

Kanine Korner

By Francis X. Lohmann

It is most interesting to note that approximately 10 years ago, the study of human behavior was commonplace. Today it is commonplace. And paralleling the study of humans comes the study of the dog. We now know for a certainty that the dog is just as individualistic as his human counterpart. Man's language very nearly becomes the dog's language in its comprehensibility to him. Never underestimate your dog's intelligence as it can only result in painful humiliation to him. All of us who love our dogs should not find it difficult to communicate with our four-legged friend. Actually, the dog understands far more than he is usually given credit for. Admittedly, unable to communicate with man in man's language or speech, the dog becomes an expert in the art of pantomime. For this, he first develops a technique of his own which gradually becomes an accepted and understandable method of communication between his species and his master. Although it may take some time, during which his intelligence may be challenged, Bowser is a good and patient listener and waits calmly for us to interpret his actions. Dog obedience trainers use certain words and hand motions. Shouting is merely an avenue of releasing pent-up emotion, on our part, but to the dog it is most humiliating and dog-gone degrading. My

readers may be surprised to learn that dogs understand entire sentences spoken softly!

YOU MAY say that the dog is "mankind's greatest companion," and there is indeed a deep bond of understanding, sympathy and companionship between countless dog owners and their dogs. In his own "language" the dog "speaks" to us by his every expression and motion. The dog observes and contemplates his master's movements; he has a philosophic attitude toward your moods and with acute perception he bends his efforts to the establishment of the perfect rapport between master and dog.

Status in Washington social circles has literally gone to the dogs. The top 10 dog licenses for 1968 disclose the "in" set. The top of the list is shared by the Beagle, Him, whose registered owner is Luci B. Johnson, and Blanco,

a white Collie registered to the President.

Other dogs with low tag numbers include two Cairn Terriers owned by FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover and Beau, a Poodle belonging to Gen. Omar Bradley. The others on the list belong to District of Columbia officials and socially prominent people.

BOWSER BROWSINGS — A man who once knew Abraham Lincoln once confided to friends that "he was the quietest, gentlest boy I ever knew. Only time I ever saw Abe lose his temper was when a stranger kicked his dog..." Carol Flieger is current keeper of the president's gavel for the plush Bermuda Kennel Club. The Bermuda Kennel Club now maintains its own Stud Book, registrations, titles and certificates; no longer operating the annual all breed dog shows under the Canadian Kennel Club rules and regulations but rather under its own auspices.

MY GOOD FRIEND, producer-director Leo Handel recently pocketed the motion picture award from the Freedom's Foundation at Valley Forge for "Thomas Jefferson," a half hour segment of the American Series, produced by the Documentary Division of the Handel Film Corporation. Additionally, Leo dabbles in dogs; his book, "A Dog Named Duke" is a best seller and slated for early filming.

In Great Britain, dog groomers report that people spend as much money on mixed breeds as pure breeds. Poodles are no longer the

wonder breed in England but still a substantial part of the total groom business.

BREED OF THE WEEK—Bichons Frises... Indeed, the Bichons Frises is a very ancient breed of dog as evidenced by mentions of this eye-catching loveable French canine creation, as far back as 230 B.C.

Actually the Bichons Frises (pronounced "Beeshon Freezay") was found in greatest numbers on the largest of the Canary Islands, Tenerife, a possession of Spain. The initial popularity of the Bichons began in the late 15th and early 16th centuries. At that time, two French sovereigns, Francis I and Henry III, imported several of these dogs for court living. Instantly, he was a royal favorite and extolled in paintings and literature.

SADLY, HOWEVER, during the 19th Century, his popularity decreased and he became a "dog of the streets" — called the little "sheepdog". Many could be found frolick-

ing through back alleys and dingy streets fraternizing with organgrinders and peddlers, leading blind beggars and performing tricks for handouts at taverns.

The Bichon Frises is recognized officially by the kennel clubs of France, Spain, Italy and Belgium. The first few representatives of the breed arrived at our shores in 1956 but as yet this diminutive little doggie is not recognized by the American Kennel Club and so, therefore, cannot be exhibited at American dog shows but I feel the day of the breed's acceptance is not far off. The Bichons Frises Club of America has turned in a most creditable assignment in promoting their chosen breed in the United States. The club membership's enthusiasm is contagious. Locally, interested readers can contact Gertrude Fournier, 1960 Avon Lane, Spring Valley, Calif.

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