

Philip D. Fairfield

The Yankee Golden Retriever Club has lost a very dear friend in Phil Fairfield, who passed away on December 14 after a long illness. In his capacity of Professional Handler, and a member in good standing of the Professional Handler's Association, he has helped many of us with problems of ring presentation, and has finished Championships on a number of YANKEE Golden; but much more than this, he has been helpful and encouraging to many newcomers to the sport of dogs with friendly and knowledgeable suggestions. None of us will forget his remarks to us at our Sanctioned Match last April when he touched upon our responsibilities as breeders, sportsmen and Golden Retriever fanciers. Phil, and his wife Ruth, have welcomed us at their lovely property, Fair Isle Kennels in West Boxford, Massachusetts, for the past three years to hold our Spring Sanctioned Match. Phil also has taken part in several YANKEE programs, notably a lecture three years ago when he and Pagey Elliott collaborated on a film and commentary. A Sportsman to the end, Phil handled dogs for clients until very recently, including the spectacular win at the Eastern Regional Specialty with High Farms Picaroon.