



AIREDALE TERRIER CLUB OF AMERICA, INC.

FOUNDED 1900

MEMBER OF THE AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB

April 20, 1999

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Mr. Alfred L. Cheauré, President
THE AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB
5580 Centerview Drive
Raleigh, NC 27606-3390

Re: Request for AKC Hunt Tests to be opened for
Airedale participation

Dear Mr. Cheaure,

Most dog people can agree that the various breeds were developed to assist man in some hunting or working activity. The Airedale was not an exception. In this country, in the early part of this century the Airedale was always reported to be the one dog that could be used on all three of the mainstream uses for a hunting dog. These were and still remain upland bird hunting, retrieving ducks and geese from land and water and trailing and treeing fur game animals. In 1909 in his book, HUNTING DOGS, Oliver Hartley wrote "The Airedale are great water dogs and very hard workers and easily trained to hunt any kind of game."

In the latter part of this century David Michael Duffey wrote THE AIREDALE COMEBACK, which first appeared in the December 1987 issue of "PETERSEN'S HUNTING MAGAZINE." Dave penned "I've found Airedales to be just about anything you want them to be. They are great 'people Dogs' -- active, intelligent, clownish, and trainable. My son, Mike developed a very versatile gun dog named Darby that hunted upland feather and fur and retrieved waterfowl. A daughter of Darby's, Bridget, became my house dog and fill-in gun dog."

The complete Origin & History Of The Airedale As A Hunting Dog follows as Part II of this application. The above brief history and tradition of our breed's hunting/working ability has been mentioned here to reaffirm that it has been well documented over the past 100 years by well known, mainstream hunters, sportsman and gun dog writers.

This has been my own personal experience also. My maternal grandfather, M.J. Hulbert (1895-1969), spent part of his time in the Army during the First World War training horses for the young officers to ride and Airedales for war dog services. He got into "fooling around with Airedales" upon his return from service in Europe. I have many fond memories of the time spent growing up with my grandfather. Particularly of the "Olde Man," his horses and dogs. M.J.'s first AKC show win with one of his beloved Airedales

was in 1924 at the Du Quoin State Fair Dog Show, Du Quoin, Illinois (Now the Illinois State Fair).

I firmly believe as did my grandfather that an Airedale really excels when allowed to be part of the family and is encouraged to participate in the family activities. In M.J.'s era that meant baby sitting the kids, protecting Gram and my mother and aunt when Gramps was away on business, keeping the varmint population down around the farm, running raccoons out of the sweet corn, bringing the cows in from the woods and being ready for a rabbit, bird or duck/goose hunt when time allowed.

I still use my Airedales for similiar purposes except we no longer have a back forty for cattle. We enjoy exhibiting our Airedales in conformation and performance events. Since the AKC Hunt Tests are closed to our dogs we participate in the HRC Retriever Hunt Tests (please refer to my account of running Airedales in their program which appears elsewhere in this application) the ATCA Hunt Test Program, and in Hunting Competition Events that are not breed specific.

Since it's inception in 1985 I have been the Chairman of the ATCA's Hunting/Working committee. The committee's goal as well as my personal goal has been to educate the general puplic, current Airedale owners, and the officers and staff of the AKC as to the history of our breed and it's traditional use as a "three in one gun dog." The end result being participation in AKC Hunt Tests.

As the attached proposal will show we have worked tirelessly over the years to fulfill the various requirements laid down by AKC Officers and staff that would one day allow us to participate in AKC Hunt Tests. First, we worked closely with AKC personnel to develop experimental hunt tests that we ran for several years. Next, again working with AKC staff we put together a Hunt Test Program closely parallelling the existing AKC Tests for which an Airedale could qualify for an ATCA Hunt Test Certificate. These Tests have been administered by AKC Licensed Hunt Test Judges for over five years. As documented in the following application we have not only met but exceeded the requirements of the AKC officers and staff.

Therefore, we respectfully request that the AKC Hunt Tests be opened to Airedales.

Sincerely,



Stephen P. Gilbert, ATCA V.P. & Chair, ATCA Hunting/Working Committee