



Special points of Interest:

- Dates for the Diary
- Buyer Beware
- Sports: Cani-cross
- Show reports:
 - UK Shows 2010
 - JAIC Club Show
 - German Akita Club Seminar

Breed Classes are scheduled at:

Manchester Championship Show

Friday 21/01/2011

Judge:

Staffordshire County Showground,
Weston Road, Stafford, ST18 0BD
Entries closed

Crufts

Sunday 13/03/2011

Judge: Mrs Irene Hasell
NEC, Birmingham, B40 1NT
Entries close: 07/01/2011

National Dog Show

Friday 06/05/2011

Judge: Ms Sarah Hattrell
Staffordshire County Showground,
Weston Road, Stafford, ST18 0BD
Entries close: 09/03/2011

Bath Canine Society Show

Friday 30/05/2011

Judge: TBC
Three Shires Field
Bannerdown, Bath BA1 8EG
Entries close:

Birmingham City Championship Show

Sunday 04/09/2011

Judge: TBC
Stoneleigh Park
Warwickshire CV8 2LZ
Entries close: 11/07/2011

Japanese Akita-Inu Club Show

held in conjunction with
Birmingham City Championship
Show

Sunday 04/09/2011

Judge: TBC
Entries close: TBC

Club Website

www.japaneseakita-inu.co.uk

If you have any news or information about the Japanese Akita-Inu that you would like to share with other members please send them to:
akita_inu@injami.com

Please note that not all articles received can be published.

Christmas is over, and it's the start of a New Year. The Japanese Akita-Inu Club would like to wish all of our members a prosperous and successful New Year in 2011. This is a good time to reflect on the year past and make plans for the coming year.

There are a number of shows that have classes for Japanese Akita-Inu, and it would be great to see some new dogs in the ring as well as the regular competitors. Also if you have been involved in any other activities with your dogs please let us know as we'd love to hear about other achievements and adventures that you and your dogs are having.

It's also that time of the year to remind members that their membership renewal is due on 1st January 2011. A renewal form is attached at the end of the newsletter for your convenience.

Dates for the Diary 2011.

DFS Crufts

09-13 March 2011

The Japanese Akita-Inu Club will be represented in the Discover Dogs breed section during the four days of Crufts and also in the show ring on Sunday the 13th March. We would love to see any of our members who would like to stop by and say hi, or if anyone would like to join us on the stand please contact the club Secretary, Cherry Wilkinson on secretary@japaneseakita-inu.co.uk or Tel: 01205 870003 to volunteer.

Japanese Akita-Inu Club Annual General Meeting

Date: 16 April 2011 11:30am
Firs Garden Community Centre

The club Committee would like to invite all of our members to the AGM. This is your main opportunity to speak to the Committee and get a recap on the year just gone and the year ahead. This is a good opportunity to give your input to the Committee to ensure that the club continues to benefit all it's members.

Japanese Akita-Inu Club Show

04 September 2011

Following the success of the 2010 Japanese Akita-Inu Club Show, held in conjunction with the City of Birmingham Championship Show, this will once again be held at the same venue in 2011. This provides exhibitors and spectators an opportunity to attend 2 shows on the same day at Stoneleigh Park in Warwickshire. The show is held indoors in the Kennel Club building and is a great venue. We hope to see more members there in 2011. Judging information and schedules will be available nearer the time.

Judging Seminar

Autumn 2011

Following on from the success of the Judging Seminar last month the next seminar is being planned for November 2011. More details will follow nearer the time and places are on a first come basis and limited to a maximum of 15 candidates. If you wish to be considered for a place please contact Maureen Thompson on email: kitadodogs@aol.com or telephone 0115 963 7962.

Club Events in 2011

The club is considering holding an event in the summer of 2011. We would like to hear of any ideas members may have for a Japanese Akita-Inu event. What would you like to do/see/be involved in? There have been a number of ideas already including:

- Educational Seminar – about the Japanese Akita-Inu
- Fun show – for those new to showing or fun classes
- Have-a-go events – taster agility, clicker training, Cani-cross etc.

Please do let us know what you would be interested in or if you have any other ideas. We would like to put on an event that all members would enjoy. Please contact us on: secretary@japaneseakita-inu.co.uk with any ideas or suggestions.

Buyer Beware

The club was recently contacted by a lady who had agreed to purchase a Japanese Akita-Inu puppy from a breeder in the south west of the UK. They had paid the purchase price and shipping costs for the puppy, but no puppy was forthcoming. This unfortunate event, although not the only one of its type, highlights the fact that there are unscrupulous people out there who are willing to use our breed to con people out of their money. The police are currently investigating the case as potential Internet fraud.

If you are looking to purchase a puppy here are a few basic guidelines to follow:

- Do your research – ask a number of breeders, owners and rescue organisations about the breed. There may be a range of opinions (there always are) but if anything sounds odd then check it out further. Be clear about what you are looking for in a puppy and look for one that will fit into your household. Is it important that the dog is laid back and relaxed, or will you spend every weekend hiking over the mountains? The laid back, relaxed dog may struggle to keep up with the long distance marathon runners, whilst the lively, cheeky, full of mischief puppy will probably get bored and find his own trouble to get into in a more relaxed household.
- Don't buy a puppy sight unseen. You should meet the bitch and the puppies, and if possible the father and as many other relatives as you can. If many of the relatives are nervous, aggressive, friendly or calm then there's a good chance that the puppies may inherit these traits.
- Be sure to visit the breeder at their premises and view the bitch and her puppies at their home.

Puppy Registration

There are a number of bodies who will register dogs. Registration of a dog with the Kennel Club (of the UK or another country) has to be done by the breeder of the litter. This provides a record of the ancestry of the dog (parents, grandparents, great-grandparents etc.), it is not, however, a guarantee of quality or health. There are a few conditions under which the Kennel Club will refuse to register puppies of registered parents unless health checks are passed, however, none of these are applicable to the Japanese Akita-Inu.

The Kennel Club also hold records of the health tests of the dogs registered with them. If you know the registered name or number of a dog this can be checked online at the Kennel Club website (<http://www.the-kennel-club.org.uk/services/public/health/search/>) The Kennel Club registration is the only one other Kennel Clubs will accept as valid documentation of the dog's ancestry. Also the UK Kennel Club will only accept recognised National Kennel Club registrations. There are a number of other registers available on the Internet which allow the registration of any dog. These registers are informal and provide no checks and are not recognised by any Kennel Clubs and do not allow entry into Kennel Club shows.

Kennel Club registration is required for a dog to be entered into a Kennel Club licensed show. In the UK there are 2 different types of registration possible:

- Breed Register – dogs on this register are the offspring of 2 registered dogs of the same breed, the breed also has to be one recognised by the Kennel Club. The Japanese Akita-Inu was recognised by the Kennel Club in 2006, and by FCI affiliated Kennel Clubs in 1999. Dogs on this register can participate in all KC licensed events including Breed Shows.
- Activity Register – this register accepts dogs from unknown or unregistered parents, or from parents from different breeds (crossbreeds). Dogs on this register can participate in all KC Licensed events, **except** breed shows, such as Agility and Obedience shows.

In selecting a puppy it is important to research the health status (hip scores, eye tests etc) and character of the parents and as many of the close relatives as possible. In addition a responsible breeder will ask you many questions regarding your expectation of the breed, the lifestyle that you can offer, and whether your lifestyle and expectations are in line with what you can expect from that puppy in order to ensure a good fit.

Judges Educational Seminar and Assessment

The club's educational seminar and assessment for aspirant judges took place on Saturday 6th November 2010 at The Mill, Scofton Village, Nr Worksop, Nottingham. The venue was a little off the beaten track, but easy enough to find, just 10 minutes off the Ranby junction of the A1 in north Nottinghamshire. As the name suggests it is a converted mill house and provides a delightful setting with good facilities for delivering this kind of event. The weather was very kind and gave us a dry sunny day which we duly took advantage of and set up the 'hands on' practical assessment outside on the grass with unlimited space to view and assess the dogs.



Each year we review and develop the educational program using feedback received from candidates. This year was no exception in that we changed part of the format; taking away the traditional classroom and examination environment and replacing it with a series of short worksheets completed by candidates at the end of each module. The change was well received by the 11 candidates taking the full assessment program, as they felt it was a good way of testing how much information was absorbed from each of the sessions

A hot lunch was served with great choice of desserts as well as copious amounts of tea/coffee and biscuits during the day.

All 11 candidates who attended this event worked hard to get a good outcome. Upon completion of marking we were delighted that each one achieved the necessary standard to pass all written modules and the practical session.

The hard work from the Committee ensured the event was delivered within the timetable and without any problems. I would like to give a personal thank you to all Committee members for the great teamwork that ensured the day went well.



Cani-cross – running with your dog

So how many times have you been told that you shouldn't let your Japanese Akita-Inu off the lead? Surely this means that you can't do any competitive dog sports doesn't it? Good news! When competing in a Cani-cross race your dog must stay attached to you at all times. This means there's no possibility for losing your dog due to temporary deafness. Cani-cross is simply cross country running with your dog and has been around in the UK for several years now with has a big following in Europe.

In Cani-cross ideally the dog should run in front and pull the handler. If you have a strong dog who pulls well this can give you a good boost of speed which is really helpful. I can run a 5km course five minutes faster with my dogs than I can run the same course without them so it definitely can be an advantage. However, if your dog doesn't pull but just runs by your side that is also fine, you just don't benefit from their power as much as the person running a dog that does pull.

What equipment do you need?

If you attend any of the events you'll see many dogs kitted out in full Cani-cross kit:

- Harness for the dog
- Waistbelt for the person
- Bungee line attaching the person to the dog
- Coupling if you're running more than 1 dog



However, if you're just starting out and aren't sure what it's all about then you can also just run in a normal collar and lead.

But I can't run ...



Cani-cross is suitable for all breeds and all competencies of runners. There are a huge range of runners who compete regularly, from those speed demons who fly round a 5km course in under 15 minutes, to those who cross the finish line closer to 50 minutes. Everyone is equally welcome and the main objective is going out and seeing new places with your dogs.

How do I start training?

If you are an experienced runner the key thing to remember is that running in harness is much harder work for the dog than free running, so make sure you don't go too far or too fast in the early days. Also remember that it takes a while for the dog to realise that you actually want them in front and pulling. Short, frequent sessions are best to start with, and if you can enlist the help of another runner/biker/Cani-crosser who can go in front and encourage the dog that is the easiest option. There are many training groups around the country who are more than happy to help new Cani-crossers to get started.

If you are completely new to running a quick search on the internet for training plans will provide a number of free 5km training plans. Pick one that suits you. There are some links to training plans at the end of this article. If you do all your training runs with your dog then you'll get fit together and don't have to worry about outrunning your dog.

There are a few considerations that need to be made when running with dogs.

- Dogs can't sweat and so can overheat much faster than their human partners making heatstroke a real problem if the temperature is too high. Make sure that you keep an eye out when it's a bit warm as although a nice thick coat is great for the showing it increases the risk of heatstroke when running on a warm day. Through the summer a lot of Cani-crossers take a break or run in the early morning or late evening when the temperatures are lower. Of course in the winter a nice thick, waterproof coat means that they are fine running in sub-zero temperatures and in the cold winter weather.
- On returning from your run don't let your dog drink his fill of water immediately as this can be a cause of bloat. Try and walk the last 5 minutes back home and then let the dog cool down and stop panting before they have a drink. The same would apply to any time the dog is panting hard through exertion.
- Don't start running before the dog is approximately 12 months old. Over-exercising a young dog can damage the growing joints and can be a cause of joint problems in later life. Once the dog is over a year old the increased fitness and muscle tone that the dog develops can help to support and protect the joints and so minimise the damage to the joints and keep the dog fit and strong.

What events can I enter?

There are 2 organisations in the UK who run Cani-cross races. Both are very friendly and welcome runners of all standards and dogs of all breeds. There are quite a number of people (including us) who run in events organised by both organisations. Both of these organisations have links on their websites to equipment suppliers and training help.

Canix

www.canix.co.uk

Canix races are 5km races which include Cani-cross runners only. The trails are mostly well marked and maintained footpaths and trails with good footing. They are good events to start off on if you or your dog are relatively new to cross country running and want to ease into Cani-cross.

Canicross Trail runners.

www.canicross.org.uk

These events are cross country running events which include a Cani-cross class as well. The Cani-cross runners typically start 5-15 minutes behind the non-dog runners and it's usually a mass start. This year they are also ran an Aquathon! These races tend to be 10km and longer and usually over more rugged terrain.

Maybe events for the more adventurous runner (and dog) to enter. Some of the events also include water crossings and more extreme obstacles so be prepared!

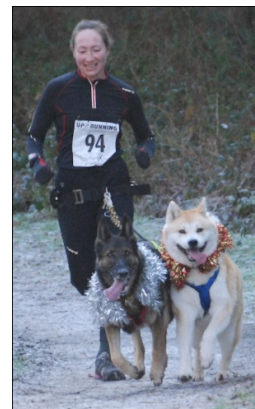
Sample training plans:

The Couch-to-5K @ Running Plan

http://www.coolrunning.com/engine/2/2_3/181.shtml

Beginner 5km training program

<http://www.bupa.co.uk/running/training/training-programmes/beginner-5km/>



Japanese Akita-Inu Breed Seminar Presented by Mr Kosuke Kawakita (AKIHO – Japan)

16 October, Hamm, Germany

The German Akita Club Show in October 2010 was also host to a Breed Seminar by Mr Kosuke Kawakita, one of the most experienced judges of the Japanese Akita-Inu in Japan.

The content of the seminar concentrated on four main points which are of particular concern to Japanese breeders of the Akita (Japanese Akita-Inu in the UK). By raising these points he hoped that it would help us to avoid or address these issues in order to ensure that they aren't allowed to become more prevalent within the population in Europe.

These main points were:

- 1. The presence of white markings within the coat.**
 - a. Red, Sesame and Brindle Akita-Inu should always have white urajiro markings. This means that the underside of the dog should be white along the belly, on the inside of the legs extending onto the muzzle and the underside and tip of the tail.
 - b. White markings in the following areas are incorrect and efforts should be made to reduce or eliminate their presence in:
 - i. The back of the neck
 - ii. Above the eyebrows
 - iii. Above the elbows/hock
 - iv. On the body
- 2. Pale Coats**
 - a. The problem of pale coats can be seen in both the red and the brindle dogs. A red should have a strong, warm red colour not a sandy or faded fawn colour. The brindle should have a good, brilliant brindle striping over a deep red or white coat. The brindle colouring should not be a grey but a strong, dark colour.
 - b. The fading of the coat colour can come about by consistent red to red matings, which emphasises the importance of brindle and white dogs in a long term breeding program.
- 3. Misalignment of the ears**
 - a. It was noted that in emphasising the forward slant of the ears, the position of the ears in some dogs is too far down the side of the head. This positioning of the ears can cause the dog to look a little more sleepy and less alert than is desirable. The correct positioning of the ears is that a straight line should be formed by the bottom corner of the ears, the underside of the eye and the nose. If the line from the nose along the underside of the eye intersects the ear rather than meeting the bottom corner of the ear then the position of the ear is too low.
- 4. Shape of the lower jaw**
 - a. When viewed from the front the muzzle of the dog should form a circle. In some dogs the lower jaw is more flattened and not visible when viewed from the front.

Health Matters

The Kennel Club runs a number of health screening programs that are available to the Japanese Akita-Inu. We would strongly advise owners and breeders to participate in these programs even if there are no obvious health issues in their dogs. The more information that is available ensures that any potential problems can be identified and reduced or eliminated at an early stage before it has become a problem in the general population. Yes, these tests do cost money, but what price do you put on health? So your dogs are healthy, but do you know if they have any underlying pre-disposition to something that may crop up in future generations? Even if you don't intend to breed from your dog the information is useful to those who may want to breed from their related dog, and who may be carrying a trait that has not yet become apparent in their dog.

The long-term health of the breed should be the main concern, not the profitability of an individual breeding program. As a buyer there are no guarantees, but you want to have the best chance possible of owning a healthy dog, who will not need constant treatment and trips to the vet. As a breeder there is a responsibility to do your best to ensure that the puppies that you breed have the best chance of being healthy.

The health screening programs available to the Japanese Akita-Inu are:

- Hip Scoring – this is inspection of x-rays of the hips by a panel of experts. The scores are awarded from 0 to 52 for each hip. A score of 0 is perfect with 52 being the worst.
- Eye Tests – this is a visual examination of the eye by a specialist which should be performed annually. It is used to identify early stages of/or pre-disposition to a number of diseases including Glaucoma.
- Elbow Scoring – this is similar to Hip Scores but with a score of 0 to 3, a score of 0 being 'no dysplasia'. There is currently no evidence of elbow dysplasia in the Japanese Akita-Inu breed, but it would be preferable to keep it that way rather than trying to fix it after a problem has developed.

KC Health scores can be viewed online for any dog at the Kennel club website:

<http://www.the-kennel-club.org.uk/services/public/health/search/Default.aspx>

The Show Scene

There were quite a few shows which put on classes for the Japanese Akita-Inu in 2010 and many of these had a good entry. These shows and the number of entries in 2010 are shown below. We would like to encourage people to enter their dogs and attend these shows as it's a good place to meet and chat with other Japanese Akita-Inu owners as well as an opportunity to go dog viewing. In order for these shows to continue to support the breed, and encourage other shows to do so, they need the entries to be there. If the classes are not well attended then the classes may disappear and we will only be able to show in the AVNSC (Any Variety Not Separately Classified) classes.

- Manchester Canine Society
- National Canine Society
- Bath Canine Society
- City of Birmingham, incorporating the Japanese Akita-Inu Club Show

Show Report: Japanese Akita-Inu Club Show. 5th September 2010.

Judges report: Dave Chapman

It was a pleasure to judge this well run club show. This is a relatively new breed and it was a pleasure to see the depth of quality in the breed. The future looks bright, and keep up the good work that is being done. Thank you to everyone for the warm welcome and also thank you to my able stewards for the sterling job.



Best of Breed (right):
Tsoyu Amatsu-Kami
Reserve Best Dog:
IR CH Kaidou Go Shirai At Wendbarry



Best Bitch (left):
Kita Go Dell'Antico Oriente Tsoyu (Imp ITA)
Reserve Best Bitch:
Wendbarry I Am A Celebrity with Norvanik



Veteran Bitch (left): Hana Go Musashi Aiwa At Wendbarry
Veteran Dog: Takamaru Go Of Kamino Ken at Wendbarry

The Club would like to congratulate all the dogs and owners who took part and hope that you had an enjoyable day. If you have any comments or suggestions on how to improve the event please contact the [secretary](#).

Results:

Veteran Dog: Takamaru Go Of Kamino Ken at Wendbarry
Open Dog: IR CH Kaidou Go Shirai at Wendbarry
Limit Dog: Daichi Kanon
Junior Dog: Tsoyu Amatsu-Kami
Puppy Dog: Wendbarry Tigers Eye

Veteran Bitch: Hana Go Musashi Aiwa At Wendbarry
Open Bitch: Kita Go Dell'Antico Oriente Tsoyu (Imp ITA)
Limit Bitch: Wendbarry I Am A Celebrity with Norvanik
Junior Bitch: Tsoyu Asama
Puppy Bitch: Senkari Shun'You Kensha Tsoyu

International Show Dates 2011

World Dog Show 2011	Euro Dog Show 2011	Akita Cup 2011
Date: 07-10 July 2011 (Akita on 09 July 2011) Venue: ZAC Paris Nord 2 93420 Villepinte Paris France Website: http://www.worlddogshow2011.fr/en	Date: 01-04 September 2011 (Akita on 04 September 2011) Venue: WTC Expo Heliconweg 56 8914 Leeuwarden Holland Website: https://www.eurodogshow2011.nl	Date: 28/29 May 2011 Venue: TBC Italy Website: https://www.akitacup.it



THE JAPANESE AKITA-INU CLUB
MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

Thank you for your continued interest in the Japanese Akita-Inu Club, your support is greatly appreciated and we look forward to working with you during the following year.

I/We the undersigned wish to renew my/our membership of the Japanese Akita-Inu Club and agree to abide by the Rules. I/We will endeavour to place the welfare of the Japanese Akita-Inu above all else. The JAIC fully supports the Kennel Club's General Code of Ethics which can be viewed through the link from our website www.japaneseakita-inu.co.uk or directly from the KC website www.thekennelclub.org.uk/item/247

Member	Name (Block Capitals)	16	Signature
		Y/N	
1
2
3

Address:

Postcode..... **Tel no** **Kennel Affix**.....

Main email address (Please print as used)
If joint membership and you would prefer emails to be sent to individual addresses please list overleaf

Annual Subscription enclosed: £..... (£10.00 single/joint* £15.00 family**)
 *A couple or 2 people in joint ownership of a dog. ** Up to 3 people at the same address plus any children under 16. Please add details of other under 16 members on the back of this form)
Only members over the age of 16 have voting rights. Any member attending and voting at Annual General Meetings or Special General Meetings of this Club must have been a member in good standing for not less than one full year following the AGM subsequent to their membership being approved.

Please return this form with cheque/postal order payable to JAIC to:
 Mrs Anne Corless JAIC Membership Secretary, 228 The Green, Ecclestone, Lancashire PR7 5SU

RECEIPT REQUIRED YES/NO



Secretarial Use Only

Date received Subscription enclosed.....

Membership year: 1 January to 31 December 2011

Please use this side to enter details of children (under 16) that you wish to include in your family membership. The date of birth is required to calculate when the individual becomes eligible for voting rights.

Member	Name (Block Capitals)	16 Y/N	Date of Birth (if under 16)	Signature
4
5
6
7
8
9
10

Other email addresses.....
.....
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