



Airedale Terrier Club of Metropolitan Washington, DC

May 2025

AIREDALE TALES

Dedicated to the versatile Airedale Terrier



CLUB OFFICERS

President: Bill Nelson
Vice President: Corally Burmaster
Secretary: Jackie Peebles
Recording Secretary: Jackie Peebles
Treasurer: Jeanne Esmond

DIRECTORS

Pam McKusick
Nancy Nykamp
Karl Broom
Debi Todhunter
Tarry Faries

COMMITTEE CHAIRS/COORDINATORS

Airedale Rescue: Pamela McKusick
Breeder Referral: Pamela McKusick
Newsletter: Wilder Leavitt
Specialty Show: Corally Burmaster
Trophies: Mary Morningstar
Website: Karl Broom

Airedale Terrier Club of Metropolitan
Washington, DC
www.airedales-dc.org



Letter from the President

I enjoyed attending the Airedale Specialty conformation show on April 18 at Timonium Fairgrounds, Timonium, Maryland. There were many outstanding quality Airedales shown at the event including two shown by club members Nancy Nykamp and Olivia Garner. Club members Corally Burmaster, Mary Morningstar and Wilder Leavitt provided outstanding support for the Specialty.

I also enjoyed the Club dog walk on the C&O Canal on May 4 at Point of Rocks. Mary Morningstar's and Wilder Leavitt's Juno joined my Alex and me for a beautiful four mile walk along the scenic canal.

I am especially looking forward to the Club's next activity, the ATCMW member picnic on May 24 at Frying Pan Park. I hope to see many of you there with your Airedales. The program we will be discussing at the May picnic has to do with maintaining our Airedales between clipping and grooming sessions. For instance, it is recommended by most breeders that nails should be trimmed every couple of weeks. However, if your Airedale is groomed every four to six weeks, it will be necessary to clip or grind the nails in between grooming sessions. That raises three questions:

- 1) What tools does one need to trim nails?
- 2) How can one trim the nails safely without cutting the quick?
- 3) How does one do nail clipping or grinding if one doesn't have a secure table to put the dog on?

We will have a discussion among the members to answer these questions and provide some suggestions for best practices. We'll also have some handouts describing the importance of trimming nails, a grooming chart, and Airedale grooming tools list. Hope to see many of you at the picnic and warm wishes for you and your canine companions!

Best regards, Bill Nelson
ATCMW President



Airedale Terrier Club of Metropolitan Washington, DC

Meeting and a Fun Day in the Park

May 24, 2025

Frying Pan Park

Covered Pavillion
2739 West Ox Rd,
Herndon, VA 20171



10:00 Social Hour

11:00 Meeting

11:30 Lunch

12:00 Program- Maintaining our Airedales between clippings, especially if owners don't have grooming tables. For example, how does one do nail grinding if one can't put the dog on a secure table?



~~ATCMW Erying Pan Park Picnic~~



Lunch choices are:

Uptown Turkey Avocado
Grilled Chicken on Harvest
Ham and Swiss
Tomato Mozzarella

Each **lunch** is **\$11.00**.

Bill Nelson will take your lunch order:
Please order by **May 21, 2025**

Payment can be made by check, made out to ATCMW.

Or, via PayPal at: Clickertrain@paypal.com, or via cash at the picnic.

Please let Bill know that payment will be by PayPal or you'll pay cash at the picnic when you email him your lunch choices.

Please place your choices to Bill **by May 21, 2025**

"It is generally agreed that the Airedale Terrier has its origins in the valley of the River Aire in England in the mid-19th century." Airedale Terrier Club of America.



UPCOMING EVENTS

24 May 2025 – Spring Meeting & Picnic,
Frying Pan Park, Herndon, Virginia.
14 September 2025 – Fall Meeting &
Picnic, Frying Pan Park, Herndon, Virginia.

NEWSLETTERS

Please see the list of our Newsletters at:
<https://www.airedales-dc.org/newsletters>
If you have copies of any that are not listed,
please send them to me. I'll see that they are
posted for all to read. If you have one only in
hard copy, please let me know.
Thank you,
Karl Broom
kcbroom@cox.net

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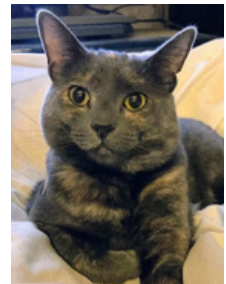


Member Spotlight

An Interview with Anne Benenson



Hello. My name is Anne Benenson and I live in Maryland with my Airedale Terrier Spright and my cat, Delphine. I adopted Delphine in March of 2024, a year after my cat Fiona died. Since the 1970's, I have usually had two dogs at the same time. When one dog passes, I employ the remaining dog to assist me in training the new incoming dog.



Currently I have one female Airedale named Spright. She was born in December of 2018. I adopted her when she was 10 months old, so she has been living with me since 2019. She was a surrender and had been well cared for. This is the first time in recent years that I have only one dog living with me. I have had dogs all my life. Our family dog was a Wire Fox Terrier mix, adopted from a rescue group in Washington, D.C. called "Noah's Ark." When I was nineteen years of age, I adopted a Wire Fox Terrier puppy which I took to college with me. I named him Archie. We lived in a lovely spacious apartment. I was able to take Archie to some of my classes, so he wasn't home alone all the time. At that time, we still lived in Maryland. After about a year, I traveled across the country to Oakland, California, transferring from the Maryland Art Institute, College of Art to attend the California College of Arts and Crafts. Eventually, by the late 1980's I grew tired of the commute from the Bay Area to Reno, Nevada so I moved in with my boyfriend who was a football coach at the University of Nevada in Reno. Archie, my Wire Fox Terrier was very long lived but he died not long after my move to Reno. By the time I moved to Nevada, I still had an Airedale named Taffy that a woman handed over to me after meeting me only once. Her husband was in the military, and they were moving to Europe. The name on her papers was Sassy Taffy Humboldt. She was a great dog and very long lived. I eventually separated from my then boyfriend and returned to live in the Oakland hills. I was walking the fire trails by myself. By this point Taffy had died so for the first time I was without a dog. I couldn't believe my eyes. I saw an Airedale running loose on the fire trail.

“President Warren Harding ordered his staff that his Airedale ‘Laddie Boy’ attend cabinet meetings. He had his own chair, like any cabinet secretary.” Literary Hub.

Although it was not unusual to see a dog running loose on the trails, because many people jogged the trails with their dogs off leash, it was very unusual to see an Airedale. At first, I was shocked and thought it was my dog Taffy or that Taffy had sent this dog to me. I only knew of one other Airedale in the area.

When I returned to the main parking lot, the poor forlorn looking Airedale was sitting in the lot all alone. Most of the cars were gone as it was getting dark. I had a weird feeling that Taffy had arranged this meeting for me in Heaven with this particular Airedale.

I walked home as I was living in the hills nearby. I felt uneasy about leaving the dog alone. So, after it grew completely dark, I returned to the park to see if she was still there. I didn't see any people and there were no cars there. But the Airedale was still there and came right to me when I called her. We had just had a 7.1 Richter Scale magnitude earthquake a few days earlier in October of 1989. I thought perhaps she had escaped her yard and had run wild eventually becoming lost.

My plan was to take the dog home and call the shelter to see if anyone was missing their Airedale. I also put an ad in our local newspaper to try to find the owner. No one responded for some time and she seemed quite comfortable in our home. She got along great with my roommate's five cats. I was beginning to think that maybe I could keep her. The dog had no collar or any tags on her.

Then an elderly woman from the next town over called me saying that she was missing TWO dogs, a Basset Hound and an Airedale that had escaped their yard. This would have meant that this Airedale had crossed a busy 4 lane freeway to get up in the hills. The woman asked if she could come over to see if it was her dog. Of course, I invited her to our house to see if this was her missing Airedale. It was a time in life when people were a bit more trustworthy.

The woman was very sweet and kind. When she drove up in her Mercedes, the dog went crazy with happiness to see her and jumped right into the car. I knew the dog was hers. The dog's name was Crissy. I still felt in my heart that THIS dog belonged to me and would one day be mine.

The woman was married to a famous war correspondent who appeared on T.V. constantly in the late 60's and early 70's. I can't remember his or her name because it was so many years ago. She was very cultured and obviously wealthy. At Christmas time she even sent me a Christmas card thanking me again profusely for returning her beloved Crissy to her. I felt good about doing the right thing, but sad because I was still mourning the loss of my own Airedale. I STILL somehow felt that this dog would return to me.

Easter rolled around and I still hadn't replaced my Airedale Taffy because it was too soon. I mourned her passing deeply. My roommate headed the department at the SPCA for Community Outreach and Education. She used to take Taffy with her to children's schools to teach them how to approach and behave around dogs.

Just before Easter my roommate called me from work to alert me that there was a beautiful Airedale in the shelter. She asked me if I wanted her to tag the dog as reserved for adoption. She said she could bring me down on Easter Sunday to see the dog and decide if I wanted to adopt her. At first, I declined. Eventually I changed my mind and asked her to go ahead and put a hold on the Airedale.

I nearly fainted when I finally saw the dog. It WAS Crissy. My roommate did not recognize her, but I did! She had been surrendered by the owner. Well not really by her, but by the owner's son.

As I later learned, her children confiscated both dogs and surrendered them to the shelter without their mother's knowledge. I remember taking Crissy home from the shelter with me having very mixed feelings. I felt very guilty about having adopted Crissy without the knowledge of her former owner. So off I went to my brother's and sister-in-law's house with a new Airedale in tow. They were thrilled for me.

My roommate advised me not to call the woman to tell her I had Crissy but I felt it was unethical to keep her. I just knew in my heart she loved the dog and wouldn't have surrendered her voluntarily.

I called the woman and one of her sons answered. He was very rude and told me that his mother was forgetful and would sometimes forget to feed the dogs or would accidentally forget to lock the gates. The dogs were always getting out. The Airedale had completely chewed up the sofa and they were peeing and pooping everywhere.

“The Yorkshire man, mainly factory workers, wanted a practical dog, one that could be useful in whatever type of hunting available.” The Complete Story of the Airedale Terrier.

The woman's son told me never to tell her that I had the dog and advised me not to call again. He didn't want his mother to know that I had Crissy. He just told her that the dogs ran away. I cried many a day and for many months, I was so torn because I wanted to let the woman know that Crissy was safe and well with me. My roommate still advised me to say nothing. To this day, I feel so incredibly sad and guilty for not contacting Crissy's owner to let her know her dog was safe. I didn't learn about Bassett until after he was adopted or else I would have taken him also because that was Crissy's buddy. I renamed Crissy and gave her the name Cleo. She had a slight overbite and a fang tooth that was much too long, so every time she bit down it was creating a hole in her upper gum which must have been very painful. This probably accounted for her destruction of the furniture in her former home. I took her to my veterinarian who also had a veterinary dentist in the practice. He cut the fang tooth down, capped it and it never bothered her again. She never chewed up anything in my house or the house in Nevada. Cleo rode in a large parade in downtown Oakland, California on a fire engine representing the SPCA. Cleo won a trophy. I think I was working so I didn't get to see her on the fire engine, but I do have a photo of her with her trophy. Cleo lived to be about 13, I think. I just knew that she was meant to be mine and I'm sure Taffy in Heaven arranged that fateful meeting in the park. I felt I had behaved honorably but it still makes me sad that the sweet old lady never knew what happened to her dogs.

This is a photo of my Dutch Warmblood, Salvier with my Airedale Terrier, Cleo (formally named Crissy). This photo was probably taken in the mid 1990's in California.



I have been a member of the Club for a long time and my membership probably exceeds most in the club. Except for Pam McKusick and Karl Broom, I was most likely a member before any of the current club members. All the former board members from when I first joined are now deceased. When I first joined, my dog Finnleigh earned a good citizen certification at one of the Airedale Fun Day functions. Finnleigh died in 2008. So I would say I probably joined sometime between 2003-2008. Arlene Black nominated me at one of the luncheons and Pam seconded the nomination. A couple of times Pam and I visited potential adopters together using Finnleigh and Jake to test potential adopters for suitability. I wish I wasn't working, because I would give Pam a hand with rescue, but I can't stretch myself thinly now.

“The Airedale’s versatility was proven in the military, when English Col. Edwin Richardson, petitioned for a formal training program in 1910.” Airedale Terrier Club of America.

I brought Finnleigh and another dog Jake, my Flat Coated Retriever back to Maryland from CA. with me. I believe we returned in 2002. Both dogs participated in the California Fun Day Activities. We had a bigger club and more activities in CA. Jake, my Flat Coat always beat out all the Airedales by winning the hotdog catching contest. He never missed one! I'm thinking I may have joined the Washington, VA, MD. club between 2003-2008? It was a time when we were going to a quaint restaurant somewhere in P.G. county. There was a club member, an elderly man who was qualified to certify CGCC. I can't remember the man's name, but he was a tough task master. I think he showed his dogs and may also have been a judge. It was my dog Finnleigh I believe who earned the Canine Good Citizen certification along with some other dogs at one of the picnics. Pam would probably remember. Finnleigh and I appeared on the cover of the (then paper) Airedale Club Newspaper with Finnleigh. Below is the photo taken on the day that he was awarded his CGCC. The ribbon was for some off leash work we did.



I have always loved all Terriers since I was a child. While I was in my mid-twenties and had my Wire Fox Terrier, I began noticing Airedales and their more chill temperament compared to a Wire Fox Terrier. I had the opportunity to adopt one given to me by a family moving overseas. The opportunity just sort of fell into my lap. My co-worker whose husband was in the military knew a woman whose husband was also in the military and moving overseas. One day my coworker said to me, "Didn't you say you would like to have an Airedale some day?" I replied yes of course and that started the ball rolling. She introduced me to the woman moving overseas. The woman brought her Airedale to my house. As soon as she met me, she gave me her dog. Unbelievable! I would have asked 10,000 questions and done a test run for a week or two. She was just anxious to rehome the dog. That dog was Sassy Taffy Humboldt. She came with papers. I wrote some stories about her which were published in the California Airedale Terrier club's newsletter. I also wrote a great story that was published in its entirety in the Montclair newspaper about another one of my dogs Cleo who was skunked on a late-night foray in my yard in the Oakland hills in California.

"These Old English Terriers were originally used for waterside hunting, but they were somewhat deficient in nose and had not always the power to cross the river at all points, as the river Aire runs very strongly in places." The Complete Story of the Airedale Terrier.

I do insist that my dogs learn basic good manners which is an everyday drill. I give the cat the same commands. She learned what everything meant by watching the dog. All my dogs deserve a Canine Good Citizen title, but after one of my dogs was awarded one, I decided I could teach my dogs myself and I didn't need to bother with all classes and certification. I need different behaviors from my dog than what is required in traditional obedience class. Spright and I have taken a nose work class where she had to sniff out many scented boxes, some difficult to reach, to find the scent of birch. She did very well. I took the class just for something fun to do that we could do together. Also to give her time to socialize with many other breeds. She had a great time and made lots of friends with her classmates. Below is a photo of some of the members of our advanced off leash class. Not everyone is in the photo. As you can see it was everything from Pit Bull to Irish Wolfhound.



We also took an advanced off leash obedience class. I had to hide in the woods and she had to find me. Piece of cake for her! The dogs are turned so they can't see where their owners went. That was fun for her also. Every day or nearly so we put in a two-mile hike or walk on the trails in the park unless either one of us is not feeling up to snuff. Sometimes we might put in more miles if I have time. I continue to reinforce the training that she already knows but she has selective hearing in regard to the actions she prefers to ignore. She is only trustworthy off leash on an electronic collar which I rarely use unless we are going somewhere that is remote. Otherwise, I keep her leashed. I enjoy our annual Club picnic, seeing other Airedales and their people. I also enjoy watching my own dog having the stimulation of being with other Airedales. Spright enjoyed the time Bill Nelson set up an obstacle course with the tunnel, jumps, ramps, poles etc. Since she will be 7-years- old in December, she is not quite as spunky as some of the younger dogs but she enjoys activities and still performs the morning Airedale tuck butt runs when I let her out in the backyard, so I know she has still got it in her.

“...all generally agreed on one point, and that was that the Airedale Terrier was first created by a series of crosses between the Otter Hound, and the rough-haired black and tan Old English Terrier, and that the cross was usually made by an Old English Terrier dog to an Otter Hound bitch.” The Complete Story of The Airedale Terrier.



AIREDALE SAFETY Foods Your Airedale Should Avoid

Here is a list of foods that WebMD recommends you not feed to your dog. As with all lists, some of the recommendations may be controversial, but some are hard and fast rules. Are there any foods that you know of that we should add to the list?

Xylitol – Often found in toothpaste, candy, gum, and some diet foods.

Avocado

Alcohol

Onions & garlic

Coffee, tea, and other caffeine

Grapes & raisins

Milk and other dairy products

Macadamia nuts

Chocolate

Fat trimmings and cooked bones

Persimmons, peaches, and plums

Raw eggs

Raw meat and fish

Salt

Sugary foods and drinks

Yeast dough

Human medicine



ATCMW Hosts 2025 Airedale Terrier Specialty Show

by Mary Morningstar

On April 18, 2025, Corally Burmaster again did a fantastic job hosting the Airedale competition at the Terrier Specialty Show at the Maryland State Fairgrounds in Timonium, Maryland. The Airedale Terrier Club's president, Bill Nelson, showed his support at the show, and Mary Morningstar and Wilder Leavitt also supported Corally. ATCMWDC members Nancy Nykamp and Olivia Garner (Nancy's daughter) also showed two of their Airedales at the show. April Clyde, the breeder of Longvue Airedales, judged the show carefully and thoughtfully.

In the Best Puppy competition, Meadowaire Drop It Like It's Hot, bred and shown by Nancy Nykamp and Olivia Garner, won. Nancy and Olivia also won for Reserve Winners Bitch, with Meadowaire Fields of Strawberry Blonde Marigold.

For the Winners, the Best Dog went to Texter Crown's Prime Minister, bred and owned by Laura and David Post. The second place went to Wildside James V At Stirling, bred and owned by Thomas and Jeannie Dilworth.

This dog also won Reserve Winners Dog. Glenayr Legacy took third place; he is bred and owned by Peggy Frye and Tim Maher.

In the Winners category for bitches, the Best Bitch went to Mar Vista Rendition At Brush Creek, bred by Shel Leigh Greb and owned by Vanessa Slidell and Shel Greb. Andes Pass The Torch Atvictorianne won second place. Dennis and Edna Jonck are the breeders and owners. Best of Breed went to CH Wildwood's Dragon Prince, a beautiful dog bred and owned by Kathi Wood and Cynthia Werthamer. Mar Vista Rendition At Brush Creek won Best of Opposite Sex; she is a stunning bitch.

To round out the competition, three Airedales won Awards of Merit, winning a rosette and engraved plate. Glenroyal Highland Lad of Hollybriar, bred by Johanna Pemble and owned by Ms. Pemble and Diane Wood-Bieldki, Reydaleterrydale The Sound of Music, bred and owned by Gerardo Reyes (and Lynn Reagan-Hull), and Texter's Crown Prime Minister all won Awards of Merit.

The fairgrounds is a great event space for this entertaining and educational show. Walking through the vast space, one encounters many terrier types as well as other breeds. If any of the Club's members want a great introduction to the dog show world, this is the perfect venue for it! You should consider attending the show in 2026. You won't be disappointed!

"Airedales are deeply curious dogs that love to investigate anything that catches their attention. Any item that could be potentially interesting—like a newspaper, cardboard box, or bag of chips—should be kept out of an Airedale's reach when they're unsupervised." PetMD.

2025 ATCMW Airedale Terrier Specialty Show



Final preparations before show time.



Club member Olivia Garner is ready to go.



"During World War I, the British military employed Airedale Terriers as sentries and couriers. Airedales carried messages between commanding officers and troops in the trenches. They also stood watch on the front lines and warned the troops when the enemy was approaching. The Red Cross also used Airedales as rescue dogs during the war." American Kennel Club.

2025 ATCMW Airedale Terrier Specialty Show



These beauties are ready to show!



Club members Nancy Nycamp and Olivia Garner make it look easy.



"His size, strength, and unflagging spirit have earned the Airedale Terrier the nickname 'The King of Terriers.'" American Kennel Club.



ATCMW CLUB OBJECTIVES

- (a) To encourage those who breed Airedale Terriers to do so responsibly and with the welfare and improvement of the breed having highest priority.
- (b) To urge members and breeders to

accept the standard of the breed approved by the American Kennel Club as the only standard of perfection by which Airedale Terriers shall be judged.

- (c) To do all in its power to protect and advance the interests of the breed by encouraging sportsmanlike competition at dog shows and obedience trials.

- (d) To conduct sanctioned and licensed specialty shows under the rules of the American Kennel Club.

- (e) To institute and maintain programs which promote the welfare of individual Airedale Terriers through rescue and education, and through any other means which the Club considers helpful.

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Send any changes and updates to Wilder Leavitt (wilderleavitt@gmail.com)



Annie

by Tarry Faries

I lost my female Airedale, Millie, in 2018. She was the sixth Airedale in my life. I was devastated and I grieved so because she was such a brilliant light. Being in my seventies, I thought it best not to get another dog, and this also added to my sadness.

This past year Pam McKusick, from Airedale Rescue, called me and said that she had a sweet lady that needed a new home. I said, "No, thank you. I don't think that I can handle another large dog."

Pam said that she was not a puppy, but middle-age and would be great for me. I agreed to meet her and say hello. As we all know, that was already the acceptance. "Annie" was adorable, affectionate, and frightened. I took her home for a trial and we spent time becoming acquainted.

To say that she has brought tremendous joy to my life is such an understatement!!!! So that does not even begin to describe my emotions. I look forward to opening the door at night and see her smiling face and wagging butt! I am thrilled each morning when she greets me! Everyday is a treasure!

I have now lived with Annie for over a year. I am eternally grateful to Pam and Airedale Rescue for offering me this gift. I had not realized how empty my house was until she came into my life.



"The average weight for a female is 45 to 52 lbs. Males average 55 to 62 lbs." Airedale Terrier Club of America.



BOOKS ABOUT THE AIREDALE TERRIER

"The Airedale Terrier" by Dorothy Miner, Airedale Terrier Club of America.

"The New Complete Airedale Terrier" by Gladys Brown Edwards, Howell Book House.

"The New Airedale Terrier" by Janet Johnson Framke & June Dutcher, Howell Book House.

"Your Airedale" by Barbara Strebeigh & Pauline McCready, Denlinger Pub. Ltd.

"The Complete Dog Book" American Kennel Club.

"Pure Bred Dogs/American Kennel Gazette" by the American Kennel Club.

"The Airedale Terrier Today" by Janet Huxley, Howell Book House.



Remembering the 80th Anniversary of the Victory in Europe during WWII and the dogs who served us all.



Club Photos

"Look Mom & Dad. I got a haircut."
Karl & Joyce Broom's Airedale Magic.



"The Airedale Terrier Club of America (ATCA) was formed in 1900 and Airedales reached the peak of their popularity during the 1920s." The Airedale Terrier Today.

Airedales from Years Past

Advertisement in Great Britain from 1937

52 SUPPLEMENT TO "OUR DOGS." DECEMBER 10, 1937.

World-famous Ardross Airedale Kennel

'Phone: Ashford, Mddx. 206511 Ashford, Middlesex

*The Premier Kennel, exclusive to the Breed,
Of British and International Champions*

The Property of
Mrs. Beamish-Levey

Several Noted Winning Dogs at Stud, including
BLAIZE OF ARDROSS and ARDROSS ALLADIN



BLAIZE OF ARDROSS, son of Young Ardross, winner of numerous first and second prizes in top classes at 1937 championship shows, including Reserve Champion, Belfast.



ARDROSS VANITY,
Classical Daughter of Ardross Alladin.



YOUNG ARDROSS.

Photos, Thos. Fall.

His many wins include: Res. Ch., Birmingham, under Lt.-Col. Elkington; Res. Ch., Crystal Palace, under J. P. Hall, Esq.; best Airedale several times, including Werthing, under Sam Gamford, Esq.; best in show several times, including Handel Street (London), under W. J. Nichols, Esq. Continental wins include O.A.C.I.B., Monte Carlo, and Lyons under Holland Buckley, Esq.

"When a British battalion was cut off by the enemy, they sent their Airedale Terrier, Jack, to deliver a message that they needed reinforcements. Despite being severely injured by shrapnel, Jack managed to deliver the message and save the battalion. Shortly after he completed his mission, Jack died from his injuries. He was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross, the highest honor in the United Kingdom." American Kennel Club.



Airedale Rescue and Adoption Service Report

Our Rescue and Adoption Committee was formed in 1987 under the leadership of Lou Swafford, its Chair for many years. Today it is chaired by Pamela McKusick, (mckusick@verizon.net), who is also the Airedale Terrier Club of America Rescue Coordinator and primary contact for Maryland and the District of Columbia. She collaborates with the ATCA Coordinators and Volunteers in Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, and the Delaware Valley. Our volunteers also work with the ATCA Rescue program, which covers all of the United States.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Airedale Rescue and Adoption Service team, please contact Pam McKusick. As a team member, you can volunteer to coordinate rescue efforts, transport rescued dogs, and/or foster dogs on an as needed basis. Please volunteer if you have the interest and time to do so.

Specialty Show Report

The Airedale Terrier Club of Metropolitan Washington, DC Specialty Show in conjunction with the Columbia Terrier Association of Maryland was held on April 18-20, 2025. Next year's event is scheduled to be held in April 2026.

Awesome Airedales

Like so many of the terriers, the Airedale was a working dog developed by working-class men who didn't have the space or means to keep multiple dogs. As a result, the Airedale was intended to be a generalist, not a specialist. In addition to dispatching vermin, he could track and kill larger creatures, guard the family farm, retrieve everything from birds to rabbits, even drive home the occasional wayward cow. And while he was too big to go to ground like most other terriers, he had just as much spark and spirit as his smaller cousins.

This gritty versatility made the Airedale quite popular with poachers, who snuck on to sprawling English Victorian estates to bag some of the plentiful game that was off-limits to commoners. (Failure didn't just mean coming home empty-handed: An encounter with the patrolling gamekeeper and his Bullmastiff might result in not coming home at all.) On Saturdays, the dogs were frequently victorious in the river-rat hunts organized by the area's factory and mill workers; the men would bet as much as a week's wages on the dog they thought could locate a rat hole on the riverbank, wait for a ferret to flush it out, and then chase its occupant through the water until it closed its powerful jaws around the fleeing rodent. (Source: American Kennel Club)



"When Disney made a live-action version of "One Hundred and One Dalmatians" in 1996, they cast an Airedale Terrier in the role of Colonel, the wise old dog who helps Pongo and Perdita find their puppies. In the animated film, Colonel is an Old English Sheepdog, but the producers of the live-action film chose an Airedale instead, because they are so easy to train." American Kennel Club.



Airedale Cartoons by Ruthi Birch

Thanks to Club member Elaine LaMontagne for referring cartoonist Ruthi Birch to our Club. Ruthi publishes canine cartoons and has agreed to submit Airedale Terrier inspired cartoon to our newsletter from time to time. A big thank you to Ruthi. Here is her first submission:



Copyright 2025, Ruthi Birch
<https://www.instagram.com/ruthipostowbirch/>
RuthiBirch@gmail.com

“John Wayne's nickname, Duke, actually came from his pet Airedale Terrier. When Wayne was a boy he owned an Airedale named Duke, that he would frequently take to visit the local fire station. The firemen would say ‘Here come Big Duke and Little Duke.’ — John Wayne was Little Duke. The nickname stuck with him for the rest of his life.” American Kennel Club.



Club Hike on the C&O Canal Towpath at Point of Rocks, Maryland – 27 April 2025

Club President Bill Nelson, his Airedale Alex, members Mary Morningstar and Wilder Leavitt and their Airedale Juno met for the Club Hike event on the C&O Canal Towpath at Point of Rocks, Maryland. The day was cool, clear and perfect for hiking with the dogs, viewing wildlife, and meeting walkers, runners, and cyclists making their way up and down the towpath. They even encountered several groups on horseback. The Club will host an event like this annually in the hopes of getting members outdoors with their Airedales to visit our local communities. Needless to say, both Alex and Juno received many compliments from passers-by.



Bill Nelson, Mary Morningstar, and Wilder Leavitt with Alex (green collar) and Juno (brown collar).



Juno and Alex can't be fooled. They know who has the treats.

See you in the September 2025 newsletter

