

# Children's Newspaper

Every Wednesday—Threepence

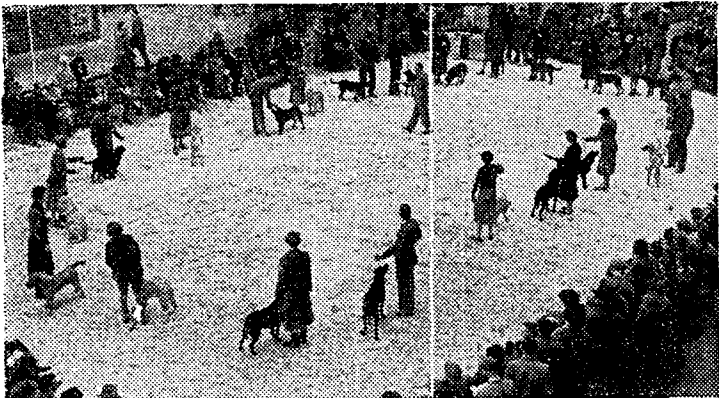
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No. 1977, February 9, 1957

## WORLD'S GREATEST DOG SHOW

### The lad who answered an advertisement

All the aristocrats of the dog world from the great Irish wolfhound to the tiny chihuahua will be on show at London's Olympia on February 8 and 9, for "Cruft's." This great show has earned world fame, but it all started when a boy called Charley looked in a shop window and saw an advertisement.



In the judging ring at Cruft's Dog Show

THE founder of the show, Charles Cruft, was a Londoner and he had his first glimpse of the dog world in 1865, when he was 14 and happened to catch sight of a notice in the window of a shop which sold dog biscuits. It was kept by a Mr. James Spratt.

The advertisement was for a lad to look after the shop and make up the ledgers. As he hated the idea of going into his father's jewellery business, Charles decided to apply for the job. He was taken on at once.

The boy introduced a special system of book-keeping he had learnt at school, and made such rapid progress that it was not long before he suggested to Mr. Spratt that it would be a good idea to advertise for another lad to look after the shop so that he, Charles, could go out canvassing for orders.

At first Mr. Spratt objected that there was not really enough work for more than one assistant, but Charles replied: "If I could go out to see people instead of waiting for people to come and see me, we'd have work for half-a-dozen."

#### THE FIRST SHOW

And so it was that young Cruft began to travel all over the country, and where dog owners in London had bought a pound or two of dog biscuits at a time, farmers and kennelmen farther afield bought them by the sackful.

By 1886 important breeders were worrying James Spratt to organise a dog show in London. The manufacturer was not keen, but his assistant, who had already made a success of such a show in Paris, was very glad of the oppor-

tunity. Six hundred dogs were entered and special arrangements were made by the railways for their transport.

In later years dogs came from everywhere. Attractive posters were displayed in the red and yellow colour scheme that is retained to this day, beautiful trophies were awarded to the winning dogs, and there were also prizes for stuffed dogs, and for dogs made of wood, china, and so on. By 1891 the event was world-famous and had become known as Cruft's Dog Show.

#### QUEEN AND THE BULLDOG

It was about this time that Queen Victoria entered some of her dogs at Cruft's. There were three Pomeranians, Nino, Gena, and Fluffy. But proud as Cruft was of the Royal patronage he would allow no favouritism, and of course the Queen respected his decision.

Queen Alexandra not only exhibited but also visited the show in person. On one occasion she marched straight up to a bulldog known to be savage and offered it a biscuit. Then, to everyone's horror, she bent down and gently patted the creature's head, murmuring as she did so: "Ah, but he would not hurt me!"

And he did not.

In 1900 Cruft organised a large section of his show as a gift class to benefit the wives and families of soldiers fighting in South Africa. Then during the First World War he introduced a special "dog heroes" section.

Cruft died in 1938, and the Kennel Club took over the job of organising the post-war shows. During the past few years each show has attracted more than

50,000 visitors, who begin to queue up outside the entrance gates long before the official hour of opening.

Owing to the enormous number of entries (last year there were 6433), the modern Cruft's is divided into two sections. The first day is devoted to Alsations, Hounds, Terriers, and Toydogs (Toys, of course, meaning tiny breeds such as the Papillion, Chihuahua, or Pekinese). The second day is given over to gundogs and larger breeds, such as bulldogs, boxers, and poodles.

#### EXCITING MOMENT

Perhaps the most exciting moment of all is when the judges assemble on the second day to decide on the Best Dog in the Show.

During the judging of this championship the great hall is packed with people, and it is almost impossible to get near the judging ring. Visitors climb on chairs, on the counters of the stands, and even on dog kennels to try to catch a glimpse of the prize-winning dogs as they are paraded by their owners round the ring.

## AROUND THE EARTH WITHOUT A STOP

### Three Stratofortresses cover 24,000 miles and stay airborne for two days

There was a shattering sound of forty jet-engines at Castle Air Force base in California recently, as five gigantic B-52 Stratofortresses moved towards the end of the main runway.

At 4 p.m. the first of these eight-engined planes took off and headed east, followed in rapid succession by the four others.

Less than two days later three of the aircraft were back in California, having completed a non-stop flight round the world in 45 hours 19 minutes.

They had more than halved the round-the-world flight of 94 hours 1 minute made in 1949 by the B-50 Super-fortress Lucky Lady. Like this famous aircraft, they were kept in the air by flight refuelling.

Of the five aircraft that set out, one landed on schedule at Brize Norton, Oxfordshire (a base of the U.S. 7th Air Division), and the fourth dropped out because of mechanical trouble.

The course of the planes, flying at 600 m.p.h., was across the

United States to Newfoundland, over the Atlantic to French Morocco, then over Saudi Arabia, along the Indian coast to Ceylon, the Philippines and Guam in the Pacific.

Refuelling planes topped the tanks of the B-52s three times—over the Mediterranean, Saudi Arabia, and the Philippines. Radar and skilful piloting led to the refuelling being carried out without mishap.

#### TELEPHONE SERMON

Visitors to St. Mary's Church, Southampton, can now pick up a telephone, dial a number, and listen to a three-minute sermon by the rector, the Rev. Harold Williams. A choice of subjects, each with its own number, is beside the telephone.

Mr. Williams calls his device the telepreacher. It consists of a tape-recorder connected to the telephone system which automatically selects the subject according to the number dialled.



### Ready for the big show

These three handsome samoyeds are all entered for Cruft's Dog Show. They are seen out at exercise with their owner's daughter, 10-year-old Sandra Perry, of Whyteleafe, Surrey.