

# HAV NEWS & VIEWS

Official Publication of the Havanese Fanciers of Canada

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Submissions for the summer  
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2024.



Photo submitted by Kate McRae

## Leaping Forward

Welcome to the Spring 2024 edition of *Hav News & Views*! We're celebrating the new show season, the return to performance sports, renewed commitments, and of course, all things Havanese.

*It's your newsletter!*

Thank you for the feedback you gave us on the Winter 2023 edition. Your comments and suggestions are helping us grow and turn this newsletter into something that can be enjoyed by everyone.

To help make this newsletter the best it can be, we would love to feature your Havanese in the newsletters through both brags and candid photos. Brags don't have to be just conformation wins. We





Photo submitted by Rose Kimber

## Letters to the Editors

Dear Lynda,

Thank you for your article about splenic masses in the winter 2024 newsletter.

We had a 12.5 year-old Havanese who was my constant companion. One day, she was perfectly fine, until she wasn't. My experience was a lot like yours: Kona just laid down and never made a sound. I rushed her to the vet and within an hour, she was gone. The vet thought that Kona had a mass that ruptured.

I never saw it coming, and it all happened so quickly. Kona's loss devastated me. That day has played in my mind since, wondering if I could have done something more or different.

Although I don't know for certain that it was Kona's spleen, my experience was similar to, if not the same as, yours. I'm sorry for the loss of your pup. I know the pain and loss you probably experienced.

Thank you for sharing your experience. It touched me and I'm sure will touch others.

– Roxanne

welcome all your relevant brags! We would also like to feature your Havanese being a Havanese. We know you've got those candid photos on your phone. Please send them to us. You can send your photos and notes at anytime to **havnewsandviews@gmail.com**. Include your name, your kennel name if you have one, and your dog's call name and registered name. If submitting a brag, add information about the win, ribbon, or title.

### *Letters to the Editors*

We are also adding a new feature: a column for your letters and comments to the newsletter editors. This is your opportunity to share your feedback on the newsletter, ask questions of committees or regular contributors to the newsletter, or offer suggestions for club activities and goals. We welcome honest feedback and ask only that you express your opinion kindly and constructively. Send your letters and comments to us at **havnewsandviews@gmail.com**. The editors reserve the right to choose which letters will be published.

### *Your Newsletter Committee*

We have a few new members on the HFC Newsletter Committee, and we are all working hard to bring you relevant content to enjoy. We hope everyone enjoys the content we have put together for you in this Spring issue.

— *Melissa Keevil (committee chair), Dawn Oosterhoff (editor and layout), and Wanda Brown, Lynda Hand, and Lisa Barry (contributors)*

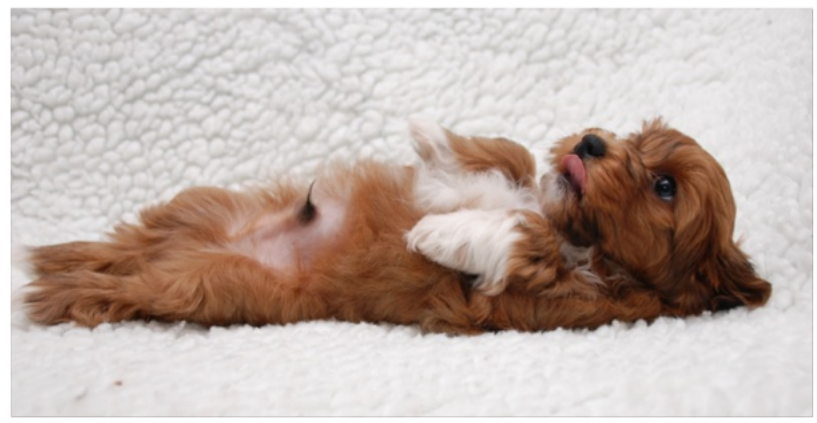
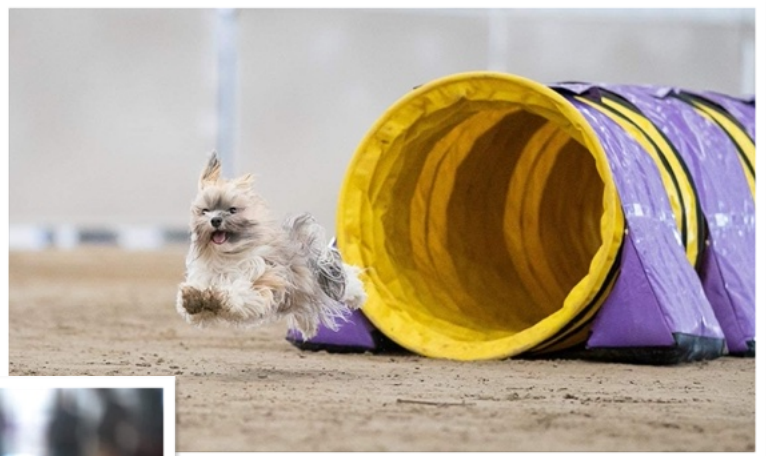


Photo submitted by Rose Kimber

## Wags & Brags



Kate McRae shares that "Miss Frizzle," Alegria's Star of Magical Adventures, just turned two and recently competed in her first UKI cup, a large agility competition. She did very well, placing 5th in the games challenge and 8th overall. She was the only Havanese and represented the breed well!



Craig and Marianne Stancin share that "Kevin," Seda's Chosen One, has earned his Novice Sprinter title. Kevin is reported to be 100 per cent Havanese with the heart of a sighthound, earning 374 points in just seven events! Kevin was bred by Lynda Hand is owned and loved by Craig and Marianne.



# Wags & Brags



Kimberly Van Biert shares that “Javier,” CH Vanstone Little Thief of Hearts, won back to back Group 2 at Mount Cheam in BC. Javier was bred by and is owned and handled by Kim.



Lucy Lancaster shares that “Maggie,” Mariposa’s Magnificent Magnolia at Lancaster, won Best of Breed and a Toy Group 2nd as a 4-month old in her first Beginner Puppy Show. Maggie was bred by Michele Nieberding and is owned by Lucy Lancaster.



# Wags & Brags



Sabrina Sims shares that "Charlie," Yup's Coal Harbour, earned the Versatility Silver award. Charlie earned silver, the fifth of six levels of the award, with an impressive 30 titles! A young 9 years old, Charlie is not yet ready to retire.

Dawn Oosterhoff shares that "Cassi," CH Alegria's Cassiopeia of the Stars with Sonrisas, RI, RN, ITD, NTD-M, earned her CGN. Cassi was bred by Melissa Keevil and is co-owned with Rita Thomas.



## Wags & Brags



Laurie Thompson shares that "Zaagi," Sonrisas Midnight Zaagi, earned her CKC championship with a Best of Opposite at the Brantford & District Kennel Club Show in December. Zaagi was bred by Rita Thomas and handled by Dawn Oosterhoff.



*Congratulations to all!*

## Versatility Title Program

CKC introduced its versatility program a few years ago, and the Havanese Fanciers of Canada are committed to supporting its members with education about pursuing versatility titles. Havanese are a multi-talented, suited-for-all-activities type of dog, so they are an ideal breed for owners interested in the program. That said, the versatility program does require some skills in logic to sort out how you qualify.

Details about the program can be found on the CKC website at <https://www.ckc.ca/CanadianKennelClub/media/Documents/Events/CKC-Versatility-Program-Overview.pdf>. The program is complex, but here are a few basics to get you started:

- There are six versatility titles: Novice, Advanced, Excellent, Bronze, Silver, and Gold. You can jump into the program at any level for which you qualify.
- Each versatility title requires a minimum of three CKC-recognized titles, which must already be on the dog's record with CKC.

### *Versatility Title Program, continued*

- The CKC-recognized titles that apply to earning a versatility title are broken into five levels of lowest to highest value (A through E). The lowest versatility title (Novice) requires titles only from Level A (titles of the lowest value). The next versatility title (Advanced) requires titles from Level B (titles of the next higher value). As you climb the ranks in the versatility titles, you require at least one or two titles from the correlating level of higher value plus one or two titles from specified lower levels.
- You can use a higher level title for a required lower level title. For example, a title from Level B can be used as one of the three titles from Level A required for Versatility Novice.
- Adding to the complexity, the levels of titles are subdivided across six categories of titles that are grouped by relationship, such as obedience and rally obedience (Category I), conformation and CGN (Category II), and agility, sprinter, and chase (Category III). When applying for a versatility title, each CKC-recognized title being claimed for the versatility title must not only come from the specified level (or higher) but must also come from a different category. For example, for Versatility Novice, you must have three Level A (or better) titles and each of the three titles must come from a different category.

A few final notes:

- There is no fee to apply for a versatility title if you are a CKC member.
- If you use a higher level title than is required for a versatility title, you can claim that title again in an application for a higher versatility title. For example, if your dog is a conformation champion (CH—a Level B title in Category II), you can use that title for both Versatility Novice and for Versatility Advanced.

The versatility titles are not easy to earn, and those who earn them should be congratulated. If you have earned a versatility title with your Havanese, please let us know so we can celebrate you!



### **HFC 2025 Calendar: Request for Photos**

The calendar committee is planning our Havanese calendar for 2025. The calendar will be for sale on the HFC website toward the end of summer and at the National Specialty being held in September in Ontario.

We haven't had a calendar for two years, and we hope everyone is as excited as we are about the 2025 edition.

To put together a great product, we need your candid photos of your joyful and fun-loving Havanese. We especially welcome any themed photos that could be used for seasonal and holiday months.

We hope to collect a good inventory of photos that we will save in a repository to be shared with the Newsletter and Social Media Committees.

Please send us your **original, high resolution photo** to [havanese.fanciers.calendar@gmail.com](mailto:havanese.fanciers.calendar@gmail.com) by April 30th. Include your full name and address and indicate the credit to be assigned to the photograph.

# The Training Corner

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## Small Dogs, Big Decisions: Choosing a Puppy Class

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by Kate McRae

Kate has been training dogs for sport and performance since 2007 and has been performing with her dogs with Global Pet Foods SuperDogs since 2009. She has taught many classes, including puppy, basic obedience, tricks, disc, and agility.

It is not news to anyone reading this that Havanese are smaller sized dogs. This is excellent in so many ways: Havanese are portable, and grooming doesn't take as long as it does to groom a larger drop-coated breed. Havanese also don't require as much food or as large a dose when medications are needed. All big perks!

However, a Havanese's small size does come with some big considerations when we talk about including them in our lives. This article series will focus on these considerations, with the first article zeroing in on choosing a puppy class.

Most importantly, begin by choosing a trainer who uses and teaches training methods that are backed by science. This means that the trainer understands the science behind the mechanics of learning and is familiar with studies that examine and validate how to use those mechanics of learning effectively and safely.

Havanese are a small, people-focused breed, and they thrive on positive reinforcement and force-free training styles. As it happens, this is the training method recommended by science and up-to-date dog behaviourists. We know from studies that training with positive reinforcement and without the use of aversives that cause discomfort or fear (prongs, e-collars, or harsh physical or verbal corrections) is more effective in

creating sustained behaviours and building bonds based on trust. The trainer you choose should use and teach these positive reinforcement methods and advocate an approach that is fun and causes the least stress for the dog. The challenge is identifying those trainers.

The reality is that the dog training industry is entirely unregulated. Anyone can decide to be a dog trainer, cook up a spiffy website or social media presence, and away they go. You can navigate this field by looking for trainers who are certified. People registered through the Certified Council for Professional Dog Trainers (CCPDT) will have the initials CPDT-KA® (Certified Professional Dog Trainer—Knowledge Assessed) or CPDT-KSA® (Certified Professional Dog Trainer—Knowledge and Skills Assessed) following their names. Trainers may also be certified through the Karen Pryor Academy (KPA), which also relies on the science of dog behaviour in developing their training methods. Certification is not a requirement—there are lots of great trainers who are not certified—but this is one of the easier ways to tell that someone is going to be training in a science-based fashion.

Another consideration is the language that the trainer or school uses in their advertising, on their website, or in their social media. Generally, if advertisements talk about helping you to become the “alpha” or “pack leader” in your relationship with your dog, the trainer or school is not likely using methods informed by science.

The next consideration is how the puppy classes



### *Small Dogs, Big Decisions: Choosing a Puppy Class, continued*

are structured. It is common practice to offer a “puppy play time” either before, during, or after the structured training lesson is offered. This is where the small size of our puppies is especially relevant. Playmates need to be chosen VERY carefully. Small puppies are easily overwhelmed and can quite literally be bowled over by larger, more exuberant puppies. Beware of the misguided advice that small dogs should be left to work it out for themselves and avoid trainers who adopt that approach. I’ll go over this more in the socialization article to come, but this is an issue to keep in mind in the training setting as well.

As a trainer, I prefer to run classes without a puppy playtime. I think class is more effective if the focus stays on the puppy working with their person rather than playing with other puppies. Play time is important, but I think it is most helpful when the play is separate from class time. I recommend selecting a puppy class without an included playtime or selecting a class with play time on a different day. I also encourage people to exchange numbers and get together outside class for play time. A note of caution though: play time is all fun and games until it isn’t. Ensure that the person supervising the play session—and that’s

you if you are meeting with a friend for a play date—knows how to read a puppy’s body language and how to redirect play quickly and safely if the play becomes unbalanced or poses a physical risk for your small puppy. If you are supervising an out-of-class play date and you are not sure what balanced and appropriate play looks like, reach out to a trusted professional for help before having the play date.

If you can’t find a puppy class without play time, when play time does happen, you should feel comfortable excusing your puppy and you from class for those few minutes. Alternatively, sit on the floor with your puppy and create a safe space by making a circle with your legs. Let your puppy hang out with you on the floor in that safe space and observe. Reward their attention to you, and don’t be afraid to gently but firmly push away larger puppies that invade your puppy’s safe space.

In general, when training our Havanese, we want to go at their pace, teaching them needed skills with patience and positive reinforcement in an environment that supports us in doing so.

Happy training!

## **You Asked: Distance Sends in Agility**

by Wanda Brown

A reader asks, “Is it difficult to train Havanese in distance work in agility knowing that they tend to be ‘Velcro dogs’? Would you pick a puppy that was more independent, or can any Havanese be trained for that kind of activity?”

I believe any Havanese can be trained to work at distance. Personally, I would pick a puppy who is “biddable” (interested in training and eager to

follow directions) and who seems interested in me.

Two important factors in teaching our dogs to work at distance are building the dog’s confidence and building value for the distance component of the work.

Begin by integrating a distance component in the

### *You Asked: Distance Sends in Agility, continued*

foundation training that do with your puppy. For example, send the puppy around a cone, rewarding the puppy for circling around the cone. Start with a small distance of a foot or so, then slowly increase the distance from which you send the puppy to the cone. Cone work can be used to teach “come to hand” and crosses for agility. It is also a fun element to use in heeling work to make heeling more dynamic and engaging.

The mistake many people make is having their dog come back to the handler for the reward when they are working on distance skills. In the dog’s mind, that increases the value of returning to the handler. There’s no value for the dog moving away from the handler to execute the obstacles or the task.

For example, if the dog is sent forward independently over two jumps to a tunnel, the reward should be delivered as the dog is exiting the tunnel, not when the dog comes back to the handler. How can that happen?

If you are training with a friend or instructor, your friend or instructor could position themselves beside the tunnel exit and throw or deliver the toy or reward as the dog comes out of the tunnel.

If you are training alone, you could use a Treat & Train (a remote-controlled reward system), which drops treats when the mechanism is activated with an electronic hand-held remote that can be operated from up to 100 feet away.

Other options for rewarding away from you include throwing the dog’s toy to the tunnel exit, or if using food, putting the food in something closed that can be thrown to the dog as they exit the tunnel.

I am not a fan of throwing loose food onto the



A distance-operated treat and train device

ground because it motivates some dogs to shop in hope of discovering morsels. Treats can be put in a lotus ball or a small plastic container with a lid. The dog will go to the landing spot and either open the lotus ball or wait for you to arrive to open the plastic container to deliver the reward.



Treat ball or “lotus ball”

If we make distance work fun and rewarding, Havanese are game!

*Have you got a question about training your Havanese? Send your question to [HavNewsAndViews@gmail.com](mailto:HavNewsAndViews@gmail.com) and we'll put Wanda on the case!*

## Product Reviews

### Wahl Arco Cordless Clipper

by Gabrielle Kube

The Wahl Arco cordless clippers have been a part of my routine grooming for over 10 years, and I would be lost without them.

These clippers are perfect for tidying faces, feet, and sanitary areas. They are lightweight and easy to hold. The cordless

option saves the user from the awkwardness and weight of maneuvering a cord — especially important while clipping delicate areas. These clippers are also quiet with little vibration, making them excellent for young puppies learning to be groomed. I use the Wahl Arco on puppy feet and puppy bums without much of a fuss.

The Wahl Arco comes with a charging base, two batteries, and a few other accessories. The



batteries last long enough to work through a few dogs on one charge. When I have had an issue with a battery, it's been my error.

The blade has an adjustable 5-in-1 setting that goes from #9 to #40 with an easy-to-use lever on the

side. An added bonus is this blade does not heat up. As with all clippers, the Wahl Arco's blade needs to be kept clean. Also, remove the blade regularly to clean out any hair that gathers inside. Both are easy to do. Although the blade is long lasting if properly maintained, it can also be professionally sharpened, making the clippers cost efficient.

The Wahl Arco is available at various stores and Amazon for around \$150.00. I love these clippers so much that I have two in case my old ones decide to call it quits! I'll gladly give these clippers 5 stars.



Have you got a product you've used for your Havanese that you love or one that you would caution others not to purchase? We'd love to hear about your experience. Email us at [HavNewsAndViews@gmail.com](mailto:HavNewsAndViews@gmail.com).

## Artemis Whelping Box

by Melissa Keevil

I bought the Artemis Whelping Box just over two years ago and have used it successfully for a few litters now.

The Artemis Whelping Box system is made up of four or more panels of a lightweight but sturdy plastic that can be connected and assembled in various configurations. The panels come in two sizes: 40" long x 22" high panels or 59 x 26" panels. The smaller 40 x 22" panels are the perfect size for a toy breed such as the Havanese.

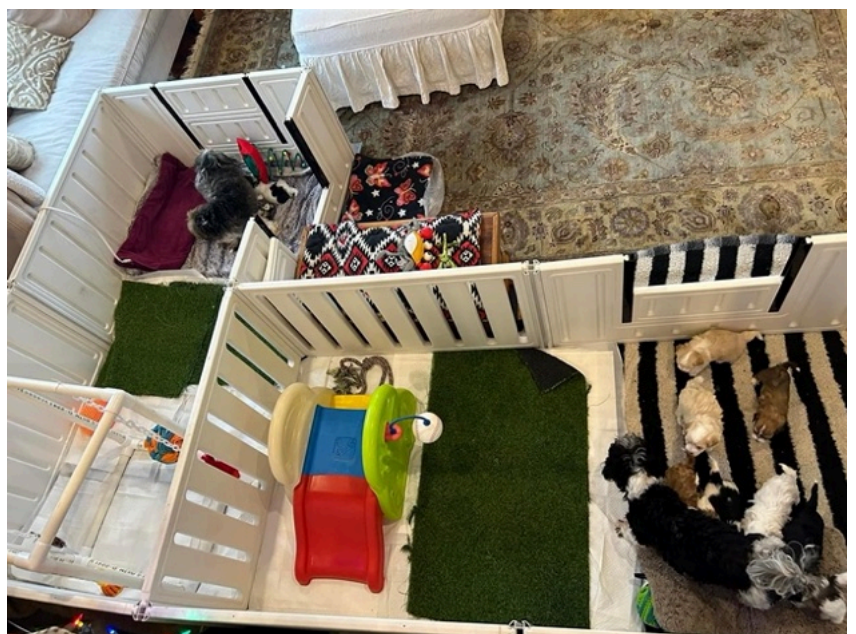
One of the panels is made up of two lateral door pieces so that one or both can be removed to make it easy for the dam to hop in to the pen with her puppies or get out for some much-needed space.

The system also comes with pig rails to protect newborn puppies from the dam rolling on them. I did find the pig rails difficult to keep connected to the corners because the pieces that connect them are a little flimsy. Whenever I changed the bedding, I would have to reconnect the pig rails, and sometimes they would get knocked out of place even without my help. This design flaw can make it a challenge to keep the rails at the proper distance from the walls.

Nonetheless, the pig rails themselves

are quite large, so even if the rails are pressing up against the wall, they function as the protective barrier needed for a toy breed. (I would be more concerned if I had a larger breed.) I do hope Artemis improves on this design in future though.

A significant advantage to the Artemis system is that all pieces are easy to clean and disinfect. And once taken apart, the pieces are relatively easy to store.



# Interview with a Judge

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## Bob Rowbotham

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How long have you owned dogs?

I have owned purebred dogs since 1975

What breeds have you owned?

I have owned Afghan Hounds, Salukis, Miniature Long-Haired Dachshunds, and Cairn Terriers. I have also co-owned Labrador Retrievers, Golden Retrievers, and English Setters.

What do you do in your "other" life?

I currently am retired. I am a broadcast journalist by trade and have been involved in the newspaper and radio industry for almost 50 years. I currently spend much time in my gardens and on the golf course when not doing "doggy" things.

Tell us about the first time you saw a Havanese in your ring?

I saw Havanese long before I started judging. I handled professionally for 20 years and taught handling classes. Rita Thomas brought a Havanese to my handling classes years ago when the breed was first being seen in Canada.

What are the main differences between the first time you judged a Havanese and the most recent time?

I think the biggest difference I am seeing is the loss of the Havanese top line. Also, unfortunately, Havanese are being shown faster and faster in the ring. I do not believe this is correct movement in my view.

What is a pet peeve of yours when judging the Havanese?

I touched on it above. Please, please. Please. Do NOT race your Havanese around the ring.

Can you offer a piece of advice for those who show Havanese in your ring?

Grooming is important. Not the be-all and end-all, but a clean exhibit is appreciated.

Do you feel there is an aspect of the standard that is being forgotten about when you are judging this breed?

It goes back to the top line. Most breeds do not ask for a Havanese top line as described in the standard [with a slight rise over the loin]. More and more dogs I see in the ring are losing it. It is one of the hallmarks of the breed.

Which do you rely on more, visual or manual evaluation?

Both equally. My eyes tell me structure when the dog enters the ring; my hands verify what my eyes see.

When you look down a line up of Havanese, what catches your eye?

A well groomed, rectangular dog. The rise over the loin is not perceptible until examination. I tend, as with most toys, to examine on the table and judge on the ground.

Any final thoughts on the breed?

One of my favourite toy breeds to judge.



# Know Your Breed

## The Forequarters: A Short Upper Arm?

Forelegs straight and parallel, lean; good bone structure; moderate angulations. Distance from ground to elbow equals that from elbow to withers. Elbows close to body.

Havanese breeders have debated whether Havanese should have a short upper arm. (The upper arm is the humerus, the bone of the foreleg between the shoulder blade and the elbow.) In our Winter 2023 Newsletter, Judge Sylvia Barkey raised the issue of the short upper arm, noting it as a pet peeve:

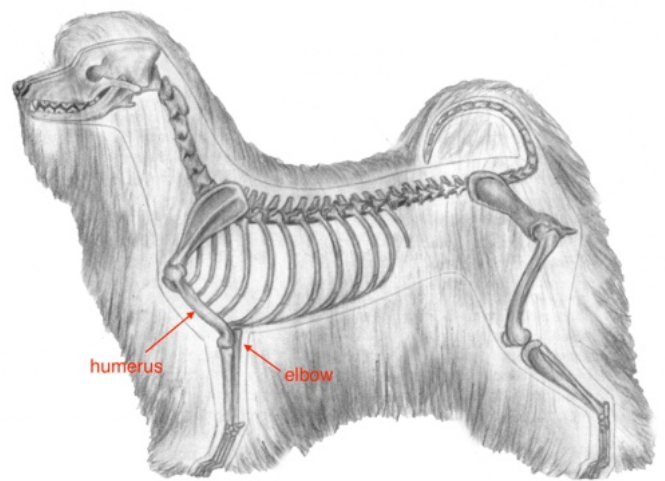
“I have read some articles that indicate that the Havanese should have a short upper arm and that this is what gives them their light springy action. What a load of crap. I have never seen this kind of forequarters in any of the dogs I admired in Cuba. ... The elasticity of the breed comes from a nice layback, a flexible body, and a rear with moderate proportions that allows the dog to jump with ease, turn on a dime, and hold itself on its hind legs. Short upper arms always add a flip to the arm, lifting it high but not springing it forward. It is a huge fault in so many breeds. It places the front forward, not under the withers where we want it. The statement is incorrect.”

Rita Thomas, who had interviewed Judge Barkey, responded:

“[Your comments about the short upper arm] brought up a situation that I think needs to be researched and scientifically determined. ... Like it or not, by design or not, the Havanese are a chondrodysplastic breed. I have yet, either here in North America or in Europe, found a Havanese that does not carry the CDPA gene, which is a gene causing premature closing of the long bones. ... Does the CDPA gene cause the shortening of the upper arm, which is considered a long bone? The gene does occur randomly in many breeds and not always causing a short upper arm, at least not detectable by sight.”

A new breeder I work with took her Havanese to someone who measures angles. This idea is making a comeback now that better equipment is available. Interestingly, the Havanese all had by a very small degree a short upper arm, including those who, in our opinion, demonstrated the best happy, lively Havanese gait. So, what does that mean and where are we now in terms of judging the Havanese?

Given the dog fancy’s tendency to extremes, maybe it’s not a bad thing to discourage a short upper arm. Excesses should always be avoided. My conclusion is that, like it or not, a short upper arm does produce a nicer gait with an ever so slightly upward motion, causing the dog to appear happy and lively. But I would love to see a more thorough scientific study of the Havanese gait and settle once and for all what it looks like and what causes it.”



### *The Forequarters: Arm, continued*

Judge Barkey, replied, “The short upper arm is a big issue in many breeds, my own included. If we want our fronts under our withers, we cannot have a short upper arm. ... I agree it is a can of worms. But I am never going to accept the American version with the short upper arm being correct!

*What do you think? Is a short upper arm desirable in the Havanese?*

## Food and Nutrition

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### Silicone Dot Treats

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by Wanda Brown

Small treats made on a special-purpose silicone mat have become popular with dog owners looking for higher quality treats. The treats can be made with limited ingredients, contain no preservatives, and are easy to make. One mat makes over 450 very small treats that are an excellent size for our Havanese. And because you control the recipe, you can choose the ingredients that best suit your dog’s nutritional needs.

The silicone mats come with holes in a variety of shapes, but the “dots” are my preference. Do a search on Amazon for “silicone dot baking mats,” and you’ll get some idea of what you need. Many local pet stores also carry the mats, so you have the option of shopping local.

A couple of notes:

- I put the silicone sheet on an upside-down baking sheet so that the mat sits flat when baking and is easy to transfer in and out of the oven.
- The batter should be the consistency of pancake batter.
- I usually use a hand-held blender to mix the ingredients. Just throw everything into the mixing bowl and pulse with your blender. You can also use a regular blender or a food processor, again using the pulse setting.
- Ideally, you want to spread the mixture so that it fills the dots completely but doesn’t spread to bake between the dots. Pour the batter onto the mat and spread the batter with a spatula or the back of a knife, wiping as much off the mat and into the dots as possible. It’s not a big deal if there is mixture on the mat between the dots. It just makes the dots less well defined when you pop them out.
- Let the treats cool in the silicone sheet. Once cooled, pop them out. I store them in the freezer in freezer bags and take out what I think I’ll use for the day. The treats are small, so they thaw quickly. (And the dogs will eat them frozen!)



## *Silicone Dot Treats, continued*

### Baby Food Dots

(makes enough for one silicone dot mat)

- 2 - 128 ml jars of meat baby food (for example, beef or chicken). You could also use a meat and vegetable baby food.
- 1 large egg
- Approximately 1 cup whole wheat flour
- Water or extra flour if required (I rarely need to add either.)

Blend baby food and egg. Add flour and stir to combine. Adjust consistency with water or flour if necessary. Spread onto silicone mat. Bake at 350 degrees for about 30 minutes.

### Salmon Crisps

(makes enough for one silicone dot mat)

- 1 can salmon in water (low sodium, if available)
- 1 egg
- 1 tablespoon water

Blend all ingredients together. Spread onto silicone mat. Bake at 350 degrees for 20 minutes. Turn off the oven and leave the tray in the oven for 1 hour.

### Tuna-Sardine Dots

(makes enough for 2 silicone dot mats)

- 1 can of tuna in water (low sodium, if available)
- 1 tin of sardines in water (no salt added)
- 1 cup of tapioca flour
- 2 eggs
- Water, if needed

Blend all the ingredients together. Include the water from the tuna and the sardines. Add more water a tablespoon at a time only if you feel the mixture is too thick. Bake at 325 degrees for 25 minutes.



## Upcoming Event

### *Royal Canin Factory Tour*

Royal Canin will be hosting a virtual tour of its new production facility and analysis laboratory in Guelph ON and answering your questions. The tour will be technical and geared to breeders, but all are welcome.

The tour will be scheduled in April or May. Watch your email for the invitation. The tour will take place on Microsoft Teams. (A Microsoft subscription is not required.)