

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** 29 September 2009  
**TO:** ECSCA Board of Directors  
**FROM:** Barbara A. Penny  
AKC Delegate  
**RE:** September 2009 AKC Delegates Meeting

### AKC DELEGATE REPORT September Meeting 2009

The September 2009 AKC Delegates Meeting was held on Tuesday, September 15, 2009 at the Sheraton Newark Airport Hotel in Newark, NJ. The Standing Committee Meetings and the Delegates Caucus were held on Monday, September 14, 2009.

The Agenda for the Delegates Meeting included the following topics:

1. Votes on three Proposed Amendments
2. Reading of Proposed Amendments
3. Chairman Ron Menaker's Report
4. President Dennis Sprung and Chief Financial Officer Jim Steven's Report
5. AKC Political Action Committee (PAC)
6. New Business: Future of the AKC Library, Parent Club Canine Health Surveys, and Canine Influenza Virus Vaccine

#### **1. Votes on three (3) Proposed Amendments:**

**Group Realignment Vote:** As was anticipated, there was significant discussion during the Monday meetings regarding the Group Realignment proposal. The vote was scheduled to take place during the Tuesday Delegates Meeting. In an unanticipated move, however, the Board of Directors stalled the vote by proposing an amendment to return the proposal to the Board for reconsideration and vote at the March Delegates Meeting.

Influencing this amendment were several factors. The Alaskan Malamute COA was adamant in expressing its unwillingness to be moved from the Working Group to the Northern Group. The Siberian Husky and Swedish Vallhund Parent Clubs were equally dismayed at the Board's unresponsiveness to their concerns at being moved to the Northern Group. As you recall, the Board determines the composition of the groups. While it solicited input, the Board is under no obligation to honor the requests of these clubs. The Board, however, used this dissention to stop a vote that was clearly waning in support and more than likely would not have passed with the required majority vote. The Delegates had little choice but to approve the proposed amendment from the Board to defer the Group Realignment proposal until the March 2010 Delegates Meeting.

Consequently, the only votes taken at this Delegates Meeting were to approve the remaining two (2) proposed amendments read at the June Meeting, as follows:

1. Approved amendment to **Chapter 3, Section 5**, of *Rules Applying to Dog Shows – Dog Show Classifications*, which permit the further division of the 12-18 month class at the option of the individual club. Clubs may further divide the 12-18 month class into two age groups consisting of twelve months of age and under fifteen months, and fifteen months of age but under eighteen months. *This will go into effect July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010.*
2. Approved amendment to **Chapter 8, Section 9**, of *Retriever Field Trial Rules*, which updates the wording to address all contagious/communicable diseases. This revised section eliminates references to symptoms of distemper, infectious hepatitis, leptospirosis or other communicable disease and a thirty day exposure period and now reads:

**Section 9.** No dog shall be eligible to compete at any field trial, no dog shall be brought into the grounds or premises of any field trial, and any dog which may have been brought into the grounds or premises of a field trial shall immediately be removed if, it

  - a) shows clinical signs of any contagious/communicable disease as determined by the field trial committee, or their designated advisor;
  - b) is known to be a carrier of any contagious/communicable disease.

**2. Readings of 4 Proposed Amendments:** There were four (4) proposals read at this Meeting to be voted upon at the December Meeting. They are as follows:

1. Proposed amendment to **Chapter 3, Section 8**, of *Rules Applying to Dog Shows – Dog Show Classifications* would bring the Bred-By Exhibitor requirements in line with all other regular classes as defined by Chapter 11, Section 1 of these Rules. Deleted from the wording under Section 8 is the sentence: Individually registered with The American Kennel Club as of the date of closing of entries for the show. *This change would bring the Bred-by Exhibitor requirements in line with all other regular classes as defined by Chapter 11, Section 1 of these Rules.*
2. Proposed amendment to **Chapter 9, Section 1**, of the *Beagle Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedures for Brace, Small Pack Option Field Trials and Two-Couple Pack Hunting Tests* would give clubs the option of combining classes by either gender or size in order to run a more efficient trial.
3. Proposed amendment to **Chapter 3, Section 1**, of the *Beagle Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedures for Brace, Small Pack Option Field Trials and Two-Couple Pack Hunting Tests* would permit an association, federation or club to apply to The American Kennel Club to hold a licensed or member field trial. Further, a Beagle Association or Federation which has been approved by the American Kennel Club may hold one licensed Field Trial and one licensed Two-Couple Pack event per calendar year.
4. Proposed amendment to **Chapter 3, Section 16**, of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows – Dog Show Classification* which would allow for awarding Grand Championship points to Best of Breed, Best of Opposite Sex, Select Dog, and Select Bitch, and to **Chapter 16, Sections 1-5**, of *Rules Applying to*

*Dog Shows – Championship and (a new) Grand Championship Awards* which would allow for the creation of awards for the above listed titles. *Further explanation is offered under the Parent Club Committee Report.*

**3. Chairman’s Report:** The following represents highlights from Chairman Ron Menaker’s report to the Delegates:

- Thursday, September 17th, 2009, marks the AKC's 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary
- This significant year has seen many remarkable new initiatives, to include
  - The launching of the Star Puppy Program, an offshoot of the CGC test passed by over 600,000 dogs since its inception in 1989
  - Held the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Canine Health and Welfare Advisory Panel and launched [www.akcdoghealth.com](http://www.akcdoghealth.com) to collectively share information and promote greater public awareness about health concerns relative to all dogs
  - On October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009, the AKC will welcome mixed breeds into the AKC Canine Partners Program
  - AKC Companion Animal Recovery (CAR) enrolled its 4 millionth companion animal
  - AKC Canine Health Foundation funded its 550th research grant
  - In November, 2009, a new hardback book is being released entitled “*Dogs: The First 125 Years of the American Kennel Club,*” updating the last AKC source book printed in 1984 and chronicling the past 125 year history of the sport and the AKC
  - The **AKC/Eukanuba National Championship** will be held as the crowning event of this Anniversary year in Long Beach, California on December 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> incorporating 260,000 sq. ft. of space for Conformation, 30,000 sq. ft. for Obedience, the 60,000 sq. ft. tent previously used for four SuperBowls and the Democratic National Convention to host the Agility Invitational, Meet the Breeds, an online catalogue permanently archived at the AKC website where exhibitors can post up to four photos of their dogs, and more than 130 parent clubs holding specialties and/or supported entries
  - Throughout the year a special 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary logo has been widely used and is currently featured in an advertising campaign in *Dog World, Dog Fancy, Pet Age,* and *Pet Business* magazines

**4. President and CFO’s Report:** The following represents highlights from the reports submitted by President, Dennis Sprung and Chief Financial Officer, Jim Stevens:

- Financial Report – YTD August 2009 Results
  - Total revenues for 1<sup>st</sup> 8 months of 2009 were \$5.2 million, down 11%
  - YTD revenues from registrations, pedigree sales, royalties, and publications **all lower** than last year
  - **Primary core revenue – registrations – down 14% from last year, \$3.1 million less in revenue**
  - Sales of pedigrees were 17% lower, over \$700,000 less in revenue
  - Royalties from the Affinity credit card declined 12%, over \$400,000 less

- Revenues from publications were down 22%, \$548,000 lower than 2008 YTD results due to fewer subscribers and decreased magazine advertising
- Cost containment efforts resulted in total expenses of \$2.6 million, 6% less than last year with payroll and benefits reduced by almost \$1 million, or 4% less than 2008
- Personnel now stands at 368 employees as compared with 500 staff in 1999 and 413 in 2004
- Through a concerted effort by every department to more closely manage and economize their respective costs, the total of all other operating costs was \$1.6 million or 8% lower than YTD 2008
- Operating profit of \$854,000 as compared with last year's profit of \$3.5 million
- **If downward trend in registrations continues, the AKC may very well be reporting an operating loss at next year's meetings**
- Net income being reported as a result of gain in investment portfolio of \$6.4 million YTD as compared with a loss of \$4.2 million for the same period last year

**5. AKC PAC:** As we are all well aware, this past year we have witnessed our rights as responsible dog owners coming under aggressive attack. State legislatures across the country have introduced bills that have sought to infringe on our ability to own dogs – not limited to but including mandatory spay/neuter, ownership limits, warrantless search and seizure, and breed ownership bans.

There are two funds worthy of support through the AKC Government Relations Department. The **Canine Legislative Support Fund** is used to educate and lobby elected officials on your behalf at the federal, state, and local levels and to ensure that your rights as a responsible dog owner are protected. These funds may not be used to contribute to political campaigns. The **AKC Political Action Committee (PAC)** was founded two years ago and its funds are used to contribute to campaigns to help elect dog-friendly leadership in Congress and State Houses across the nation. AKC PAC funds may not be used to lobby officials once they are in office or to influence legislation. They may only be used in campaigns. So far this year, the AKC Government Relations Dept. has monitored over 900 bills on various dog issues. The total for all of last year was 800, which reflects how legislative activity has increased. *Every cent contributed to the AKC PAC goes to support the election of legislators who fight for our rights in Congress and in our state legislatures.* We are being asked *as individuals* to step forward with our financial support in what the AKC is considering a pivotal year.

If we donate as a Club, our contribution is applied to the Canine Legislative Support Fund rather than the PAC, which can only accept individual contributions. At this Delegates Meeting, the Labrador Retriever Club announced that as a club they were donating \$10,000 and, because they are donating as a Club, these funds would be applied to the Canine Legislative Support Fund.

Prior to this Meeting, the AKC PAC funds totaled approximately \$15,000, having just sent \$5,000 to support the campaign of four legislators who continue to support the position of the fancy on animal legislation. To offer a dose of reality, however, the

HSUS boasts a fund approximating \$150 million. Money talks, politics respond. If 20,000 members each gave \$25.00 to \$30.00 a year (the approximate cost of one entry), the AKC PAC would have \$500,000 to \$600,000 in its coffers, which would enable crucial donations to those candidates committed to our cause. Please keep in mind that those who contribute to the AKC PAC can also determine who receives funds by recommending officials or candidates who have either promoted dog-friendly legislation or opposed anti-dog legislation. You can do this by directly contacting AKC Government Relations at (919) 816-3720. To donate on-line, go to [www.akc.org/pac](http://www.akc.org/pac).

Just to highlight a sampling of victories in 2009:

**Alabama** Senate Bill 554 – Mandatory Spay/Neuter

Status: Never received a hearing

**Colorado** House Bill 1172 – Breeder Regulations

Status: Defeated

**Florida** House Bill 189 and Senate Bill 922 – Allow Breed-specific Laws

Status: Defeated

**Florida** Senate 2002 – Breeder Licensing and Regulations

Status: Defeated

**Illinois** Senate Bill 139 – Ear Cropping/Tail Docking Ban

Status: Defeated

**North Carolina** Senate Bill 460 – Breeder Licensing and Regulations

Status: Withdrawn by bill sponsor

**Texas** House Bill 3189 – Breeder Regulations

Status: Defeated

**Texas** House Bill 2310 – Breeder Regulations

Status: All breeder language removed from bill

**Texas** House Bill 4277/Senate Bill 1845 – Mandatory Spay/Neuter

Status: Never received a hearing

**West Virginia** House Bill 2843 – Breeder Licensing and Regulations

Status: Defeated

**Wisconsin** Oshkosh City Ordinance Proposal – Mandatory Spay/Neuter

Status: Defeated

To receive legislative alerts from the AKC Government Relations Dept., sign up at [www.akc.org/canine\\_legislation](http://www.akc.org/canine_legislation). The legislative action currently listed on this site will genuinely surprise you. Pending legislation includes:

**Massachusetts** House Bill 1997 requires owners of unsterilized dogs to purchase an intact animal permit for an undisclosed fee. It also allows municipalities to adopt breed-specific legislation, allows for euthanasia of dogs deemed to be a nuisance, and severely limits the means by which an owner may restrain their dog. The bill was heard by the Joint Committee on Municipalities and Regional Government on July 14, but has yet to receive a vote.

**Massachusetts** Senate Bill 774 seeks to restrict the rights of responsible dog breeders, including requiring any owner of 4 or more dogs to obtain a kennel permit. It also limits ownership to 25 dogs, restricts breeding ages, allows for warrantless inspections, and imposes strict engineering standards for kennels. The bill was heard by the Joint Committee on Municipalities and Regional Government on July 14, but has yet to receive a vote.

**New Jersey** Assembly Bill 1591 prohibits certain breeding practices and limits the selling of cats or dogs as pets to 25 animals per year per breeder. “Breeder” is defined under the bill as any person who owns or operates a breeding facility and sells more than five cats or dogs per year, regardless of whether or not the person holds a valid breeder license issued by the USDA. The bill also requires annual registration for breeders selling cats or dogs as pets in the state. This bill has not yet received a hearing.

**New Jersey** Assembly Bill 2536/Senate Bill 1396/Senate Bill 1959 deem that failure to provide minimum care to dogs is a criminal and civil offense. “Minimum care” is defined as care sufficient to preserve the animal’s health and well-being, including adequate protection from the weather, veterinary care deemed necessary by a reasonably prudent person, and food of sufficient quantity and quality to allow for normal growth, except in cases of emergency or circumstances beyond a person’s reasonable control. This bill has not yet received a hearing.

**New Jersey** Assembly Bill 1951/Senate Bill 1275 state that an insurer may not deny, cancel, or refuse renewal of a homeowner’s insurance policy solely based on the breed of dog kept at the home. These bills also allow insurers to issue policies that exclude liability coverage for particular breeds. Whenever an insurer offers or amends a policy, he is permitted to establish rates and premiums based on specific dog breeds.

**New Jersey** Senate Bill 2952 establishes the “Dog Ownership Guarantee” Act to protect potential pet owners and their pets. Among other provisions, the bill establishes a new dog dealer license and allows municipalities to suspend or revoke a license for any animal cruelty violation and allow for the seizure of any dog deemed to be at risk. This bill has not yet received a hearing.

**Ohio** Senate Bill 95/House Bill 124 include provisions for search and seizures, prohibitions on females breeding more than one litter per year, and the creation of a kennel control authority board with virtually no breeder representation. Action is expected to be taken on these bills very soon.

**Pennsylvania** House Bill 39. This new law requires that all tail docking and dewclaw removals on dogs over 5 days old be performed by a licensed veterinarian and requires

records regarding the procedure to be kept with the dog as long as the incisions are unhealed.

**Pennsylvania** Senate Bill 50 seeks to expand Pennsylvania's Unfair Trade (puppy lemon) Law. A new owner now has 14 days (instead of 10) to determine if the dog is clinically ill or has died from a contagious disease. The bill also increases the amount of time during which a dog may be determined by a veterinarian to have died from a congenital or hereditary defect from 30 to 90 days.

**Wisconsin** Assembly Bill 250 would require a license for anyone who sells over 25 dogs a year in the state, including non-residents. Licenses would also be required for animal shelters and animal control facilities. The bill also allows for unannounced searches and inspections of private property. The bill has not yet received a hearing.

**Wisconsin** Senate Bill 208 seeks to require licenses for any person who sells 25 or more dogs per year, including nonresidents who sell dogs in WI. Inspections are required prior to issuing a license, and then every two years thereafter. In addition, licensees may not sell dogs under seven weeks old, and must abide by basic care and conditions standards listed in the bill. The bill has not yet received a hearing.

## **6. New Business: Future of the AKC Library, Parent Club Canine Health Surveys, and Canine Influenza Virus Vaccine**

**Future of the AKC Library:** Dennis Sprung insists that there has been no change in the operation of the AKC Library other than the job elimination of the Librarian and an appointment for use of the Library now required. At the General Caucus, a delegate registered dismay at the dismissal of the Librarian after 30 years of service and noted that the AKC, having the finest of the four such libraries in the world, no longer maintains staffing for keeping track of journals and books.

**Canine Parent Club Health Surveys:** When the OFA implemented the CHIC DNA Repository, one of the critical elements in addition to the actual DNA sample, was the collection of phenotypic health data. To collect the information, a comprehensive generic health survey was developed that could be applicable to any breed. For breed-specific collection clinics, the survey can be easily modified to include breed-specific concerns (such as PRCD and FN in English Cocker).

While the survey was developed specifically for the DNA bank, it was quickly apparent that it could be used as a template to assist parent clubs in developing health surveys for their breeds. Once the basic development was complete, the OFA launched this **free service** as a pilot to the parent clubs in the fall of 2007. Since that point in time, 15 parent club breed surveys have been successfully loaded online resulting in over 7,000 individual survey responses. Several more are in development and, since clubs can now select an existing survey as a starting template, subsequent coding efforts have been minimized. Each survey has real-time online results, displaying updated cumulative responses and percentages.

**Canine Influenza Virus Vaccine:** The Animal Health Diagnostic Center at Cornell University reported that a canine influenza virus vaccine has been developed and now available. Its form is a kill vaccine, the first a primer and the second administered three weeks subsequently with a timeframe of two to three days to establish immunity. Canine Influenza is not highly communicable, dogs having to be in fairly close contact to spread the virus. Apparently, it is circulating in shelters south of Philadelphia to the New York City metropolitan area, as well as shelters in Denver, CO. There were no active cases in FL this last year. It was believed that the dog lost to the virus in VA was the result of close contact with a rescue dog from a local shelter brought into the home. Cornell recommends good hygiene to prevent its spreading. An outbreak in show dogs is not anticipated. For further information on the subject, go to <http://diaglab.vet.cornell.edu/> and click on “Emerging Issues.”

### **Delegate Standing Committee Meeting Reports**

At this Delegates Meeting, I attended the **Parent’s Club Standing Committee Meeting**, the **Delegate’s Dock and Crop Committee Meeting**, the combined **Advocacy & Advancement and By-Laws Standing Committee**, the **Canine Health Committee**, and the **Legislative Caucus** during the course of which several critical topics were discussed and are included below.

#### **Parent’s Club Standing Committee Meeting:**

1. Group Realignment Committee
2. Dock and Crop Committee
3. Parent Club Codes of Ethics and By-Laws Updating Project
4. Train Travel with Dogs
5. National Championship Show and Meet The Breeds
6. Grand Championship title
7. Working Dog Sport

**1. AKC Group Realignment Committee:** Three parent clubs had written letters to this committee and requested that they be read at this meeting. The first was from the President of the Alaskan Malamute Club requesting that their breed remain in the Working Group since their standard states they are a working dog and that no current group is named for the geographical location of the breeds. The second was from the Siberian Husky COA in which the club stated that 62% of its membership did not support moving to the Northern Group as they are working dog. The third was from the President of the Swedish Vallhund COA indicating that their membership voted to remain in the Herding Group. Discussion which followed the reading of these letters was halted upon the receipt of word that the AKC Board was deferring action on its proposal.

**2. AKC Dock and Crop Committee Report:** The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) has reviewed information received from parent clubs and the AKC and it has determined that there is no new science-based information supporting the practice of cropping and docking. At the summer AVMA conference, the motion offered by the Utah contingent to review and revise the policy was rejected.



**3. Parent Club Code of Ethics and By-Laws Update:** Since the June Delegates Meeting, 88 clubs in total have responded to the committee's request for information in their effort to provide a framework of documents for new breeds coming into the AKC. It was reported that a lot of commonality existed in the various club's By-Laws, but not Code of Ethics. The Committee, in evaluating the Code of Ethics, is noting what is deemed the most important component, what most clubs choose to include or not include, and enforcement issues. They have noted that membership applications for most clubs require signature acceptance of the COE, annually in many cases, and that state law must be incorporated into the document. The Committee's intent is to have the project completed and made available at the 2010 Parent Club Conference.

**4. Train Travel with Dogs:** The AKC conducted an investigation of the AMTRAK pet policy and determined that only service dogs have been permitted to travel on their trains. Reasons cited by AMTRAK in support of this policy include: fear of dogs by other passengers, allergies, hygiene, where to walk dogs on long trips, and possible failure to keep pets cool or warm in designated pet cars. A letter was written by the AKC to Joseph Boardman, the CEO of AMTRAK, urging him to reconsider their pet policy and stating that the AKC would be happy to assist in the establishment of proper guidelines. No response had been received to date, but it was suggested that the letter writing campaign be continued with copies to the Senate Transportation Committee. As a point of reference, service dogs have complete access to all areas of the train, virtually negating all of the points raised by AMTRAK against changing the policy. Revising its policy regarding the transportation of dogs would simply require an extension of this already existing policy.

**5. AKC/Eukanuba 2009 National Championship:** Currently, 133 parent clubs have signed up for a Supported Entry/Specialty at the AKC National Championship Show in Long Beach, CA in December. An update on the NYC Meet the Breeds is attached as an Addendum.

**6. Grand Championship Title:** This proposed competition will be limited to those competing in BOB/BOV and provides exhibitors with an additional venue in which to participate with dogs that have obtained their championship title while not being heavily campaigned or advertised. The purpose is to keep exhibitors competing beyond the championship level and to recognize dogs of breeding quality in breed competition. It gives exhibitors the opportunity to continue to enjoy the sport and the camaraderie offered and highlights breed competition. Further, it should increase entries for clubs.

All AKC champions of record, including those moved up to the BOB/BOV class, would be eligible to compete. Four dogs are eligible for grand championship points: BOB/BOV, BOS, Select Dog and Select Bitch. To become a Grand Champion, you must earn 25 points beyond the championship requirement. This includes three majors under three different judges and at least one additional point under a different judge, making use of the existing point schedule. Judges will award BOB/BOV, Best of Winners, Best of Opposite Sex, Select Dog, and Select Bitch (similar to Awards of Merit). This procedure has no bearing on the Awards of Merit offered at specialties. Class entries that are awarded BOB/BOV or BOS are not eligible for Grand Championship points. Points can be withheld for lack of merit since the objective is to acknowledge quality dogs.

Veterans that are champions are eligible for this competition and altered dogs may be permitted, pending further review of this possibility. Implementation could be as soon as May 2010 if approved by the Delegates at the December meeting.

**7. Working Dog Sport:** Doug Ljungren, head of the AKC Performance Events Department, discussed a proposal for the Working Dog Sport, which involves four (4) breeds – German Shepherds, Dobermans, Rottweilers, and Belgian Malinois – in training involving tracking, obedience, and protection techniques. At its August 2009 meeting, the AKC Board directed the Performance Events Dept. to continue to research the feasibility of the Dept.’s recommendation to endorse existing organizations that currently promote Schutzhund events. Apparently, back in 2006, the AKC reversed a 16-yr. policy reversal to now permit clubs to participate and promote Schutzhund. As a result of this ban, however, core Schutzhund proponents became members of various “shadow” groups, which independently developed new management, rules, and finances outside of the parent club control. As a result of the parent clubs generally lacking the knowledge, experience, and interest in this sport, the AKC is currently exploring the feasibility of endorsing organizations that are currently providing training and testing for working breeds according to international standards.

**Delegate’s Dock and Crop Committee Meeting:** The attendees were visibly discouraged following the AVMA’s lack of acknowledgement of the parent club’s letter writing campaign. Action plan consists of composing a list of state delegates to contact with a fact sheet being prepared to educate them and them to contact the state veterinarian on our behalf. Further, a listing of vet schools is being developed to promote the AKC and educate vet students on this subject. An excellent presentation on the subject was made at the Legislative Caucus.

**ADDENDUM  
NYC MEET THE BREEDS  
October 17-18, 2009**

The American Kennel Club, along with the Cat Fanciers’ Association, hosted its first stand-alone event for “Meet the Breeds” in New York City. Held at the Jacob Javits Convention Center on October 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>, 2009, it was deemed an unparalleled success with 36,000 in attendance, the participation of nearly 200 dog clubs and cat councils, and the support of over 100 vendors and 16 sponsors.

It was an outstanding, well-organized event and our Club was well-represented. Our booth was staffed by Barbara Penny, CathyAnn Litwin with volunteer Club members Anne Tan, Diane Strahl with her husband Allen, Maureen Helbig, Marcos Vinagre, and Sheryl Miller. The crowds were shocking, continuous and positively joyful. It was clearly the success that the AKC had hoped for and will undoubtedly be repeated next year.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara A. Penny, AKC Delegate