



President's Notes – April 2025

First I'd like to congratulate everyone who did well in Phoenix at our National Specialty, the Regional Specialty and the Supported Entries. We had a great entry, a fun banquet, a well-attended Annual Meeting and an all around good time. A special thank you to our show chair and the show committee for a well run weekend! Huge thank you to the folks who entered dogs, sponsored prizes, donated raffle items, bought raffle tickets, worked the raffle table and trophy table, participated in the bidding war at the banquet and all the other things that made our National weekend a success. Thank you all! Next year – Topeka Kansas!

Now a serious note. I am attaching the AKC Statistics. Please do not publish them on your pages on social media – AKC sends them to the clubs for their members, but they quit publishing them publicly as animal rights groups skew the data and use it to try to stop our sport and support legislation to stop breeders.

Its no secret numbers are down across the board. For those breeds that already have a small population, its particularly serious. It is clear both anecdotally and in the statistics the numbers of Toy Fox breeders, litters and registered puppies are down. There are many reasons for it – breeders are aging, anti-breeder legislation, the “adopt don't shop” movement, restrictions on animal ownership in ordinances, zoning and HOAs, the economy – I can go on. Putting that aside – one of our greatest issues is a lack of awareness of our breed by the public.

Your Board has made a commitment to promoting our breed and preparing the club and our preservation of the breed for the future. We are writing policies and procedures so folks who come after us to run the club will not have to re-invent how to do things every time, we are setting out annual reminders to ensure items like taxes, incorporation reports, membership lists to AKC, etc are never missed. We are establishing a database in our website in the members only section with the historical records of all the dogs who have received titles from the AKC. At the annual meeting there was discussion by some members of starting a pedigree database for current and future breeders to assist in their breeding decisions.

As president, I get occasional phone calls or have conversations with other toy fox people at dog shows. Inevitably it starts with a long redressing of old disagreements with other members (some not even alive anymore), old hurts and problems, and things prior boards did wrong or a wrong that was done to them. Many of these relayed to me in the conversation happened a decade or more ago. This focus on old hurts and disagreements is damaging to our club.

I will say this – for our club and our breed to thrive and grow we must put old differences aside and focus on growth and the future. We don't all have to like each other but we must collaborate and work together. I often ask people where do they see our breed in twenty years. Where do they see our club? Most of us currently in the club and breeding Toy Fox Terriers are on the north side of the half century mark and a high percentage of us will not be breeding dogs in ten to twenty years. If we claim to love the breed and be breed preservationists, we must work together to promote our breed, bring in and mentor new breeders, share our knowledge,



encourage our juniors, and gather and share our data where future generations of Toy Fox breeders can access and utilize it.

Please review the statistics and think of what will happen if the numbers remain in a decline. We must get our dogs visible and promote our breed not just at dog shows but everywhere we can show them off. Many of us have Instagram, TikTok and other social media platforms where we can put cute and educational videos about our dog and breed, we can take our dogs with us to dog friendly outings such as outdoors art and crafts festivals, participate in local meet the breed type events, etc. If you have a friendly confident retiree, offer a junior to show your dog at local AKC dog shows and matches in Junior Showmanship – there are many ways to get our dogs out in front of people.

We have begun posting our newsletter on the ATFTC website (minus the minutes and financials). I strongly encourage those who did well in Phoenix as well as everyone else to put a full or half page ad in the newsletter so visitors to the site can see great photos of lovely Toy Foxes.

If you want to write an article for the newsletter that would also be awesome. Historical photos of Toy Foxes would be fun to put in. All the past newsletters with minutes and financials are in the members area of our club website – this is your chance for your dog to be available for future Toy Fox breeders to see. And the rates are so inexpensive!

Front Cover...\$45, Full Page... \$25 and Half Page... \$12.50

Contact Chris Bowker at bowmanor@bellsouth.net to submit an article or put in an ad. If you can't design one – Chris can assist you and we have folks in the club who are hugely talented on computers who can help – just ask! The spring edition deadline is fast approaching so jump on it! With all the big wins at shows this year – we should be seeing some ads bragging on the dogs!

We have a number of shows this year that are Toy Fox regional, designated or supported – see the website and the newsletter for information on them. Also, we have a judges committee and in the coming weeks you will be asked to vote on 2026 and 2027's National Specialty judges. Watch your emails for those surveys!

Please remember we have a Delegate now that we are an AKC Member club. If you have any questions about prospective rule changes that AKC has published or suggestions for AKC, make sure you share them with Laura Johnson at tylaursrotti@hotmail.com.

Don't forget you can have your Toy Fox recognized for being smart and versatile - fill out and send the versatility form to performance@atftc.com if your dog has earned titles in two or more different AKC events – we want to celebrate your accomplishments through Versatility Recognition Awards. That includes Canine Good Citizen, Farm Dog, BarnHunt, Scent Work, Coursing Ability and other AKC companion events in addition to agility, obedience, rally, and conformation. When you receive the award, print it, take a photo of your pup and the certificate, email it and we'll put you in the newsletter! And you can continue to upgrade your versatility



awards as your dog earns titles! The form is available at
[https://www.atftc.com/forms/Combined Title Award Application.pdf](https://www.atftc.com/forms/Combined_Title_Award_Application.pdf)

Carrie Fletcher posts weekly on our club member Facebook page asking people to comment with litters, puppies and available dogs. Be creative when you respond as Facebook will take down any post with available, for sale, looking for a new home and other obvious language. Many club members send puppy buyers to the ATFTC website to search for breeders. Make sure you are listed there! It helps immensely if you share the names of the club members with available puppies/dogs if you are contacted and don't have any available or planned. I frequently refer puppy buyers to club members that have posted they have puppies as well as referring them to club members in their area.

One last thing, if there is something you want our club to be doing, please suggest it! Of course, if it's something that is close to your heart, we will probably ask you to take it on. This is your club – we want you to be involved! If you want to be on a committee, help with a show, write an article for the newsletter – yes! Please! Feel free to call me or any of the board members, we want to hear from you.

See you around the shows,

Susan Thibodeaux