese overall.

GCHB Seda's Ryder at Amistosa and Twinkle CGN NS

Ryder is owned by Rose Kimber and Terri Fudge, and lives his best life with Harrison Oakes and Anthony Moore. Ryder was bred by Lynda Hand and handled by Cody Longworth.

Photo credit: Cody Longworth

Congratulations to all!

National Specialty Results

September 23, 2023

Judge: Luiz Ribas Silva

Best Of Breed: 30 pts (4-8-11-8)
GChEx Oeste's Askin For Kisses

Best Of Opposite Sex
GChS MistyTrails Caught On Radar

Best Of Winners: (4-8-11-8)
That's She Gives No Leighway

Best Puppy In Breed
That's My Secret Stache

Select Dog
GCh Vanstone Little Prince Cinnabarmm

Select Bitch
Ch That's Precision, Elegance, And
Performance

Award Of Merit
Ch That's His Majesty's Coronation
Ch That's Un Chica Caliente

Best Veteran
GCh Pocopayasos I'm Aim N High

Best Brace
Pandabear's Calling Dibs
Ch Pandabear's Willow

Best Baby Puppy In Breed
That's Boys Will Be Boys Eh

Winners Dog: (4-8-11-8)
That's My Secret Stache

Reserve Winners Dog
Pandabear's Calling Dibs

Junior Puppy Dog Class
1st Pandabear's Calling Dibs
2nd Vanstone Journey With Cinnabarmm

12-18 Month Dog Class
1st Mylad's In Our Hearts

Bred By Exhibitor Dog Class
1st That's My Secret Stache

Veteran Male
GCh Pocopayasos I'm Aim N High
GCh Yup's Coal Harbour

Best Stud Dog
GCh Havadahl Rico Suave

4-6 Month Dog Class
1st That's Boys Will Be Boys Eh
2nd Cinnabarmm Not Everything Is Black And
White

Winners Bitch: (4-8-11-8)
That's She Gives No Leighway

Reserve Winners Bitch
Ivy Hills Aspire To Inspire

Junior Puppy Bitch Class
1st That's The First Sign Of Spring
2nd MistyTrails Coconut Moodonna
3rd Pandabear Havadahl Lolipop

Senior Puppy Bitch Class
1st Specialty Brie's Laurel

12-18 Month Bitch Class
1st Rosalba One More Moondance At Solstice

Bred By Exhibitor Bitch Class
1st Ivy Hills Aspire To Inspire
2nd That's Cuter Than Stink Eh

Open Bitch Class
1st That's She Gives No Leighway

4-6 Month Bitch Class
1st That's Girls Just Wanna Have Fun
2nd Cinnabarmm Spice It Up 4 Tenderheart

Congratulations to all!

BC Regional Specialty Results

September 22, 2023

Judge: Kim Skiba

Best Of Breed: 27 pts (4-8-9-7)

GChEx Oeste's Askin For Kisses

Best Of Opposite Sex

GChS MistyTrails Caught On Radar

Best Of Winners: (4-8-9-7)

That's His Majesty's Coronation

Best Puppy In Breed

Ch Havadahl China Doll

Select Dog

GCh Vanstone Little Prince Cinnabarmm

Select Bitch

Ch That's Precision, Elegance, And
Performance

Award Of Merit

Ch Seda's Walking On Sunshine
Ch Specialty Ebony's Yellow Stone

Best Veteran

GCh Pocopayasos I'm Aim N High

Best Brace

Pandabear's Calling Dibs
Ch Pandabear's Willow

Best Baby Puppy In Breed

That's Girls Just Wanna Have Fun

Winners Dog: (4-8-9-7)

That's His Majesty's Coronation

Reserve Winners Dog

That's My Secret Stache

Junior Puppy Dog Class

1st Vanstone Journey With Cinnabarmm

2nd Pandabear's Calling Dibs

12-18 Month Dog Class

1st That's His Majesty's Coronation

Bred By Exhibitor Dog Class

1st That's My Secret Stache

Veteran Male

GCh Pocopayasos I'm Aim N High
GCh Yup's Coal Harbour

Best Stud Dog

GCh Havadahl Rico Suave

4-6 Month Dog Class

1st That's Boys Will Be Boys Eh

2nd Cinnabarmm Not Everything Is Black And
White

Winners Bitch: (4-8-9-7)

Ivy Hills Aspire To Inspire

Reserve Winners Bitch

That's She Gives No Leighway

Junior Puppy Bitch Class

1st That's The First Sign Of Spring

2nd MistyTrails Coconut Moodonna

3rd Pandabear Havadahl Lolipop

Senior Puppy Bitch Class

1st Specialty Brie's Laurel

12-18 Month Bitch Class

1st Rosalba One More Moondance At Solstice

Bred By Exhibitor Bitch Class

1st Ivy Hills Aspire To Inspire

2nd That's Cuter Than Stink Eh

Open Bitch Class

1st That's She Gives No Leighway

4-6 Month Bitch Class

1st That's Girls Just Wanna Have Fun

2nd Cinnabarmm Spice It Up 4 Tenderheart

Congratulations to all!



A Silent Killer

by Lynda Hand

It was a day I will never forget. I awoke and let my dogs out for their morning run. Cane rushed to go outside and about 10 feet from his crate, he just dropped. He lay there, flat on the floor, without a single sound. No panting, nothing. An immediate trip to the vet and I learned that Cane had a splenic mass that had burst.

Just what is a splenic mass and what you should know about it?

The dog's spleen is a highly vascular organ that sits behind the stomach. It both produces red blood cells and removes old, damaged, or infected red blood cells. The spleen stores the healthy red blood cells and releases them into circulation in case of an emergency. It's an important organ, yet one that is a common site for development of tumors or masses.

These abnormalities in the spleen can generally be found by your vet with gentle palpation as part of an annual vet exam.

If the vet feels a mass, they will likely recommend an ultrasound to confirm the location of the mass and look for evidence of possible metastasis (cancer spread) into the abdomen. A chest x-ray may also be recommended to make sure there is no metastasis to the lungs.

Not all splenic masses are cancerous.

While a malignant (cancerous) splenic mass has a poor prognosis for the dog, a benign mass (non-cancerous) offers a much more positive outcome.

Unfortunately, to determine if the mass is benign or malignant, the spleen needs to be removed and sent for biopsy. Thus, even if an ultrasound and chest x-ray show no obvious spread of cancer, the vet may still recommend surgery to remove the spleen.

Unfortunately, and in Cane's case, many splenic masses are not detected until there is a crisis such as Cane experienced.



The dog drops in the middle of an activity and is too weak to stand. The gums will be ghostly white, and the abdomen will be fluid filled. Blood work shows a drastic decrease in circulating red blood cells.

There are only two options with such an episode: blood transfusions and emergency surgery to remove the spleen and stop the bleeding, or euthanasia. Because you cannot know definitively whether your dog's splenic mass is malignant or benign, the decision is particularly gut-wrenching.

These are some generalizations that may help you make a decision if faced with this situation:

- Large, non-ruptured splenic masses found on a routine physical exam have the best chance of being benign.
- Small breed dogs with splenic masses have a better prognosis overall than large breed dogs.
- About one-third of splenic masses in dogs are malignant. Other sources suggest that about half of them are malignant.

Heritability contributes to the risk of malignant splenic masses.

Hemangiosarcoma (a highly aggressive cancer of blood vessel cells) is common in certain large breeds.

The following are signs of a malignant splenic mass in dogs:

- General signs include lethargy, depression, dementia, inappetence, weight loss, constipation or unusual bowel movements, lameness, and decreased stamina.
- More acute symptoms are fainting or weakness, lack of coordination, partial paralysis, intermittent collapse, seizures, abdominal swelling, nosebleeds, coughing, and increased panting.

Researchers are working on better ways to determine before surgery if a splenic tumor is likely to be malignant. An article published in the Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association in 2021 (<https://doi.org/10.2460/javma.258.12.1362>) assessed an online calculator that your veterinarian can use to help predict the outcome for your dog.

The model uses several parameters, including blood test values, ultrasound findings, size of the mass, and the amount of fluid present in the abdomen, to help predict how likely a tumor is malignant, thereby helping owners decide whether to pursue surgery. The calculator can be found at T-STAT.org.

How long a dog can live with a splenic mass varies. If the mass is benign and the spleen is removed, your dog's life will be extended.

A study published in 2018 in the Journal of Veterinary Science found that the two-year

survival rate for dogs who underwent a splenectomy for a benign mass was nearly 78 percent. If the spleen is not removed, the mass will burst and put your dog in crisis.

Another study published in 2016 in the Journal of the Veterinary Medical Association found the median life expectancy of dogs who were treated for benign splenic masses was 436 days. Life expectancy for dogs treated with malignant splenic masses was just 110 days.

Removing the spleen is both a diagnostic (by providing tissue for biopsy) and a therapeutic procedure. A dog can live without their spleen. They may become more prone to infections and less effective at rapidly replacing red blood cells in a crisis, but for the most part, the other organs will step up and take over for the missing spleen.

I honestly wish I knew this information at the time of my boy's crisis. I may have chosen surgery over euthanasia. Perhaps learning about splenic masses will save the life of your own companion. My experience certainly stresses the importance of those annual exams.



In loving memory of
MPIG Ch Take Them By Storm My Seda AgN AgNJ
July 6, 2009 - November 16, 2016

Know Your Breed Standard

Origin & Purpose. Originating in the Western Mediterranean region, Havanese are descended from old world Bichon types. Early sea merchants brought these small dogs to Cuba where the breed was further developed and refined; for centuries prized by upper social classes as children's playmates and loving companions. Though numbers were severely decimated by the Cuban revolution of the late 1950's, the breed has regrown from surviving descendants. No longer a token of high society; the Havanese today is a companion dog to be enjoyed by all.

(Watch for excerpts from the Havanese breed standard in every newsletter. Questions about the standard welcome! Send your thoughts to HavNewsAndViews@gmail.com.)



Not Just a Pretty Face

by Wanda Brown

Without question, Havanese are beautiful and absolutely wonderful companion dogs. Many people are surprised to learn however that these little dogs can excel in performance sports and be talented working partners.

The options available in dog sports have expanded over the years and there is truly something for every team. I encourage you to explore the possibilities. There are lots of videos of the various dog sports online, and you can visit most events as an observer to get a direct view of the fun. Go out and watch and, hopefully, speak to some of the individuals who compete!

Sports where Havanese excel regularly include agility, tricks, and rally. While seen less frequently, Havanese also do well in obedience, scent detection, and sprinter. A few are dipping their paws into tracking and rats and barn hunt.

Here is a short description of various sports that will hopefully tweak your interest in learning more!

Agility

Dog agility is a sport in which a handler directs a dog through an obstacle course in a race for both time and accuracy. Dogs run off-leash and can be cued with verbal and physical cues. Depending on the agility class, the equipment can include various types of jumps as well as tunnels, weave poles, and contact equipment (A-Frame, dog walk, seesaw).

Don't be intimidated by the speed: agility is open to all ages and physical abilities! Some handlers run with their dogs; some teach their dogs to execute the obstacles independently at distance.

The associations that hold the most agility trials in Canada are the Agility Association of Canada (AAC) and the Canadian Kennel Club (CKC). UK Agility International (UKI) trials are also growing in number and popularity in Canada.

Rally Obedience

Rally Obedience can be described as obedience exercises performed in a course that is composed of a sequence of signs that give directions about the skills that need to be performed at each sign.

If traditional Obedience and Agility had a child, that child might look something like Rally.

Rally is intended to be fun and is typically more relaxed than traditional competition obedience. The emphasis is on a positive upbeat relationship between the handler and the dog, and handlers are encouraged to praise and interact with their dogs while they are in the ring. When done well, Rally looks like a dance.

There are two associations that hold rally trials in Canada: the Canadian Kennel Club (CKC) and the Canadian Association of Rally Obedience (CARO).

Are you intimidated by the thought of going into the ring with an audience? Perhaps you'd like to start with virtual trials! CARO and the AKC both offer the opportunity to earn Rally titles through their virtual trial programs. Watch for details on the virtual trialing programs in an upcoming newsletter!



Not Just a Pretty Face, continued

Tricks

Trick training offers an incredible opportunity to bond with your dog while training them to perform a wide variety of skills. Some tricks are obedience exercises, but the possibilities are almost unlimited as you advance: weaving through your legs, opening and closing doors, pushing a doll pram, retrieving items, and more.

In January 2020, the CKC adopted their Title Recognition Program for tricks, recognizing trick dog titles earned through Do More With Your Dog®. Titles can be earned at in-person events or through submission of videos to a trick dog evaluator. We are fortunate to have evaluators who are HFC members!

Obedience

While competitive obedience is hard work, it is rewarding and an opportunity to showcase your dog's training and working ability. The goal in the sport is to create a synchronized working partnership as the team performs a variety of exercises through the levels of the designated class: Novice, Open, or Utility.

If competitive obedience is your interest, find a trainer to work with who believes you should be having fun while building your dog's engagement and skills. Training is innately interesting for people, and enjoyable for dogs, if it is done well. Find the right trainer, and you and your dog will have fun!

Scent Detection

We all know that dogs have a great nose. There are working dogs employed around the globe using their noses to detect everything from explosives and wildlife to termites, bugs, and medical diseases.

The sport of Scent Detection allows dogs to enjoy the challenge of locating a scent and communicating with their handler that the scent has been found. Using their nose is very rewarding for dogs (scent is their strongest sense) and this sport is appropriate for dogs of any age or size, even if they have physical limitations.

CKC Scent Detection trials use wintergreen, pine, anise, birch, clove, and cyprus, depending on the competition level. One drop of scented oil is placed on a cotton swab and then hidden out of sight. It is up to the dog to find the scent within the specified search area and communicate to the handler with an alert that the source has been found.

There are five class levels in trials. Each class tests the dog's ability at a new, more challenging level, encouraging greater perseverance and fine-tuning their scenting ability. The scent source may be within a container, located in the interior of a building, or outdoors. Watching a small Havanese search a vehicle is definitely entertaining.

The Sporting Detection Dogs Association (SDDA) and the Canadian Kennel Club (CKC) hold scent detection trials across Canada.



Not Just a Pretty Face, continued

Sprinter

Think of this as the Havanese “Run Like Hell” game that earns titles. LOL! How fun is that? Sprinter is a timed, 100-meter dash, where dogs chase a lure (usually a plastic bag on a pulley system) on a straight course. Dogs run singly and their time to complete the 100 meters is converted into kilometres per hour. Dogs earn points based on their handicapped speed. Titles are awarded when a dog has accumulated a given number of points

Lure coursing also uses a lure, but the chase course has a twisting pattern that emulates the zigzag way that prey would run when being pursued.

Rats & Barn Hunt

Like scent detection, rats and barn hunt sports require teamwork between a dog that tracks and indicates the presence of rats in a designated environment and the effectiveness of the handler in reading their dog. The rats are kept in wire cages or thick PVC tubes and are never harmed in any way. They are well-loved pets who are raised and trained with dogs and are stress-free during the activity.

Titles earned through RATS! Canada are recognized by the Canadian Kennel Club (CKC).

Barn Hunt is a fun sport for dogs of any breed or mix that are able to fit through an 18” wide by bale-height tall tunnel. Dogs search for one or more rats who are safely housed in aerated tubes on a course made of straw bales.

Titles are earned through the Barn Hunt Association (BHA) and the titles are recognized by the Canadian Kennel Club (CKC).

What are the characteristics of your dog? Some dogs are quieter and more thoughtful; others are more driven and energetic. Both types can be good performance dogs when training with the right human partner.

Watch for more in-depth articles on the various performance sports and preparation for trialing in future newsletters.

Do you have a question about performance sports and working with your Havanese? Send your question to Wanda’s Wonderings at HavNewsAndViews@gmail.com and we’ll post your question and Wanda’s answer in the newsletter.



Coats of Many Colours

by Rita Thomas

Book Review: Royal Canin, *Dog Coat Colours: Description, Nomenclature, Genetics*, rev. (2023)

Royal Canin has released a 220-page publication on canine hair, and I give it ten out of ten stars while jumping for joy to finally have all this information available in one place. I have searched through many online documents, websites, and books to try and understand dog hair and how to deal with it, especially as it pertains to the Havanese coat. Royal Canin has put all that information and more in one book, an update to their 2008 publication. The book is not a product manual but an answer to what exactly a breeder is dealing with.

The initial sections of the book look at the history of coat terminology and colours in various breeds and point to the need to unify and standardize the vocabulary. I couldn't agree more. In researching assorted colours as a new breeder many years ago, I found it extremely difficult sometimes to figure out how certain names pertained to the Havanese. So often the names can be misleading. Is blue really the same as grey? Is tan the same as sand? When is chocolate a synonym for brown and when is it not? What does grey really mean in terms of hair colour? What is permissible, what is not? Is that grey from old age or is that the natural colour of my dog? If my dog is brown and his eyes are yellow, what does that mean? The authors maintain that it is time for all breeds to be unified in the terminology that is in use and base that terminology on science and genetics for both coat colour and texture.

Finally, I found out what is meant in some Havanese standards when they say, "No bird of prey eyes." I always thought that was a shape, but lo and behold, the expression refers to yellow eyes.

The second part of the book is the here and now of coat texture and colour. I hear from some that Havanese don't have fur, they have hair. No, no, say others: all dogs have fur. Well, which is it? Do all dogs really shed? Can I examine a Hav's coat and tell how much hair it will lose? Why does one Havanese have very long hair and another does not? One question I may never be able to answer is why are there so many different coat types in the Havanese?

In the next issue of Hav News and Views, I will post a quiz—open book, of course*—and let's see who can get all the answers!

** Readers interested in the book can download it from https://www.proexpertsforum.com/wp-content/themes/webapp/resources/English/R4-Coat_Colors%20in%20Dogs_DIGI-Compleet_165x240-UK.pdf. (You may need to create a free account to access the book.)*



The Grooming Table

by Dawn Oosterhoff

I am not a dog groomer, and I don't aspire to be one. But I do take pride in keeping my Havanese's coat in tip top shape, both when she was in the show ring and now in a pet cut. And I'll be honest, for me, grooming a Havanese is the adult version of playing Barbie. ;-)

So, I have been learning: online courses, an all-day hands-on workshop, private coaching, and a fabulous relationship with a local groomer. I read, I listen, I practise, I ask questions, and I share what I know.

My conclusion? When it comes to grooming Havanese, there is rarely one right way to anything. But every groomer will tell you two things: (1) A drop coat is unforgiving, and (2) **they** know the right way to take care of it.

- Always use heat. / Never use heat.
- Don't use a conditioner. / Always use a conditioner.
- Only use a velocity dryer. / Stay away from velocity dryers.

You get the point.

Layer on that the advice that is willingly shared among colleagues at ringside and, frankly, my head hurts and my largest regular expense is grooming products and equipment!

I don't know the one best way to take care of a Havanese coat, but I will still happily share my experiences, hoping that I have found at least one way to the perfect finish of a Havanese coat.

In the end, I think Havanese coats are like human hair: texture, type, and needs vary individual to individual. Your local water affects how various products work (or don't work). And your techniques, dexterity, and comfort with grooming tools will affect the outcome of your grooming as much as the products you use.

Above all, maintaining a Havanese coat – even in a short pet trim – requires at least some work. Maintaining a Havanese coat for show takes more work. And commitment. And a willingness to be curious, listen, experiment, and share.

My advice? I recommend that you never take any opinion or suggestion as the one right way. Some suggestions you'll just toss away, with grace, knowing that they are not for you. A few suggestions and a willingness to change may just forever change the way you groom.



CH Alegria's Cassiopeia of the Stars with Sonrisas, RN, RI, NTD-M, ITD, sporting a pet trim

We invite you to share your grooming tips and suggestions in what we hope will become a regular feature in our newsletter. Tell us about a new product you've tried and fallen in love with, one you tried but hated, or a trick or technique that has changed the way you groom your Havanese. Include some information about the type of coat you're working with and why you like (or didn't like) what you tried. We'd love to share what you learned.

Product Review

by Laurie Thompson

Chris Christensen's Quench Leave-In Conditioning Spray **8 oz / 236 ml**

I tried this aerosol leave-in spray as a brushing spray for my female Havanese. She has a black adult coat with fine but dry, flyaway hair. I had been using Chris Christensen's Just Divine brushing spray as a complement to Clean Start and Spectrum 10 conditioner, but her coat needed something more.

I was pleased with the results of the Quench spray. I noticed a difference in how her coat felt within a couple of days. The hair cuticles seemed closed and her hair silkier with more sheen. The brush and comb moved through Zaagi's coat with more ease. I deliberately did a heavy application one evening to determine how much tackiness the spray might create, but to my surprise, it didn't create any. The spray does not seem to accumulate over days either.

Almost two weeks later, I'm still noticing improvement in Zaagi's coat. Quench may become my go-to product for brushing spray as we head into the dry air of winter. I like the way it has moisturized the coat and brought out some sheen without adding weight or stickiness to her coat.



before



Sonrisas Midnight Zaagi, with a much-improved coat, prepping for her appearance at the Aurora & District Kennel Club show

Interview With a Judge: Sylvia Barkey



Hello Fanciers! My name is Sylvia Barkey and I have been judging since 2004.

How long have you owned dogs, and what breeds have you owned?

My own beloved breed is the Staffordshire Bull Terrier. I have been breeding them since 1976. I also enjoyed breeding Toy Poodles for ten years, but the coat always remained a challenge for me. I'm much better with the natural look that your breed sports!

What do you do in your "other life"?

My husband, Dan, and I are retired from the horse and cattle industry, but we seem to be still very busy. Our son took over the cattle end of our business, but the horses we used to lease to camps and riding establishments (there were 200 horses) were sold during COVID because all programs were cancelled. It was an excellent time to retire.

Tell us about the first time you saw a Havanese?

I first met the Havanese breed in Cuba. Cuba is a home away from home for me. I was there a lot, until my three favourite Cuban families finally joined us here in Canada. Hopefully, with COVID not limiting our activities as much, I can return to my old stomping grounds again.

Of course, most of the dogs I would see in Cuba were house pets, not show dogs. There is an active dog show world in the Caribbean, but you seldom run into those dogs on the streets, whereas you see many, many dogs in the small yards of the casitas. Many of those dogs are Havanese or Havanese crosses.

The first time I saw Havanese in my ring in Ontario, I related them in my mind to those I had enjoyed watching in Cuba. The type definitely holds. The most obvious difference lies in the grooming, or lack of it, in the Cuban house pets.

But here is an interesting observation: I became accustomed to seeing many dogs housed on the flat roofs of the casitas, or Cuban houses. This puzzled me. It's so hot up there. Why were the little dogs up there?

Why indeed. I asked and was told, "When the bitches are in season, we put them up on the roof so that they cannot be bred." Incredibly genius, I suppose, when you don't have fences, but a true testament to correct coat because these little dogs did not appear to be hot or in any sort of discomfort.

Light airy coats do indeed insulate very well. I bear this in mind when I judge the breed, and I pay attention to coats. I look for airy, not necessarily profuse.

I admit that I am not a great fan of corded coat because I find it often too heavy. You do see some corded coats in the United States.

I also do not like dogs that fall into the direction of toyishness. Blunt short muzzles, over-domed heads, dogs that are too compact. They look contrived and the features work against the natural underdone look of a proper Havanese.

What is a pet peeve of yours when judging Havanese?

And now my pet peeve. I have read some articles that indicate that the Havanese should have a short upper arm and that this is what gives them their light springy action.

What a load of crap! I have never seen that kind of forequarters in any of the dogs I admired in Cuba. I also find it a hard pill to swallow when these statements come from a country that does not allow its citizens to visit that country. I would like to know how they came to this conclusion.

The elasticity of the breed comes from a nice layback, a flexible body, and a rear with moderate proportions that allow the dog to jump with ease, turn on a dime, and hold itself on its hind legs.

Short upper arms add a flip to the arm, lifting it high but not springing it forward. It is a huge fault in so many breeds, and it places the front forward, not under the withers where we want it. The statement is incorrect.

While I admire a dog moving, I will always look at the parts and bits that are covered by hair and can be concealed. I want to see the whole package. I also want a happy dog. A dog who isn't groomed and sprayed. The dog should be casual and carefree. A child's playmate and a loving companion. Bright and attentive. This is the Havanese I want to see in MY ring.



Take 5 with Gabrielle Kube



1 Why did you join the Havanese Fanciers of Canada?

I joined the Havanese Fanciers of Canada to be part of moving this beautiful breed forward. I think it's important to be involved in the National Breed Club with like-minded people. One thing that I found exciting was the new requirements for health testing.

2 What is the story behind your kennel name?

My kennel name, Chickadee, is in memory of my mother. Her favorite bird was the chickadee, and to this day, I can still hear her singing the tune.

3 To date, what is your proudest accomplishment with your Havanese?

I'd have to say it was this year when my Bred By won Best Puppy in Show. It took me a long time to get to this point, and showing her has been a reminder of why I was so patient in waiting for what I felt was the right dog. I've never been more excited than I am now and so incredibly grateful to those who have provided the foundations on which I'll be able to continue.

4 What concerns do you have, if any, about the future of our breed?

As a whole, I believe the Havanese is looking better than ever after countless breeders have devoted their time plus so much more to improving the breed. However, I often think about the outline of Havanese, which is clearly stated in our CKC standard. When we look at a Havanese, we should see an outline with correct length of muzzle, a visual length of neck, topline with a tailset, and carriage as the standard describes. That image is what we see at first glance, saying it is indeed our delightful little dog. Without being overdone in any area, we should all have the common goal of moving this breed forward in the pursuit of bettering the breed. Every decision we make now impacts generations to come. Our decisions should not be based on popularity.

5 What is your favourite activity to do with your Havanese?






I enjoy showing my dogs in conformation, but I also enjoy taking any sort of classes with them where we can build deeper bonds. I'm also quite content to have them snuggle on the couch.



Winter Recipe

DIY Protective Paw Wax

You will need:

-  3 oz beeswax (a protective barrier)
-  3 tbsp coconut oil (antibacterial)
-  3 tbsp calendula (heals and soothes cracked paws)
-  3 tbsp avocado oil (moisturizing properties)
-  Containers to put the wax in

(You can use wide-mouthed mason jars, silicone muffin cups, or any jar large enough to place a paw in. Tip: Use small decorative containers from the dollar store and make enough to give to friends and family as a gift.)

Directions:

Gently heat all ingredients on the stove until melted. Once melted, pour the wax into your desired moulds.

Apply to your dog's paws before going outside in the winter.

The beeswax acts as a protective barrier. The coconut oil has antibacterial properties. The calendula heals and soothes cracked paws. The avocado oil has moisturizing properties.

Credit: Rodney Habib, "DIY Paw Wax" (video), PlanetPaws.ca, posted on YouTube, December 16, 2016, <https://youtu.be/CursaKdan2A>





Club Officers

President

Lauren Goebel
presidenthfc@googlegroups.com

Vice-President

Paula Martel
vpgfc@googlegroups.com

Treasurer

Terri Fudge
treasurer@havanese fanciers.com

Secretary

Claire Paulson
secretaryhfc@googlegroups.com

Regional Directors

Atlantic Region

Debra Johnson Boudreau
atlanticdirector@googlegroups.com

Alberta

Lynda Hand
lynda.hand@icloud.com

Quebec

Myriam Archambault
marcham11@sympatico.com

Prairies

Claire Paulson
clairepaulson@yahoo.com

Ontario

Margaret Lacey Wardle
mlacey.wardle@yahoo.ca

British Columbia

Brenda Foster
brenwyn@telus.net