



Meet the Owner: Interview with Lynn Caswell, Wavemaker Staffords – The Stafford Knot, Inc. 501c3

Memberships:

- SBTCA - former officer*
- NESBTC*
- PSBTC*
- SBTC (UK)*
- EASBTC (UK)*

Further Involvement:

- Creator, Senior Editor, Creative Director for "The Stafford Knot" online publication - a 501c3 non profit
- Created, designed and edited currently used TSK Stafford Judge & Breeder Education Seminar used worldwide
- Taught and organized Responsible Dog Ownership (RDO) events utilizing AKC handouts & information
- Worked with legislators to assist in writing better canine laws
- Studied information on Breed Specific Legislation (BSL), dog laws, canine education & writing letters & speeches, as well as forwarding information & helping others fight unfair canine legislation.
- Designed and raised funding for Stafford specific sculptures, collars, bracelets, ornaments, drawings and more used a trophies and fundraisers

Commitment to the Staffordshire Bull Terrier

My first passion is art, specifically painting, sculpture and some photography. Even gardening is an art which I enjoy, especially working with medicinal plants and learning new cooking techniques for what I grow. As a creative person, I constantly challenge myself to learn more and if I can be creative while learning and traveling then thats my happy place.

While we have only been in this breed for just over two decades, Jim and I have thrown ourselves wholeheartedly into learning about Staffords. We try to support the Specialty & Supported shows no matter how far away they are. We travel overseas to attend and show at Stafford shows, visit friends and get our hands on as many Staffords as we can. We have shown our Staffords at UK Champ shows and at Crufts. We meet as many other Stafford enthusiasts as we can and involve ourselves in education and mentoring whenever possible. Neither of us is afraid to not only ask questions about the breed and its future, but we are also willing to change our minds when opened to information that proves us wrong.

We have titled many Staffords to their CH - GCH+ and put many performance titles on all of our dogs. Our Staffords have been 'first' at many activities including Marina being inducted into the NADD Hall of Fame, Hula and Pnut were the first two SBT CAX titles earned. Along with 3 other SBT, Marina attended and titled at the 1st NADD event, we bred the 1st Stafford to place in a group at the huge January Brooksville circuit (twice) known for handlers, twice BOB at Montgomery County KC making the cut in both the BBE and regular Groups both years and placing 2nd in BBE group at MCKC in 2024, and much more.

We continually study the history, structure and interpretations of the breed standard, reading all we can, interviewing those immersed in Staffords longer than us and actively making attempts at preserving its future.

I saw a need and filled it by becoming the creator, Sr. editor & Creative Director for The Stafford Knot, Inc., an online non profit 501c3 publication promoting health testing in Staffords and which benefits SBT rescue. TSK also promotes Health Testing in Staffords and has all the information you need to find where to get your Stafford tested. I published ten years of TSK magazines, created a Breeder Education Series of videos and am always working on ways to raise funding for rescue and a new exciting project to be announced in 2026.



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TSK has donated tens of thousands to Stafford rescues worldwide, including the AKC Parent Club SBTCA. Together with Tom Jacob (Variant Staffords), who is the CTO for TSK, and Jim Caswell (Treasurer), I have created The Shops at TSK which is an online 'mall' where original and custom Stafford specific merchandise can be purchased with proceeds going to the TSK Stafford rescue fund or sometimes to fund raisers to breed specific clubs. The designs are unique to TSK (I and other guest artist constantly work to create new designs) and the quality of the 'print-to-order' merchandise is excellent. The Shops at TSK also does custom work and provides products for club trophies and fundraisers for any breed.

I am the creator and creative director of the most comprehensive Illustrated Breed Standard books and seminars here in the US which has been used at Stafford Breed Seminars in 12+ countries and translated into several languages for use around the world. This project was created by over a dozen volunteers from around the world and is a compilation of efforts edited and marketed by myself in partnership with Jason Nicolai (Homebrewed). There have been attempts at imitations and our text has even been used in other projects but we are the original. Even the Parent Club in UK has in the past used our project at their seminars and the AKC parent club sourced the majority of its text for their version from The Stafford Knot, Inc. 501c3. I also produced Rendorn, a history for Norman Berry.

Tremendous thank you to Maurizio Molinari for his donations of illustrations to the Illustrated Standard project along with the print and eBook versions. These are for sale thru the publisher and all profit from the sales goes to rescue. The book may be purchased directly from our publisher through the link on the BOOKS tab on our website.

I am the current committee chair for the SBTCA Judges Education Committee which is currently in the process of creating a new Illustrated Breed Standard booklet, using past club approved text, information donated from TSK, newly written text and will also feature original drawings by Maurizio Molinari. This booklet is part of a newly designed marketing corporate identity package for SBTCA which includes newly written and designed club Seminar, Mentoring Packets, monthly newsletter to all AKC Stafford approved judges, downloadable materials on the club website, original videos and more. This huge project was the brainchild of Lorelei Craig (Ciera) and could not have been produced without her assistance and the hard work of the entire SBTCA JEC, past and present.

I am an AKC Staffordshire Bull Terrier breed specialist judge and I am looking forward to helping shape the future of Staffords with fair and breed specific judging. I recently enjoyed an exciting assignment in Australia and New Zealand which both received beautiful entries. I have several upcoming assignments but will not be judging full time while still showing and campaigning my own Staffords and taking care of my personal home life situations.

Further Involvement (continued):

- Hosted and organized numerous RDO, obedience demonstrations and Breed booths at public events with & without other bull breed club members.
- Served on the Legislative committee for SBTCA
- Served on the Rescue committee for SBTCA
- Served on the Staff Status committee for SBTCA
- Created the Sunshine committee for SBTCA
- Served on JEC (currently)
- Served on National and Regional Specialty Committees where she designed logos, banners, trophies and more. Also was responsible for all marketing materials, social media marketing, fundraising and more.
- Lynn has raised several tens of thousands for SBTCA Specialty shows by creating fundraisers and Social media pages promoting the shows and the breed.
- Worked on several constituent committees to advise Georgia Representatives on updating Georgia and Alabama canine laws
- Wrote monthly newsletter for Spire Midtown dog owners which focuses on living with dogs in city and high rise living, etiquette, training & socialization issues.
- Spoke at hearings & trials for canine legislative issues in GA & Alabama



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Further Involvement (continued):

- Served as ring steward in Rally & Obedience and conformation at Specialties and Supported shows and at several all breed clusters
- Judged puppy and veteran sweepstakes at several specialty shows over the past 15 years
- Judged supported, all breed and Specialty shows, including the 2022 Montgomery KC show and GWTA show
- Served on SBTCA committees for Judge Selection, Regional & National Specialty shows
- Designed logos for specialty shows across the country including Great Western Terrier and also designed for other breeds shows, SBTCA, Area 2 SBTCA, PSBTC, NESBTC and the Fresno club.
- Run several Café Press shops which raise money to help educate Responsible Dog Ownership & write better canine legislation
- Personally raised tens of thousands of dollars for SBTCA in several capacities from rescue, donations for TSK efforts and for show fundraisers
- Social media director on IG for SBTCA, TSK and WVMKR
- Active support for Stafford rescue including breed identification, transport, spay/neuter & rescue placement for SBTCA, fund raising & foster care.
- Lynn was former Secretary for SBTCA Board of Directors
- Jim was former Area 2 Director for SBTCA Board of Directors
- Hosted rescue fundraisers – Stafftoberfest – in Georgia to assist in a huge breeder surrender case of 27 Staffords and for rescue situations over several years.

We deleted our Wavemaker FB presence in order to concentrate on more important interests but we continue to keep in touch with our Wavemaker Family on a regular basis. I still run the TSK Instagram page to assist with fundraising efforts. We recently introduced the first TSK Canine Influencer, Monkey who represents all that TSK stands for.

I am also the co-founder of SBT Mentor which was an education program for Stafford enthusiasts to learn more about the breed and offer volunteer relationships for mentoring opportunities. Sadly, due to lack of interest this project has been abandoned. Instead I am now working on a spreadsheet to track liver issues in Staffords.

I run several other online shops, one of which raises awareness and money to help fight unfair canine legislation. Thousands have been raised in donations to aid Stafford rescue and rehome. Thankdog - All Breeds Equal. I also created advertisements for several canine magazines. I do some canine photography as a hobby and am sometimes willing to do photoshoots in exchange for donations to Stafford rescue through The Stafford Knot, Inc.

Aside from our everyday interest with our own dogs our further canine related involvements include PetPAC and American Temperament Testing Society, where I was involved in the beginning stages of a Provisional Judge training program. This involves the intense study of canine behavior and temperaments.

I have completed Emergency Animal Rescue Services training where I assisted in reuniting people and pets after hurricanes and fire related disasters. While I have been specifically trained for on site temporary sheltering of animals in disaster torn areas, my main focus was computer-aided recovery.

Our dogs, and dogs we have bred, have earned American Kennel Club Championships & Grand Championships, United Kennel Club Championships & Grand Championships, AKC Star Puppy, AKC Canine Good Citizen Awards, ATTS TT titles, AKC and UKC Rally Obedience titles, Weight Pull & Lure Coursing, Barn Hunt, Dock Diving titles (many 1sts in the breed including 1st DMX title, 1st AJX title) one NADD Hall of Fame inductee and are in ongoing training for Rally, Scent Work, Obedience, Medical Alert, Service & Therapy training & show handling. One of our Staffords, Nealie was one of the only AKC Breed Ambassadors. This involved visiting schools, libraries and groups of children in order for them to read to her, and learn about appropriate dog/child interactions. Three of our Staffords work as medical alert dogs. We have earned close to fifteen Crufts qualifying certificates and took advantage of one by showing Marina there.

As you can see, Stafford are very much a part of our lives and have been for over two decades. Our Staffords have truly been an inspiration in our lives and to a fault, our obsession! Hopefully The Stafford Knot, Inc. 501c3 will continue to record history, fundraise for rescue and promote health testing for years to come.