

# Lines FROM Linda

BY LINDA AYERS TURNER KNORR



## Cheers 2000

THE SPIRIT OF THE FOUNDATION ...

*Assurance for a great tomorrow*

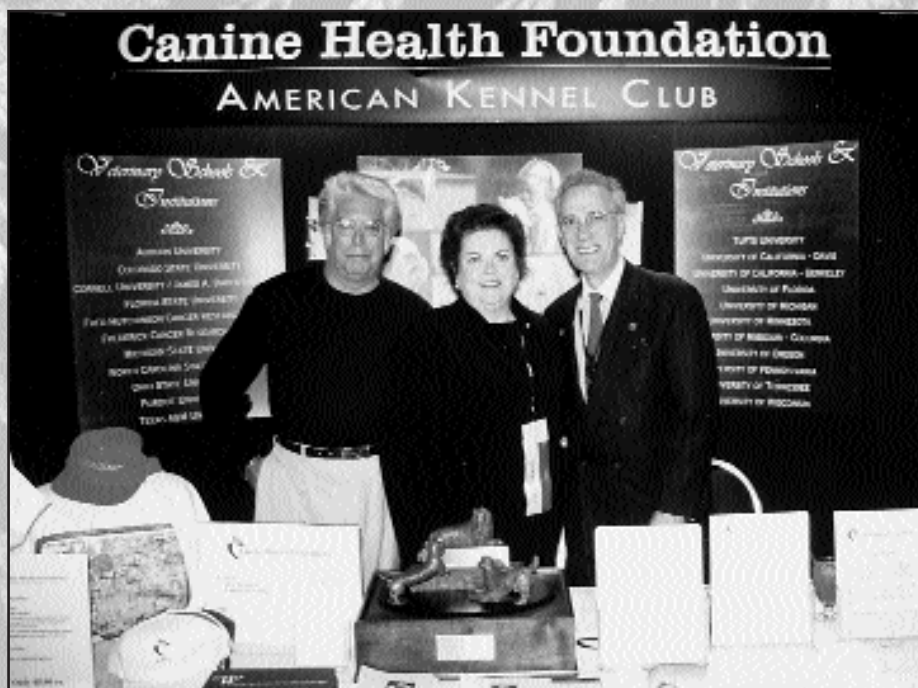
**O**ur new year is already brimming over with possibilities for a great future for the dog fancy! One of the most exciting aspects of the forthcoming year is the positive effect of good things coming from our AKC Canine Health Foundation.

Their recent National Parent Club Conference held in St. Louis was fruitful, meaningful, and encouraging to all who enjoyed the privilege of being included.

Anytime an opportunity is planned to accommodate in the same room a representative from each national breed club, chief executives from our American Kennel Club and a brilliant group of scientist devoted to discovery for a better tomorrow for humans and animals, each person present is definitely advantaged.

"The Gathering of the Great" is a yearly Labor Day weekend event hosted by Alexander Fraser Draper to benefit the Collie Club of America Foundation he founded. "Sandy" as he is lovingly called by his friends welcomes Collieclubs' elite to his West Coxsackie, New York estate near Albany for a weekend of events to raise money for their foundation.

Draper is also one of the backbones of the AKC Canine Health Foundation. Elected to its board of directors and presently serving as treasurer, he is def-



initely one of the groups great assets.

In 1948 Alexander Draper established Cyn-San Collie Kennels. For fifty-two years he has grown in our sport through breeding, exhibiting Collies and Pembroke Welsh Corgis. He participated in conformation, herding trials, and obedience. Currently he enjoys juggling AKC judging assignments with his philanthropic interest.

Following a business career of serv-

ing in executive roles for national and international corporations, he devotes most of his time lending his expertise to non-profit organizations including the Guggenheim Museum, the American Geographical Society and the Museum of the American Indian.

In addition to building from the ground up the Collie Club of America Foundation, Draper also founded the Doberman Pinscher Club of America



Foundation and has been instrumental in the formation of many other parent club foundations.

The spirit of the foundation is alive in Sandy Draper!

At the conclusion of the three day conference in St. Louis I was honored to be invited to lunch with the AKC Canine Health Foundation board members. It was a time of joy and reflection over the success of this year's event.

When I asked Alexander Draper what feelings he would like for the attendees to take home with them, he replied, "I would hope that these participants will want to come back and their trip was worthwhile, educational and that each person had an opportunity to network. I want them to have a greater

appreciation of the AKC Canine Health Foundation, its goals, and its objectives. Hopefully through this educational experience, attendees will be motivated to support our foundation in helping it reach those goals."

Just in case you are still wondering just exactly what are the goals for the future of the foundation, let me enlighten you.

*The mission of the AKC Canine Health Foundation is to develop significant resources for basic and applied health programs with emphasis on canine genetics to improve the quality of life for dogs and their owners.*

*With the fancy's support the foundation will achieve the following*

- goals,*
- *Help dogs live longer, healthier lives*
  - *Respect the dedication and interest of dog clubs, breeder and owners in canine health and continuously seek ways to involve them in the work of the foundation*
  - *Identify health issues of concern to dog owners and breeders*
  - *Identify and sponsor research and education programs, with particular emphasis on canine genetics, that:*
    - *Meet the highest scientific and educational standards*
    - *Have the greatest potential for advancing the health of dogs*
    - *Have expectations for producing materials and applications that are reasonable and affordable*



*for breeders and owners*

- *Seek ways to integrate the observations and knowledge of dog owners, breeders, veterinarians and other scientists for the purpose of advancing the health of dogs*
- *Responsibly monitor grantees and make the results of their work available for public use through publication in scientific journals, and through sharing and dissemination of information and education with dog owners, breeders and veterinarians.*
- *Raise endowment funds for the foundation's programmatic purposes, and to invest these funds for both growth of principal and income adequate to advance the foundations*

*purposes.*

So, what is on tap to raise the funds needed to achieve these ambitious goals?

The Joy Luck Club's author Amy Tan and Yorkie enthusiast Lisa Farmer invited me to an exclusive gathering at Amy's loft in So Ho to celebrate "The Art of Dogs and Science."

Their friends are a group of fascinating individuals including renowned authors, artists, and scientists.

This party to benefit the AKC Canine Health Foundation should prove to be one of the most entertaining happenings of Garden Week this month.

**The sport of dogs in whatever form we wish to participate should be fun! How blessed we are to enjoy**

**friendships with so many who share our spirit and enthusiasm for making every aspect of the game including health a top priority!**

Following the gala events of Westminster Week, gentlemen have your tuxedos cleaned and pressed. Ladies take a break from judging at the Garden to shop the after-Christmas sale racks at Saks Fifth Avenue and select a new evening gown to wear to the Ralston Purina Charity Ball! Along with the International Kennel Club and the American Kennel Club Canine Health Foundation, the Ralston Purina Company invites you to feast on filet mignon and salmon while you dance the night away in the Vista Ballroom at Chicago's McCormick Place.



The International Kennel Club Dog Show sponsored by Ralston Purina Pet Products is expected to have entries exceeding three thousand dogs. As one of our nation's largest benched all-breed shows it should attract more than seventy thousand spectators.

In addition to funds raised at the \$65.00 per person charity ball, the International Kennel Club will donate \$5.00 of the \$28.00 entry fee to the AKC Canine Health Foundation which Purina will match for a total of \$10.00 per entry.

Last year Lou Auslander, President of the International Kennel Club and Ernie Planck, of Ralston Purina presented AKC Canine Health Foundation President Robert Hritzko checks totaling

\$71,260.00 to be used for its research programs.

When I had the opportunity to visit with these three men in St. Louis, they were having fun planning this month's extravaganza. With their leadership and support I know the 2000 happening will exceed all expectations!

What a wonderful opportunity this "great" event will be for individuals involved in breeding, exhibiting or who just love dogs to raise money for education, research and educational materials for the health future of our sport. Yes, that's the spirit!

Purina's founder William H. Danforth challenged thousands with his four square philosophy of life. Some of his most familiar quotations are pre-

sented on the walls of the conference room I visited during my trip to Purina Farms.

His hope was to inspire us to set our sights on higher goals and to work towards greater achievements.

Danforth challenges us with these words,

***"I dare you to be your own self at your very best all the time.***

***Aspire nobly, adventure daringly, serve humbly.***

***I dare you to stand tall, think tall, smile tall, and live tall."***

If each of us will adapt his spirit we will be assured of a great tomorrow!

*— Linda Ayers Turner Knorr*