

MEMORANDUM

DATE: 23 June 2011
TO: ECSCA Board of Directors
FROM: Barbara A. Penny/AKC Delegate
RE: **AKC Delegates Board Report**

The Delegates Meeting was held on June 12-13th, 2011 in Raleigh, NC. There are several interesting items to report from the Parent Club, Canine Health, Dog Show Rules, and Obedience, Tracking, Rally and Agility Standing Committees, as follow:

Parent Club Standing Committee Report

1. Dock and Crop
2. Single Entry/Judges Provisional Assignments
3. Juniors Project Update
4. "Parent Clubs of Excellence" Project
5. Electronic Application for Judges I-Phones Update
6. Meet The Breeds
7. Moratorium Update on New Clubs
8. 3-Pt. Major Reserve at National Specialties
9. National Specialty Guidelines

1. Dock and Crop

Apparently, there was a letter sent by AKC staff member, Neil Singer, to each Parent Club (PC) requesting that each PC designate one of its National Specialties as their Crufts qualifying show and to support the AKC/Eukanuba National Championship Show to have one of the breed eligible to enter Crufts. Obviously, this raises a critical "crop and dock" issue as it relates to representation at Crufts. The Giant Schnauzer COA (GSCOA) has responded that, as a crop and dock breed, it is refusing to participate or promote this event or any similar events which directly or indirectly attempt to encourage or discourage Giant Schnauzers which have or have not been cropped or docked. Further, until the international rules are changed, which currently prohibit the entry of cropped or docked dogs, the GSCOA will maintain this position and encourages all crop and dock breeds to consider their positions regarding Crufts.

On a separate note but on the subject of dock and crop, AKC staff member John Wade discussed the AKC Board policy adopted in 2011, which requires judges to individually examine and gait every dog in the ring regardless of it deviation from the breed standard. If an un-cropped or un-docked dog is exhibited and that breed standard calls for cropping and/or docking, the judge should consider the deviation from the breed standard and judge it accordingly. Exhibitors entering un-cropped or un-docked dogs in breeds that are traditionally docked and/or cropped have an expectation that their dogs will receive the same examination and gaiting evaluation. The AKC is committed to ensuring that its reputation for fairness and proper judging is maintained for all exhibitors through consistent examination and the gaiting of all entries. AKC procedural guidelines ensures that AKC judges follow proper protocol to examine and gait every dog in the ring in the same objective breed-specific manner

even if a poor specimen may be clearly out of the ribbons. Judges still have the right following examination and gaiting to place the dog, ignore the dog, or excuse the dog. Pat Laurens, Committee Chair, noted that this latest policy does not address judging disqualifications and this should be addressed by the Board.

2. Single Entry/Judges Provisional Assignments

AKC staff member John Wade explained that an entry of one dog *not on the low entry breed list* may not count towards the required five provisional assignments for judges. The single entry does not provide the opportunity to make a decision based on comparing the merits of at least two dogs to determine the quality of each exhibit. AKC's current policy, which requires the completion of five judging assignments, notes that inclusion on the current low entry breed list published by the Judging Operations Department is the only exception when considering non-compliance by single entry.

In accordance with the judging approval process, approved by the AKC Board on 01 January 2007, to achieve "regular status," judges must meet the following requirements:

- Complete 5 assignments in each provisional breed demonstrating sufficient competence in each;
- Unlimited assignments may be accepted;
- Additional assignments may be required;
- Must have been observed on 3 occasions by different field representatives;
- Judging Operations staff may reduce this requirement in breeds with consistently small entries;
- Following a marginal or "does not meet" evaluation, at least 2 additional evaluations in the breed will be required.

Discussion included the point that a single entry is still to be judged against the standard rather than against the competition. It was recommended that if this situation is encountered, a discussion with the field rep after the judging assignment would be helpful to demonstrate your knowledge of the breed. This input may generate further discussion by the AKC Board.

3. Juniors Project Update

At the last Committee Meeting in March 2011, a project was initiated to determine how PCs assist their Junior handlers. Committee member Karen Spey assumed responsibility for compilation of the information and she reported that she received only a limited response. She would appreciate a broader response and would appreciate clubs addressing what they do for their Juniors at the National Specialty, at regional specialties and otherwise not related to conformation shows. Several delegates reported that their clubs have reduced their entry fees for Juniors, an action supported for adoption by all PCs. Initial feedback notes that there is intense competition, judges are not happy judging Juniors, and that the PCs do not create a "warm and fuzzy" community of good will and support.

A couple of ideas that have surfaced include offering clinics with Sr. Juniors demonstrating/teaching rather than professional handlers and awards for PCs that extend themselves to Juniors.

4. "Parent Clubs of Excellence" Project

At the March Delegates Meeting, a proposal was submitted to promote PCs and Breeders of Merit (BOM). An Ad Hoc Committee was formed and has developed a mission statement which reads: "The Ad Hoc Committee on Recognition of AKC Parent Clubs has the goal of developing objective,

measurable criteria that will assess the attributes of an outstanding AKC Parent Club. AKC Parent Clubs are dedicated to the protection, preservation, and promotion of their individual breeds. In addition, they further support their breed through membership, mentoring, education and events, which develop the instincts and natural abilities of the breed. The AKC Parent Clubs that excel in these activities will be recognized and designated as an AKC Parent Club of Excellence.” Criteria for a PC to earn the “Parent Club of Excellence” award would be based on scores calculated on an adjusted figure based on membership size in an attempt to level the playing field between large and small clubs. More discussion anticipated at the September Delegates Meeting.

5. Electronic Application for Judges I-Phones Update

At the March Delegates Meeting, there was a discussion regarding the opportunity for PCs to provide photos to represent their breeds on an I-Phone licensed app. The app is available at the I-Tunes Store for \$2.99 and it has been downloaded no fewer than 1,500 times. It has been noted that judges at shows have been pulling up the app on their I-Pad and that drawings on various breeds were taken from the AKC poster rather than the photos distributed at the March Delegates Meeting.

Staff Member John Wade (Judging Operations) explained that, while the original concept was intended for use for the purchase of puppies by the general public and judges were to continue the use of the printed breed standards, there has been a concerted effort to “marry” the two intents together to apply to both audiences. The AKC now sees this as an opportunity for judges to utilize this app as an educational tool and would like PCs to submit photos that are more representative of their breed. The AKC has quality control rights and the owner of the app company has graciously agreed to permit changes even though it was not originally intended as a judging tool. The AKC drawing will remain, but PCs can submit up to 3 photos.

6. Meet The Breeds/NYC and Orlando

MTBs NYC is scheduled for November 19th and 20th, 2011 at the Jacob Javits Convention Center. MTB Orlando is scheduled to coincide with the Eukanuba National Championship on December 17th and 19th, 2011. As a result of the huge success of MTB NYC, the AKC has negotiated an increased facility size at the Javits Center, expanding to 160,000 sq. ft., and clubs are now presented with the option of increasing their booth size from 10’x10’ to 10’x20’. There will be one booth for FSS breeds to rotate usage.

7. Moratorium on New Clubs Update

AKC Staff member Robin Stansell explained that the moratorium is in place to provide an opportunity to examine show statistics (i.e., who is showing, where they are showing, how many events are currently scheduled, entries to these events) and to evaluate how to proceed. There have been many who have voiced that there are too many shows in certain geographic areas.

The Board Events Committee has weighed in on this with the opinion that Specialty Clubs do not have the same impact as All-Breed Clubs relative to this concern. AKC Board member Charlie Garvin noted that the Board-appointed Clubs and Events Committee proposal presented at the May Board Meeting supported lifting the current hold on the licensing of Conformation Specialty clubs provided that they meet the following territorial and event criteria:

- Local specialty clubs will not be approved within 100 miles of the territory of an existing specialty club of the same breed;

- Local specialty clubs will only be licensed to hold specialties in conjunction with another specialty, Group or All-Breed show or cluster;
- Newly forming clubs, or clubs ready for licensing, will only be approved with the proviso that they agree that any future events must meet the adjacency and/or integrated specialty requirement stated above;
- Any local specialty clubs licensed or formed during this period will be subject to any final policies that result from the moratorium study period.

Further discussion will be conducted at the July Board Meeting. Clubs already in sanction status may continue holding sanctioned events despite the delay for their final approval.

8. 3-Point Major Reserve at National Specialties

This is an idea being resurrected from prior action in 2003. At that time, a change was proposed by the Parent Club Committee to permit the dogs designated RWD and RWB at one specified breed National Specialty per year to be awarded a 3-pt. major. The interesting proviso being recommended back then was that the number of dogs competing in the regular classes of that RW's sex would need to total at least twice the number required for a 5-pt. major.

The vote back in 2003 failed by 28 points and was not supported by the Committee's Board Liaison, Tom Davies, at that time. There is a feeling that there might be stronger receptivity to this idea now, particularly because Tom Davies now supports it. The Dog Show Rules Committee is now reviewing the proposal.

9. National Specialty Guidelines

A new committee within the Parent Club Committee has been formed, headed by Karen Burgess, to assemble and distribute Parent Club National Specialty Guidelines with the intended benefit to newer parent clubs. We are being asked to submit our Guidelines to Karen at dakaccrcsp@yahoo.com and to include a brief synopsis of problems confronted and how these problems were resolved.

Canine Health Standing Committee Report

1. CHIC Report
2. AVMA
3. Breeder of Merit Program
4. HSUS Conference – "Purebred Paradox"
5. Global Canine Health Initiatives
6. Mortality and Morbidity Study
7. NAIA Conference

1. CHIC Report – Committee Member Eddie Dzuik reported that there are currently 142 breeds participating in CHIC with 67,777 numbers issued. A PIN number program is currently in BETA testing, which would permit owners to update their own profile information.

2. AVMA – Board Liaison Bill Newman advised that communication on an executive level between the AKC and the AVMA has been nonexistent since the dock and crop decision was handed down. On a legislative level, the AKC continues to be in constant communication.

3. Breeder of Merit Program – AKC Staff members Mari-Beth O’Neil and Dave Roberts noted that the year-end goal of 6,000 members should be reached by mid-July (5,500 members noted by the June Delegates Meeting). The next level involves the discussion of Parent Club health requirements being incorporated into the Breeder of Merit program.

4. HSUS Conference – “Purebred Paradox” – Committee member Eddie Dzuik attended and reported that at the highest level of HSUS leadership all were in agreement that no one wanted purebred dogs to be extinct. The public wanted purebred dogs and as long as public support continues, HSUS would maintain its focus on the breeding of healthy purebred dogs. There is apparently an abundance of European influence incorporated into the philosophy of this purebred paradigm; however, the many social differences make incorporation of their ideas complicated and too difficult.

The Committee discussed whether or not the AKC could influence the direction a global initiative could take. The AKC spends more money than any other organization of canine health research, yet the message does not get communicated. Again, the focus becomes working with the Parent Clubs to strengthen and consolidate health requirements to protect our purebred breeds. The Kennel Club (UK) issued “The Dog Health Report 2010,” which addresses current and ongoing health concerns, places a health watch on certain breeds, and emphasizes the education of judges to require their checking health requirements prior to issuing challenge certificates. It is advocating an “accredited breeder scheme,” similar to our Breeder of Merit program, but with greater emphasis on health testing. Also included was a program called “Mate Selection,” intended to have more influence on breeding programs.

As a result of ordinance restrictions becoming more prevalent here in the US (2 dog limits), breeding programs are disappearing simply because the purebred gene pool can not be sustained. The paradox is that we simply will not be able to produce the number of puppies, estimated at 7 million per year, need to replace the current dog population. There is a long laundry list of diseases being associated with purebred dogs; however, many of these diseases are uncommon and rare – a fact withheld from the general public. It is important that we not only identify the diseases, but even more importantly, the frequency.

5. Global Canine Health Initiatives – There is an ongoing worldwide international examination being conducted examining social and cultural differences. For example, the UK prohibits assisted canine reproduction – no frozen semen (must travel to Belgium) and there are no planned c-sections. There are mostly purebred dogs in Sweden and very few shelters because Swedes *never* give up their dogs. Also, most have health insurance for their dogs.

A worldwide conference is being proposed in conjunction with a forum on genetics, which is held every 2 years (the International Canine and Feline Genetics Conference will be held next year in Sweden). It was discussed in Committee that we should have official AKC representation and a speaker at that conference to offer our influence on the canine health agenda.

6. Mortality and Morbidity Study – The data base for this 20-yr. study, reprinted in the NY Times from the Whole Dog Journal, were veterinary medical schools – specifically, the small animal clinics of major vet schools with a tertiary referral from regular vets. When examined several years ago, the data was found to be skewed because many schools only serve close proximity (for instance, UC Davis does not serve all of CA) and fails to include data from local vets and specialists. Most state “trauma”

as a major disease, include a very small number of mixed breeds, which is probably due to mostly breeders/owners of purebred dogs willing to spend the money. As a result, there was an increased catalogue of “common diseases,” perpetuating the story that purebred dogs are unhealthy.

7. NAIA Conference – The conference is scheduled for November 15th and 16th, 2011 in Harrisburg, PA. It will focus on the purebred dog and breeders with an exceptional lineup of speakers.

Dog Show Rules Committee

1. Group 5 and 6 Awards
2. 4-6 Mos. Puppy Class
3. Amateur Owner Handler Class
4. Puppy Bred-by Exhibitor Class

1. Group 5 and 6 – With respect to these placements, Robin Stansell, AKC Staff, noted that these additional awards would be included as long as there was a minimum of 12 breeds competing in the group; otherwise, the ribbons would remain at 4. The intent was to provide further recognition opportunities for more exhibitors and encourage more entries. The Committee, however, was not supportive of this initiative and has elected not to pursue it. It is my understanding that the AKC Board has opted to place it on the agenda for the September Meeting despite this lack of support from the Dog Show Rules Committee.

2. 4-6 Mos. Puppy Class – The response to this class has been quite positive. One Committee member’s club recently hosted a show and attracted 30 entries in this class. The competition was held on a Sunday during a lunch break and drew significant spectator interest. The AKC had sent an invitation to owners with registered puppies that qualified within a 150-mile radius, most of whom had never attended a dog show previously.

The AKC suggests the following guidelines for a successful puppy event:

- Appoint a dedicated point of contact;
- Assign a club member to explain entry procedures and answer general questions;
- Prepare a separate entry form and assign a club member to accept entries, if a Superintendent has not been hired to accept entries;
- Assign club members ringside to mentor new exhibitors;
- Emphasize to judges that these exhibitors are new to conformation and will need significant guidance and patience.

Clubs are not permitted to hold this class and a “Best Puppy in Show” competition at the same event as both are considered special attractions. It is hoped that this class will ultimately be a sanctioned event and points can be earned towards a title.

3. Amateur Owner Handler Class – Apparently, comments in *Dog News* raised this discussion point. Robin Stansell, AKC Staff, noted that handling dogs for pay is not the same as acting as an agent. Further, sharing expenses does not constitute pay. It is the representation of oneself as a handler for pay that would prohibit exhibiting in the AOH Class with supporting evidence including

advertisements by the agent. While seasoned exhibitors are entering in this class, the only distinction is being an unpaid owner handler. This is not a “novice only” class – an exhibitor with 30 yrs. of experience is eligible to enter. There are many misconceptions regarding this class, but it is important to note that it does not mean “unskilled.” Judges, however, are excluded because of the impression of their possessing an unfair advantage and non-amateur status.

4. Puppy Bred-by Exhibitor Class - Basically, the feedback received by this Committee from exhibitors was not favorable and the Committee removed it from the agenda for further action. Robin Stansell, AKC Staff, noted that the Board could change policy to allow the medallion to be awarded with puppy wins, but policing details would have to be worked out.

Obedience, Tracking, and Agility Standing Committee

1. New AKC Directors for Obedience, Tracking, Rally and Agility
2. New Tracking Event – Coursing Ability Test (CAT)
3. Obedience 30-Day Rule for Judges
4. Nose Work Test
5. Canine Partners Program

1. **New AKC Directors of Obedience, Tracking, and Rally and Agility** – New Director of AKC Obedience, Tracking, and Rally is Pamela Manaton; new Director of AKC Agility is Carrie DeYoung.

2. **New Tracking Event** – Coursing Ability Test (CAT) – This event started in late February and, according to Doug Ljungren, AKC Staff, has been well received. It is a simplified Lure Coursing test for all breeds. It is currently being run by clubs licensed for Lure Coursing as they have the fields, the equipment and the knowledge to run the event (there is always a safety concern when non-sight hounds are doing Lure Coursing). To date, 71 events have been scheduled – the target goal had been 50 – involving 74 breeds. There are two size differentiations: dogs 12” and under at the withers and brachiocephalic dogs are required to run 300 yds. in 1.5 minutes. Dogs over 12” run 600 yds. in 2 minutes. Three qualifying passes are required to earn a title and thus far 40 titles have been earned.

3. **Obedience 30-Day Rule for Judges** – Curt Curtis, AKC Staff, noted that there is a rewrite regarding Judges conducting training and then exhibitors showing under these Judges. The rule is being tweaked and the proposed changes will be presented to the AKC Board. The change would require that the exhibitor attending the seminar will not be able to show under the Judge conducting the seminar for a 30-day period.

4. **Nose Work Test** – Penny Leigh, AKC Staff, gave a presentation on Nose Work, a test of scenting skills. The founding organization is the National Assoc. of Canine Scent Work (NACSW). There were two events held by an Oregon AKC Club with success. Curt Curtiss, AKC Staff, is giving serious consideration to adding this test. More details to follow.

5. **Canine Partners Program** – Mark Dunn, AKC Director, noted that participating clubs offering Canine Partners events is about 81% as compared with last summer’s figure of 50%. Entry forms now request an AKC number rather than the AKC registration number. Mark stressed the need to partner with 4-Hs.

Delegates Meeting

1. Chairman's Report: New Therapy Dog Title ("THD")
2. President's Report: Entries
3. Financial Report
4. Amendment Action

1. Chairman's Report: New Therapy Dog Title ("THD")

The AKC has announced a new title – Therapy Dog or "THD" – to officially launch on 27th June, 2011 to recognize dogs and their owners that have provided ongoing community service to improve the well-being of others. There are approximately 50,000 certified and active therapy dogs in the US. This title is intended to build on the skills taught in the AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy and Canine Good Citizenship programs, focused on created sound and friendly temperaments required to be a successful therapy dog. To qualify, certification is required by a participating organization and a minimum of 50 documented community service visits. Documentation of visits will be retroactive to January 1, 2000.

2. President's Report: Entries

Dennis Sprung was pleased to report that aggregate entries were up over 50,000 or 5.2% despite the sluggish economy and high gasoline prices. The Grand Champion program provided the greatest boost to Conformation entries. In the first year of the program (May 12, 2010 to May 11, 2011), the increase in Special entries was nearly 58,000 over the prior year. At an average entry fee of \$30.00, these GC entries contributed at least \$1.7 million to conformation clubs.

3. Financial Report – Jim Stevens

Jim Stevens reported for the 1st 5 mos. of 2011. Total revenues were 6.4% less than last year, 2/3rds of which is attributable to continuing declining registrations (down \$1 million from last year). When comparing year to year, however, the registration decline has slowed, reflecting marketing initiatives for improving this number and some positive response from parent clubs. Still, this downward trend in registrations and the poor economy continues to negatively influence the alternative sources of revenue for the AKC derived from sponsorships and royalties.

Despite operating expenses remaining relatively flat, an operating deficit of \$1.4 million was reported for this 5-mos. time period. The positive performance of the investment portfolio is the only factor keeping the bottom line in the black at this point. The number of events rose 3 ½ % and, despite the higher cost of gas, entries have shown some resilience. The number of entries in 2011 is slightly over 5% greater than 2010. Enhancing the core revenues remains the AKC's greatest challenge.

4. Amendment Action

There was only one (1) proposed Amendment requiring a vote at the June 2011 Meeting. It was related to the term limits change, an amendment which passed at a recent prior meeting. This proposal required the length of one full term of four years before a Board member may be eligible for re-election. Currently, a Board member may serve two terms of four years each and be required to sit out one year before running again. The amendment failed to receive a majority of votes and was, therefore, not adopted.

There were five (5) amendments being proposed and were read at this Delegates Meeting, one of which establishes a Reserve Best in Show and another which provides six (6) Group Placements. These amendments will be voted on at the September Delegates Meeting.

1. Proposed amendment to **ARTICLE VI, Section 5** of the *Charter and Bylaws* would apply the identical restrictions to someone who misappropriates funds from the AKC, or from an AKC subsidiary or affiliated organization, as currently in place for someone who misappropriates funds from an AKC-sanctioned, licensed, or member club.
2. Proposed amendment to **ARTICLE VI, Section 7** of the *Charter and Bylaws*, which incorporates a provision that, when the AKC Board has determined that a seated Delegate is ineligible to serve under Section 5, that Delegate's Club may appeal to the Delegate Body.
3. Proposed amendments to several Chapters of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* for the establishment of a Reserve Best in Show Award.
4. Proposed amendment to **Chapter 5, Section 1** of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows – Ribbons, Prizes and Trophies*, which permits six (6) dogs to receive Group Placements (while insuring that there are sufficient dogs in the Group to award more placements).
5. Proposed amendments to several Chapters of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* which basically represent housekeeping changes being recommended by the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara A. Penny
AKC Delegate