

who have the same interest. Specialty shows, either independent or in conjunction with all-breed shows, are a great way to learn. Specialties can help make a regular show weekend an event rather than just a dog show. It is the event that can increase the success by increasing the entries and getting more participation at the show. Adding sweepstakes or special attractions such as field events or health-testing clinics builds entries and participation.

One type of club that has the ability to increase entries is to consider joining forces with limited-breed shows. When group shows and specialties are combined with show weekends, entries increase. In the case of hounds, there are Hound Group clubs in New Jersey, Atlanta, Michigan, Ohio, Illinois, California, Washington, and many other regions with established hound clubs. With expenses for shows increasing, the ability to work with all-breed clubs on judge selection can make the entire weekend special. As a founding member of the Michigan Hound Club, we try to work with the all-breed clubs on the following days to share be selection and expenses. Not just hound judges, but also we look at hiring sighthound judges and scenthound judges. If we want the sport of showing dogs to continue, it comes down to increasing participation. It's not just your breed club but also the

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## Borzoï

### GOING BEYOND YOUR BREED CLUB

The future of dog shows comes down to participation. One of the first things new owners can do is to join their local or national breed club. Breed clubs are a great way to learn more about your breed, find a mentor, or just be able to socialize with other people



*Borzoi: 1920s costume design*

limited-breed club and the all-breed clubs working together to create an event that can provide a solution.

In Borzoi, we have clubs all across the U.S., and many are already working with their local hound shows. Making dog shows an event with specialist judges is important to build

entries and bring in more participation. The additional benefit of working with limited-breed clubs is that the “show and go” attitude gets an overhaul. People enter their specialty and then stay for the hound show (or limited breed show), and if there is a club-supported show they may stay for the entire weekend.

The social and educational value of combining with clubs with similar interests and working and supporting each other has a side benefit. By combining forces you can help solve the problem of the lack of workers. By banding together, it is possible to reduce the workload and also increase the talent pool. Participation is the solution to the longevity and health of our sport.

In nature, dogs travel in packs, and maybe clubs should too. The survival of the sport depends on the strength of the pack, and the clubs could take note.

—Jon Titus Steele,

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Borzoi Club of America

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