

Archives & Manuscript Collections  
National Sporting Library  
Middleburg, VA

**National Beagle Club  
Archives  
1890-1971**

Name: **National Beagle Club** **MC 0004**

Materials: Archives

Dates: 1890-1971

Volume: 10.5 cubic feet (21 document boxes)

Donation: On deposit, June 2000.

Usage: Unless otherwise stated by NSL staff, these records are open for research without restrictions.

**Historical Note**

The National Beagle Club (NBC) was founded on April 5, 1890 in Boston, Massachusetts at a meeting attended by W.F. Rutter, Jr., W.S. Clark, H.H. Brown, O.W. Brooking, and F.W. Chapman. Initially, the group had been denied permission to join the American Kennel Club because the American-English Beagle Club (also known as the American Beagle Club) was already a member. However, the National Beagle Club eventually merged with the American-English Beagle Club to form the National Beagle Club of America in 1891. Today the NBC continues to serve as the parent organization of beagle clubs active in the United States.

The purpose of the NBC was "to promote the improvement in the field and on the bench of the Beagle Hound in America." The NBC took as its standard the one established by General Richard Rowett of Illinois, Norman Elmore of Connecticut, and Dr. L. H. Twadell of Pennsylvania; Rowett has been credited with being the first proponent and importer of beagles in the United States. By 1900 The National Beagle Club had changed the standard to reflect a greater emphasis on the running gear, and this standard has remained virtually unchanged.

In order to champion the beagle in America, the NBC holds annual field trials and specialty shows, a tradition begun soon after its founding: the first field trial was held in New Hampshire in 1890, and the first specialty show followed a year later. In 1916 the NBC formed the Institute Corporation in order to purchase 508 acres in Aldie, Virginia; this land, known as the Institute Farm, was to be used for the shows and field trials. This important purchase occurred

during the tenure of one of the NBC's most influential leaders, James W. Appleton, who served as president from 1910 to 1942.

Appleton was not the only example of strong leadership enjoyed by the NBC; Richard Gambrill steered the NBC through difficult financial times as Secretary-Treasurer during both World Wars and the Great Depression. A large portion of the NBC's correspondence contained within this collection was handled by either Gambrill or C. Oliver Iselin, who succeeded Appleton in 1942 as president and served until 1971, and who happened to be one of the original investors in the Institute Corporation.

One of the NBC's primary responsibilities, in addition to holding its own field trials and specialty shows, was to administer other such events held by the numerous subsidiary organizations over which the NBC held authority. The NBC's early emphasis on performance in the field and conformation changed over the years as interest in the latter phased out; by 1936, the task of administering the large and increasing number of field trial clubs and activities became a near impossible burden. Because of this burden, the Beagle Advisory Commission was established to alleviate the pressure placed on the NBC. Another purpose in establishing the Commission was to ease the tensions between the NBC and the American Kennel Club, tensions which had arisen due to bureaucratic difficulties in the approval of field shows.

The NBC was governed by a president, three vice presidents, a secretary-treasurer, and an executive committee. The president was primarily responsible for presiding over the quarterly and annual meetings; the bulk of the general business management fell to the secretary-treasurer. In order to become a member of the NBC, an interested person had to submit his or her intent in written form, signed by at least two members, and then the executive committee would vote to grant or refuse membership. Relying on membership dues to cover operating expenses, during financially hard times the NBC found it difficult to collect from its members, and in turn was unable to cover its own bills. Nevertheless, through the diligence of Appleton, Gambrill, and Iselin, et al., the NBC survived.

As conformation experienced a resurgence in the 1970s, a second classification of membership, the Supporting Membership status, was created for those interested in conformation. Specialty shows also returned beginning in 1970. In 1980, due to the work of Nadine Eaton Chicoine, the Supporting Membership was granted permission to draw up its own By-laws to govern the specialty show activities and to provide for the election of a Supporting Membership Director to serve on the Board of the NBC for a one-year term. As of Spring 2000, there were 384 Regular Members, 178 Supporting Members and 6 Associate Members.

### **Collection Description**

The National Beagle Club Archives consists of 10.5 linear feet of materials. These materials, which date from 1890 to 1971, include correspondence, financial records, and records pertaining to the Club's annual beagle shows and field trials. The Club Archives have

been arranged into three series: General Business, Financial Records, and Show and Field Trials Records.

The first series, General Business, consists of records dealing with the basic operations of the National Beagle Club. The series is arranged into eight sub-series: Constitution and By-laws, Correspondence, Membership, Minutes, Newspaper and Magazine Clippings, Other Organizations, Rules and Standards, and Miscellaneous. The largest portion of this series is contained within the Correspondence subseries, as most of the organization's business was conducted through the mail. The Constitution and By-laws, Correspondence, and Minutes subseries are arranged chronologically. The Membership subseries is arranged by format and then chronologically. The Newspaper and Magazine Clippings subseries is arranged alphabetically by publication and then chronologically. The materials in the Other Organizations subseries have been divided into three sub-subseries by organization, with general records first. Both the Rules and Standards and the Miscellaneous subseries have been arranged alphabetically by format.

The second series, Financial Records, contains items recording the financial transactions of the Club, such as bills, invoices, bank statements, and receipts. The materials in this series are primarily in formats other than correspondence; conversely, some correspondence in the first series contains financial information, but these items could not be housed in the second series because they contain other forms of information. The Financial Records series is arranged chronologically.

The third series, Show and Field Trials Records, includes records of the Club which pertain to its annual show and field trials. These materials have been arranged into three subseries: Premiums Lists, General Records, and Results. The Premiums Lists subseries contains chronologically arranged lists of the premiums offered each year by the Club. The second subseries, General Records, contains such materials as entry forms for the annual show and field trials, correspondence about the trials, and lists of packs participating. Also included is a register of guests staying in Aldie for the trials from 1925 to 1973; it is not known whether this register was used for the Institute Farm or for a local inn or hotel. These materials are arranged chronologically. The final subseries contains printed catalogs of the results and awards for the annual show and field trials. Also included in this subseries is a handwritten account of the first show held in 1890. The Results subseries is also arranged chronologically. Records dealing with the shows and field trials of other organizations are included in the Correspondence subseries of the first subseries.

**Series and Subseries**

<b>I.</b>	<b>General Business, 1890-1971</b>	<b>6.5 cubic feet (13 boxes)</b>
	1. Constitution and By-laws, 1892-1950	1 folder
	2. Correspondence, 1890-1952	82 folders
	3. Membership, 1890-1946	3 folders
	4. Minutes, c1890-1961	5 folders
	5. Newspaper and Magazine Clippings, 1912-1971	4 folders
	6. Other Organizations	8 folders
	A. General	
	B. American Kennel Club	
	C. Miscellaneous	
	7. Rules and Standards	3 folders
	8. Miscellaneous	4 folders
<b>II.</b>	<b>Financial Records, 1890-1954</b>	<b>2.5 cubic feet (5 boxes)</b>
	Bills, receipts, invoices, dues paid, etc.	50 folders
<b>III.</b>	<b>Shows and Field Trials Records, 1890-1954</b>	<b>1.5 cubic feet (3 boxes)</b>
	1. Premiums lists	5 folders
	2. General Records	24 folders
	3. Results	18 folders

**Inventory**  
**MC 0004**

**I. General Business**

I.1 Constitution and By-laws

I.1.1 1892-1950

I.2 Correspondence

Undated	1919	1936
1891	1920	1937
1892	1921	1938
1893	1922	1939
1895	1923	1940
1896	1924	1941
1897	1925	1942
1898	1926	1943
1910	1927	1944
1911	1928	1945
1912	1929	1946
1913	1930	1947
1914	1931	1948
1915	1932	1949
1916	1933	1950
1917	1934	1951
1918	1935	1952

I.3 Membership

I.3.1 Applications for membership - 1890-1898  
 I.3.2 Applications for membership - 1917, 1938  
 I.3.3 Members lists - 1912-1946

I.4 Minutes

I.4.1 Loose minutes and resolutions - c1890-1916  
 I.4.2 Loose minutes and resolutions - 1920-1927  
 I.4.3 Bound volume of minutes - 1930-1961  
 I.4.4 Loose minutes and resolutions - 1932-1938  
 I.4.5 Loose minutes and resolutions - 1940-1946

I.5 Newspaper and Magazine Clippings

I.5.1 *The American Field* - 1912-1922  
 I.5.2 *The Chronicle* - 1940-1971  
 I.5.3 *Hounds and Hunting* - 1923-1951  
 I.5.4 Miscellaneous - 1906-1922

**I. General Business (cont.)**

I.6 Other Organizations

I.6.A General

- I.6.A.1 Various lists of clubs - 1918-1946
- I.6.A.2 Registration of hunt country - 1930-1948

I.6.B American Kennel Club

- I.6.B.1 Prospectus on the AKC - undated
- I.6.B.2 Constitution, By-Laws, and Rules - 1909-1922
- I.6.B.3 Lists of Persons Deprived of Privileges - 1930-1941

I.6.C Miscellaneous

- I.6.C.1 Somerset Beagles - 1911-1919
- I.6.C.2 Clubs and Shows - A-L
- I.6.C.3 Clubs and Shows - M-Z

I.7 Rules and Standards

- I.7.1 Bench Show Standard - 1896-1910
- I.7.2 Running Rules - 1892-1931
- I.7.3 Miscellaneous - 1914-1925

I.8 Miscellaneous

- I.8.1 Announcements for sales and breeding - 1910-1930
- I.8.2 Blueprint for Appleton Room, Institute Farm - 1947
- I.8.3 Photographs of unidentified beagles - undated
- I.8.4 "Story of a Stranger" - 1896

**II. Financial Records**

II.1 Financial Records

Undated	1915
1890	1916
1891	1916 (Purchase of
1892	Institute Farm,
1895	Aldie, Virginia)
1896	1917
1897	1918
1898	1919
1911	1920
1911-1912 (Importation	1920-1921 (Papers of
of antiques)	Ramsay Turnbull)
1912	1921
1913	1922
1914	1923

**II. Financial Records (cont.)**II.1 Financial Records (cont.)

1924	1939
1925	1940
1926	1941
1927	1942
1928	1943
1929	1944
1930	1946
1931	1947
1932	1948
1933	1949
1934	1950
1935	1951
1936	1952
1937	1953
1938	1954

**III. Shows and Field Trials Records**III.1 Premiums Lists

1893	1913	1941
1894	1914	1942
1895	1915	1943
1896	1918	1944
1897	1920	1945
1898	1921	1946
1899	1922	1948
1912	1934	

III.2 General Records

Undated	1912	1922
1890	1913	1923
1894	1914	1924
1895	1915	1925-1973
1896	1917	(guest
1897	1921	register)

**III. Shows and Field Trials Records (cont.)**

III.3 Results

1890	1923	1933
1912	1924	1934
1913	1927	1937
1919	1929	1938
1920	1930	1944
1921	1931	1946
1922	1932	

This collection was processed by John M. Groff and George Hottel, 2002.