

# Lines from Linda

BY LINDA AYERS TURNER KNORR

## The Sky's the Limit, AKC Moves into New Home



**W**hen AKC Board Chairman, Ronald Menaker officially announced our headquarters move into New York's dazzling 101 Park Avenue skyscraper, I think I heard cheers from all around the globe. Many years of hard work and planning have gone into this achievement! Here is what our Chairman said, "A Very Special Anniversary. As we mark the 134th anniversary of the founding of our organization, the American Kennel Club opens our doors to a bright future in a fabulous new space. After twenty years in the gray towers at 260 Madison Avenue, AKC is now at home in the refined and imposing Kalikow

skyscraper at 101 Park Avenue. Just doors away from Grand Central Station, AKC's new headquarters and our staff are all the more accessible to our fancy, the dog-loving public and the media.

With forty-three thousand square feet across the building's fifth floor, our new office creatively preserves the glorious traditions of our sport while fulfilling the needs of a contemporary enterprise. Multiple collaborative spaces and communal work areas punctuate the innovative design by the world-renowned architecture firm, Gensler. Our venerated Library and Archives are now showcased in an elegant trinity comprising the research center, antiquarian collection



RONALD MENAKER, AKC CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD



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and reading room. Masterworks of canine art grace brightly colored walls in a juxtaposition that keeps our heritage firmly top of mind.

By January 2019, this physical renaissance of AKC will reach its peak with the re-opening of the AKC Museum of the Dog at our new headquarters' ground level. Soon in a beautifully integrated location, our fine art collection, interactive exhibits, corporate offices and a television studio for AKC. TV will provide a single platform from which to educate the public about that which we know and love best: our purebred dogs. Join us at 101 Park Avenue in the New Year to experience your new American Kennel Club."

The 629-foot tall building designed by Eli Attia Architects began construction





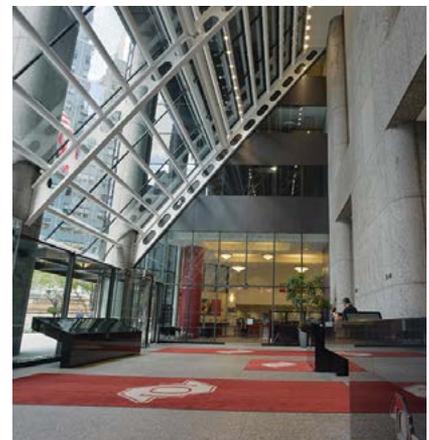
in 1979 and was totally completed in 1982. Our AKC's new home is New York City's 64th tallest building. I wanted to learn more about it and this is what I discovered.

Uniquely shaped, strikingly positioned and glistening with reflective glass, 101 Park Avenue makes an impressive statement on the Manhattan skyline. It is a statement of quality, importance and distinction.

The architectural design draws the focus to the corner of Park Avenue and 40th Street, where an expansive granite plaza eases the cityscape. The dramatic fountain and quiet seating area encourage you to linger. The entry to 101 Park Avenue features massive granite columns which frame the stunning five-story skylight. Polished steel doors welcome you to the lobby and, above it all, the tower shimmers in the changing light.

The interplay of copious light, granite walls and surrounding polished glass in 101 Park Avenue's lobby creates a space both elegant and visually interesting. The dramatic proportions and openness carry through the multi-level expanse—balconies overlook the lower lobby, escalators provide ever-changing vignettes as light and architecture unite and broad elevator corridors end not in walls, but open space.

A most exciting aspect of the move is having our office headquarters and the



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AKC Dog Museum housed in the same building. Opportunities are now being offered to kennel clubs and individuals to have their names proudly displayed on the AKC Wall of Fame honoring supporters of this magnificent collection. I hope every kennel club will take this opportunity to be named.

Pledges may be received over a five year period making it affordable for both large and small clubs.

Kudos to AKC Board Chairman, Ronald Menaker, AKC President and CEO Dennis Sprung, all AKC staff members, our Board of Directors, the AKC Delegate Body and to all members of our sport who have dreamed of making our location more accessible for the public and visitors from all over the world! Our future is even brighter! The sky's the limit! ■

