

**Establishing an elite sport:
The men and hounds of the National Beagle Club of
America, 1890-1940**

by

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Abstract

This thesis argues that the National Beagle Club of America defined and regulated beagling as a way for upper class men to demonstrate their social status in a sporting context. As members of the American elite, the club's leadership used their personal resources and social access to shape the sport for their own purposes. The club's governing documents and regular events reinforced ideas about exclusivity, performance, and wealth. The breed standard formalized the dogs' position as animal athletes who were valued for their sporting capabilities. Kennels served as physical representations of owners' socioeconomic status while providing specialized housing for their dogs. Found at the intersection of scholarship on the history of sport and the history of purebred dogs, this thesis explores the club's first fifty years from 1890 to 1940.

Keywords: National Beagle Club of America; beagles; sport history; purebred dogs; breed standard; kennels

Dedication

For Roofus Sedona Garneau CGC (1997-2008).

Rest well dearest Wonder Doggie.

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List of Acronyms

ABC	American Beagle Club
AKC	American Kennel Club
NBC	National Beagle Club of America

Introduction

Beagles are instantly recognizable making them an accessible entry into the field of purebred dog breeding history. Beagles are consistently one of the top American Kennel Club breeds based on registration numbers with a number of dogs standing out in the collective imagination. Cartoonist Charles Schultz's character Snoopy wrote the next great American novel and fought the Red Baron from atop his doghouse during the second half of the twentieth century. President Lyndon B. Johnson's beagles Him and Her appeared on the cover of *Life* magazine, with Him also appearing on the White House Christmas Card, and later causing the President a public relations controversy when the President was photographed lifting the dog up by only his ears. The United States Department of Agriculture's Beagle Brigade has patrolled airports and national borders since 1984, sniffing out prohibited food and animal imports. But perhaps the most notable beagle in recent memory is Champion K-Run's Park Me in First, known as Uno, the Best in Show winner at the 2008 Westminster Kennel Club dog show who inspired a year titled "Beaglemania" in the dog world. Uno's Best in Show win earned him a visit to the White House, a ride on the Snoopy-themed float in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, and the honour of "Uno the Beagle Day" in his home state of Illinois. Undoubtedly, beagles captured the American

imagination throughout the twentieth century, leading one to ask more about how the breed came to occupy its current place in the cultural and sporting history of the United States.¹

This thesis tells the story of the National Beagle Club [NBC] of America's first fifty years from 1890 to 1940. Arguing that the NBC defined and regulated beagling as a way for upper class men to demonstrate their social status in a sporting context, this thesis examines the club's membership, governing documents, and breed standard as aspects of an elite leisure activity. By codifying ideas about exclusivity, performance, and wealth, the club provided executives with opportunities to collectively express their individual socioeconomic status. Beagle bodies were reconceptualised as those of specialized animal athletes, occupying a unique space when contrasted against those of purebred pets and working dogs. National Beagle Club officers represented a very small, yet highly influential sampling of beagle owners during this period. Because of their personal wealth and social access, they were able to shape the sport for their own purposes, setting the course for the club's development and dictating normative expectations including the construction of elaborate kennel facilities.

Throughout this thesis, I use the term "beagle" to refer to the breed itself or a specific animal. "Beagling" describes the holistic sport of breeding, raising, exhibiting, and hunting with beagles, although other authors may use it solely to describe hunting with packs of dogs. "Beaglers" are those men involved with the broader sport of beagling.

The origins of the beagle breed are unknown. Authors generally agree on the breed's English ancestry and that a miniature foxhound-like dog was identifiable in art and literature by the Tudor period. Some accounts note that Queen Elizabeth I owned a pack of "pocket" or "singing" beagles with recognizable hound traits. William III and George IV allegedly fancied

¹ American Kennel Club, *Dogs: The First 125 Years of the American Kennel Club* (Freehold, NJ: Kennel Club Books, 2009); Peanuts, "Snoopy, Character Facts, Comics, and Video," Peanuts Worldwide, <http://www.peanuts.com/characters/snoopy/>; The American Kennel Club and National Beagle Club of America condemned the president's actions, see Stanley Coren, *The Pawprints of History: Dogs and the Course of Human Events* (New York, NY: The Free Press, 2002), 277-279; Charles Leedham, "First Dogs of the Land," *New York Times*, June 21, 1964, SM11; William Grimes, "On the Scent of Lawbreakers: The Beagle Brigade is Hard at Work at Airports and Borders Sniffing Out Agricultural Contraband," *New York Times*, October 3, 1993, 164.

the small hounds. Works by Chaucer and Shakespeare reference the breed. The breed's name may have originated from the French word "begle" or "begele," becoming spelled "beagle" in the seventeenth century. Any link to French ancestry is unlikely, as are the various myths about beagle origins in ancient Greek, Roman, or Anglo-Saxon history, yet beagle fanciers reach into antiquity for the origins of the breed.²

Prior to the 1870s, beagles varied widely in looks. Probably descended from the Southern Hound, these dogs looked more like straight-legged Basset Hounds or of a Dachshund type. Eighteenth and nineteenth century English immigrants may have brought their favourite hounds to the United States. The contemporary breed resulted from active efforts to produce smaller dogs. The work of subsequent importers, notably James W. Appleton and George B. Post, further established the breed in America.³

In 1876, the first American dog shows offered beagle classes. Formed in 1884, the American English Beagle Club, later the American Beagle Club [ABC], was the first national

² American Kennel Club, *Sporting Dogs (Hounds): The Breeds and Standards as Recognized by the American Kennel Club* (New York, NY: G. Howard Watt, 1935), 13-14; H.W. Prentice, "The Beagle in America," in *The Beagle in America and England*, abridged edition, e.d., H.W. Prentice, 1 (Marceline, MO: Walsworth Brothers, 1955); Bradford S. Turpin, *The Beagle and the Field Trials* (Baltimore, MD: F.J. Skinner, 1900), 9; Frank Townend Barton, *Hounds* (London: John Long, 1913), 181; A.F. Hochwalt, *Beagles and Beagling* (Columbus, OH: F.J. Herr Printing Company, 1935), 5; Josephine Z. Rine, *The Dog Owner's Manual* (New York, NY: Tudor Publishing Company, 1936), 272; Herman F. Shellhass, "The Beagle Hound," in *The American Book of the Dog: The origin, Development, Special Characteristics, Utility, Breeding, Training, Points of Judging, Diseases and Kennel Management of All Breeds of Dogs*, e.d. G.O. Shields, 269 (Chicago, IL: Rand, McNally, and Company, 1891); Bradford S. Turpin, *The Beagle and the Field Trials*, (Baltimore, MD: F.J. Skinner, 1900), 9; James M. Pulley, "History of the Beagle in America: The Importations and Dogs that have had the Greatest influence on the Breed up to date, 1903," in *The Beagle: Treating of the History, Breeding, Rearing, Training, Showing and Kennel Management of the Breed*, e.d. Reno Cole Berry, 2-3 (Wheaton, IL: Wheaton College Press, 1903); James Watson, *The Dog Book: A Popular History of the Dog, with Practical Information as to the Care and Management of House, Kennel, and Exhibition Dogs; with Descriptions of all the Important Breeds* (New York, NY: Doubleday, Page, and Company, 1909), 651; Glenn G. Black, *American Beagling* (New York, NY: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1949), 3; J. Otho Paget, "The Beagle," in *Hounds & Dogs: Their Care, Training and Working: for Hunting, Shooting, Coursing, Hawking, Police Purposes &c*, e.d. A. Croxton Smith, 205 (Philadelphia, PA: J.P. Lippincott Company, undated).

³ American Kennel Club, *Sporting Dogs (Hounds)*, 15; Prentice, "The Beagle in America," 2; Turpin, *The Beagle and the Field*, 9-10; J.C. Cooley, "Beagling – A Healthful and Fascinating Sport," *Town and Country*, March 1, 1913, 26; Arthur E. Patterson, *About Dogs: A Modern Guide to Seventy-Five Breeds* (New York, NY: New York Herald Tribune, 1939), 23.

sporting organization for the breed. The club adopted a breed standard and offered bench shows, further homogenizing the beagle's appearance. While early shows had only a handful of entries, they quickly rose to regular numbers of between thirty and forty dogs. By the time of the 1890 founding of the National Beagle Club (NBC), the ABC was facing significant challenges because of the geographically scattered membership and the ABC's exclusive focus on bench shows. The NBC ambitiously organized the first Field Trial at Hyannis, Massachusetts, that same year, and dedicated subsequent years to establishing running rules, classes, and judging guidelines for the breed. Under the leadership of Herman F. Shellhass, the two clubs merged in 1891.⁴

Founded in 1884, the American Kennel Club [AKC] was the governing body for purebred dog breeding and competition in the United States. As a "club of clubs," delegates from member organizations made decisions at quarterly meetings. The NBC became the parent club for beagles through its merger with the ABC, making it responsible for the breed standard and for approving beagle clubs' AKC membership applications and requests to host sanctioned bench shows and field trials. Because of the proliferation of regional beagle clubs and concentration of power within the NBC, the AKC established the Beagle Advisory Committee in 1936 to help deal with the volume of requests more fairly.⁵

Under the auspices of the AKC, Beagles competed in bench shows and field trials. At bench shows, a licensed judge examined entries and awarded prizes to those dogs mostly closely conforming to the judge's interpretation of the breed standard. Classes divided dogs by sex, age, and size, despite the visible resemblance between animals. Dogs competed in a show ring, but waited on benches, hence the term "bench shows." The prestigious Westminster Kennel Club first offered beagle classes in 1888, where observers remarked on the relative similarities between dogs, evidence that the beagle was becoming an identifiable breed. Most AKC sanctioned bench shows offered classes for all recognized breeds. The Bryn Mawr Hound Show and the Riding Club Hound Show limited entries to hound breeds and many field trial clubs also held specialty shows for beagles as part of their events. The NBC donated trophies for beagle competitions at

⁴ Watson, *The Dog Book*, 653; Turpin, *The Beagle and the Field Trials*, 11; note that some accounts inaccurately record 1888 as the NBC's founding year, see Patterson, *About Dogs*, 23.

⁵ Black, *American Beagling*, 11; for a comprehensive history of the organization, see American Kennel Club, *Dogs*, 2009.

prominent shows, including those hosted by the Westminster Kennel Club, demonstrating the club's support for these activities.⁶



Figure 1: Hound Show at the National Specialty (1914)⁷

As organized competitions, field trials offered entrants the chance to prove their success as breeders by demonstrating their hounds' rabbit hunting abilities in competitions modeled after

⁶ American Kennel Club, *The American Kennel Club Blue Book of Dogs* (Garden City, NY: Garden City Publishing Company, 1938), 8-9.; C.H. Corbett, "The Sweet Voiced Beagle" The Attractions of the Popular and Miniature Hunting Dog," *Town and Country* (26 November 1904): 12; Shellhass, "The Beagle Hound," 272; American Kennel Club, *Sporting Dogs (Hounds)*, 16; National Sporting Library and Museum [NSLM], National Beagle Club Archives, MC0004, I.2, 1898, Letter from James Mortimer to G. Mifflin Wharton, 19 October 1898; Turpin, *The Beagle and the Field Trials*, 11; in 1901, the NBC sponsored prizes at the Buffalo Show and Danbury, Connecticut shows, but declined an opportunity with the Texas State Fair, see "The National Beagle Club" *The American Kennel Gazette*, July 1901, 160.

⁷ Harris and Ewing, *National Beagle Club of America. Judging Dogs*, 1914, Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division, LC-H261- 4543. Publication permitted, see: www.loc.gov/rr/print/res/140_harr.html.

traditional hunting practices. Pairs of dogs, known as couples, combined to form hunting packs. Using a scale of points, judges scored particular couples or packs according to the list of established criteria. Feature events at the NBC's National Specialty, were classes for two, four, and eight couple packs of beagles. NBC-sanctioned field trial formalized beagles' position as sporting dogs by requiring them to perform in the field in addition to being esthetically pleasing under the breed standard.⁸

Access to primary sources shaped the direction of this thesis. Archival research at the National Sporting Library and Museum in Middleburg, Virginia, and the American Kennel Club Library in New York City uncovered the majority of documents studied. Additional sources include newspaper and magazine articles accessed electronically and census records found through Ancestry.com. Record keeping was a key aspect of the purebred fancy, which ensured that many documents survived to present day. However, those surviving sources belonged to a small but highly influential minority of beaglers who made up the NBC Executive Committee and their peers. Consequentially, this thesis deals almost exclusively with beagling in the elite context through which club officers experienced and shaped the sport.

The NBC's corporate archives were available for study including original copies of the constitution and by-laws, breed standards, meeting minutes, financial records, and club correspondence which accounts for the majority of documents. A limited number of NBC reports, magazine clippings, event premium lists, and kennel advertisements were also found in the club's archives. Executive Committee members created and maintained these files on the membership's behalf.⁹

Club correspondence is the best window into membership composition because incoming and outgoing letters typically show the full names and hometowns of the senders and recipients, and are representative of how the Executive Committee interacted with the wider membership.

⁸ Eugene Lentilhorn, *Forty Years Beagling in the United States* (New York, NY: E.P. Dutton and Company, 1921), 263.

⁹ With the exception of 1901-1910, the incoming and outgoing correspondence files appear to be complete. A limited selection of meeting minutes survived, offering only a sample of documents almost exclusively from the 1930s. See NSLM, National Beagle Club Archives, MC0004.

The bulk of the letters can be classified as either operational or inquiries. Operational correspondence deals primarily with administrative matters, event planning, relationships with other clubs, membership requests and resignations, and financial transactions. These letters circulated between officers, ensuring the club functioned properly. The NBC secretary received and responded to most of the inquiries on behalf of the Executive Committee. Common inquiries include requests for membership applications, information about upcoming shows and trials, recommendations about how to get started in beagling, and solicitations from other kennel clubs. These letters came from general NBC members and individuals external to the club, indicating most non-officer correspondents were not members of the northeastern urban elite. Those holding leadership positions were members of the upper class, defined as educated men with the personal wealth and discretionary time to devote to administering leisure organizations. Because the Executive Committee created and maintained the significant majority of surviving primary sources, their voices are loudest in the NBC's historical record.

First published in 1888, the *American Kennel Gazette*, later the *American Kennel Club Gazette*, was an all-breed magazine dedicated to the sport of purebred dogs. All volumes from 1888 to 1940 were available for study. As the official AKC publication, early editions focused heavily on reporting Stud Book entries, event results, and official club business. NBC reports occasionally appeared on these pages. In 1924, the editors took the magazine in a new direction by including articles on current issues in the sport, canine health, and features on prominent breeders and kennels. Beagles appeared on the cover of the May 31, 1925, issue, foreshadowing the general feature titled "Who Would Not Be a Beagle?" found inside. Discussion of the NBC and recognizable American kennels is noticeably absent in the article. Because the *Gazette* covered all AKC recognized breeds and tended to favour reports on all-breed bench shows over field trials, beagle-specific columns were infrequent and rarely submitted by recognized NBC

members. In addition to lacking substantial information about the NBC officers, the *American Kennel Gazette* also lacks insight into non-elite beaglers who participated in the sport.¹⁰

Guidebooks range in scope and credibility based on authorship and are most useful for constructing the breed's origins, basic care, training, and breeding. English and American authors used the books to provide advice to fellow beaglers and offer reflections on their own experiences with the breed. Those written by recognizable sportsmen offer an added layer of authority. NBC secretary Richard V.N. Gambrill and architect James C. Mackenzie's *Sporting Stables and Kennels* exemplifies the genre. The National Sporting Library and Museum and

¹⁰ For information on the AKC Library's history, see Roberta Vesley, "The Library," in *The American Kennel Club, 1884-1984: A Sourcebook*, e.d. Charles A.T. O'Neill and the Staff of the American Kennel Club, 222-223 (New York: Howell Book House, 1984); The 1924 changes were announced by a notice by John F. Collins, AKC Executive Director, see NSLM, National Beagle Club Archives, MC0004, I.2, 1923, *Important Notice*, 1 December 1923; G.K. Westgate, "Who Would Not Be a Beagler? Real Joy of Owning Little Hounds Lies in What You Do When You Have Them," *The American Kennel Gazette*, May 31, 1925, 20-23, 175-176; Noticing the lack of Beagle columns in the magazine, Henry D. Bixby, Chairman of the Publication Committee wrote Richard V.N. Gambrill, NBC Secretary, encouraging the Club to provide monthly reports to *The American Kennel Gazette*. Gambrill's response is evidence of the growing split between field trial and bench show competitors, and while he offered a general commendation for the publication, he did not anticipate the Club would name a regular correspondent. See NSLM, National Beagle Club Archives, MC0004, I.2, 1927, Letter from Henry D. Bixby to Richard V.N. Gambrill, 1 March 1927; NSLM, National Beagle Club Archives, MC0004, I.2, 1927, Letter from Richard V.N. Gambrill to Henry D. Bixby, 7 March 1927; NSLM, National Beagle Club Archives, MC0004, I.2, 1927, Letter from Henry D. Bixby to Richard V.N. Gambrill, 3 May 1927. Examples of columns from the 1930s, focusing primarily on regional reports and offering little coverage of NBC business include David S. Edgar, "Beagles," *The American Kennel Gazette*, March 1, 1933, 49-50, and Daniel R. Bacon, "Beagles," *The American Kennel Gazette*, August 1, 1934, 41-42.

AKC Library house these books, many donated by prominent sportsmen's estates, indicating members of the elite sporting community owned and read them.¹¹

While NBC insiders created the majority of primary sources used, major newspapers like the *New York Times* and *The Washington Post* occasionally reported on NBC and AKC business, the prestigious Westminster Kennel Club bench show, and the personal lives of key beaglers. Executive Committee members' place within the northeastern urban elite made them the subjects of society reporters, unlike beaglers from the middle class whose names do not appear in major American newspapers. Articles from popular sporting and elite leisure magazines such as *Forest and Stream*, *Outing*, and *Town and Country* supplement those publications specific to purebred dogs, solidifying beagling's place amongst upper class recreational activities. Census records obtained through Ancestry.com confirmed the high socioeconomic status of NBC leaders, reinforcing the Club's position as a leisure organization for wealthy men.¹²

The primary sources available indicate a range of individuals participated in beagling, yet only a small subsection of this group actively involved themselves in shaping the sport's organizational framework. Elite gentlemen residing in the urban northeast filled officer positions,

¹¹ See for example Black, *American Beagling*, 1949; Reno Cole Berry, ed., *The Beagle: Treating of the History, Breeding, Rearing, Training, Showing and Kennel Management of the Breed* (Wheaton, IL: Wheaton College Press, 1903); Hochwalt, *Beagles and Beagling*, 1935; Lentilhorn, *Forty Years Beagling*, 1921; J. Otho Paget, *Beagles and Beagling* (London: Hutchinson and Company, 1923; H.W Prentice, ed., *The Beagle in America and England* (Marceline, MO: Walsworth Brothers, 1955); Turpin, *The Beagle and the Field Trials*, 1900; Patterson, *About Dogs*, 1939; Rine, *The Dog Owner's Manual*, 1936; G.O. Shields, ed., *The American Book of the Dog: The origin, Development, Special Characteristics, Utility, Breeding, Training, Points of Judging, Diseases and Kennel Management of All Breeds of Dogs*, (Chicago: Rand, McNally, and Company, 1891); John Henry Walsh (as Stonehenge), *The Dogs of Great Britain, America, and Other Countries: Their Breeding, Training, and Management in Health and Disease* (New York, NY: Orange Judd Company, 1903); Watson, *The Dog Book*, 1909; Donations from noted sportsmen including Alexander Mackay-Smith and John Daniels comprise the majority of the National Sporting Library and Museum's collection, see National Sporting Library and Museum, "Collection," NSLM, <http://nsl.org/nslm-library-collections>. The Library's copy of Gambrill & Mackenzie's *Sporting Stables & Kennels* (New York: Derrydale Press, 1935) was a 1974 gift of Mrs. C. Oliver Iselin, Jr.

¹² *Forest and Stream* had a circulation of 90 000 when it was purchased by and merged with competing publication *Field and Stream* in 1930, see "Forest, Field, and Stream," *Time Magazine*, June 16, 1930, accessed via EBSCO. *Town and Country* was billed as the premier magazine for people associated with society and country living when it was purchased by publishing magnate William Randolph Hearst in 1925, see "Town and Country," *Time Magazine*, July 7, 1925, accessed via EBSCO.

while middle class beaglers operated on the periphery of the NBC's regular activities. Because the Executive Committee created and maintained the majority of surviving organizational documents and their public lives were the subjects of newspaper articles, the available primary sources are heavily biased toward these upper class men. The NBC's archives provide occasional insight into middle class participation, but a lack of other surviving sources makes it impossible to draw wide conclusions about the majority of beaglers' experiences. While the story of the NBC is undoubtedly more complex, the sources available for this thesis required me to focus almost exclusively on the elite gentlemen who composed the Executive Committee from 1890 to 1940.

This thesis sits at the centre of scholarship on the history of purebred dogs and the history of sports and leisure, two research fields normally mutually exclusive of one another. While fox hunting, beagling's more recognizable cousin, is the subject of numerous historical, anthropological, and philosophical texts, beagling has not caught scholars' attention until now. Several factors set beagling apart from other elite pastimes such as fox hunting, horse racing, and golf, necessitating a review of beagling in relation to the literature on these subjects. Beagling represents an elite sport with an entry point for middle class men, challenging rigid class boundaries by allowing these individuals to participate in the activity on a smaller scale. At the same time, the dogs themselves are an important part of the beagling narrative and their story must be considered in relation to the ways scholars construct other purebred dogs during this period. What emerges is a thesis that complicates how scholars understood sporting and purebred dog histories by demonstrating that beagling transcends established class boundaries observed by sport historians. Furthermore, the dogs demand their own status as animal athletes, independent of existing scholarly constructions of purebreds as pets or working dogs.

Grounded in discussions of elite ritual, texts on fox hunting rely heavily on class-based analysis to paint the sport as the pastime of wealthy men. In fox hunting, men ride on horseback while the dogs chase a fox over pastures and fields. Beagling is essentially a scaled down version of fox hunting; chasing a rabbit rather than pursuing a fox, the men participate afoot. Research on fox hunting discusses the men, hounds, and fox as the three parties who interact throughout the

hunt. Most existing research investigates fox hunting in a human context or offers reflections on the morality and symbolism of the fox' pursuit and death, making passing references to the hounds' role as intermediaries, if the hounds' role is analyzed at all.¹³

Scholars identify a lengthy chase as central to the ritual of the hunt, while reminding readers that fox hunting was a sport reserved for the super elite. Existing literature deals with fox hunting in a strictly English context, noting that participants were not just upper class but often from the gentry or nobility. Because beagling exists in an American context, where gentry and nobility did not hold a place in the class hierarchy, one must be careful not to ascribe the fox hunting literature's arguments onto beagling. That is not to say that ritual was unimportant for the beaglers, but more accurately that American sportsmen had different constraints and opportunities. Where English country gentlemen already had large rural estates, urban American upper class beaglers needed to purchase land individually or collectively to pursue their sport. In an English context, the NBC would not have needed to buy acreage to ensure beagling's future. Concurrently, English hunters were strictly sportsmen by the late nineteenth century whereas the

¹³ Jay Mechling's discusses the positioning of humans, hounds, and prey in candid and posed hunting snapshots from the twentieth century. He observes themes of dominance over the wild, reinforcing the symbolism used to describe the hunt. When acknowledged, hounds are singled out as disruptive because they do not hold still for the camera, see Jay Mechling, "Picturing Hunting," *Western Folklore* 36, no. 1 & 2 (2004): 51-78. Martin Wallen's essay on the evolution of the foxhound breed provides insight into the breed's constructed past, yet his analysis speaks more generally to the making of dog breeds rather than providing in-depth insight into foxhounds role in the hunt, see Martin Wallen, "Foxhounds, Curs, and the Dawn of Breeding," *Cultural Critique* 79 (2011): 125-151.

United States was home to a wide range of huntsmen including subsistence hunters, those hunting for furs, and sportsmen like beaglers who participated in ritualized sport hunting.¹⁴

Fox hunting also draws considerable criticism in the literature because of the public backlash witnessed in recent years. Beagling, however, has been free from allegations of cruelty largely due to fox hunting's more public profile. When scholars discuss hunting with dog packs, they refer specifically to fox hunting. Although similarities between the two sports are evident, the absence of any previous academic research and beagling's American context mean that I am able to explore my argument independent of the challenges and criticisms faced by scholars of fox hunting.¹⁵

Until now, beagles have not caught historians' attention as research topics. Because of their unique status as animal athletes, the breed falls between the dichotomous categories of pet dogs and working dogs currently constructed in the literature. Historians of petkeeping, including Katherine C. Grier, Kathleen Kete, and Susan Jones all explore the activity's history by using Keith Thomas' definition of a pet as an individually named non-food animal that resided in the

¹⁴ Emma Griffin provides a comprehensive history of hunting in Britain, see Emma Griffin, *Blood Sport: Hunting in Britain since 1066* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2007). James Howe argues that the ritual aspects of fox hunting forced interactions between social classes as the gentlemen hunters passed through the fields of rural farmers in the English countryside, but that the cost of participating was prohibitive for non-elites, see James Howe, "Fox Hunting as Ritual," *American Ethnologist* 8, no. 2 (1981): 278-300. James William Jordan's anthropological study of dogs in the rural Southern states presents the animals as living tools that protect human property and help with subsistence hunting, yet are not afforded in special care by lower class white men, see James William Jordan, "An Ambivalent Relationship: Dog and Human in the Folk Culture of the Rural South," *Appalachian Journal* (1975): 238-248. Nicholas W. Proctor argues that hunting in Southern states during the early nineteenth century required hunters to demonstrate mastery over others, including prey, hounds, and slaves, creating an exclusive community of sport hunters, see Nicholas W. Proctor, *Bathed in Blood: Hunting and Mastery in the Old South* (Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2002).

¹⁵ Matt Cartmill discusses the contradictory evolution of anti-hunting sentiments from ancient times to present noting the critics adopt a moral attitude towards the hunt and attempt to draw symbolic conclusions from the prey animal's death, see Matt Cartmill, "Hunting and Humanity in Western Thought," *Social Research* 63, no. 3 (1995): 773-786. Eric A. Eliason discusses the folklore of the hunt in the context of contemporary criticisms of fox hunting in Lincolnshire, England, see Eric A. Eliason, "Foxhunting Folkways under Fire and the Crisis of Traditional Moral Knowledge," *Western Folklore* 63, no. 1 & 2 (2004): 123-167. For an explicitly philosophical analysis of sport hunting, see Alastair S. Gunn, "Environmental Ethics and Trophy Hunting," *Ethics and the Environment* 6, no. 1 (2001): 68-95.

owner's home. Beagles meet two of these three criteria because they are named and not eaten, but they live in specially designed kennels, not their owner's home, meaning they are not strictly pets under this definition. Sentimentality shaped humans' relationships with pets, causing scholars to use explicitly feminized language to describe interactions between people and companion animals.

The experiences of pets are contrasted against those of working dogs in the literature. While pets were valued for their emotional capacities, working dogs were ascribed value based on their economic contributions. Beagling was not a revenue generating sport because of the one directional financial model. Men spent money on the dogs but did not generate income from owning them, meaning the dogs are not working animals even if they had a clearly defined function. Whereas pets were bred for companionship and working dogs for utilitarian purposes, beagles were bred specially for their sporting capabilities. Since these abilities dictated their worth, beagles fall somewhere between pets and working dogs. Men clearly prioritized the animals' wellbeing because they spent large sums of money constructing kennels, purchasing appropriate feed, and provided veterinary care in an era when most pets were not seen to be veterinarians. Although these choices demonstrate owners cared about their dogs, they also reflect practical approaches for managing packs of dogs who needed to be able to perform in the hunt. In this way, beagles bear some similarities to working dogs because they had a job to do, even if there was no opportunity for financial gain. When considered in conjunction with the unidirectional financial model, these factors all indicate that beagles are neither pets nor working

dogs. As animal athletes, bred and valued for their sporting capabilities, beagles represent a new category within the literature.¹⁶

Just as the beagles complicate our understanding of the history of purebred dogs, the men of the NBC also complicate our understanding of sporting history. Most historians construct a specific activity within a limited class context, using race and gender to help frame their arguments. James M. Mayo's *The American Country Club: Its Origins and Development* and Richard J. Moss' *Golf and the American Country Club* represent two recent examples focused on elite leisure. Motivated by a desire to exclude others, Mayo and Moss both argue that upper class American men founded rural country clubs as isolated spaces for them to pursue activities like golf and horse racing away from the view of the middle and working classes, women, and non-whites. The NBC shares similarities with country clubs and their associated activities, but only so far as that the club operated under similar parameters and was governed by men who also participated in country clubs. At the same time, beagling differs from the activities discussed by Mayo and Moss because the sport required physically fit huntsmen able to follow hounds on foot and offered entry points for those outside the elite. Historians of sports such as horse-racing and golf demonstrate how these sports responded to economic pressures in the early twentieth century

¹⁶ Grier goes on to discuss the role of women as family pets' primary caregivers within the private (and implicitly feminized) domestic sphere, arguing that mothers modelled appropriate emotional relationships with animals to the men in their households through the domestic ethic of kindness to animals, see Katherine C. Grier, *Pets in America: A History* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2006), 10-11, 172-173, 200. Kathleen Kete dives deeper into the sentimental aspects of human relationships with companion animals arguing that these carefully constructed relationships reflected the bourgeois anxieties about modern life. Modern Parisian ladies accessorized their dogs with fashionable costumes, fancy grooming, and trained them to perform parlour tricks, and Kete argues this is evidence of an active effort to safely incorporate animals that would otherwise undermine the strictly controlled bourgeois domestic sphere; see Kathleen Kete, *The Beast in the Boudoir: Petkeeping in Nineteenth Century France* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1994), 2-3, 81-85; see Susan D. Jones, *Valuing Animals: Veterinarians and their Patients in Modern America* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2003) for a detailed history of the veterinary profession in the United States including the mid-century transition towards companion animals as veterinarians' primary patient base. Existing breed-specific histories include Harriet Ritvo's analysis of the bulldog's rebranding as an English "rags to riches" tale and Sarah Cheang's analysis of gendered Orientalism and the Pekingese dog in early twentieth century Britain, see Harriet Ritvo, "Pride and Pedigree: The Evolution of the Victorian Dog Fancy," *Victorian Studies* (1986): 227-253; Sarah Cheang, "Women, Pets, and Imperialism; The British Pekingese Dog and Nostalgia for Old China," *Journal of British Studies* 45 (2006): 359-397.

by expanding access to their sports in various and strategic ways.¹⁷ While Beagling was open to middle class men, as the correspondence of Midwestern men involved in the sport and in regional clubs such as the Associated Beagle Clubs of Ohio club indicates, nonetheless NBC leadership remained firmly in the hands of elite men of the Atlantic seaboard and they dominated the sport in that region.

As the chapters of this thesis unfold, it is important to remember that this thesis deals with a very select group of beaglers. Although small in number, the NBC officers and their affiliates were arguably the most influential men involved with the breed during this period. Because of their significant personal wealth and social connections, they had the time and resources to dedicate to furthering their sport. It is this elite status that allowed their personal and professional lives to be preserved in the historical record. While the majority of beaglers came from the middle classes, surviving primary sources do not offer enough insight into their experiences with the sport because elite men dominated the NBC. Only later did others, middle

¹⁷ Participating in the exclusion of others was a primary factor drawing Americans to social clubs in the nineteenth century. Not only was gaining access important, but so too was preventing those deemed undesirable from getting access, see James M. Mayo, *The American Country Club: Its Origins and Development* (New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 1998) and Richard J. Moss, *Golf and the American Country Club* (Urbana, IL: University of Illinois Press, 2001). Mayo and Moss each recognize that Anti-Semitism existed in most early twentieth century country clubs, forcing Jewish elites to form their own leisure organizations. Neither author explicitly addresses the exclusion of non-whites, instead choosing to focus on the ways through which peers gained insider status at country clubs. Moss draws attention to overt “Anglomania” in early American clubs seeking to align themselves with the culture of the English upper classes, thus implying the whiteness of his subjects. By continually referring to the elite status of club members, Mayo also implies a sense of whiteness. For both authors, whiteness is apparent and assumed through the country club members’ socioeconomic status. Founded as leisure sites for social peers, these organizations were inaccessible to non-whites, see Mayo, *American Country Club*, 13-14, 46-47, 131, 192-193, Moss, *Golf*, 17-19, 120. Moss and Mayo also adopt a shared approach to gendered analysis, both arguing that clubs’ primary audience was men. Because of this, the bulk of club business, facilities, and activities appealed to male members. However, they also recognize women’s increasing interest in rural recreation and a desire to participate in club life. Moss and Mayo acknowledge their increased presence, yet describe women’s marginalization to the peripheries of country clubs. Most clubhouses served as visual reminders of the Victorian ideals of separate spaces for men and women, while programming kept women occupied while their husbands were golfing and hunting. Moss writes that golf became popular among women, challenging its manly persona, and helping to break down gender barriers later in the twentieth century. Despite women’s gradual inclusion in certain club activities, during the first half of the twentieth century, those women who spent time at club facilities did so from the periphery of the male-dominated recreational pursuits, see Mayo, *American Country Club*, 19, 160, Moss, *Golf*, 45, 64.

class men and women, establish themselves in the sport's most prestigious governing body. Beagles' experience would also shift in subsequent decades.

This account begins just before 1890 with the events leading up to the founding of the NBC and continues until the end of the 1930s when many of the early leaders moved on and the dog fancy was facing new challenges and opportunities that would usher the sport into the second half of the twentieth century. For beaglers this meant the beginning of a split between show dogs and field champions. My period, 1890-1940, is the era when the men of the NBC worked to produce beagles as animal athletes adept in the field and competitive in the show ring.¹⁸

The first chapter discusses the class-based identities of key NBC officers and affiliates, arguing that their elite social status influenced leadership decisions and club development. Chapter two examines the club's governing documents, positioning them as the framework for creating and maintaining an exclusive sporting community. The third chapter presents the breed standard as the NBC's way of reshaping beagle bodies in an effort to formalize the dogs' position as specialized animal athletes within an elite sporting context. Chapter four brings together the themes of elite social status, exclusive sporting communities, and beagles as animal athletes by discussing how privately owned beagle kennels served as physical representations NBC leaders' values and identities.

In challenging existing interpretations of the history of purebred dogs in the United States, this thesis builds on contemporary histories of sport by bringing together these previously separate areas of study to argue that the NBC leadership defined and regulated beagling by codifying ideas of exclusivity, performance, and wealth. Officers' personal social status allowed them to influence the NBC's efforts to control and reshape beagling from 1890 to 1940. The club

¹⁸ During World War II, American Kennel Club activities operated on a significantly reduced scale, importing dogs from Europe slowed considerably, and Bench Show and Field Trial rules were relaxed in response to resource shortages and rationing, see American Kennel Club, *Dogs*, 84-90. Postwar, purebred dogs became popular family pets among the middle class, AKC registrations increased significantly, the market for consumer pet products boomed, and veterinarians shifted their scope of practice towards companion animal care, see Grier, *Pets in America*, 44; Jones, *Valuing Animals*, 133-140. For more information on the role of dogs during World War II, see Mark Derr, *A Dog's History of America: How Our Best Friend Explored, Conquered, and Settled a Continent* (New York, NY: North Point Press, 2004), 293-305.

offered upper class men opportunities to demonstrate their social status in a sporting context and this small but powerful segment of the club's membership cast beagles as specialized animal athletes, different from pets and working dogs.

Chapter 1.

The Men of the National Beagle Club of America

This chapter will argue that NBC officers were members of the American elite as evidenced by their personal wealth, attendance at key high society events, professional careers, and apparent leisure time. This elite social status shaped the creation and development of the organization. Officers devised a series of opportunities to demonstrate shared beliefs about their class and gender identities through the club's dual purpose as a sporting organization and a social association for their peers. By examining the social status of key individuals, it becomes clear that NBC officers were part of the American upper class, with their participation in upper class activities shaping the future of the NBC. Although these men represent a small segment of the NBC's membership, their leadership positions made them highly influential and set them apart from general members who came from the middle class. Class-based differences are further reinforced by the abundance of primary sources created by elites and the lack of sources available for non-elites. While beagling offered some middle class men an entry point into elite sporting organizations, the upper class leaders discussed in this chapter controlled and regulated their access to the NBC.

The early NBC leaders represent a segment of elite men, actively involved in shaping American society, the economy, and politics. As individuals, many inherited family wealth and social status, graduated from Ivy League universities, and had successful careers in finance, law, and government. Their names frequently appeared in the pages of the *New York Times*, indicating the men were well-connected elite Americans. Although some members were bachelors, others married women of comparable status. Club founders and leaders were like-minded men of comparably high social standing, many of whom were already involved in urban leisure organizations so participating in exclusive recreational pursuits was something to which they were already accustomed. In applying the same principles and practices to the newly formed NBC, they kept the company of their peers while engaging in the sport of beagling. Looking into

the lives of notable NBC members reveals a great deal of information about their personal circumstances and the wider social circles within which they thrived. In addition to having an active interest in beagles and beagling, these men were each other's peers within elite urban America.

Governed by the AKC, the wider community of purebred dog fanciers helped shape the NBC's responsibilities and organizational structure. As the parent club for the beagle breed, the overseeing the breed standard was the NBC's responsibility. Additionally, the NBC held responsibility for administering field trials, recommending judges for bench shows, and establishing its own set of governing documents, regulating membership, and generally advocating for the beagle breed.

Unlike many other parent clubs, the NBC purchased a large tract of land to help achieve their goals. In 1916, five members came together to form the Institute Corporation with each shareholder helping finance the land at Aldie, Virginia, to be known as the Institute Farm. The expansive rural land offered excellent hunting grounds; however, the existing building was in disrepair at the time of its purchase, necessitating repair and maintenance. Discussions about the Institute Farm feature heavily in surviving club records.¹⁹

Operating a national breed club required considerable resources and leisure time to devote to the cause. Like many other kennel clubs, the NBC created a formal governing structure with a series of officers with individual areas of responsibility. The president chaired executive and annual general meetings, while providing strategic organizational leadership with the support of three vice-presidents. However, the bulk of the day-to-day work fell to the NBC's corresponding secretary who handled all club mail, records, and financial management. These officers made up the Executive Committee, along with three active members-at-large chosen by the wider membership. The AKC Delegate was not a regular member of the executive, yet played a very important role by liaising between the NBC and the AKC. Men of high social standing tended to hold leadership positions because they had the time and money to commit to club business. Several names appear throughout the surviving correspondence and meeting

¹⁹ NSLM, National Beagle Club Archives, MC0004, "Finding Aid."

minutes, making it easy to single out a number of individuals for further investigation. These men were club officers, AKC delegates, or respected affiliates. Many were also founding members of the Institute Corporation.²⁰

Club records offered brief insight into the officers' professional lives. In many cases, they corresponded with each other on business letterhead, helping to place the authors socioeconomically and geographically. Genealogy website Ancestry.com helped confirm or further investigate this information along with other demographic indicators including marital status and size of household. Because of their social status, the *New York Times* and *The Washington Post* occasionally reported on members personal, business, and political affairs. These newspaper clippings provide complementary narratives to the Ancestry.com records by placing the men in the wider context of the northeastern urban elite. While there is a significant amount of club correspondence from certain beaglers in the Midwestern states, these men were not responsible for ongoing club administration and leadership. Partially because of primary source limitations and partially due to their outsider status as compared to the club officers, these men are not discussed in more detail here.²¹

Lastly, it is important to note that NBC records are incomplete, including gaps in the correspondence, few surviving meeting minutes, and only representative samples of other organizational documents. Published obituaries and the NBC Archives Finding Aid offered some insight on the leadership chronology. The NBC website also provided unverified information about past executives. These methodological challenges have made it difficult to assign exact years to many members' terms of office. As a result, approximations help organize the leadership

²⁰ NSLM, National Beagle Club Archives, MC0004, I.1.1, Constitution of the National Beagle Club, 1892. Formed as a "club of clubs", the American Kennel Club quickly phased out individual membership in favour of serving as a federation for breed-specific or localized kennel clubs. Each recognized club elected a delegate as their official representative to and liaison with the AKC. For more information on AKC delegates and their roles, see American Kennel Club, *Dogs*, 47-50.

²¹ Examples of these men include *Hounds and Hunting* magazine editor I.W. Carrell of Decatur, Illinois (NSLM, National Beagle Club Archives, MC0004, I.2, 1927, Letter sent to I.W. Carrell, 25 May 1927), G.G. Black of Cleveland, Ohio, a telegraph operator who also wrote for *Hounds and Hunting* (1910 United States Federal Census, Ohio, Bedford, Cuyahoga, district 0003, roll T624_1124, page 12A, image 697), and Henry W. Prentice of DeKalb, Illinois, who wrote *The Beagle in America and England* (Marceline, MO: Walsworth Brothers, 1955).

sequence. Despite this challenge, what becomes clear is that most officers made very long-term commitments to the club. Without annual turnover, the specific length of members' terms becomes less relevant to the overall club narrative. Considerable continuity among the officers meant little leadership renewal, perpetuating the Executive Committee's elite insider status.²²



Figure 2: James Appleton, Ramsay Turnbull, and George Post at the Nationals (1914)²³

Early club president Ramsay Turnbull (died 1924) was a securities broker in Manhattan and a frequent guest at events reported on in the *New York Times* society pages. He was a

²² NSLM, National Beagle Club Archives, MC0004, "Finding Aid.," National Beagle Club of America, "History of the National Beagle Club of America," National Beagle Club of America, http://clubs.akc.org/NBC/about_club.html.

²³ Harris and Ewing, *National Beagle Club. J.W Appleton; Ramsay Turnbull; G.B. Post*, 1914, Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division, LC-H261- 4554. Publication permitted, see: www.loc.gov/rr/print/res/140_harr.html.

graduate of Columbia University and a member of the Union Club. The *New York Times* covered his marriage to Martha Benedict, daughter of Commodore Cornelius Benedict a stockbroker, yachtsman, 1894 Maryland Democratic Party gubernatorial candidate, and friend of President Grover Cleveland. Once widowed, Martha continued to be a prominent social figure. As one of the club's founding members, Turnbull is typical of subsequent officers in terms of his Ivy League education, career in finance, and membership in other social organizations.²⁴

G. Mifflin Wharton appears to have been a bachelor working in life insurance. According to the 1900 United States Federal Census, he resided in New York City with his parents and seven servants. Wharton served as club secretary-treasurer for many years in the early twentieth century. An apparent bachelor, Wharton summered in Newport, Rhode Island, as a guest at Mr. and Mrs. A.G. Vanderbilt's Oakland Farm during the 1903 season. Wharton held membership in the prestigious New York City men's Knickerbocker Club and the National Horse Show Association. Many of the other club officers and their families often appeared on the guest lists for events Wharton attended, indicating they saw each other as peers and reinforcing his insider status among the New York City elite.²⁵

James W. Appleton was a prominent New York City lawyer. He succeeded Turnbull as president of the NBC from 1910 to 1942 and was a co-founder of the Institute Corporation. Unlike the other founders, Appleton made no personal financial contribution to purchasing the site at Aldie, Virginia, but was still actively involved as club president. Although Appleton does not appear to have married, he was a frequent guest at high society events and a member of the

²⁴ "Beagle Club Secretary Dies Suddenly at Home," *The American Kennel Gazette*, August 1924, 39; 1910 United States Federal Census, New York, New York, Manhattan, district 1173, roll T624_1037, page 8B, image 866; "Charming April Brides," *New York Times*, April 29, 1891, 8; "Ramsay Turnbull," *New York Times*, August 6, 1924, 13; "Commodore Benedict," *New York Times*, November 25, 1920, 14; "May Be Connecticut's Governor," *New York Times*, September 11, 1894, 2.

²⁵ 1900 United States Federal Census, New York, Islip, Suffolk, district 767, roll T623_1165, page 6B, accessed via ancestry.com; for examples of his society activities see "Some of the Pretty Gowns," *New York Times*, November 17, 1894, 2; "Society at Home and Abroad," *New York Times*, April 20, 1902, 7; "The News of Newport," *New York Times*, August 21, 1903, 9; "A Society Wedding," *New York Times*, December 3, 1903, 9; "Horse Show Opens in Glitter and Zest," *New York Times*, November 13, 1920, 16; "Society at Home and Abroad," *New York Times*, April 20, 1902, 7; "Fearing-Iselin Wedding Plans," *New York Times*, March 25, 1910, 9; "Choose Club Sevens for Benefit," *New York Times*, February 18, 1926, 8.

Knickerbocker Club. As a bachelor, Appleton resided in Manhattan with his stepmother and father, as well as a number of live-in servants, demonstrating his high social status and wealth. Undoubtedly, his abundance of discretionary time and money allowed him to serve as NBC president for over thirty years.²⁶

George B. Post, a subsequent NBC secretary and Institute Corporation shareholder, inherited much of his social standing through his father, a prominent New York City architect. His own career as a founding broker in the Post and Flegg Wire Company allowed him to maintain membership in the New York Stock Exchange. Outside of business, he was president of the Somerset Hills Country Club. Post typifies the NBC officer, as demonstrated through his family's place within New York high society, his entrepreneurial success, and participation in other elite social clubs.²⁷

Chetwood Smith was another founding member of the Institute Corporation and purchasing shareholder in the Institute Farm. His beagles, Sister Fluent and Sir Garnet, appeared as appeared as plates in *The American Kennel Gazette*. A *New York Times* column featured Smith's marriage to Mary Chapin, herself a poet and novelist who later published as Mrs. Chetwood Smith. United States Federal Census records from 1920 list Smith's occupation as manufacturer, yet further research reveals he held seventeen separate patents for a variety of

²⁶ 1910 United States Federal Census, New York, New York, Manhattan, district 1122, roll T637_1037, page 8A, image 825; 1920 United States Federal Census, New York, New York, Manhattan, district 768, roll T625_1203, page 19B, image 942; "Patriarchs were Hosts," *New York Times*, February 10, 1891, 5; "Great Night for Dinners: Many Newport Cottagers Indulge in Prandial Hospitality," *New York Times*, August 13, 1895, 3; Appleton was the guest of Miss Astor at "Society Notables View Polo Match," *New York Times*, September 30, 1928, 160; "The Week in the Club World," *New York Times*, February 21, 1897, 10.

²⁷ "G.B. Post, Founder of Broad St. Firm," *New York Times*, May 26, 1937, 25.

devices including steam valves and other mechanisms. As a thriving industrialist, Smith was able to finance his contributions to the club.²⁸

Richard V.N. Gambrill was a master of the Somerset Beagles and served as secretary-treasurer of the NBC from the First World War through the Depression era. Gambrill administered the bulk of the surviving club correspondence. Gambrill received many of his dogs when George B. Post dissolved his pack after thirty-six years of ownership in 1921. A graduate of Harvard University, Gambrill was active in the wider elite sporting, arts, and social community including holding positions with the National Horse Show Association, Newport Country Club, Vernon Beagles, and the Knickerbocker Club. In the 1930 federal census, Gambrill gave “retired” as his occupation despite being only thirty-nine years old with six servants living in his

²⁸ “Mr. Chetwood Smith’s Beagle Sister Fluent (114,761),” *The American Kennel Gazette*, May 31, 1908, plate no. 233; “Mr Chetwood Smith’s Imported Beagle Sir Garnet,” *The American Kennel Gazette*, August 15, 1908, back cover; “Eastertide Weddings,” *New York Times*, April 14, 1895, 6; “Mary Chapin Smith,” *New York Times*, May 1, 1950, 25; 1920 United States Federal Census, Massachusetts, Worcester, district 323, roll T625_751, page 5B, image 286; Chetwood Smith, 1907, *Regulating Attachment for Electric Lights*, United States Patent, US857311, filed 2 January 1903, issued 18 June 1907; Chetwood Smith, 1909, *Grinding-Machine*, United States Patent, US930626, filed 11 February 1907, issued 10 August 1909; Chetwood Smith, 1915, *Alarm Control for Sprinkler Systems*, United States Patent, US1134645, filed 19 December 1914, issued 6 April 1915; Chetwood Smith, 1916, *Alarm Control for Sprinkler Systems*, United States Patent, US1181352, applied 6 August 1915, issued 2 May 1916; Chetwood Smith, 1921, *Indirect Water-Heating Apparatus*, United States Patent, US 1379581, applied 6 May 1919, issued 24 May 1921; Chetwood Smith, 1925, *Indirect Water-Heating Apparatus*, United States Patent, US1545704, applied 9 April 1923, issued 14 July 1925; Chetwood Smith and Charles T. Hawley, 1925, *Steam-Water Mixer*, United States Patent, US1535051, applied 5 April 1922, issued 21 April 1925; Chetwood Smith, 1926, *Indirect Domestic Water-Heating System*, United States Patent, US1591647, applied 19 January 1920, issued 6 July 1926; Chetwood Smith, 1928, *Combination Relief Valve*, United States Patent, US1688092, applied 20 March 1922, issued 16 October 1928; Chetwood Smith, 1928, *Diaphragm-Type Relief Valve*, United States Patent, US1688093, applied 25 July 1923, issued 16 October 1928; Chetwood Smith, 1928, *Indirect Water-Heating Apparatus*, United States Patent, US1656574, applied 4 May 1923, issued 17 January, 1928; Chetwood Smith and Ira I. Nelson, 1928, *Spring-Pressure Relief Valve*, United States Patent, US1686875, applied 28 April 1927, issued 9 October 1928; Chetwood Smith, 1933, *Combination Relief Valve*, United States Patent, US1941023, applied 11 May 1931, issued 26 December 1933; Chetwood Smith, 1936, *Relief Valve*, United States Patent, US2035512, applied 14 January 1929, issued 31 March 1936; Chetwood Smith, 1937, *Low Water and Pressure Control Device*, United States Patent, US2088491, applied 25 June 1936, issued 27 July 1937; Chetwood Smith, 1942, *Hot Water Storage System and Pilot-Operated Relief Device Therefor*, United States Patent, US2283513, applied 4 January 1940, issued 19 May 1942; Chetwood Smith, 1947, *Pressure and Temperature Relief Valve*, United States Patent, US2420205, applied 7 October 1944, issued 6 May 1947. All patent documents accessed via www.google.co.uk/patents.

home. Without an active career, Gambrill must have had significant personal wealth and time to support his lifestyle and membership in several elite sporting and social organizations.²⁹

Colonel E. Lester Jones represented the NBC to the AKC for many years early in the twentieth century. A colleague of the National Geographic Society, Jones was a graduate of Princeton University, head of the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey, and provided expert advice during the Alaskan Boundary Dispute. Jones' career as a government scientist represents a different claim to elite status than most of the other club officers who do not appear to have been actively involved in public life outside of social circles. It was Jones' involvement in the NBC made the other officers his peers.³⁰

Born the son of a wealthy American banker in 1890, Charles Oliver Iselin, Jr., grew up attending society events in New York City. Iselin was a long-term club member and served as president from 1946 to 1971. However, Iselin stands out among the other beagle men because he left the city to live as a self-employed dairy farmer in Middleburg, Virginia. No surviving records offer insight into his decision to leave New York, yet his contribution to purchasing the Institute Farm at Aldie, Virginia, demonstrates he also had access to sufficient money to buy the share and his own farm estate in the area. Iselin is the only officer who lived in hunt country while maintaining his social status and connections with club members still active in New York

²⁹ NSLM, National Beagle Club Archives, MC0004, "Finding Aid."; NSLM, National Beagle Club Archives, MC0004, I.2, 1921, Letter from George B. Post to J.H. Walton, 27 January 1921; "Foreign Notables at the Opera," *New York Times*, November 22, 1932, 19; "Heaviest Reservations in Years Being Made for National Horse Show's Golden Jubilee," *New York Times*, October 5, 1933, 28; "Richard V. Gambrill, Sportsman, was 62," *New York Times*, December 11, 1952, 33; 1930 United States Federal Census, New Jersey, Peapack, Somerset, district 39, roll 1383, page 13B.

³⁰ Although Jones appears to have resided in Washington, DC, due to his government career, he was regularly corresponding with other club officers in the New York City area. An abundance of letters indicates he was actively involved in several key club issues including revisions to the breed standard, see NSLM, National Beagle Club Archives, MC0004, I.2; Col. E.L. Jones Dies; Noted Scientist," *New York Times*, April 10, 1929, 23.

Society. Therefore, while he stands out among his beagling peers, Iselin's inherited status and wealth are consistent with that of other notable club members.³¹

Herman F. Schellhass (or Shellhass, died c.1900) left little information in the wider historical record, save for that he was the son of a German immigrant farmer, and lived in Brooklyn, New York, as a real estate broker. Shellhass was president of the ABC during its dissolution into NBC in 1891. Upon his death, the NBC named its Challenge Cup in memory of him. The naming of the Challenge Cup indicated that NBC officers recognized Schellhass as a respectable sportsman and one of their peers.³²

W. Stewart Diffenderffer of Baltimore, Maryland, worked in real estate and as a whiskey merchant during his career. He employed several servants, was active in the Democratic Party in Maryland, and involved in horses as well as dogs. As an officer of the Maryland Kennel Club, Diffenderffer corresponded with the NBC encouraging the club to spend membership dues on trophies and prizes for bench shows. Diffenderffer did not hold a position within the NBC leadership, but still held the same elite social standing as those who did, as evidenced by his ongoing participation in NBC activities.³³

After reviewing important markers of social, economic, and political standing, it is very apparent that prominent NBC members were participants in elite American society. Graduates of Columbia, Harvard, and Princeton Universities, they were educated in Ivy League schools where

³¹ Iselin's father's obituary provides insight into the family's social and economic standing, see "C. Oliver Iselin, Noted Banker, Dead," *New York Times*, January 2, 1932, 11; "C. Oliver Iselin, Jr., Dairy Farmer," *The Washington Post*, February 20, 1979, C4; The *New York Times* covered Iselin's daughter's wedding, see "Miss Nancy Iselin Married to Ensign," *New York Times*, May 17, 1942, 44.

³² A report on the February 1900 Executive Club meeting notes that resolutions regarding the recent death of Shellhass would be drawn up, see "National Beagle Club," *The American Kennel Gazette*. February 1900, 35; Turpin, *The Beagle and the Field Trials*, 11; his name is spelt as both "Schellhass" and "Shellhass" in different documents; 1870 United States Federal Census, New York, New Hartford, Oneida, roll M593_1059, page 463A, image 244; *Brooklyn Directory, 1888-89* (Brooklyn, NY: Lain and Company, 1889); "Beagle Trials Concluded," *New York Times*, November 1, 1907, 8.

³³ *Baltimore City Directory, 1890* (Baltimore, MD: R.L. Polk and Company, 1890); 1910 United States Federal Census, Maryland, Baltimore, district 3, roll T624_551, page 11B, image 261; "Pimlico Opens Today," *New York Times*, April 20, 1910, 9; "Gorman a Candidate," *New York Times*, June 28, 1901, 3; "The Annual Horse Show," *New York Times*, November 18, 1900, 23; NSLM, National Beagle Club Archives, MC0004, I.2, 1890, Letter from W. Stewart Diffenderffer to F.W. Chapman, 22 December 1890.

they made lifelong connections to business and political leaders. While some had successful careers in finance and other professions, men like Appleton and Gambrell appeared to have sufficient personal wealth to devote most of their time to administering leisure organizations. Only Diffenderffer and Jones were involved in politics and government, perhaps because most members saw themselves as outside of political activities or able to influence those holding public office through other means. In the case of Diffenderffer and Jones, political and government activities complemented professional careers and social standing.

With the exception of Iselin, they resided in urban cities in the northeast. In addition to their NBC membership, many were also involved in prestigious urban social clubs including New York City's Knickerbocker. These men were guests at key events in the New York City social calendar, they escorted notable young women from respectable families, and those who married chose women of comparable status. With their names frequently appearing in the social pages of the *New York Times*, it is clear that these men were far from ordinary Americans, for whom the historical record is largely silent. They had significant wealth, leisure time, and social standing, which allowed them to participate in high society and take on leadership roles within the NBC. Already social peers, NBC participation formalized their membership in elite sporting circles.

Members would gather each fall for the national field trial at the Institute Farm in Aldie, Virginia. Conformation bench shows, quarterly club meetings, and regional hunting excursions ensured they were in regular contact with each other. While wives may have attended some events alongside their husbands, club business excluded female participation helping marginalize women to the sidelines of NBC activities. NBC governing documents provided a framework for club leadership and operations, helping to facilitate these social relationships between members thus furthering their goals and objectives for the sport. Building upon their elite social and

economic standing, NBC founders and officers used these documents to shape their club and sport within this largely historical context as discussed in the next chapter.³⁴



Figure 3: J.B. Thomas with his Beagles (1914)³⁵

³⁴ Newspaper and magazine clippings from NBC files occasionally picture wives alongside their executive member husbands, see the magazine feature on Dr. T.B. Snyder's Sankanac Beagles in Phoenixville, PA, which includes a photograph of his wife holding eight leashed Beagles, yet she is only passively mentioned in the text itself, see H.W. Prentice, "A Visit with the Sankanac Beagles," *Hounds and Hunting*, March 1924, 7-9 (NSLM, National Beagle Club Archives, MC0004, I.5.3.), a single page clipping from *The Spur* magazine includes a photograph of G. Mifflin Wharton, R.V.N. Gambrill, and three others including Mrs. Gambrill, see Eugene Lentilhorn, "Out with the Beagles at Aldie," *The Spur*, January 15, 1918, 22 (NSLM, National Beagle Club Archives, MC0004, I.5.4). Geraldine Rockefeller Dodge, proprietor of Giralda Farms kennels and a frequent fixture in elite social circles, spent many years as a club member. George B. Post seconded Mrs. Dodge's membership nomination in 1928, writing that she would "make a desirable member of the Club," see NSLM, National Beagle Club Archives, MC0004, I.2, 1928, Letter from George B. Post to Richard V.N. Gambrill, 10 March 1928, and NSLM, National Beagle Club Archives, MC0004, I.2, 1928, Letter from G.R. Dodge to R.V.N. Gambrill, 8 June 1928. Dodge was also a well-recognized figure in American Kennel Club history. Highlights of her contributions to the sport of purebred dogs include breeding numerous top bench show dogs and being the first woman to individually judge Best in Show at the 1933 prestigious Westminster Kennel Club dog show, an award won in 1932 and 1939 by Giralda Farms dogs. See American Kennel Club, *Dogs*, 38.

³⁵ Harris and Ewing, *National Beagle Club of America. Kennels and Dogs of J.B. Thomas*, 1914, Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division, LC-H261- 4518. Publication permitted, see: www.loc.gov/rr/print/res/140_harr.html.

Chapter 2.

Governing Documents and Practices for an Elite Sport

This chapter will argue that the NBC's governing documents provided members with tools for creating an exclusive sporting community. Building on their individual social status, members demonstrated a collective elite identity through the NBC and used its constitution and by-laws to codify objectives and practices. Because club constitutions formed the organizational "backbone," they provided continuity through leadership changes, established membership parameters, and ensured financial accountability to the membership. Concurrently, regular club activities offered members opportunities to socialize with peers, reinforcing notions of exclusivity and high social standing. By founding the NBC, members created an organization that reflected their place within American society.³⁶

As an elite leisure organization, the NBC followed the conventions of similar clubs seeking to codify beliefs and practices through their constitution. An early draft of the document appeared in *Forest and Stream* magazine in 1890 along with an invitation to potential members. Officially published by the NBC in 1892, the document sets out the club's objectives, membership procedures, the leadership structure, and decision-making authority. Over the course of the club's history, the document remained relatively static with minor amendments published in 1915 and 1934.³⁷

³⁶ Mayo, *American Country Club*, 13.

³⁷ F.W. Chapman, "The National Beagle Club," *Forest and Stream*, May 15, 1890, 334; NSLM, National Beagle Club Archives, MC0004, I.1.1, Constitution and By-Laws of the National Beagle Club of America, 1892.

The constitution and by-laws codified NBC ideas and operations, thus establishing parameters for club activities. The constitution dealt with club objectives, membership criteria, and the election of officers while the by-laws outlined officers' responsibilities, membership dues, and the order of business at meetings. When considered as two complementary and connected documents, the constitution and by-laws provided club leaders with the policies and processes that governed operations.³⁸

Article I of the constitution established that "This Association shall be known as and called the National Beagle Club of America." Article II, described the club's objective as promoting "the improvement in the field and on the bench of the Beagle Hound in America." Article III recorded the process by which individuals became and ceased to be members, including the requirement that interested candidates have the endorsement of two existing members, and the various circumstances through which membership resignations or dismissals occurred. Articles IV and V outlined the officer positions and electoral process. Article VI offered provisions for writing letters care of the secretary in lieu of attending meetings in person. Lastly, Article VII established January, April, July and October as the dates for quarterly meetings, a quorum of five voting members for regular meetings, and four members for Executive Committee meetings. The constitution's framework for club business concentrated decision-making powers within a potentially small number of members who were present at meetings, formalizing its insular attitude.³⁹

Articles I through IV of the by-laws described the officers' responsibilities and powers of the Executive Committee, including the authority to make purchases and form subcommittees for "any special purpose." Articles V and VI listed the member initiation fee of five dollars, annual dues of five dollars, and a note that failure to remit dues resulted in the loss of membership privileges. Article VII allowed for the removal of "persistently" neglectful officers. Parameters for amending the constitution and by-laws were set out in Article VIII. Article IX described the Order of Business for membership meetings, and ensured the membership received reports from

³⁸ NSLM, National Beagle Club Archives, MC0004, I.1.1, Constitution and By-Laws of the National Beagle Club of America, 1892.

³⁹ NSLM, National Beagle Club Archives, MC0004, I.1.1, Constitution and By-Laws of the National Beagle Club of America, 1892.

officers, subcommittees, and “Special Commissions,” reviewed relevant club correspondence, adjudicated new membership requests, and held elections if necessary. “Welfare of the Club” was the last item of the day, where members entertained “remarks and debates intended to promote the general interest of the Club and Beagle Hound in general.” Club meetings reinforced the Executive Committee’s desire to create an insular social space for their peers. Each fall, the General Meeting occurred as part of the National Specialty while the rest of these meetings usually took place in New York City, because the majority of NBC officers resided close by.⁴⁰

Although the primary purpose of these meetings was official NBC business, they also served as social gatherings for the club’s officers. Formal banquets or casual dinners frequently occurred in conjunction with meetings or events, allowing members to build personal and professional relationships with their beagling colleagues. Members were responsible for the costs of attending, meaning that attendees needed sufficient discretionary income to purchase the tickets. Tickets to the Northern Ohio Beagle Club’s 1926 banquet at the Akron City Club cost three dollars, a modest amount given the event’s Midwestern location. Following the 1928 winter meeting, the hosts wrote James Appleton and Ramsay Turnbull regretting their absence from the dinner. In 1929, NBC secretary Richard V.N. Gambrill received a letter from the Canadian National Beagle Club inviting American beaglers to attend their fall show and trial, providing information about the competition classes and a “big dance and party on Thursday night at the Royal Hotel.” Although not an explicit membership requirement, those men who could afford to participate had greater opportunities to network and pursue leadership positions in the organization.⁴¹

Mayo notes that a club’s membership committee or admissions board held considerable power because they adjudicated applications. Under the NBC constitution, this responsibility fell to the Executive Committee. Two current members in good standing needed to sponsor

⁴⁰ NSLM, National Beagle Club Archives, MC0004, I.1.1, Constitution and By-Laws of the National Beagle Club of America, 1892.

⁴¹ NSLM, National Beagle Club Archives, MC0004, I.2, 1926, Letter from G.G. Black, 4 January 1926; NSLM, National Beagle Club Archives, MC0004, I.4.2, 1920-1927, Minutes of the National Beagle Club Dinner and Winter Meeting, 13 February 1923; NSLM, National Beagle Club Archives, MC0004, I.2, 1929, Letter from James Hendrick to R.V.N. Gambrill, 1 October 1929.

candidates before the Executive Committee would consider the application. Parameters for the removal of existing members included failure to pay annual dues, actions contrary to the constitution and by-laws, or behaviour that threatened the organization's reputation and social standing. These articles collectively provided a framework for the Executive Committee to evaluate the club's membership.⁴²

With no comprehensive records available, it is impossible to know the distribution of members among social classes. However, the club's surviving correspondence offers some clues about the wider membership and individuals interested in NBC activities. Letterhead samples reveal that individuals corresponding with the NBC worked as merchants, manufacturers, and lawyers and they resided in various parts of the country. As members of the middle classes, these men could afford the annual membership dues and occasionally attended hunting trials or bench shows. During the 1920s, regional beagle clubs became popular in the Midwest, generating a considerable amount of correspondence between these groups and the NBC. This appears to be the extent of these men's involvement with the NBC and there is no evidence to indicate any held office with the parent organization. Club correspondence offers potential insight into the range of potential members' occupations and locations, yet the NBC officers continued to come from the northeastern urban elite. Despite primary source evidence showing diversity among the general membership, and middle class men's willingness to organize regional clubs, these men do appear to have held officer positions on a national level.⁴³

⁴² Mayo, *American Country Club*, 13; NSLM, National Beagle Club Archives, MC0004, I.1.1, Constitution and By-Laws of the National Beagle Club of America, 1892.

⁴³ The Northern Ohio Beagle Club of Cleveland, Ohio, with G.G. Black as secretary-treasurer, sent the NBC a copy of its *Constitution and By-Laws, Running Rules, and Premium List for 1st Annual Field Trials* in 1921, see NSLM, National Beagle Club Archives, MC0004, I.2, 1921, Constitution and By-Laws, Running Rules, and Premium List for 1st Annual Field Trials. After a series of conflicts over hunting grounds and trial dates in the early 1920s, the Buckeye Beagle Club, Muskgum Valley Beagle Club, Highland Beagle Club, and Northern Ohio Beagle Club came together to form the Associated Beagle Clubs of Ohio, see NSLM, National Beagle Club Archives, MC0004, I.2, 1923, Letter from G.G. Black to Ramsay Turnbull, 5 September 1923. Surviving NBC correspondence includes many letters exchanged between regional executives and the parent Club. The regional conflict caught the attention of the nearby Western Beagle Club in De Kalb, Illinois; see NSLM, National Beagle Club Archives, MC0004, I.2, 1921, Letter from H. M. Reuter to James Appleton, 8 August 1921.



Figure 4: Letterhead sample - Paul Jones, The Commonwealth Shoe & Leather Company⁴⁴

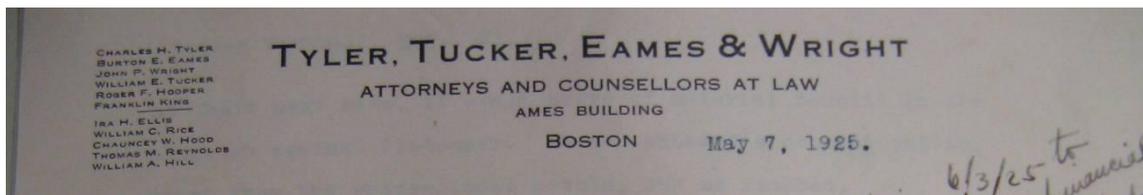


Figure 5: Letterhead sample - Charles H, Tyler, Tyler, Tucker, Eames & Wright, Attorneys and Counsellors at Law⁴⁵

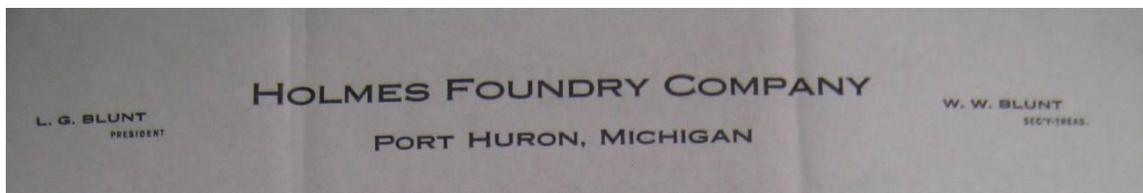


Figure 6: Letterhead sample - L.G. Blunt, President, Holmes Foundry Company⁴⁶

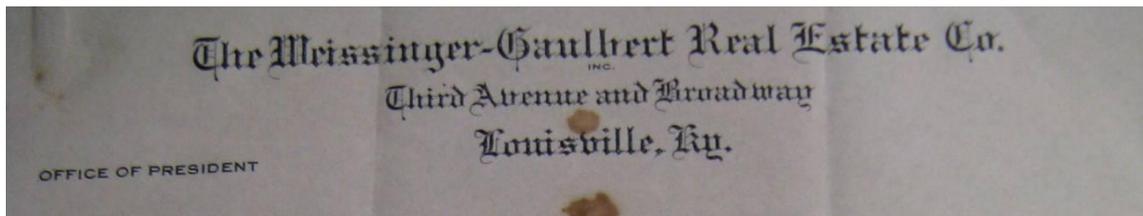


Figure 7: Letterhead sample - Office of the President, The Meissinger-Gaulbert Real Estate Company⁴⁷

⁴⁴ NSLM, National Beagle Club Archives, MC0004, I.2, 1923, Letter from Paul Jones to George B. Post, 23 July 1923. Used with permission, credit: National Sporting Library Archives.

⁴⁵ NSLM, National Beagle Club Archives, MC0004, I.2, 1925, Letter from C.H. Tyler to Ramsay Turnbull, 7 May 1925. Used with permission, credit: National Sporting Library Archives.

⁴⁶ NSLM, National Beagle Club Archives, MC0004, I.2, 1930, Letter from L.G. Blunt to James W. Appleton, 22 October 1930. Used with permission, credit: National Sporting Library Archives.

⁴⁷ NSLM, National Beagle Club Archives, MC0004, I.2, 1931, Letter from "Phil" to James W. Appleton, 11 February 1931. Used with permission, credit: National Sporting Library Archives.



Figure 8: H. Whitehouse, Miss Fargo, Chalmers Wood, Jr., Arthur Scott Burden, J.C. Cooley, W.F. Whitehouse, George Post, and James Appleton Picnic at the National Specialty (1914)⁴⁸

Research limitations make it impossible to determine how many, if any, members came from the working classes. In 1892, members paid a five-dollar initiation fee along with five dollars in annual dues. The Executive Committee was primarily comprised of elite urban men for whom this amount was a very small fraction of their discretionary spending. However, the average wage for a New York state farm labourer was \$1.49 per day in 1892 while plumbers made an average of \$2.94 per day that year. At first glance, it appears that someone from the working class could afford the annual dues, yet these men had many competing financial priorities. Even if he was able to justify the club membership fees, a working class man probably

⁴⁸ Harris and Ewing, *National Beagle Club of America. H. Whitehouse; Miss Fargo; Chalmers Wood, Jr.; Arthur Scott Burden; J.C. Cooley; W.F. Whitehouse; G.B. Post; J.W. Appleton*, 1914, Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division, LC-H261- 4551. Publication permitted, see: www.loc.gov/rr/print/res/140_harr.html.

did not have the leisure time to attend meetings or events nor could he afford the costs of doing so.⁴⁹

Maintaining a prestigious membership was the goal of many elite leisure organizations, and the NBC was no exception to this practice. Membership discussions feature prominently in meeting minutes. At least one Executive Committee member typically sponsored candidates, implying the club leadership had already vetted and endorsed these individuals. This process provided non-elites with opportunities to could gain access to the NBC. At the November 1939 meeting, Richard V.N. Gambrell seconded the nomination of all three membership candidates. Candidates needed to demonstrate to the Executive Committee both an interest in the breed and appropriate social standing before consideration of their request. Because membership bestowed insider status on candidates, and individual members contributed to the collective club identity, Executive Committee members do not appear to have sponsored applications from those whose participation would hinder the club's objectives and status. Executives probably discouraged unsuitable applicants from applying, explaining why there is no surviving evidence of denied requests.⁵⁰

There are two main reasons under which individuals ceased to be members. Individuals could voluntarily withdraw from the club, although technically members needed the Executive Committee's consent to resign their affiliation. At the February 1923 winter meeting and dinner, eighteen members duly elected S.B. Bragg to the membership on the recommendation of LePage Cronmiller and George B. Post. The club also accepted resignations from three members, recording that a Mr. Rockefeller's notice was "accepted with regret." George Hooley tendered his resignation at the meeting, but others present persuaded him to withdraw the letter. While

⁴⁹ NSLM, National Beagle Club Archives, MC0004, I.1.1, Constitution and By-Laws of the National Beagle Club of America, 1892; Scott Derks, *The Value of a Dollar: Prices and Incomes in the United States, 1860-2009* (Amelia, NY: Grey House Publishing, 2009), 14; See Chapter One for a discussion of the socioeconomic status of key National Beagle Club members.

⁵⁰ Mayo, *American Country Club*, 31; See for example NSLM, National Beagle Club Archives, MC0004, I.4.3, Bound Volume of Minutes, 1930-1961; NSLM, National Beagle Club Archives, MC0004, I.4.4, Loose Minutes and Resolutions, 1932-1938; NSLM, National Beagle Club Archives, MC0004, I.4.3, The National Beagle Club Executive Committee Meeting, 10 November 1939.

surviving meeting minutes do not list any denied resignations, Hooley's experience indicates members discouraged their peers from leaving the club.⁵¹

Membership also ceased upon death, a circumstance not discussed in the NBC's constitution and by-laws. In one instance, the club appointed Charles Stevenson to write letters of condolence to the families of deceased members, George F. Reed and Dr. H.D. Burns. This action indicates that the NBC valued these members and the prestige associated with their participation. Just as every member contributed to the club's collective identity, the club also collectively felt the loss of each member.⁵²

Failure to pay dues became a critical issue in the Depression, causing the NBC to dismiss a number of members with accounts past due, a trend observed across elite leisure organizations. Under the by-laws, individuals failing to pay dues lost their membership privileges. Other members voluntarily resigned citing financial reasons, evidence that the wider economic situation directly affected members from below the upper class who could no longer afford to purchase access to NBC activities. L.G. Blunt, President of Holmes Foundry Company in Port Huron, Michigan, wrote James Appleton in October 1930 expressing regret that the current economic conditions meant he was unable to leave his business to attend that year's National Specialty. In June 1932, George H. Morehouse of Greenfield, Ohio, notified NBC secretary Richard Gambrell of his resignation, writing, "I have found it necessary to cut out a number of expenditures the past two years." The letters from Blunt and Morehouse are representative of those received by the

⁵¹ NSLM, National Beagle Club Archives, MC0004, I.4.2, 1920-1927, Minutes of the National Beagle Club Dinner and Winter Meeting, 13 February 1923. The Mr. Rockefeller was likely William G. Rockefeller, owner of the Rock Ridge pack of Greenwich, Connecticut, which was disbanded by 1921, see Lentilhorn, *Forty Years Beagling*, 265. George Hooley was a stock broker who served as a beagle judge, AKC delegate for the New Jersey Beagle Club, and in 1921 was elected to the AKC Board of Directors, Class of 1926, so while the record does not explain his rationale for resigning the NBC in 1923, it is possible he may have preoccupied with other activities, see "Financial Notes," *New York Times*, January 21, 1916, 14; "Name Dog Show Judges," *New York Times*, August 11, 1918, 23; "Bronx Judges Chosen," *New York Times*, September 8, 1918, 31; "New Stock Issues," *New York Times*, January 3, 1929, 39; American Kennel Club, Annual Meeting of the American Kennel Club held at its offices, 221 Fourth Ave., Tuesday, Feb. 15, 1921, http://www.akc.org/about/depts/archive/1921_1922.pdf.

⁵² NSLM, National Beagle Club Archives, MC0004, I.4.3, 1930-1961, Minutes of the National Beagle Club, 13 November 1933. Reed owned Forest Beagle Kennels, the breeder for notable Beagle Frank Forest, see Pulley, "History of the Beagle," 13.

NBC in the early 1930s and evidence of the class stratification between NBC members. During the Depression, limited discretionary income restricted many members' club activities.⁵³

Membership in the NBC provided elite men an opportunity to socialize among their peers. Like many of the prestigious country clubs, the NBC sought to create a rural sporting retreat away from the city and outsiders. Early hunting trials took place on privately owned estates, but by 1909, the club negotiated a lease for 2000 acres of land near Shadwell, Virginia, with the intention of building a clubhouse on the property. Prior to hosting the event in Aldie, the club hired a kennel man to care for the hounds while at the event. The National Speciality was the only regular competition to offer pack stakes for eight couples, or sixteen dogs, making it a major draw for sportsmen. A 1921 table indicates that only a small number of beaglers owned a sufficient number of dogs to enter this class. The list includes NBC officers Post, Iselin, Appleton, Smith, and Gambrill, whose Executive Committee responsibilities included establishing competition classes for the National Specialty. By entering this class, upper class men reinforced their socioeconomic status because they could afford to own the minimum number of dogs required. Those without sufficient means were restricted to classes for smaller packs of four or eight dogs.⁵⁴

⁵³ Mayo, *American Country Club*, 160; NSLM, National Beagle Club Archives, MC0004, I.1.1, Constitution and By-Laws of the National Beagle Club of America, 1892; NSLM, National Beagle Club Archives, MC0004, I.2, 1930, Letter from L.G. Blunt to James W. Appleton, 22 October 1930; NSLM, National Beagle Club Archives, MC0004, I.2, 1932, Letter from George H. Morehouse to Richard V.N. Gambrill, 3 June 1932.

⁵⁴ "National Beagle Club's Trials," *New York Times*, October 31, 1894, 3; "National Beagle Trials," *New York Times*, November 5, 1901, 8; "Beagle Men to Have New Home," *New York Times* December 3, 1909, 9; Financial reports list "kennel man" and "boy" as expenditures for the 1892 event, see NSLM, National Beagle Club Archives, MC0004, II, 1890-1892, Financial Records; the kennel man hired for the 1912 event received \$79.50 for his work, see NSLM, National Beagle Club Archives, MC0004, II, 1913, Statement – February 1st, 1912-; Eugene V. Lentilhorn, Master of the Awixa Beagles, notes that maintaining a pack of this size meant breeding and training more than fifty puppies each year, see Lentilhorn, *Forty Years Beagling*, 263-265.

Name	Owner	Location	Country Hunted	Active, Inactive, or Disbanded
Hempstead	J.L. Kernochan	Hempstead, NY	Long Island	Disbanded
Round Plain	John Caswell	Prides Crossing, MA	Massachusetts	Disbanded
Thornfield	Ernest T. Gill	Laurel, MD	Maryland	Disbanded
Rock Ridge	W.G. Rockefeller	Greenwich, CT	Connecticut	Disbanded
Dungannon	H.D. Burns	Howardsville, MD	Maryland	Inactive
Somerset	George B. Post, Jr.	Bernardsville, NJ	New Jersey	Disbanded
Wolver	C. Oliver Iselin, Jr.	Middleburg, VA	Virginia	Inactive
Piedmond	Joseph Thomas	Middleburg, VA	Virginia	Inactive
Waldingfield	J.W. Appleton	Ipswich, MA	Massachusetts	Active
Sir Sister	Chetwood Smith	Worcester, MA	Massachusetts	Disbanded
Vernon Place	R.V.N. Gambrill	Peapack, NJ	New Jersey	Active
White Oak	E.W. Clucas	Far Hills, NJ	New Jersey	Active
Wheatley	H.S. Phipps	Roslyn, NY	Long Island	Disbanded
Reynal	Eugene Reynal	Millbrook, NY	New York	Active
Belray	Raymond Belmont	Babylon, NY	Long Island	Disbanded
Old Westbury	J.S. Phipps	Westbury, NY	Long Island	Disbanded
Ragdale	Arthur S. Burden	Jericho, NY	Long Island	Disbanded
Fairfield	Mrs. David Challoner (Miss Crimmins)	Fairfield, CT	Connecticut	Inactive
Windholme	Harry T. Peters	Islip, NY	Long Island	Inactive
Fanhall	G.W. Fanning	Boonton, NJ	New Jersey	Active

Figure 9: List of Large Beagle Packs (1921)⁵⁵

⁵⁵ Adapted from Lentilhorn, *Forty Years Beagling*, 265.

In 1916, key members including James Appleton, C. Oliver Iselin, George Post, and Chetwood Smith formed the Institute Corporation to purchase 508 acres of land in Aldie, Virginia. Known as the Institute Farm, this property became the site of future club meetings, the annual NBC National Specialty field trial and bench shows, and a place for members to gather year after year. These annual events and the Institute Farm itself occupied a special place in the club's collective memory and identity.⁵⁶

The club constructed a kennel facility on site and restored an existing multistory building to be the clubhouse. The club also hired servants to assist with the event, spending \$437.90 on wages for the 1928 trials. After acquiring the Institute Farm, C. Oliver Iselin, Jr., adopted a caretaker role for the property and became the local event organizer because he lived in nearby Middleburg, Virginia. Iselin arranged for deliveries, including the purchase of hound food and rabbits for the field trial. An account sheet from 6 November 1938 shows that Iselin invoiced the club for \$311.15 to cover cabin repairs, labourers, and canned meat. Similar to the rural land owned by a golf or country club, the Institute Farm provided members with a shared space to pursue their sport and the friendship of other members.⁵⁷

The purchase of the Institute Farm is also significant because it centralized many of the NBC's annual activities. Attending the trials each year gave club members the opportunity to demonstrate their own social status because of the expense of travelling and leisure time needed to participate. Likewise, General Meetings now took place in conjunction with the National Specialty at the Institute Farm, meaning that members had to attend in order to participate.

For the 1918 show and trial, the NBC arranged to ship hounds via Adams Express Company. A train leaving Jersey City on the evening of November 5th would connect in Washington, DC, with a Leesburg, Virginia, bound train, arriving the next day. The club also

⁵⁶ NSLM, National Beagle Club Archives, MC0004, "Finding Aid."

⁵⁷ See Chapter One for more information about Iselin; NSLM, National Beagle Club Archives, MC0004, II, 1929, National Beagle Club Statement, July 1, 1928-July 1, 1929; Mayo notes that hiring staff demonstrated a club's financial stability, see *American Country Club*, 92; Club correspondence includes an exchange of letters between Iselin, Gambrell, and H.S. Ferrell of Neosho, Missouri, a "Shipper of Wild Cotton-Tail Rabbits," see NSLM, National Beagle Club Archives, MC0004, I.2, 1938 and NSLM, National Beagle Club Archives, MC0004, II, 1938.

recommended the services of J.D. Lambert, Jr.'s, Livery in Leesburg. The fact that the club made these arrangements indicates the majority of attendees either travelled from the New York City area or made their own travel plans.⁵⁸

A 1926 contract from the American Railway Express Company shows that James Appleton paid fifty dollars to ship ten dogs from Ipswich, Massachusetts, to Leesburg, Virginia, the railway depot nearest the Institute Farm. For most middle class members from the Midwest, the realities of travelling to Virginia were prohibitive. It was expensive to ship hounds, and they faced longer travel times. L.G. Blunt's 1930 letter to James Appleton notes that he was uncomfortable leaving his business for the seven to ten days needed to travel and attend the National Specialty, evidence that different members made different levels of commitment to club activities.⁵⁹

The 1926 Field Trial had the highest entries for that decade. James Appleton's dogs won the 13-inch two couple class, and Richard V.N. Gambrill's Vernon Somerset packs won the 15-inch two couple class, the four couple class, and the eight couple class. George B. Post judged the bench show that followed the field competition. Chetwood Smith judged the 1929 National Specialty bench show, where the Club instituted a rule that entries must also compete in a recognized field trial to be eligible. Appleton and Gambrill's dogs took prizes in both field and show. Appleton and Gambrill's wins and Post and Smith's judging assignments speak to the prominent positioning of club officers at the National Specialty. While there is nothing to suggest that the packs did not fairly earn their awards, Appleton and Gambrill's devotion to the sport translated to greater success in the field and on the bench.⁶⁰

The National Specialty occupied a special place in the Club's collective memory. This is most evident in *The Aldie Anthem* composed and sung by the Pemberton and Treweryn pack

⁵⁸ NSLM, National Beagle Club Archives, MC0004, III.1, 1918-1920, 1918 National Beagle Club of America Premium List of the Twenty-Ninth Annual Field Trails and Twelfth Show of Beagles.

⁵⁹ NSLM, National Beagle Club Archives, MC0004, II, 1926, American Railway Express Co. Transportable Livestock Contract; NSLM, National Beagle Club Archives, MC0004, I.2, 1930, Letter from L.G. Blunt to James W. Appleton, 22 October 1930.

⁶⁰ Richard V.N. Gambrill, "Large Entry Marks Trials of the National Beagle Club," *The American Kennel Gazette*, November 30, 1926, 157-158; Richard V.N. Gambrill, "Excellent Entry Competed at Beagle Trials and Show," *The American Kennel Gazette*, January 1, 1930, 54.

owners at the 1938 annual meeting. David “Bun” Sharp, Jr., master of the Treweryn Beagles, sent a typewritten copy of the lyrics to Richard Gambrill in November of that year. The song evokes a shared sense of sportsmanship and fraternity, while acknowledging established social conventions including the peripheral role of women.⁶¹

⁶¹ *The Aldie Anthem* was enclosed in the letter from David B. Sharp, Jr., to Richard V.N. Gambrill, 29 November 1938, see NSLM, National Beagle Club Archives, MC0004, I.2, 1938; Sharp’s hunting diaries are housed by the National Sporting Library and Museum, see NSLM, Treweryn Beagles Hunting Diaries, MC0016, 1930-1987.

Beagle, beagle, dog and bitch
There's the rabbit in the ditch
Tally-ho and kill-e-loo
I'm for Aldie, how 'bout you

Chorus
Tally-ho, kill-e-loo

Away from all this social stuff
Lets try it in the semi rough
Warm log cabins on the sward
Chick Sales specials in the yard

"Who's down first? I want some chow"
Mr. Bedford take a bow
His Pemberton beagles feel quite lost
If they do not hunt on frost".

Waldingfield is next in line
The Professor's out to work this time
Uncle Jimmy, their master comes to the fore
He really knows the Beagle lore.

Pentucket is a darn good pack
And "Little Albert" doesn't lack
His hound will show you real good sport
Even if the run be short.

Josiah Child is very keen
Running right with his hounds he's usually seen
The Covelane make a marvelous sound
Is i[t] Josiah or his hounds?

The Readington Foot have a lot of kick
They tear through briars at a two minute lick
The outfit sports Old Barclay Gold
At Aldie it's anything but old.

We'll have a lunch out in the hills
Without the benefit of frills.
On again to cottin tails
Ware the wire and ware the frails.

Bun Sharp's Treweryn are next to go
Someone calls out tally-ho.
Hounds hit the line and drive along
They're taken up while running strong.

The Foxcatcher beagle pack never sips
If "Jack DuPont" has a couple of whips.
Some Treweryn will oblige
To help the Foxcatcher win a prize.

Ollie Iselin's Wolver pack
Show good sport but have to watch back track,
Last year Ollie took the run
We made him president of the back trackers club.

Mr. Gambrill's Vernon-Somerset hounds
May find a fox and run off the grounds
Given another chance, then taken up
They'll probably stand to win the cup.

Later on Dean's rum punch best
Grand it is, relax and rest
Dinner call rings out too soon
Where the hell is the swizzler spoon?

Perhaps a meeting after supper
Then things get a little rougher.
Treweryn and Pemberton can't behave
Listen to Uncle Jimmy rave.

Dadie Girven goes to town
When he come back he's done up brown.
The Professor is a nasty man
Says, "Kimble, call me Author on the can!"

Penny in the attic is never seen
Pours a lot of water on Chet Smith's bean.
At Aldie we pie every bed
Can't blame Uncle Jimmy for getting fed.

Guinia hens and "wreck Bun's cabin."
Lordy, chile, what fun they're havin'.
Return the tootsies to Squaw Hill
A man can't sleep unless it's still.

Far too soon the bogies knock,
Then the ice cold water's shock.
Each day passes far too fast
Aldie fun too good to last.

The sad departure from this place
"A year's so long", reads each face.
It somehow passes, that we know,
See you all at next year's show.

Tally-ho, yes, we're going away
Kill-e-loo see you all next year

Figure 10: The Aldie Anthem (1938)

The Aldie Anthem speaks to the sentimental affinity members held for their time at the Institute Farm, evidence that the NBC succeeded in creating a private space for members to gather. Reflecting on their experiences, the authors drew attention to the social aspects of the National Specialty through lines like “Later on Dean’s rum punch best, Grand it is, relax and rest,” and “Uncle Jimmy, their master comes to the fore, He really knows the beagle lore.” The “Uncle Jimmy” in the song happens to be James W. Appleton, president of the club. The authors also tease fellow beaglers with lines such as “Last year Ollie took the rub, we made him president of the back trackers club.” The “Ollie” in question is C. Oliver Iselin, Jr., an officer of the club and organizer of the event, who hopefully accepted the nickname in jest. These lines illustrate the sense of camaraderie between members and the deep personal friendships that formed through NBC events like the National Specialty.⁶²

Several verses demonstrate members’ social status by acknowledging that the time at Aldie was a break from the formality of other elite activities. Beginning the second verse with “away from all this social stuff, let’s try it in the semi rough,” the authors expressed a sense of relief and excitement about spending a few days outside the established social conventions of the upper class. “We’ll have a lunch out in the hills, without the benefit of frills,” reinforced this point. The phrases also contrasted the feminized elite “social stuff” with “frills” against the obviously masculine “semi rough... out in the hills,” further reinforcing the marginalization of women at NBC events.⁶³

The song explicitly drew attention to the marginalization of women attending events at the Institute Farm during this period. Rugged and communal living quarters conflicted with prevailing social norms, and resulted in a largely male cohort of participants. The line “return the

⁶² NSLM, National Beagle Club Archives, MC0004, I.2, 1938, Letter from David B. Sharp, Jr., to Richard V.N. Gambrill, 29 November 1938.

⁶³ NSLM, National Beagle Club Archives, MC0004, I.2, 1938, Letter from David B. Sharp, Jr., to Richard V.N. Gambrill, 29 November 1938.

tootsies to Squaw Hill” reflected the separate sleeping quarters and reinforced women’s place on the periphery at the National Specialty and beagling more broadly.⁶⁴

The last verse is the most telling because it acknowledged members’ feelings as the annual event wrapped up with the line, “the sad departure from this place, ‘A year’s so long,’ reads each face.” At the same time, “It somehow passes, that we know, See you all at next year’s show,” demonstrated the excitement and enthusiasm with which members looked forward to gathering the following season. By purchasing the Institute Farm, the NBC members ascribed the same feelings they felt for one another to the location of their annual meeting. Shared sporting experiences translated into strong friendships between members, evidence that the club was successful in achieving its goal of providing social activities for peers.⁶⁵

Under the framework of the constitution and by-laws, the NBC actively created an exclusive recreational organization led by and for men dedicated to the beagle breed and the sport of beagling. The Executive Committee, comprised entirely by elite men who had the leisure time to undertake club business, regulated membership. Club correspondence indicates that financial barriers including membership dues and the costs of attending events in other cities limited working and middle class beaglers’ participation, but source limits prevent this from being explored in more detail. At the same time, the NBC centralized activities geographically by purchasing the Institute Farm at Aldie, Virginia, reinforcing its status as an elite leisure organization.

Within this upper class sporting context, members created the beagle breed standard, a document codifying how an ideal beagle should look and outlining a scale of points for bench show and field trial judges to evaluate the breed. Similar to how the constitution and by-laws established the conventions for human involvement in beagling, the breed standard set out

⁶⁴ NSLM, National Beagle Club Archives, MC0004, I.2, 1938, Letter from David B. Sharp, Jr., to Richard V.N. Gambrill, 29 November 1938; The NBC website includes an unverified account of the early years at the Institute Farm including a reference to the construction of “squaw cabins” for wives to stay in separate from the men, see National Beagle Club of America, “History of the National Beagle Club of America,” National Beagle Club of America, http://clubs.akc.org/NBC/about_club.html.

⁶⁵ NSLM, National Beagle Club Archives, MC0004, I.2, 1938, Letter from David B. Sharp, Jr., to Richard V.N. Gambrill, 29 November 1938.

parameters for canine participants. The next chapter discusses the evolution and implications of the breed standard as it relates to club development and beagles' positioning as specialized animal athletes.



*Figure 11: Watching the Hunt at the National Specialty (1914)*⁶⁶

⁶⁶ Harris and Ewing, *National Beagle Club of America. Watching the Hunt*, 1914, Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division, LC-H261- 4571. Publication permitted, see: www.loc.gov/rr/print/res/140_harr.html.

Chapter 3.

The Breed Standard and the Hounds of the National Beagle Club of America

This chapter will argue that members of the NBC created and maintained the breed standard as a way of regulating beagle bodies in an effort to formalize the dogs' position as specialized animal athletes within an elite sporting context. At the centre of this exercise is the breed standard, a document that outlined how the ideal beagle should look. The breed standard reinforced the importance of breeding beagles that embodied the look of well-conditioned hunting dogs. Unlike pets valued for emotional reasons or working dogs whose economic contributions assigned their worth, beagles were animal athletes prized for their sporting abilities as described in the breed standard.⁶⁷

As the AKC sanctioned parent club for beagles, creating and maintaining the standard was the NBC's responsibility. The first print version appeared in *The American Kennel Gazette* in 1889 with revised copies appearing in 1899, 1909, and 1915, and subsequent books published by the AKC in 1929 and 1935. Club correspondence indicates the breed standard was a popular topic of conversation between the Executive Committee and beagle fanciers. Insiders offered feedback on proposed revisions, while outsiders requested copies of the standard. Analysis of the standard's application and use, along with a systematic review of the document itself illustrates

⁶⁷ American Kennel Club, *Blue Book of Dogs*, 8.

how the standard shaped beagle bodies into animal athletes. Prominent beaglers' interpretations of the standard and comments about individual dogs speak to the document's application.⁶⁸

As an abstract concept, the breed standard left the reader envisioning how the words on the page translated to actual living dogs. Straddling the divide between science and art, well-bred beagles embodied the prevailing interpretation of the standard. A section-by-section review of the standard shows how the document envisioned beagles as specialized animal athletes. Long-time AKC delegate Colonel E. Lester Jones and J.A. Riley edited *The Beagle Standard with Interpretations* as a guide to the document. They stressed that studying the breed standard as determined by the NBC should be the first step for any prospective beagler. According to Jones and Riley, a comprehensive understanding of the document must be the foundation for sportsmen.⁶⁹

Qualitative statements described specific aspects of the animal's anatomy, while quantitative values set out a rank system that emphasized function over fashion. By investigating these qualitative statements, as published in the 1915 breed standard, efforts to codify beagle bodies as those of animal athletes become apparent. Likewise, longitudinal analysis of the quantitative scale of points reveals an early effort to reemphasize athletic qualities over appearance, followed by several decades of stability. The standard's descriptors and point scales work together to abstractly describe how the ideal beagle should look. Interpreting how the standard applied to actual living dogs fell to the breeders, competition judges, and interested outsiders whose decisions ultimately shaped the bodies of future generations of beagles.

⁶⁸ Black, *American Beagling*, 11; "Beagle Standard," *The American Kennel Gazette*, June 1889, 141; "The Beagle Standard," *The American Kennel Gazette*, October 1899, 245; "Standard and Points of Judging the Beagle as Recommended by the National Beagle Club of America," *The American Kennel Gazette*, December 31, 1909, 917; "Beagle," *The American Kennel Gazette*, June 30, 1915, 297; "Beagles" in *Pure-Bred Dogs: The Breeds and Standards as Recognized by the American Kennel Club*, Charles T. Inglee, Henry D. Bixby, and Harold Ober, eds., 57-61 (New York: G. Howard Watt, 1929); American Kennel Club, *Sporting Dogs (Hounds)*, 20.

⁶⁹ E. Lester Jones and J.A. Riley, eds., *The Beagle Standard with Interpretations* (undated), 3; Jones and Riley's guidebook was likely produced in the late 1920s Jones was active in the Club but before his death in 1929.

	Standard	Defects
Head	25	
<i>Skull</i>	5 The skull should be fairly long, slightly domed at occiput, with cranium broad and full.	A very flat skull, narrow across the top; excess of dome;
<i>Ears</i>	10 Ears set on moderately low, long, reaching when drawn out nearly, if not quite, to the end of the nose; fine in texture, fairly broad- with almost entire absence of erectile power- setting close to the head, with the forward edge slightly inturning to the cheek and rounded at tip.	Ears short, set of high or with a tendency to rise above the point of origin.
<i>Eyes</i>	5 Eyes large, set well apart- soft and houndlike- expression gentle and pleading; of a brown or hazel color.	Eyes small, sharp, or terrierlike; or prominent or protruding;
<i>Muzzle, jaws, lip</i>	5 Muzzle of medium length, straight and square cut; the stop moderately defined. Lips free from flews; nostrils large and open.	Muzzle long, snipey, or cut away decidedly below the eyes, or very short. Roman nosed, or upturned, giving a dishface expression.
Body	35	
<i>Neck</i>	5 Neck rising free and light from the shoulders, strong in substance yet not loaded; of medium length. The throat clean and free from folds of skin; a slight wrinkle below the jaw, however, may be allowable.	A thick, short, cloddy neck carried on a line with the top of the shoulders. Throat showing dewlap and folds of skin to a degree termed "throatiness."
<i>Chest and shoulders</i>	15 Shoulders sloping- clean, muscular, not heavy or loaded- conveying the idea of freedom of action with activity and strength. Chest deep and broad, but not broad enough to interfere with free play of the shoulders.	Straight, upright shoulders. Chest disproportionately wide or with lack of depth.
<i>Back, loins</i> <i>Ribs</i>	15 Back short, muscular and strong. Loin broad and slightly arched, and the ribs well sprung, giving abundance of lung room.	Very long or swayed or roached back. Flat, narrow loin. Flat ribs.
Running Gear	30	
<i>Fore legs</i>	10 Straight, with plenty of bone in proportion to size of the dog. Pasterns short and straight.	Out at elbows. Knees knuckled over forward, or bent backward. Forelegs crooked or Dachshund like.
<i>(Front) Feet*</i>	10 Close, round and firm. Pad full and hard.	Feet long, open or spreading.
<i>Hips, thighs</i>	10 Strong and well muscled, giving abundance of propelling power. Stifles strong and well let down. Hocks firm, symmetrical and moderately bent. Feet close and firm.	Cow hocks, or straight hocks. Lack of muscle and propelling power. Open feet.
Coat and Stern	10	
<i>Coat</i>	5 A close, hard, hound coat of medium length. Any allowable hound colour.	A short, thin coat, or of a soft quality.
<i>Stern</i>	5 Set moderately high; carried gaily, but not turned forward over the back; with slight curve; short as compared with the size of the dog; with brush.	A long tail. Teapot curve or included forward from the root. Rat tail with absence of brush.
Total	100	

Figure 12: Breed Standard (1915)⁷⁰

⁷⁰ Adapted from "Beagle," *The American Kennel Gazette*, June 30, 1915, 297.

The breed standard described the general appearance of the beagle as “[a] miniature foxhound, solid and big for his inches, with the wear-and-tear look of the dog that can last in the chase and follow his quarry to the death.” By introducing beagles as tough, rugged, and physically fit, this statement outlined the NBC’s vision for codifying the breed as specialized animal athletes. Comparatively, the Brussels Griffon, a small Belgian terrier-like dog was described as “A lady’s pet dog, intelligent, sprightly, robust, of compact appearance, reminding one of a cob, and captivating the attention by a quasi-human expression,” on the page following the beagle breed standard in the 30 June 1915 edition of *The American Kennel Gazette*. Contrasted against the image of a Brussels Griffon, the beagle embodied masculine athleticism, strength, and stamina, as was expected of a hunting dog.⁷¹

A dog’s head often displays the most identifiable traits shared by all animals of the breed. The beagle standard described a well-proportioned head with hound-like eyes, soft hanging ears, and a medium-length muzzle with “large and open” nostrils. However, the list of defects is most important when considering the construction of beagles as animal athletes. To avoid hunting injuries, “prominent” or “protruding” eyes were discouraged because eyes that stuck out too far increased this risk. “Snipey” muzzles, short ears, and “upturned” faces limited a beagle’s ability to successfully stir up and follow the rabbit’s scent, also making them defects under the standard. According to Herman F. Shellhass, poorly hung ears would be torn up in the brush and without a “wide muzzle and open nostrils moist for scenting,” a dog would be unsuccessful in the hunt. At first glance, a beagle’s head makes him a cute, esthetically pleasing dog, yet simple analysis revealed the standard focused on function in the field.⁷²

The main body area included the animal’s neck, chest, shoulders, back, loins, and ribs. Collectively, these parts worked together to form the beagle’s strong, athletic frame, with an emphasis on muscularity and free movement. An “abundance of lung room” described the back and ribs, reinforcing the importance field performance. A disproportionately built dog would be

⁷¹ “Beagle,” *The American Kennel Gazette*, June 30, 1915, 297; “Brussels Griffon,” *The American Kennel Gazette*, June 30, 1915, 298.

⁷² “Beagle,” *The American Kennel Gazette*, June 30, 1915, 297; Shellhass, “The Beagle Hound,” 269.

unable to run and keep up with pack during the hunt, explaining why a “thick, cloddy neck, “straight, upright shoulders,” and “flat ribs” were all considered defects.⁷³

The NBC chose the term “running gear” to encompass the breed’s fore legs, hips, thighs, and feet. By emphasizing the function of the feet and legs, the standard’s architects consciously used athletic terminology over anatomical labels. “Knees knuckled over forward,” “cow hocks,” or “straight hocks” would limit mobility, and are found on the list of defects for this reason. For the beagle to “last in the chase,” he needed the “close, round and firm” feet described in the standard. If the feet were “long, open or spreading” as described in the defects, the dog risked injury while passing over rough terrain at high speeds. Poorly constructed dogs would be unable to run properly, effectively limiting their sporting potential.⁷⁴

The coat and stern appear as partial afterthoughts in the standard. Referring to the animal’s colour and texture, and tail, these areas seem superficial when compared to the more technically described head, body, and running gear. Specifically, the standard permitted “any allowable hound colour” for beagle coats. Because of the wide range of hound colours, this meant that beagles in a variety of colours and marking patterns were eligible for competition. Unlike many other breeds with a single or limited range of colours, beagles could come in any number of combinations. Descendents of prominent American kennels including Vernon, Somerset, Treweryn, Pemberton, and Waldingfield, appearing as postwar bench show and field trial entries demonstrate the consistency of beagle coat colours over decades and into the period when pet-ownership of beagles was beginning to grow. While the coat itself had to be “close, hard... of medium length,” the lack of colour parameters reinforces the argument that the standard’s architects focused on function over fashion. Likewise, the description of the stern is limited because the tail’s main function was to alert the huntsman to the dog’s location in the

⁷³ “Beagle,” *The American Kennel Gazette*, June 30, 1915, 297.

⁷⁴ *Ibid*, 297.

brush. A tail that was too short or curved over the back would not be visible at a distance, explaining the classification of these traits as faults.⁷⁵

⁷⁵ “Beagle,” *The American Kennel Gazette*, June 30, 1915, 297; The Hound List for the Don Valley Beagles 1946-47 season listed a range of colours: Tan and white, full collar; black blanket; black, white and tan; badger pied; black blanket; lemon and white; black saddle; yellow and white. Although these dogs are a Canadian pack falling outside the period of study, they are descended from prominent American kennels, making them a useful example of the range of coat colours present in earlier packs in the United States, see NSLM, National Beagle Club Archives, MC0004, I.6.C.2, A-L, Don Valley Beagles, *Hound List*, 1946-1947.

	1889 ⁷⁶	1899 ⁷⁷	1909 ⁷⁸	1915 ⁷⁹	1929 ⁸⁰	1935 ⁸¹
Head	35	25	25	25	25	25
Skull	5	5	5	5	5	5
Ears	15	10	10	10	10	10
Eyes	10	5	5	5	5	5
Muzzle, jaws, lip	5	5	5	5	5	5
Body	35	35	35	35	35	35
Neck	5	5	5	5	5	5
Chest and shoulders	10	15	10	15	15	15
Back, loins	15	15	20	15	15	15
Ribs	5					
Running Gear	20	30	30	30	30	30
Fore legs		10		10	10	10
Front Feet	10	10	15	10		
Rear Feet*	-	-	15	-	10	10
Hips, thighs (hind legs*)	10	10		10	10	10
Coat and Stern	10	10	10	10	10	10
Coat	5	5	5	5	5	5
Stern	5	5	5	5	5	5
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100

*The standard implies that rear feet are considered holistically with the hips and thighs, with the exception of the 1909 version which explicitly discusses the rear feet. The 1929 and 1935 versions list “feet” as a single category, implying both the front and rear feet.

Figure 13: Scale of Points, 1889-1935

⁷⁶ “Beagle Standard,” *The American Kennel Gazette*, June 1889, 141.

⁷⁷ “The Beagle Standard,” *The American Kennel Gazette*, October 1899, 245.

⁷⁸ “Standard and Points of Judging the Beagle as Recommended by the National Beagle Club of America,” *The American Kennel Gazette*, December 31, 1909, 917.

⁷⁹ “Beagle,” *The American Kennel Gazette*, June 30, 1915, 297.

⁸⁰ “Beagles,” in Inglee *et al*, 57-61.

⁸¹ American Kennel Club, *Sporting Dogs (Hounds)*, 20.



Figure 14: Beagle owned by Raymond Belmont⁸²

When considered holistically, the breed standard painted a picture of a strong, well-built dog, appropriately proportioned for the hunt. However, to successfully achieve this vision, the standard needed to balance qualitative statements with the quantitative scale of points. Figure 13 depicts a quantitative distribution of significance by assigning a percentage value to each section of the dog's anatomy. Over a forty-six-year period, the scale of points underwent only one notable change, the 1899 reassignment of ten points from the head to the running gear. Other notable observations include the ongoing emphasis on functionality as evidenced by the majority of points allocated to the body and running gear. Both the coat and stern consistently receive little attention on the scale of points, again reinforcing that appearance was secondary to performance.⁸³

⁸² Harris and Ewing, *National Beagle Club. Belmont, Raymond*, 1914, Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division, LC-H261- 4534. Publication permitted, see: www.loc.gov/rr/print/res/140_harr.html.

⁸³ "Beagle Standard," *The American Kennel Gazette*, June 1889, 141; "The Beagle Standard," *The American Kennel Gazette*, October 1899, 245.

When the NBC created the beagle breed standard, they clearly sought to codify their shared vision of the dogs as animal athletes. Using the qualitative statements about anatomy, they sketched out the image of a well-proportioned, muscular hunting dog. Quantitative point scales complemented these descriptors by prioritizing those areas that contributed to the animal's functionality in the field. However, despite such strict criteria, the breed standard remained an abstract, conceptual document that required users to interpret and envision the authors' picture of the breed. A range of breeders and competition judges represent the beagling insiders who frequently used the standard, while veterinarians, government officials, research scientists, and the public also demonstrated an interest in the document.

Breeders occupied the grassroots level of beagling, although they were not a homogenous category. The NBC executive members represented the elite level of breeders who had the personal connections and financial resources to access the most popular stud dogs, and often owned several brood bitches to breed with these studs. As the people who also regulated the standard, these men were intimately familiar with the document and were able to influence revisions to reflect their preferences for the breed. An intrinsic desire to improve the beagle guided Executive Committee members' breeding and administrative decisions, rather than the potential for personal financial gain. Working to balance hunting abilities with physical appearance, these men come as close to being professional breeders as is possible within the wider context of the purebred dog fancy of the times.⁸⁴

On the opposite end of the spectrum are those hobby breeders who may own a few dogs that they breed with other locally owned specimens. Club correspondence reveals a number of regional breeders, involved with state-level hunting and kennel clubs, who bred beagles on a much smaller scale than the NBC leadership. As discussed earlier, these men were committed to the breed but lacked the social status and discretionary income to be involved at a higher level. They were familiar with the standard, but geographic and financial limitations meant they were typically unable to access the popular stud dogs preferred by NBC executive members. With a limited selection of animals available locally, these breeders were restricted to those stud dogs

⁸⁴ See Chapter 2 for a discussion of how the NBC Constitution and membership practices were used to restrict access to club activities.

they could access. Hobbyists such as these were probably responsible for the significant majority of beagles registered with the American Kennel Club during this period. While commercial breeding operations, casually known as puppy mills, are common in contemporary society, very few existed until after World War II when purebred dog ownership among the urban middle class rose significantly. Given this, local hobby breeders were probably responsible for keeping beagles on the American Kennel Club's list of the top ten most popular breeds based on the number of dogs registered each year, yet research limitations make it impossible to further investigate these breeders.⁸⁵

Ranging from the NBC elite, many of whom owned dozens of dogs, to hobbyists who owned significantly fewer, all breeders followed the same process of selecting which animals to mate with each other. However, breeders were not the only humans influencing future breeding decisions. Judges decisions in the field and at bench shows determined which beagles best embodied the standard, helping breeders determine which animals to breed with one another.

Since 1885, beagles have competed in AKC sanctioned bench shows. At these events, licensed judges evaluated animals against their breed's standard. By describing how an ideal dog should look, the breed standard provided the judge with strict criteria. In the show ring, the judge physically examined the dog's body and observed them walking at a brisk pace, while comparing the animal in front of them to the ideal set out in the breed standard. Classes separated dogs and bitches into categories according to age and size, with the best specimens receiving prizes. Despite the perception that they are superficial competitions, bench shows represent one of the primary forms of competition for beagles. When evaluating these beagles, the judge is responsible for determining if the dogs in the ring could successfully hunt rabbits in the field. Not only does this reinforce the importance of drafting a breed standard that accurately described

⁸⁵ See Chapter 1 for a discussion about the socioeconomic status of the NBC leadership and how this shaped their participation in the club; The term "backyard kennels" appears in an American Kennel Gazette article on uniformed breeding practices, see Oscar H. Schultheis, "Things That Hurt the Dog Game First There are 'Backyard Kennels,' and Then Breeders Who Cut Prices of Dogs," *The American Kennel Gazette*, May 1, 1933, 27, 74; Grier, *Pets in America*, 304; American Kennel Club, *Dogs*, 44, 47, 49-50, 66, 73, 89; Beagles continue to be among the top ten breeds based on number of dogs registered annually, see American Kennel Club, "AKC Announces Most Popular Dogs in U.S.," American Kennel Club, http://www.akc.org/news/index.cfm?article_id=4592.

the qualities of beagles as animal athletes, it also helps demonstrate how bench show judges' decisions influenced future breeding efforts. Show results were well publicized and helped signal which animals best embodied the standard and who would become desirable breeding stock.⁸⁶



*Figure 15: G. Mifflin Wharton, three assistants, Chetwood Smith (judging), F.D. Stuart, and A.S. Burden at the National Specialty Hound Show (1914)*⁸⁷

⁸⁶ American Kennel Club, *Dogs*, 55-57.

⁸⁷ Harris and Ewing, *National Beagle Club of America, Judging Dogs*. G. Mifflin Wharton; 3 Whips; Chetwood Smith, F.D. Stuart; A.S. Burden, Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division, LC-H261-4567. Publication permitted, see: www.loc.gov/rr/print/res/140_harr.html.

Hounds	<i>General levelness of pack</i>	40%	The first thing in a pack to be considered is that they present a unified appearance. The hounds must be as near of the same height, weight, conformation and colour as possible.
	<i>Individual merit of hounds</i>	30%	Is the individual bench show quality of the hounds. A very level and sport pack can be gotten together and not a single hound be a good Beagle. This is to be avoided.
Manners		20%	The hounds must all work gaily and cheerfully, with flags up- obeying all commands cheerfully. They should be broken to heel up, kennel up, follow promptly and stand. Cringing, sulking, lying down to be avoided. Also a pack must not work as through in terror of master and whips. In Beagle packs it is recommended that the whip be used as little as possible.
Appointments		10%	Master and whips should be dressed alike, the master or huntsman to carry horn- the whips and master to carry light thong whips. One whip should carry extra couplings on shoulder strap.
Total		100%	

Recommendations for Show Livery

Black velvet cap, white stock, green coat, white breeches or knickerbockers, green or black stockings, white spats, black or dark brown shoes. Vest and gloves optional. Ladies should turn out exactly the same except for a white skirt instead of white breeches.

Figure 16: Packs of Beagles, Score of Points for Judging (1935)⁸⁸

The NBC also hosted field trials where judges evaluated a pack’s collective hunting ability. Under the auspices of the AKC, these events provided another venue for evaluating beagles against a set criteria inspired by the breed standard. Much like bench shows, a scale of points determined the day’s top pack. Judges evaluated both humans and hounds in the field, reinforcing the importance of demonstrating sportsmanship and a working relationship with the hounds. Building on the breed standard, the document *Packs of Beagles, Score of Points for Judging*, established the importance of a uniform pack comprised of hounds conforming to the bench show requirements. Under these criteria, a successful field trial pack should also be capable of winning in the show ring.⁸⁹

⁸⁸ Adapted from American Kennel Club, *Sporting Dogs (Hounds)*, 21.

⁸⁹ American Kennel Club, *Sporting Dogs (Hounds)*, 21.

The “Manners” and “Appointments” categories reinforced the importance of well-trained hounds and good sportsmanship on the part of the master and his assistants, or “whips.” Hounds who feared their handlers demonstrated discouraged behaviours such as “cringing, sulking, [and] lying down,” and this resulted in a lower score. By penalizing whip usage, the *Score of Points* favoured skilled hounds whose instinct and training disciplined them to follow the huntsman’s instructions over his corrections. The “Recommendations for Show Livery” described the clothing worn by exhibitors, an additional requirement for competition, helping the pack present a professional outward appearance. Just as the document prioritized uniformity among the hounds, it also set the standard of dress for human participants. Because the *Score of Points* built on the breed standard, field trial judges’ decisions equally influenced a dog’s success.⁹⁰

In the club’s early history, Champion Frank Forest stands out as the first animal to earn both bench show and field trial championships. A strong hunter like Frank Forest looked the part of a show dog and performed well at a field trial, making them highly sought after breeding stock. The dog won the club’s first field trial, held at Hyannis, Massachusetts, in 1890. Commenting on his performance in the field, Bradford S. Turpin wrote, “he ran a great dash and judgement and showed a splendid nose and plenty of endurance.” A column in *Forest and Stream* magazine wrote, “he was hard to follow, as he is a very fast working beagle, but he could be heard ringing in the woods several times.” The NBC formally recognized Frank Forest’s accomplishments by passing a motion that read the following motion:

Whereas the Field Trial record of the Beagle Hound Frank Forest has been the source of considerable discussion, and whereas Frank Forest fairly won the special for the best Beagle in the trials of 1890s, and whereas we believe the difference between “the best beagle in the trails” and the “absolute winner” to be a technical variation only and whereas we believe it to be the duty of the National Beagle Club to protect its members and their dogs as far as possible, there for be it resolved that Frank Forest be and hereby is declared the absolute winner of the Field Trials of the National Beagle Club 1890 and be entered as such on the records of the Club.

⁹⁰ Ibid., 21.

While an editorial in *Forest and Stream* magazine remarked that the NBC moved too quickly to award this title, his subsequent popularity indicated members ignored these concerns.⁹¹

Sporting artist Gustav Muss-Arnoldt's sketch of Frank Forest appeared as a plate in the May 1893 volume of *The American Kennel Gazette*. When Forest Kennels broke up, George F. Reed sold the dog to Arthur Perry allegedly for \$1000, about the same time as he achieved the double championship. According to James M. Pulley, Frank's popularity was because he "got into good hands" and his owners actively shaped his success. H.L Kreuder, proprietor of Rockland Beagle Kennels who subsequently purchased Frank Forest from Perry, advertised the dog at stud for ten dollars, writing that he "would advise owners of well bred bitches to avail themselves of this opportunity to get the blood of one of the best dogs in America." Frank Forest's unprecedented popularity demonstrates how the decisions of bench show and field trial judges influenced demands for stud dogs.⁹²

Early internal correspondence from the 1890s provides evidence that hunting ability remained at the forefront of future conversations about the appearance and performance of the Beagle. Later efforts to revise the standard appeared to be the results of official club-sanctioned processes including a committee lead by NBC Secretary G. Mifflin Wharton in 1901. Published

⁹¹ Turpin, *The Beagle and the Field Trials*, 18; "The National Beagle Club Trials," *Forest and Stream* November 13, 1890, 336; NSLM, National Beagle Club Archives, MC0004, I.4.1, c.1890-1916, Resolution, undated; "Dog Chat," *Forest and Stream*, June 16, 1892, 571.

⁹² "Rockland Kennels' Frank Forest (19,827)," *The American Kennel Gazette*, May 1893, plate no. 53. Gustav Muss-Arnoldt (1858-1927) was a prominent American painter, specializing in sporting dogs, who produced 170 illustrations for the magazine between 1895 and 1909, see William Secord, *A Breed Apart: The Art Collections of the American Kennel Club and The American Kennel Club Museum of the Dog* (Woodbridge, Suffolk, England: Antique Collectors Club Limited, 2001), 315; Pulley, "History of the Beagle in America," 13; NSLM, National Beagle Club Archives, MC0004, III.1, 1893-1899, Rockland Beagle Kennels advertising card, undated.

copies of the standard also indicated multiple revisions to the Scale of Points for Judging between 1899 and 1935.⁹³

A set of letters and a committee report from 1923 serve as a case study of the sorts of conversations that took place during proposed breed standard revisions. A letter from P.M. Chidester generated considerable discussion about height classifications at the February meeting, and caused the NBC to strike another committee to review the standard. Writing on behalf of the committee, Paul Jones requested additional information from Chidester, yet reminded him that dissatisfaction with the standard was usually misplaced frustration about a judge's interpretation of the document. Paul Jones subsequently wrote to committee member George B. Post noting that he did not hear back from Chidester, felt no revisions were necessary at the time, and reinforced his belief that the concerns arose from inconsistent judging of hounds. While supporting no revisions, Paul Jones initiated a discussion about beagles' feet, questioning if the current language in the standard adequately provided for versatile dogs that could hunt across diverse terrain. He wrote that "catlike" feet might be fine for "good turf and soft ground" but a "fox-like" foot would better serve dogs on rocky hunting grounds. Committee members and club leaders exchanged a series of letters, yet they did not reach consensus about the most correct or appropriate foot shape. An undated report, likely presented at the fall 1923 trials at Aldie, Virginia, from committee members E. Lester Jones, Paul Jones, and George B. Post firmly stated that no revisions were necessary, justifying their recommendation by writing that the document might be "injured rather than improved" as a result. Despite the fact that no changes occurred,

⁹³ NSLM, National Beagle Club Archives, MC0004, I.2, 1892, Letter to the Gentlemen of the Nation Beagle Club, 7 April 1892; NSLM, National Beagle Club Archives, MC0004, I.2, 1892, Letter from J.O. Wedell to H.V. Jamieson, 16 April 1892; G. Mifflin Wharton, "The National Beagle Club of America," *The American Kennel Gazette*, March 1901, 51; "Beagle Standard," *The American Kennel Gazette*, June 1889, 141; "The Beagle Standard," *The American Kennel Gazette*, October 1899, 245; "Standard and Points of Judging the Beagle as Recommended by the National Beagle Club of America," *The American Kennel Gazette*, December 31, 1909, 917; "Beagle," *The American Kennel Gazette*, June 30, 1915, 297; "Beagles" in *Pure-Bred Dogs*, 57-61; American Kennel Club, *Sporting Dogs (Hounds)*, 20.

this debate is important because it demonstrated the men's efforts to monitor beagles' ability to perform in the field, and subsequently ensures the standard prioritized this.⁹⁴

The club devoted a great deal of attention towards discussing beagles' height and developed ways to ensure accurate measurement. The NBC prescribed measuring an animal's height at the withers, or shoulder blades, rather than their head because all dogs carried them differently. Beagles measuring less than thirteen inches at shoulder competed in a separate class from those dogs measuring between thirteen and fifteen inches at shoulder. The 1902 Annual Report indicates that the Club struck an official measuring committee, comprised of a club-sanctioned judge and two regular members, to evaluate all dogs at the following national trials. Measuring dogs continued to occupy meeting discussions, with records of those decisions also surviving from in 1934 and 1939 NBC meetings. Because height dominated discussions about the standard, similar themes also appeared in other media including *The American Kennel Gazette*, where a fancier observed recent breeding trends that favoured taller dogs.⁹⁵

Outsider interest in the breed standard supported its wider social legitimacy. The NBC frequently received requests for copies from potential fanciers, huntsmen, veterinarians, colleges, and government officials. Given the volume of requests received each year and the costs associated with printing and mailing copies of the standard, the club's secretary appears to have

⁹⁴ NSLM, National Beagle Club Archives, MC0004, I.4.2, 1920-1927, Minutes from National Beagle Club Dinner and Winter Meeting, 13 February 1923; NSLM, National Beagle Club Archives, MC0004, I.2, 1923, Letter from Paul Jones to P.M. Chidester, 27 July 1923; NSLM, National Beagle Club Archives, MC0004, I.2, 1923, Letter from Paul Jones to George B. Post, 5 October 1923; NSLM, National Beagle Club Archives, MC0004, I.2, 1923, Letter from George B. Post to E. Lester Jones, 9 October 1923; NSLM, National Beagle Club Archives, MC0004, I.2, 1923, Letter from George B. Post to James W. Appleton, 9 October 1923; NSLM, National Beagle Club Archives, MC0004, I.2, 1923, Letter from Paul Jones to George B. Post, 8 November 1923; NSLM, National Beagle Club Archives, MC0004, I.2, 1923, Letter from George B. Post to E. Lester Jones, 15 November 1923; NSLM, National Beagle Club Archives, MC0004, I.4.2, 1920-1927, Report from E. Lester Jones, Paul Jones, and George B. Post to the National Beagle Club of America.

⁹⁵ NSLM, National Beagle Club Archives, MC0004, I.2, 1927, Letter from James W. Appleton to Clarence Barr, 21 May 1927; NSLM, National Beagle Club Archives, MC0004, I.4.2, c. 1890-1916, The National Beagle Club of America Annual Report – January 1st 1902, 1902; NSLM, National Beagle Club Archives, MC0004, I.4.3, 1930-1961, Minutes of the National Beagle Club, 12 November 1934; NSLM, National Beagle Club Archives, MC0004, I.4.3, 1930-1961, The National Beagle Club Executive Committee Meeting, 10 November 1939; Daniel R. Bacon, "Beagles," *The American Kennel Gazette*, November 1934, 41.

adopted two main responses. Redirection to *Hounds and Hunting*, a beagling magazine founded in 1903, offered the public and prospective buyers information on the breed. On the other hand, professional correspondents ranging from veterinary instructors and students to the United States Department of Agriculture received print copies complements of the NBC. Leon F. Whitney, Executive Secretary of the American Eugenics Society, also appears to have received copy complements of the club for inclusion in his book *The Basis of Breeding*. External inquiries such as these demonstrated the breed standard's wider legitimacy outside of the NBC.⁹⁶

Conceptually, breed standards are abstract representations of animal bodies. Without official illustrations, a variety of people formed their own interpretations about how the document translated to living animal bodies. Breeders used the standard to guide decisions about which animals to pair with one another, while the choices of bench show and field trial judges shaped breeding preferences. The document itself underwent minimal revisions during the period of study, demonstrating that the NBC remained committed to maintaining their vision for beagles as animal athletes. Analysis of those qualitative statements describing beagle bodies alongside the quantitative scale of points helps dictated their intent, ensuring that future generations of dogs looked and functioned as pack hunting dogs. Correspondence between club members further supports this understanding, while outsider inquiries regarding the standard reinforce its wider legitimacy. Just as the NBC Constitution provided the framework for human participation in the sport, the breed standard outlined the role of the dogs as animal athletes within the elite

⁹⁶ *Hounds and Hunting*, "About: The History of Hounds and Hunting," *Hounds and Hunting*, <http://houndsandhunting.com/about/>; Letters from C.W. Green, 26 May 1913, and N.N. Copeland, 11 July 1913, to Ramsay Turnbull represent inquires from unknown Beagle fanciers, see NSLM, National Beagle Club Archives, MC0004, I.2, 1913; Letter from Leonard Ealler, Jr., of the Susquehanna Poultry Yards and Kennels, dated 12 May 1913, represents correspondence from middle class Beagle fanciers, as demonstrated by his custom printed letterhead, see NSLM, National Beagle Club Archives, MC0004, I.2, 1913; Letter from M.W. Harper, Professor at New York State College of Agriculture, Cornell University, dated 15 March 1914 (NSLM, National Beagle Club Archives, MC0004, I.2, 1914) and letter from O.V. Brumley, Professor of Veterinary Surgery, Ohio State University, dated 26 March 1924 (NSLM, National Beagle Club Archives, MC0004, I.2, 1924) are examples of requests received from universities; the letter from J.O. Williams, Senior Animal Husbandman in Charge Certification of Pedigrees, Bureau of Animal Industry, dated 15 April 1924 represents correspondence received from government officials (NSLM, National Beagle Club Archives, MC0004, I.2, 1924); A handwritten notation on Whitney's letter indicates Gambrill responded to the inquiry by sending a copy of the standard, see Letter from Leon F. Whitney to Richard V.N. Gambrill, 6 August 1927, (NSLM, National Beagle Club Archives, MC0004, I.2, 1927).

recreational context of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. By using the breed standard to position beagles this way, NBC officers downplayed the possibility of beagles as pets or working animals and reinforced their place within the elite sporting community. The next chapter discusses how owners used beagles' unique needs to justify building elaborate kennel facilities that served as physical representations of their own socioeconomic status.

Chapter 4.

Kennels as Demonstrations of Wealth and Homes for Animal Athletes

This chapter illustrates how privately owned beagle kennels served as physical demonstrations of the values and identities of the NBC's leaders. NBC executives drafted a breed standard that described their dogs as animal athletes who hunted in packs, but were not pets or economically productive. Because of this unique status, large beagle packs like those owned by NBC leaders required accommodations that reflected their specific needs. Specially designed and constructed, kennels became private social spaces for men to congregate, while housing their beagles in state of the art conditions. These kennels boasted expansive floor plans with a wide variety of special-purpose spaces meaning they were costly to build and maintain. Rooms set aside for human social activities provided men with spaces to gather, dog runs provided beagles with sleeping and exercise space, and rooms dedicated to feeding, veterinary care, and training required humans and hounds to interact with each other. Although primary source limitations do not allow for additional research into all beagles' living conditions, the club's membership included middle class sportsmen participating on a much smaller scale than NBC leaders. It is unlikely that these middle class men housed their dogs in facilities of the magnitude discussed in this chapter. These kennel designs reinforced previously discussed themes including the creation of exclusive elite recreational spaces and the unique positioning of beagles as animal athletes.

Several sources provide information on model beagle kennels, both prescriptive and those already constructed. Richard V.N. Gambrill, who served as NBC secretary-treasurer, and architect James C. Mackenzie's book *Sporting Stables and Kennels* is an authoritative look at model kennels for beagles and other breeds. As beagler, Gambrill's personal experience shaped his advice about layouts, building materials, and necessary features. Similarly, his elite social standing indicates that cost was not a limiting factor for his own kennel design, and this clearly carried over to the book he co-authored. James W. Appleton, NBC president from 1910-1942, wrote the book's preface, further reinforcing its legitimacy within the elite beagling community.

The National Sporting Library and Museum's copy of the book was a gift of Mrs. C. Oliver Iselin, Jr., wife of the club's president from 1942 to 1971, with a second-edition copy later donated by John Daniels, evidence that other sportsmen once owned copies.⁹⁷

Clippings from *The American Kennel Gazette* and *Hounds and Hunting* magazine complement Gambrill and Mackenzie's book by providing narrative accounts of visits to specific beagle kennels. Likewise, a series of prescriptive texts by respected American and British beaglers reinforced Gambrill and Mackenzie's advice about kennel design and construction. Collectively, these sources demonstrated how beagle kennels served as physical representations of wealth and social exclusivity while providing specialized facilities for animal athletes. However, these sources do not demonstrate where those dogs owned by ordinary Americans lived.

Gambrill and Mackenzie identify two types of kennels, those meant to house dogs in individual spaces, and those meant to house dogs in group spaces. As pack dogs, beagles fell into the latter category. Their book organized floor plans into these categories and includes seven possible designs for communally housing hound packs. Gambrill and Mackenzie offer five different prototype designs and two examples of already built kennels, ranging in size and shape. Each design included a floor plan and most included at least one exterior elevation. Photographs are included for those designs modelled after existing kennels. The authors also offered editorial comments about the functionality of each space, rationale for specific layouts, recommended materials, and other helpful hints for prospective builders to consider. One an expert on beagles

⁹⁷ Richard V.N. Gambrill served as Secretary-Treasurer of the National Beagle Club of America, was Master of the Somerset Beagles, and held positions in the Newport Country Club, Vernon Beagles, and National Horse Show Association, see Chapter One; Richard V.N. Gambrill and James C. Mackenzie, *Sporting Stables and Kennels* (New York: The Derrydale Press, 1935). Several photographs held by the Library of Congress reveal that Mackenzie was the architect who designed Vernon Manor, Gambrill's estate home at Peapack, New Jersey; see for example Grottscho-Schleisner, *Richard V.N. Gambrill, Vernon Manor, residence in Peapack, New Jersey. House from garden at left, May 28, 1935*, Peapack, NJ, Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division, LC-G612- 24144; James W. Appleton was a Manhattan lawyer, co-founder of the Institute Corporation, and served as president of the National Beagle Club of America for over thirty years, see Chapter One; "C. Oliver Iselin, Jr., Dairy Farmer," *The Washington Post* (20 February 1979): C4, see National Sporting Library and Museum, "Collections," National Sporting Library and Museum, <http://nsl.org/collections>.

and the other a noted architect, Gambrill and Mackenzie grounded their advice in years of expertise.⁹⁸

Before discussing these specific designs, it is helpful to consider Gambrill and Mackenzie's list of the five types of spaces prospective kennel builders should consider incorporating into their design because they inspired their floor plans. Acknowledging the wide range of opinions available on the subject, they state that their list incorporated the ideas discussed in other guidebooks. As an educated man and NBC executive, Gambrill would have been familiar with these works.⁹⁹

While beagles generally lived communally, rather than in individual kennel runs, a great deal of effort usually went into determining which dogs shared living spaces with each other. For practical reasons, working pack dogs, bitches in season, brood bitches, and puppies at different life stages each required their own separate accommodations. Avoiding fights over females, preventing the trampling of puppies, and reducing incidences of unplanned pregnancy kept dogs safe and maintained the breeding program's integrity. Functional spaces such as a feeding room, cooking area, abattoir or slaughterhouse, and storerooms, provided ample storage and food preparation in an era that predated commercially prepared dog foods. Yards of various sizes served as outdoor living space, exercise runs, and waste elimination areas. Dips or facilities used to douse dogs in antifungal chemicals, turpentine, or insecticides, helped control fleas, skin ailments, and other health concerns. Similarly, a hospital space allowed for the isolation of ill or injured dogs. Gambrill and Mackenzie also recommended incorporating a "Trophy Room" and "Men's Room" into kennel designs, reinforcing the idea that spaces needed to be functional for both hounds and the men. Other human-focused features that appear in floor plans include staff living quarters, offices, show rooms, and lounges. Gambrill's experience managing his Vernon

⁹⁸ Gambrill and Mackenzie, *Sporting Stables and Kennels*, 87.

⁹⁹ *Ibid.*, 96.

Beagles meant he knew firsthand how a properly designed floor plan contributed to a successful kennel operation.¹⁰⁰

It is important to remember that Gambrill and Mackenzie's *Sporting Stables and Kennels* focused on ideal designs and drawings of selected operational kennels, meaning that their book blended information with prescriptive advice. Plans V through VIII represent seemingly modest designs, primarily focused on hound accommodation and care. Plan IX is expansive, boasting spacious layouts and separate areas for hounds, owners, staff, and storage. Plans XI and XII are existing foxhound kennels, already constructed and in operation during the period of study, helping to illustrate the realization of floor plans. As pack hunting dogs, foxhounds bore many similarities to beagles. Frequently owned by elite sportsmen, these dogs also lived communally and occupied a similar status as animal athletes. While it is important to recognize that foxhounds are physically larger than beagles, necessitating proportionately bigger kennel facilities, the basic purpose of each space remains the same. Because of these congruencies, Plans XI and XII serve as useful examples of how prototype designs for beagles, such as Plans V through IX, could be customized and constructed according to the pack owner's preferences. By reviewing each of Gambrill and Mackenzie's designs as case studies, it becomes apparent how kennels acted as physical demonstrations of wealth and status, exclusive social spaces, and homes for animal athletes.¹⁰¹

¹⁰⁰ Katherine C. Grier discusses the evolution of commercial pet foods in her book *Pets in America*. According to Grier, Spratt's dog cakes were sold in the United States from the 1870s onward and the company frequently purchased advertisements in American Kennel Club publications. She writes that dog food was a side business for meat packers and livestock feed suppliers until mid-twentieth century. See Grier, *Pets in America*, 366-377. Authors of prescriptive texts targeting Beagles and hound owners devote considerable space to recipes for feeding dogs, see for example: Paget, *Beagles and Beagling*, 69-77; John Pawle, *Hints on Beagling* (London: Glades, Kant, and Glades Limited, 1976 – reprinted 1929 edition), 14-15; C.B. Shepherd, *Beagling* (London: Seeley Service and Company Limited, 1943), 37-40; hound dips are similar to those used to control pests in larger livestock like cattle and hogs. Many guidebooks provide recommendations about the types and frequencies of dips for dogs, see Gambrill and Mackenzie, *Sporting Stables and Kennels*, 104; J. Otho Paget, *Beagling: A Practical Handbook on the Sport and Kennel Management* (London: H.F. and G. Witherby Limited, 1931), 103-109; see also Gambrill and Mackenzie, *Sporting Stables and Kennels*, 92, 96.

¹⁰¹ The Beagle breed standard describes the dogs as “miniature foxhounds,” see “Beagle Standard,” *The American Kennel Gazette*, June 1889, 141.

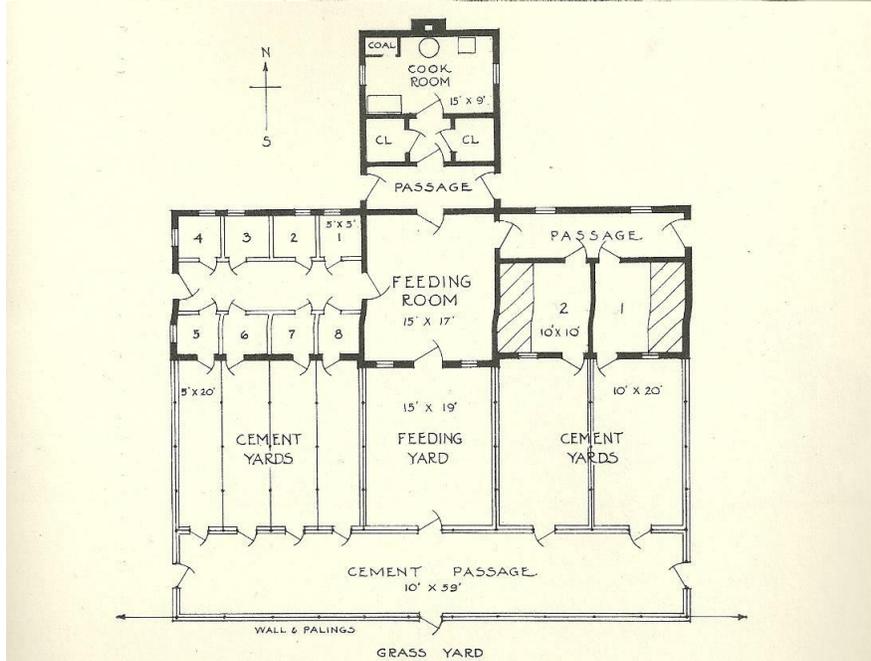
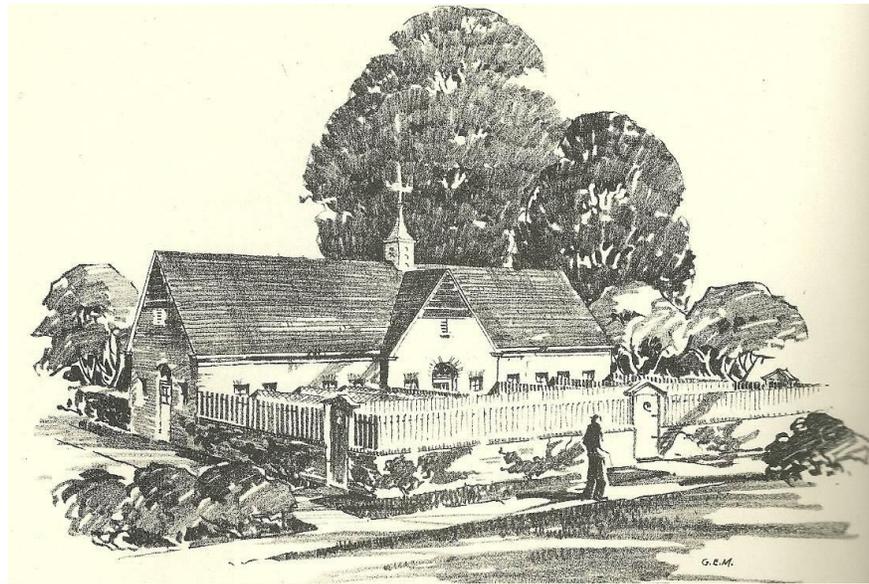


Figure 17: Plan V: Hound kennels with two lodging rooms and eight whelping pens¹⁰²

¹⁰² The rights owner for *Sporting Stables and Kennels* is unknown. The Derrydale Press, which originally published the work, was acquired by Rowman & Littlefield Publishing Group who did not object to the use of Figures 17 through 24.

Gambrill and Mackenzie begin the section on hound kennels with Plan V, which was designed to house “twenty-five to thirty couples” or fifty to sixty beagles. The exterior elevation depicted a small kennel surrounded by a high fence and mature trees, demonstrating the importance of choosing a site with natural shade. Because of its compact design, some spaces served dual purposes, such as using the whelping pens (top left, numbered 1 through 8) as a hospital. Both functions were short-term, required isolating certain animals, and providing additional comfort such as a heating source. The authors rationalized the “cement passage” at the bottom of the floor plan as a way of moving hounds between the cement yards and feed yard without causing bottlenecks. Proper kennel layouts aided in pack management by limiting situations that could result in fights between animals. An inside feeding room provided a place for hounds to eat during inclement weather. Gambrill and Mackenzie also offered alternate uses for this room, including displaying trophies and photographs, making it both a functional and social space. By presenting prizes and kennel accomplishments, the pack’s owner demonstrated his own sporting success and associated claim to social legitimacy. Located across the open-air passage are the cook room and storage facilities, used for food preparation, maintaining supplies, and bathing dogs.

Absent from this design are separate grooming and conditioning facilities, office spaces, and accommodations for kennel staff, making it a more modest design. Despite its comparatively small size, Plan V could house up to sixty beagles, and therefore was not for a casual sportsman.¹⁰³

¹⁰³ The authors note that this design would also work for Basset Hounds, but advise against housing foxhounds without first expanding the living spaces, see Gambrill and Mackenzie, *Sporting Stables and Kennels*, 116-117.

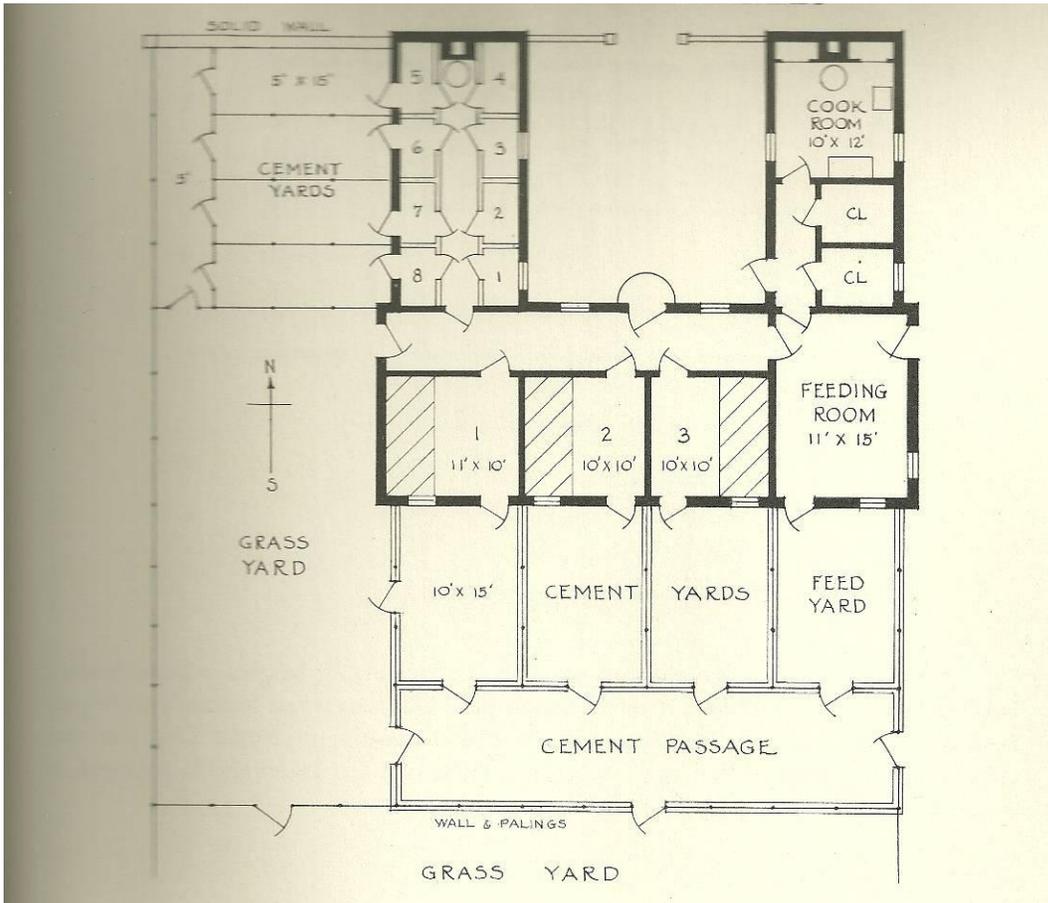
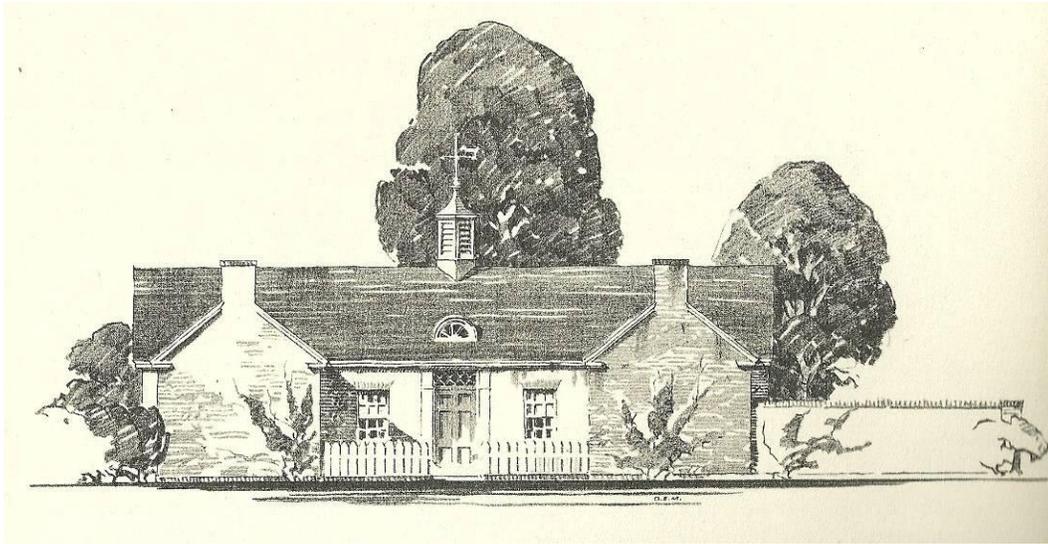


Figure 18: Plan VI: Hound kennels with three lodging rooms and eight whelping pens

Plan VI bore many similarities to Plan V. This design featured a courtyard surrounded by three wings each designed with its own purpose. From the exterior elevation, the kennel could easily be mistaken for a farmhouse or bungalow home. On the left were rooms for bitches in whelp, puppies, or infirm dogs. At the bottom were lodging rooms with separate cement yards that were connected by a passageway at the end. For practical reasons and effective pack management, Gambrill and Mackenzie advised separately assigning the rooms to dogs, bitches, and young hounds, respectively. Located in the right wing are cooking and storage facilities. Because the cook room and hospital are in separate wings, both sides of the kennel required heating systems, which Gambrill and Mackenzie noted was a possible disadvantage for the plan.

Similar to Plan V, this design features dual-purpose spaces and the separation of storage and hound spaces. Despite the compact appearance, the authors suggested the kennel house between thirty and forty couples, or sixty to eighty dogs. Without any specific human-centred spaces, Plan VI is modest and compact, serving primarily the hounds' needs. Although the floor plan lacks a lounge, office, or show room, the kennel still demonstrated wealth and status because of the associated construction and upkeep costs, and the expense of feeding and housing the numerous occupants.¹⁰⁴

¹⁰⁴ Gambrill and Mackenzie, *Sporting Stables and Kennels*, 118-119.

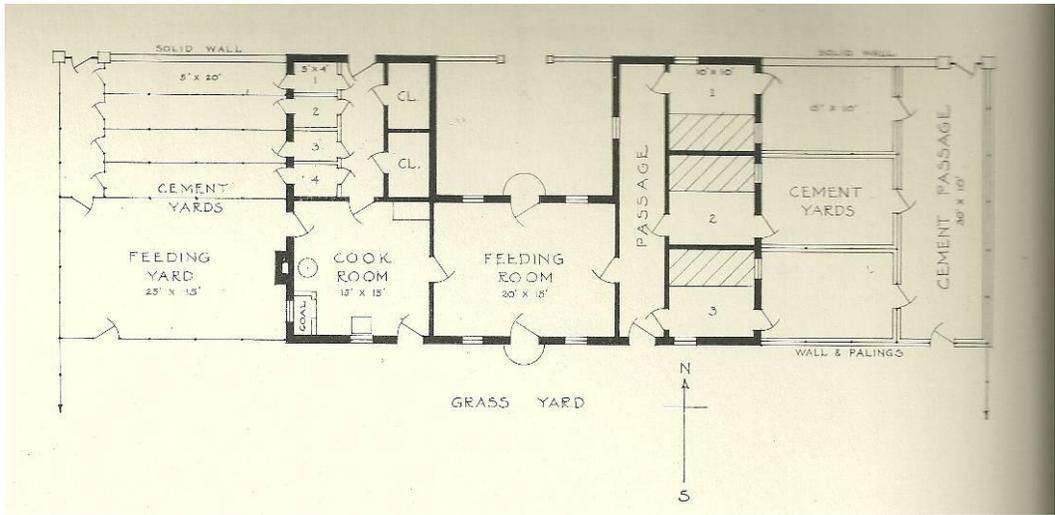


Figure 19: Plan VII

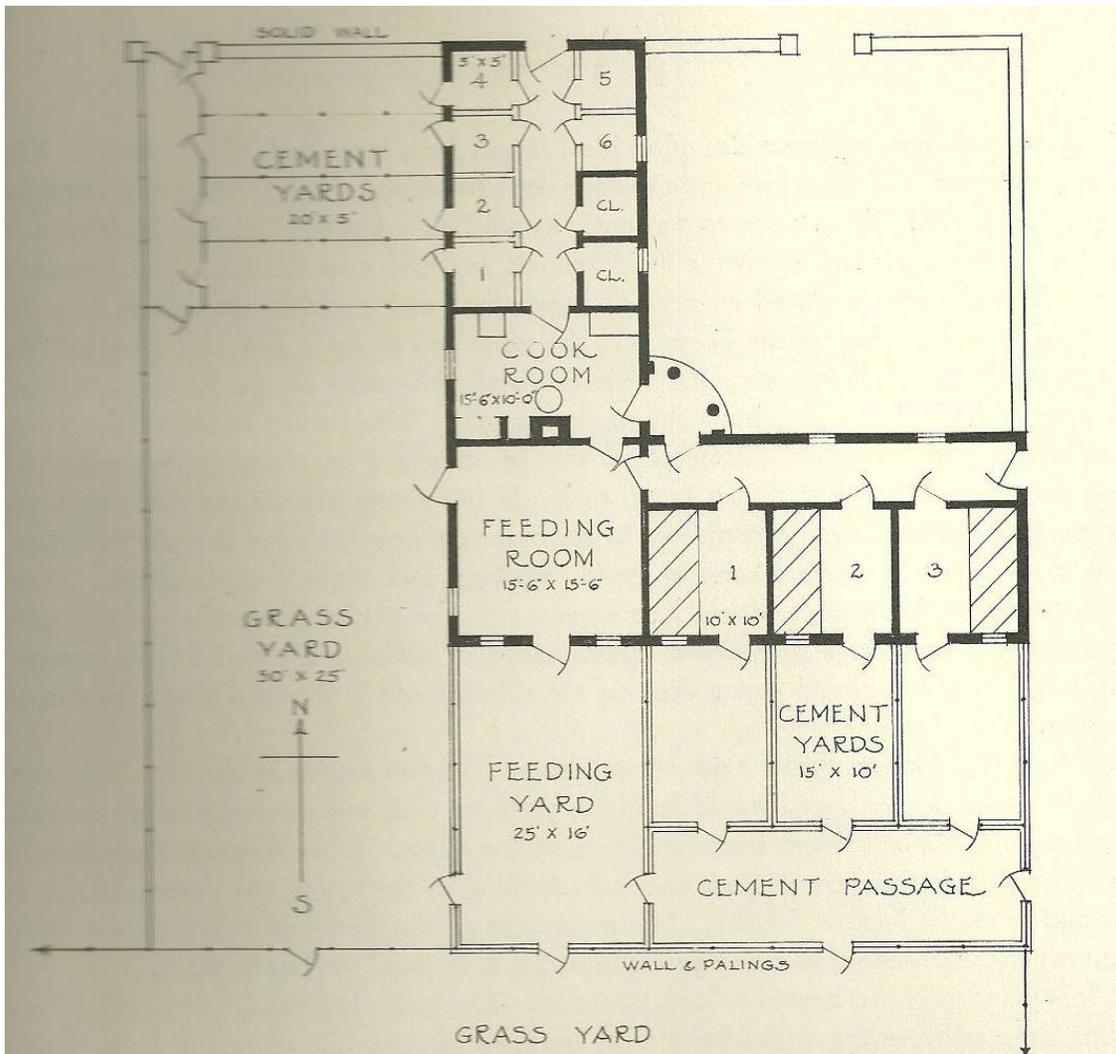


Figure 20: Plan VIII

Plans VII and VIII are similar to the previous two, because they offered different layouts for the same sorts of spaces. Both designs featured courtyards, storage and food preparation rooms, and accommodations for hounds with various special needs. As with the previous designs, hound care is the primary focus, rather than social spaces for men or adjacent staff housing. Neither floor plan included a drawing of exterior elevations; however one can assume that the construction materials would be similar to those shown in Plans V and VI, given the comparable sizes and layouts.

Gambrill and Mackenzie wrote that Plan VII is self-explanatory, and represents another possible layout for beagle kennels. It features hound accommodations, feeding rooms, and space for isolating bitches in whelp or infirm dogs. The authors drew attention to the close proximity of the cook room to the hospital areas, noting that a shared heating system was sufficient. Plan VIII also offered the possibility of shared heating between the cook room and hospital.

Because they are comparable in size and function to Plans V and VI, Plans VII and VIII reinforced the functionality of kennels. Even without exterior elevations, the similarities between designs and those previously discussed indicating that these buildings required considerable expense to construct and maintain.¹⁰⁵

¹⁰⁵ Ibid., 120-121.

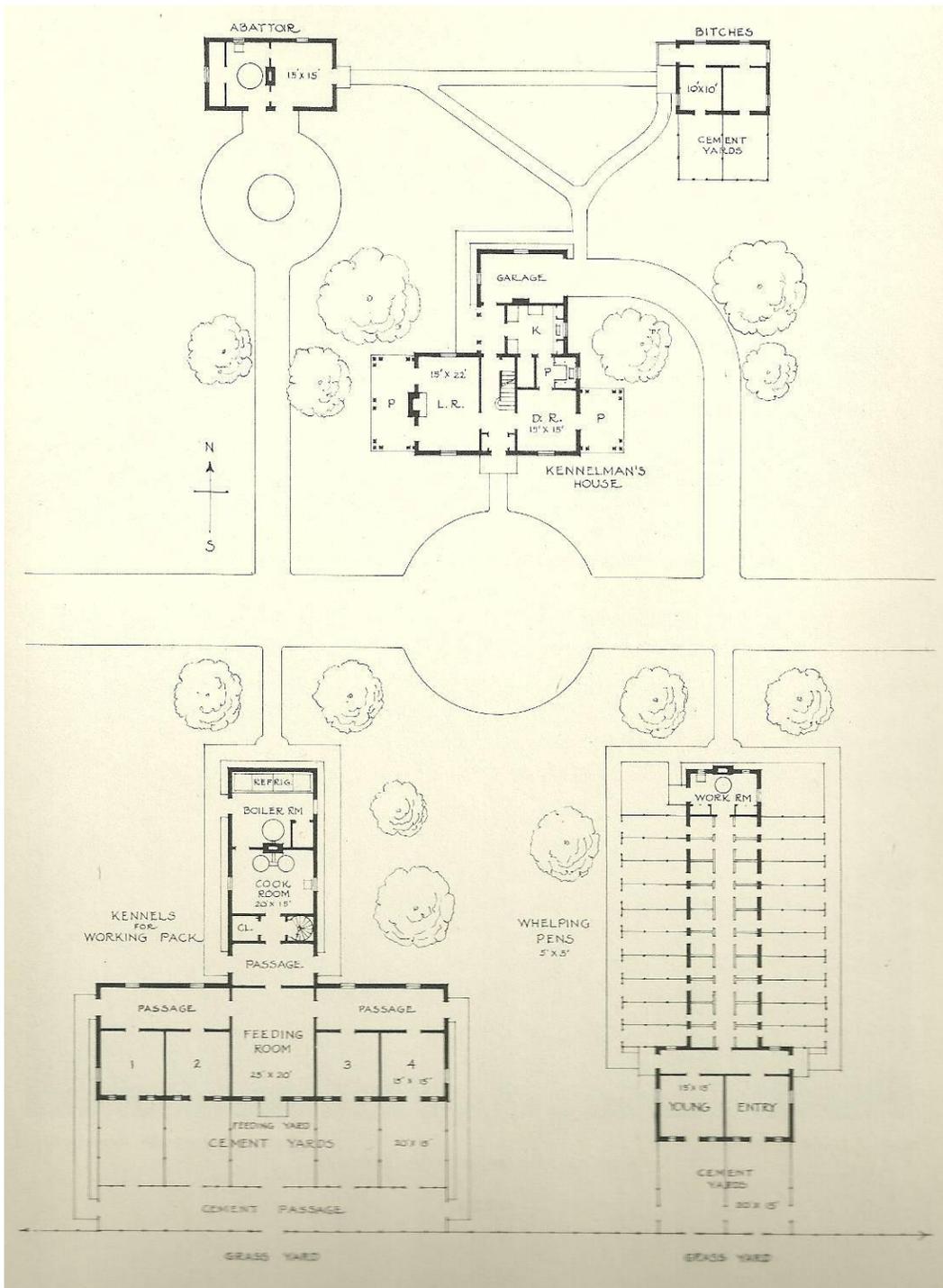


Figure 21: Plan IX: An ideal layout for a pack of foxhounds

Gambrill and Mackenzie described Plan IX as their ideal foxhound kennel. Featuring five separate buildings, this design is obviously luxurious and expansive. As a prototype and dream facility, Plan IX successfully illustrated how owners used specially designed kennels as a way of demonstrating their own wealth and social status.

The bottom left building provided housing for the working pack and food preparation areas. Four large dog spaces and adjacent cement yards are similar to those of earlier designs. On the second story of this building are storage areas. A series of rooms for bitches in whelp, puppies, and young hounds, are located in a separate building to the right of the main kennel. For practical reasons, separate housing for bitches in season was adjacent to the kennelman's house, allowing him to keep a watchful eye over these vulnerable animals.

Plan IX includes a fully detached house for the kennelman. A small cottage, the floor plan offered living space, a kitchen, and garage. Gambrill and Mackenzie wrote that kennels of this size should have someone living close by to watch out for dog fights, fires, and other emergencies. Constructing and maintaining a kennel of this size necessitated considerable wealth and someone willing and able to make that type of investment wanted to protect it. Well-bred and trained hounds were valuable and required the ongoing care and supervision provided by a live-in kennelman.

Plan IX offered an abattoir, a building unique to this design. A combination slaughterhouse and meat storage facility, this structure alludes to the volume of meat consumed by a large hound pack. In an era that predates commercially prepared dog foods, the abattoir serves as a reminder of the amount of work involved in feeding the hounds. Either killed on site or purchased, staff prepared whole carcasses to combine with meat, bones, and other ingredients before serving the dogs' meals.

As an ideal kennel design, Plan IX incorporates all of the features Gambrill and Mackenzie identified as important to a modern kennel. The series of detached buildings spoke to the importance of creating separate spaces for separate activities. Aside from the kennelman's quarters, all of the facilities cater to the hounds' needs. Because there is no separate office included in this plan, it is possible that the kennelman managed pack operations out of his home.

Notably absent from this idealized kennel is any sort of social spaces for the owner and his peers. Even without a separate office, lounge, or trophy room, Plan IX is comprehensive and

no doubt costly to build and maintain. Five separate buildings required their own electricity, plumbing and heating or cooling systems. Three kennels, each designed for different hound needs, implied the facility housed a large hound population. Likewise, the presence of a live-in kennelman reinforced the wealth required to maintain such an operation. Plan IX exemplified the kennel as a visual display of high socioeconomic status, while providing specialized facilities for animal athletes.¹⁰⁶

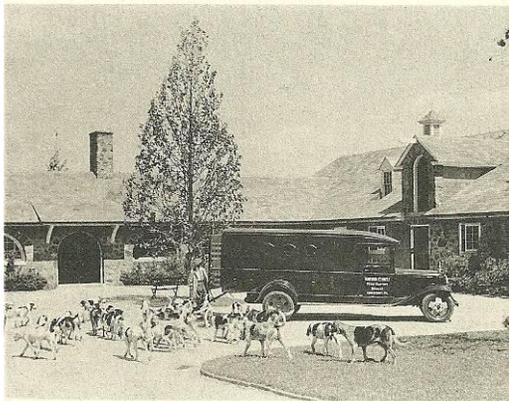
¹⁰⁶ Gambrill and Mackenzie, *Sporting Stables and Kennels*, 122-123; See note 103 for more information about feeding hound packs and commercially prepared dog foods.



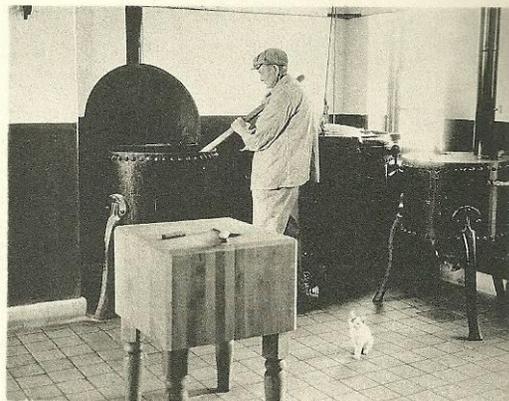
HOSPITAL



FEEDING ROOM



COURTYARD



Photos by H. Armstrong Roberts, Philadelphia, Pa.

COOK ROOM

Figure 22: "Several views of Mr. M. Roy Jackson's Kennel"

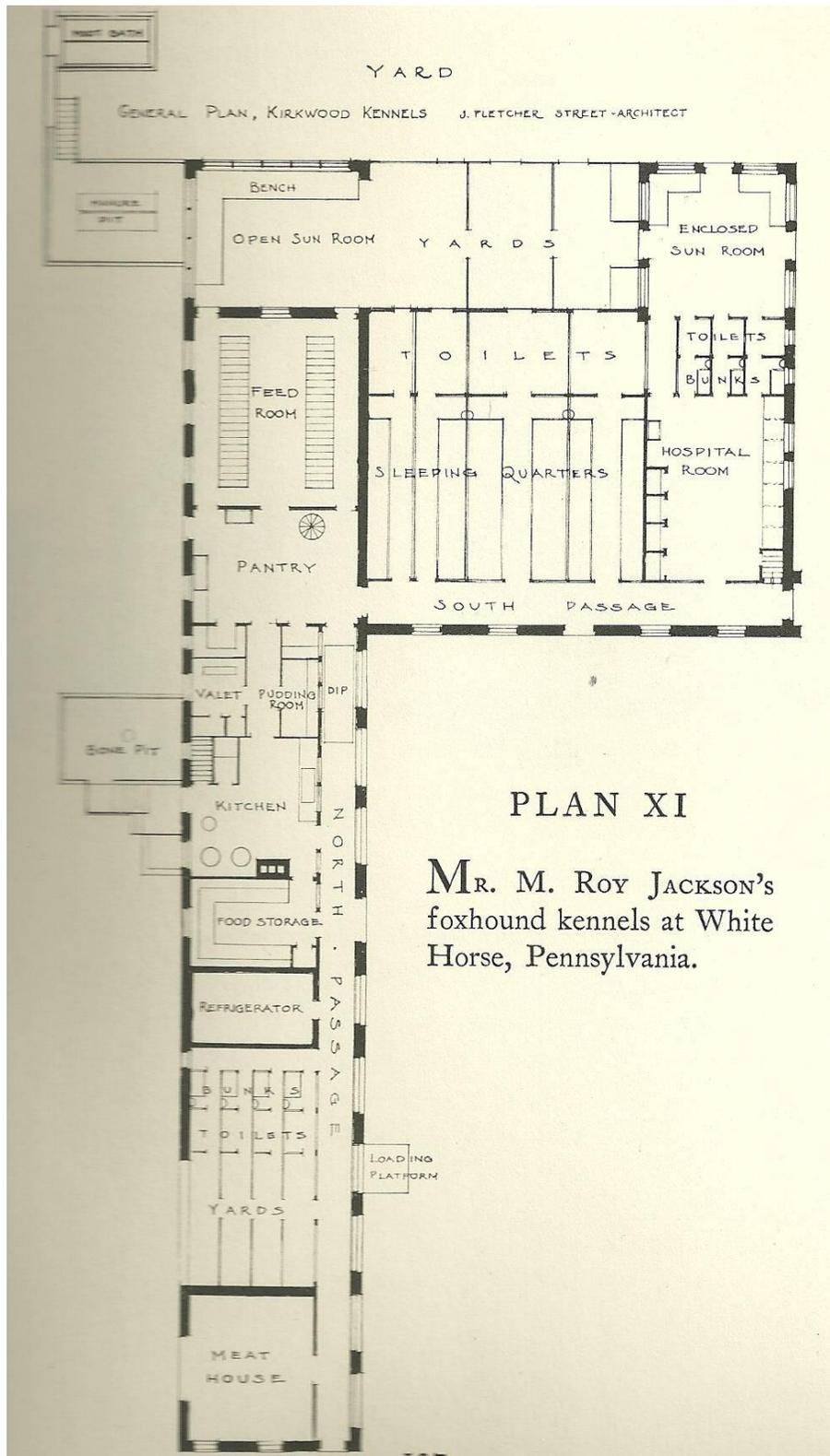


Figure 23: Plan XI: Mr. Jackson's Foxhound Kennel

Plan XI was home to Mr. M. Roy Jackson's Radnor Hounds, a foxhound pack located in White Horse, Pennsylvania. Similar to the other designs, Plan XI featured a variety of dog bunks, toilets, exercise yards, large hospital space, and a variety of storage and support facilities.¹⁰⁷

Modern facilities were central to Jackson's kennel, especially those used for food storage, preparation, and distribution. This plan featured a separate meat house, refrigerator, and kitchen. Gambrill and Mackenzie drew attention to the Feed Room's mechanized delivery system that allowed the kennelman to place single dogs in cages, fill the attached bowls with food, and use a lever to mechanically deliver the bowls to the caged dogs. By reducing overconsumption and limiting waste, the authors recognized the system's functionality. The feeding system was significant for three reasons. Firstly, it demonstrated the amount of time and care required to prepare meals without commercial kibble. Most prescriptive texts provided recipes feeding hounds at various life stages, usually through a combination of meat, bones, grains, vegetables, and supplements. Kennel staff mixed the ingredients and distributed them to dogs through feeding systems such as the one installed by Jackson. For a large hound pack, this required considerable staff time and expertise for preparing hound meals. Secondly, Jackson's feed system reinforces the empirical nature of feeding hunting hounds, including the scientific rationale behind decisions about ingredients and portions that meet the nutritional needs of these animal athletes. Lastly, the costs of designing and operating Jackson's feed system helps illustrate how kennel facilities became physical demonstrations of the wealth and status of the men who built them.

Gambrill and Mackenzie draw attention to another unique feature of Jackson's kennel, a sprinkler above the yards outside the bunk areas. While one might assume this was for easier cleaning, the sprinkler also served to deter hounds from late night barking. The authors wrote that a few seconds of water would quickly send dogs back to their beds. This point is particularly interesting because it speaks to one of the many challenges associated with owning a large number of dogs and how kennel construction could simplify pack management. By installing the

¹⁰⁷ In this context, "toilets" refers to the yard spaces where hounds eliminated waste, not human washroom facilities.

outdoor sprinklers, kennel staff only needed to turn the valve to quiet the rowdy dogs. Without it, this could be an impossible task.

Although the actual size of the Radnor Hounds is unclear, the expansive floor plan indicated it was a large pack with multiple support staff. Gambrill and Mackenzie's book does not include information about staff accommodations, though it is probable that kennelmen lived in an adjacent building but separately from Jackson as Master, and the pack owner(s). Constructing satellite buildings and paying staff wages was an additional expense for pack owners, reinforcing the substantial monetary contributions made by sportsmen. Because owning a large hound pack served as a way of demonstrating one's status, modern kennels such as the one in Plan XI were important physical demonstrations of this wealth.¹⁰⁸

¹⁰⁸ Gambrill and Mackenzie, *Sporting Stables and Kennels*, 126-127; See note 103 for more information about feeding hound packs and commercially prepared dog foods.

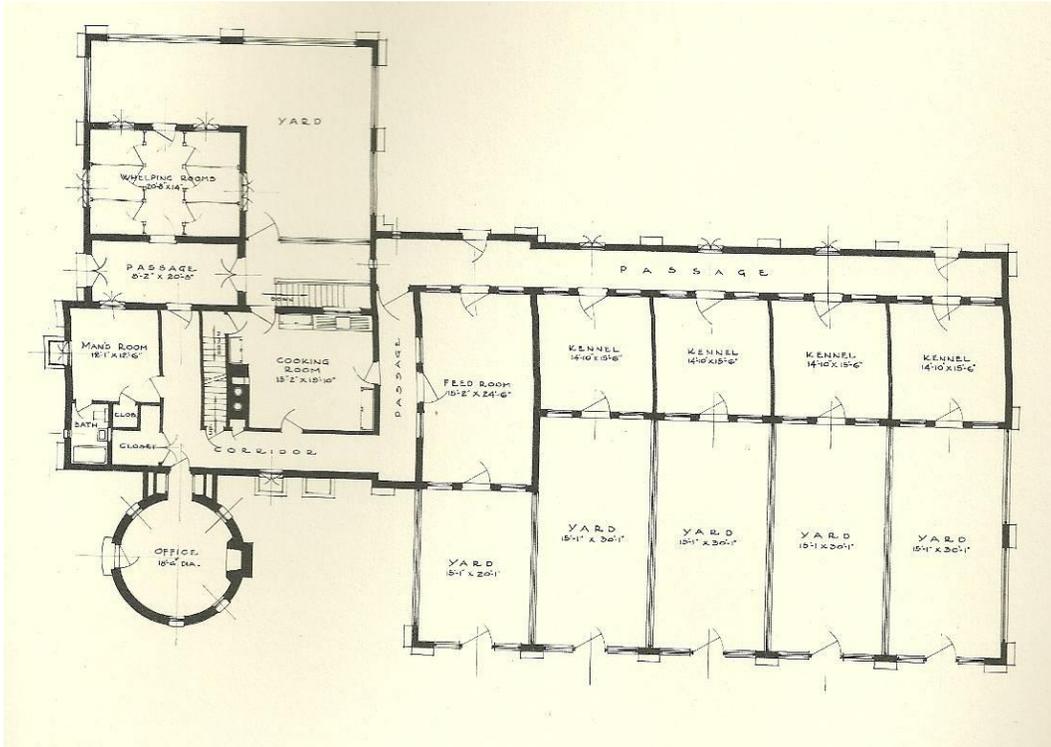


Figure 24: Plan XII: Kennels of the Rolling Rock Foxhounds

Gambrill and Mackenzie wrote that there is “no finer pack in the country today” when describing the occupants of Plan XII. Located at the Rolling Rock Club near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Mr. Richard Mellon’s kennel exemplified all of the features found in the preceding designs. The right side of the plan featured four kennel spaces and adjacent feeding room. At the left are the man’s room, cooking room, an office, and with a series of whelping pens across the top. Outside yards are located off the kennel spaces and whelping pens.

Looking at the exterior sketch, the round turret room stands out as an architectural showpiece for the kennel. With a separate entry door, several windows, and a fireplace, this room served as the kennel’s office. However, the stylistic design implies that the room served as more than just an administrative space. Pack owners may have gathered in the office to discuss the day’s hunt or other relevant topics. Opportunities for peers to socialize were important aspects of beagling, and rooms like this office provided men with private spaces to meet during their leisure time.

Mellon’s building brings together the key features of many beagle kennels, including rooms designed for humans and hounds. Various facilities for dogs ensured these valuable animal athletes were appropriately cared for, while the office gave owners their own social space. Similar to those designs previously discussed, Mellon’s Rolling Rock Club kennel continued to demonstrate how these buildings served as physical representations of wealth and status. Through attention to detail and design, Mellon’s kennel effectively met the needs of humans and hounds, which is why Gambrill and Mackenzie featured it in their book.¹⁰⁹

In addition to depicting kennel designs, Gambrill and Mackenzie offered advice regarding related matters. Specifically, they addressed kennel locations, building materials, and possible features for each of the different rooms. As experts on these subjects, Gambrill and Mackenzie’s insight drew attention to how abstract concepts were operationalized into functioning kennels. Grounded in personal experience, Gambrill and Mackenzie’s advice illustrated some of the challenges associated with owning large numbers of dogs.

¹⁰⁹ Gambrill and Mackenzie, *Sporting Stables and Kennels*, 128-129.

A well-placed building minimized environmental health hazards and helped mitigate complaints from neighbours. Proper drainage, shelter from cold winter winds, and large shade trees would offer protection from the elements. The authors linked the kennel's location to animal health, attributing rheumatism and lameness to cold and damp living conditions. In writing that "One never hears one's own dogs but somehow one's neighbours do not share that amiable quality," Gambrill and Mackenzie pointed out one of the common challenges associated with beagle ownership. Beagle owners appreciated the sounds of a pack, yet nearby estates probably did not. M. Roy Jackson's sprinkler system in Plan XI is a reminder of this. In the interest of maintaining positive neighbourhood relations, Gambrill and Mackenzie advised builders to select a location away from others when possible.¹¹⁰

H.W. Prentice, editor of *Hounds and Hunting* magazine made a similar observation about kennel location while visiting Dr. T.B. Snyder's Sankanac Beagles at Phoenixville, Pennsylvania. Writing that the land in front of the building slopes down towards an orchard, Prentice reminded readers of the importance of plentiful shade and good drainage. In his description of the landscape surrounding P.A. Rockefeller's Overhil's Club kennels in Fayetteville, North Carolina, huntsman Joseph B. Thomas also drew attention to the surrounding shrubs and trees that provided shade to the building. Both descriptions alluded to the visual appeal of kennel sites, but also spoke to the practicalities of keeping dogs cool in an era without air conditioning. Proper drainage limited dampness in the dogs' beds, helping prevent various health problems including distemper and rheumatism. The recommendations made by Gambrill and Mackenzie, and observations of Prentice and Thomas are consistent with the advice provided in numerous

¹¹⁰ Ibid., 87, 126-127.

guidebooks on beagles and beagling, further reinforcing the importance of properly choosing a kennel site.¹¹¹

Other recommendations included building separate quarters for bitches in season, usually at least one hundred yards away from other dogs to limit distractions and fights among males. Gambrill and Mackenzie proposed locating these facilities close to the kennelman's house so he could keep a closer watch on the bitches. Properly maintained fencing and a roof on outdoor spaces further ensured the safety of these dogs. Likewise, puppies of various ages required specialized facilities to ensure their health, safety, and proper development. Separate whelping boxes for birthing, for example, offered accessible facilities for the kennelman to provide dedicated attention to newborn hounds. Each of these recommendations addressed to the importance of accommodating both the unique needs of different hounds for the health of the pack and convenience of the kennelman.¹¹²

By creating spaces for men and hounds, Gambrill and Mackenzie described expansive facilities that were expensive to create and maintain. Along with other prescriptive authors, Gambrill and Mackenzie devoted a considerable amount of space to detailing proper construction and room layouts to ensure functionality and the safety of the hounds. This becomes apparent by considering the information provided about proper living quarters for hounds. Gambrill and Mackenzie stated that flagstones made ideal flooring for canine living spaces because they were easier to clean and dryer than wood, concrete, brick, or cork. Wooden walls with cement plaster on the lower half made good partitions between spaces, again dry and easy to clean. Benches for bedding provided dogs with sleeping space, and those mounted with hinges flipped up for

¹¹¹ H.W. Prentice, "A Visit to the Sankanac Beagles," *Hounds and Hunting*, March 1924, 8; Joseph B. Thomas, "A Kennel for Hunting Hounds," *The American Kennel Gazette*, June 30, 1927, 28. A sportsman himself, Thomas was master of the Piedmont Fox Hounds from 1915-1919 and secretary of the associated Beagle pack during those years. Thomas authored *Hounds and Hunting through the Ages* (New York: Derrydale Press, 1928), on which the above article was based. His hunting diaries from the 1913-1917 hunting seasons are housed at the National Sporting Library and Museum in Middleburg, Virginia, see NSLM, Joseph B. Thomas Hunting Diaries, MC0008; A. Henry Higginson, "An All-round Sporting Dog: The Beagle Growing Popular," *Outing: An Illustrated Monthly Magazine of Recreation*, October 1903, 39; J. Otho Paget provides advise on kennel construction in a chapter on "Kennels and Kennel Management: and attributes many ailments to environmental causes in a chapter on "Diseases," see Paget, *Beagling*, 81-91, 116-133; also Shepherd, *Beagling*, 29-33.

¹¹² Gambrill and Mackenzie, *Sporting Stables and Kennels*, 100-102.

cleaning purposes. In cooler climates, Gambrill and Mackenzie recommended adding roofs to the benches helped hounds stay warm during the winter. They also provided a variety of recommended dimensions based on the size and number of hounds accommodated in a particular space.¹¹³

The authors' years of expertise are evident in the advice Gambrill and Mackenzie provided in *Sporting Stables and Kennels*. As a sportsman and an architect team, together they had the experience, skills, and connections to combine firsthand knowledge with that of their fellow sportsmen and guidebook authors to provide a comprehensive review of kennel designs. Each of the floor plans demonstrated how kennels became physical displays of wealth and status through the creation of specialized animal care facilities and exclusive social spaces for owners and their peers. Size, location, and construction and maintenance costs required considerable planning, an initial investment, and ongoing expenditures. The added expense of hiring kennelmen, assistants, veterinarians, and the kennel facilities these professionals required increased the pack's labour and upkeep costs. Gambrill and Mackenzie's floor plans offered collective living spaces for hounds requiring varying levels of care. Age, sex, and health determined living arrangements with adult dogs segregated by sex and puppies grouped according to age and development. Additional rooms for isolating sick or injured animals, bitches in whelp, and those in season, demonstrated the importance of facilities that cater to dogs' differential needs. Training and exercise spaces further reinforced the construction of kennels as specialized facilities for beagles as animal athletes.

As localized versions of clubhouses, they functioned similarly to the facilities of country and city clubs. Commonly called "lounges," "trophy rooms," or "show rooms," these spaces served as places for upper class men to gather away from women, staff, and outsiders. The interiors of these spaces replicated the lavish clubhouse furnishings, reinforcing the owner's wealth and status. Although they served no overt animal care function, these rooms were an

¹¹³ Ibid., 96-105.

important component of kennels because they supported the human social activities associated with beagling.¹¹⁴

NBC executives used the breed standard to codify the beagle's role as an animal athlete and pack hunter who lived communally in specialized kennel facilities. Numerous authors provided recommendations for choosing a kennel location, floor plan, and construction materials. They reminded readers that these decisions would affect the pack health and management, reinforcing the importance of consulting with guidebooks such as Gambrill and Mackenzie's *Sporting Stables and Kennels*. With NBC secretary Richard V.N. Gambrill co-authoring, and NBC President James W. Appleton writing the preface, this book carried legitimacy in the elite beagling community making it a useful case study of early twentieth century kennel designs. Most floor plans Gambrill and Mackenzie chose incorporated living spaces for hounds at various life stages, along with grooming areas, food storage and preparation facilities, and outdoor exercise spaces. Several also featured staff accommodations, trophy rooms, offices, and lounges for the humans who owned and cared for the kennel's occupants. Aside from the practical animal-care purposes, kennels served as overt demonstrations of personal wealth and social status. While sporting norms required elite beaglers to build expansive kennels for their dogs, the costs of these facilities were prohibitive for middle class NBC members. Costly to build and maintain, these buildings were localized versions of the elite country and city clubhouses that provided members with private gathering places. The NBC leadership used the club's governing documents to create an exclusive social and sporting organization, and kennels owned by individual members provided physical reminders of their personal wealth and status.

¹¹⁴ See Chapter 2 for a discussion of the social activities that coincided with bench shows and field trials.

Conclusion

The National Beagle Club's officers created an exclusive sporting community for upper class men when they founded the organization in 1890. Early leaders including Ramsay Turnbull, G. Mifflin Wharton, James W. Appleton, Richard V.N. Gambrill, C. Oliver Iselin, Jr., and George Post had considerable personal wealth, most had Ivy League educations, and except for Iselin, all maintained active social lives among the northeastern American elite. While these men represented only a small minority of beaglers, collectively they influenced the establishment of the sport and the breed's development in the United States. Because of their socioeconomic status, these men had discretion over their leisure time and wealth, allowing them to take on leadership roles in the NBC. Consequentially, they created an organization and a sport that reflected their needs and values. By the end of the 1930s, the NBC had established itself as an elite recreational organization that offered members the opportunity to socialize with peers and demonstrate their personal socioeconomic status.

Through the creation of the club's governing documents, officers developed tools for establishing their exclusive sporting community. The constitution and by-laws codified an exclusive insider status for members by empowering the Executive Committee to approve candidates on the recommendation of two current members. Similarly, regular club activities including meetings and the annual National Specialty field trial and bench show provided members with the opportunity to socialize with their peers. These events reinforced insider status because they typically took place in New York City and Middleburg, Virginia, respectively, meaning that only those who could afford to pay their way could attend. Through these established practices, officers formalized the NBC's position as an elite sporting organization, reflecting the Executive Committee's values and place within American society.

At the same time, the NBC homogenized the breed's appearance by creating and maintaining the breed standard. Grounded in an effort to codify beagles' role as pack hunting dogs, the breed standard outlined how the ideal beagle should look. By describing various parts of the dog's anatomy step-by-step, the club established a set of qualitative and quantitative criteria for judging beagles and bench shows and field trials. In doing so, the men of the NBC firmly positioned their dogs as specialized animal athletes who were valued for their sporting abilities, rather than any economically productive or sentimental reasons. Just as the individual men's identities contributed to the club's reputation among the American elite, the breed standard homogenized beagles' appearance.

Kennel designs demonstrated the status of elite beaglers as men of wealth with considerable leisure time and the exclusive sporting community they created. Beagler Richard V.N. Gambrell and James C. Mackenzie's book *Sporting Stables and Kennels* serves as a useful case study of prototype and built kennels by featuring floor plans, exterior elevations, and photographs. Constructing a modern kennel provided state-of-the-art beagle care facilities, social spaces for the owner and his peers, and an opportunity to demonstrate one's personal wealth and status. Most kennel plans were for packs of forty dogs or more, some with separate quarters for hired staff, trophy rooms, and offices, indicating these buildings were costly to construct and maintain. As a result, kennels became visual symbols of socioeconomic status and success within the sporting community.

Members of the Executive Committee are only a small subsection of American beaglers and their experiences do not accurately reflect those of the entire NBC membership. Middle class men undoubtedly participated in the sport, yet research limitations make it difficult to fully understand their involvement in the club. The primary sources available through the NBC archives were created and maintained by the Executive Committee on behalf of the membership, meaning they more accurately provide insight into club's leadership than its base. Because of their elite status, these men were also the subject of society articles in the *New York Times* and other periodicals. At the same time, the AKC's *American Kennel Gazette* focused on general interest stories and all-breed bench shows, offering a limited number of articles specific to beaglers. Club correspondence is the best window into the range of members because incoming and outgoing letters listed full names and hometowns. Middle class beaglers resided away from major northeastern urban centres, held professional occupations, and were sportsmen participating on a local level. Letters to the NBC show these men inquired about events,

purchasing dogs, and club membership but do not provide any additional information about their lives. Because of primary source limitations, it is not possible for me to further explore what role they played in shaping the sport. Instead, this thesis focuses on the small but influential Executive Committee who took responsibility for NBC operations and formally established the sport of beagling in America.

Found at the intersection of histories of sport and histories of purebred dogs, this thesis demonstrates how elite sporting club leadership perpetuated exclusivity at the upper administrative level of the NBC even as purebred dog ownership became democratized in the period. While middle class men could own beagles, even participate in the sport of beagling, the leadership of the NBC remained the preserve of men of the Northeastern elite. Similarly, through the development of the breed standard and the design of breeding and kenneling facilities, this same leadership defined beagles as animal athletes and prescribed their care.

Unlike other elite leisure activities like horse racing and golf that physically limited interactions across social classes, anyone who could afford the dogs and entry fees could contend for NBC trophies. Participating through consumerism dominates the literature on middle class recreation, especially fraternal orders, evidence that middle class men were already comfortable using personal property to gain access to specific communities. Beagling required dogs, appropriate hunting attire, and a vehicle for travel to events, with the range of competition classes allowing for various levels of commitment. Men did not need to own more than a few dogs to enter a bench show or field trial, but could also own several dozen like those men holding leadership positions within the NBC. Although the sources used for this thesis make it difficult to investigate how this relationship may have played out in the field, it is clear that beagling is unique among elite sports because convention did not prevent non-elites from participating. Under the NBC Executive Committee's leadership, I argue that beagling thrived as an elite sport but was not restricted exclusively to the upper class. At the same time, I argue that beagles' experiences as animal athletes incorporates some characteristics of purebred dogs kept as pets while maintaining the purpose of working dogs, even if they are not economically productive. This thesis complicates scholarly understandings of sporting and purebred dog histories, bringing together two research fields normally mutually exclusive of each other and challenging the categories constructed within them.

Since 1885, beagles have consistently been one of the most popular breeds recognized by the American Kennel Club. Out of the now 173 recognized breeds, beagles placed third from the top in the 2011 annual registration statistics, with only Golden Retriever and German Shepherd breeders registering more dogs. Undoubtedly, beagles are just as popular today as they were in 1890. Although the early leaders sought out to create an elite sporting organization, they also homogenized the beagle's appearance through the breed standard. While the majority of contemporary beagles may no longer hunt in packs, those owned by families across America demonstrate many of the athletic characteristics valued by the men who established the NBC as the premier sporting club for beagles in America. As the purebred dog fancy faces new challenges in the twenty-first century, the National Beagle Club continues to advocate for beagles and beagling in an ever-changing American society.¹¹⁵

¹¹⁵ American Kennel Club, "Dog Registration Statistics," American Kennel Club, http://www.akc.org/reg/dogreg_stats.cfm.

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