

MEMORANDUM

DATE: 15 September 2011
TO: ECSCA Board of Directors
FROM: Barbara A. Penny/AKC Delegate
RE: **AKC Delegates Board Report – September 2011 Delegates Meeting**

The Delegates Meeting was held on Tuesday, the 13th of September, 2011 in Newark, NJ at the Sheraton. The Standing Committee Meetings were held on Monday, the 12th of September, 2011 and I attended both the Parent Club and Canine Health meetings that day as well as the Delegate Caucus.

There are many interesting items to report to the ECSCA, but the source of two of the more interesting came from the Delegate Caucus and the Legislative Caucus.

The Realignment Committee, reformed after much debate over last year's proposal, revealed in an initial draft to the Delegate Caucus its proposed recommendations for a new and improved Group Realignment. The draft has since been revised and is available for your review and comments as Exhibit A attached to this report.

The Legislative Caucus is a meeting held prior to the Delegates Meeting and, while many delegates gather for coffee, about 50 meet to compare notes on recent legislative actions. One delegate shared that while traveling to a dog show in NC from her home state of VA she made a brief stop, leaving her dogs in her vehicle with the windows cracked. Upon returning to her car, she was met by an Animal Control officer, who advised her that she had violated a local ordinance "prohibiting animals left unattended in a vehicle under any circumstance." The car was parked in the shade of a tree, the outside temperature was not excessively hot and at no time were the dogs stressed. Her defense that she was unaware of the local ordinance in a county she was traveling through did not prevent a ticket and significant fine. She was only able to prevail because the Animal Control officer wrote her up for failing to provide water for her dogs, which was not specifically required under the local ordinance. Otherwise, the consequences would have been quite severe. It was also discussed that a couple of local communities will now *immediately* spay/neuter any dog picked up by its Animal Control Officer without any regard for ownership or licensing – no questions asked.

There was also significant controversy this Delegates Meeting stemming from the Board's action at its August 2011 meeting addressing cost containment efforts. Beginning with this current meeting, AKC Staff Liaisons to the Delegate Committees were eliminated and Staff attendance was limited to necessity. The Delegate's Coordinating Committee has proposed a counter to this position.

Just prior to our Delegates Meeting, the Annual & Quarterly Registration Statistics were reported. 2011 1st and 2nd Quarter Registration statistics for English Cocker litters and dogs are as follows:

Annual Registration Statistics for Spaniels (English Cocker) – published 09.08.2011

<u>Year – Qtr</u>	<u>Litters</u>	<u>Dogs</u>
2011 - Q1	105	334
2011 - Q2	106	250
2011 - thru Q2	211	584

Delegates September 2011 Meeting

1. Chairman's Report: Meet The Breeds NYC
2. President's Report: 9/11 and Judges Approval
3. Financial Report
4. Amendment Action

1. Chairman's Report: Meet The Breeds NYC

Ron Menaker reported that MTB NYC is the largest public outreach for the AKC with attendance last year at 39,000 and 700 million media impressions. This year's space for the event at the Jacob Javits Center, to be held on Saturday/Sunday, 17th and 18th November, 2011, will be increased to 160,000 sq. ft. with a new partner – the International Cat Association (TICA), which is the world's largest cat registry. There will be demos all weekend in agility, fly ball, rally, earthdog, US Police Canine, and US Customs and Border Protection.

2. President's Report: 9/11

Dennis Sprung revealed several astounding details about the AKC's involvement on 9/11, most of which was unknown to the fancy. Here is just a sampling of the collective efforts of many AKC staff members:

- 90 Search & Rescue organizations, which served at Ground Zero, the Pentagon, and in PA and whose identity was kept quiet by the US Gov't, included over 300 teams identified by the AKC, who presented each one with a check for \$1,000 +;
- DOGNY evolved just two days after 9/11, raising over \$3.5 million for Search & Rescue organizations throughout the country, becoming the foundation for AKC CAR Canine Support and Relief Fund;
- Of significance:
 - 111 German Shepherd sculptures were designed and placed through NYC under the AKC's DOGNY program;
 - AKC had the sculptures mounted on bases and shipped by FedEx, which donated the thousands of dollars in shipping and related logistical costs;
 - At Saks Fifth Avenue, all but two of their windows were blackened and those two windows displayed DOGNY dogs;
 - Broadway-bound theatre goers viewed a pair of DOGNY sculptures over a 3-mos. period in the heart of Shubert Alley, where 2-1/2 million visit every week;
 - Yankee Stadium organized in one week a DOGNY Day (normally, a 3-yr. wait for a special event at the stadium) at which 25,000 special edition pinstripe "Help A Hero" toys were donated by Hartz;
 - One of the DOGNY sculptures bears the signatures of the entire Yankee team;
 - Major League Baseball, as well as the NY Mets organization and owners, also sponsored DOGNY sculptures
- AKC contacted a Board member at the Animal Medical Center (AMC) and they very quietly donated the care for every single dog hurt at Ground Zero;
- Dennis Sprung heard a request broadcasted on CBS on the 12th for an x-ray machine to determine the extent of injuries on the dogs hurt at Ground Zero and he was able to make the connections for the donation of the machine and the transport of it from NC to Ground Zero with the help of club members;
- Hartz presented two checks to the AKC in 09.2002 (\$775,000 and \$500,000) specifically designated for Search & Rescue programs.

3. Financial Report – Jim Stevens

Jim Stevens reported dismal results for the 1st 8 mos. of 2011. Total revenues were down \$2.1 million, 77% or \$1.6 million attributed to lost registrations. Litter registrations are down 11%, dog registrations are down 4%. The lost registration revenue breaks down as follows:

AKC Breeders – declined 10% (34% over the last 3 years)

Commercial Breeders – declined 36% (USDA statistics)

Licensed Breeders – declined 20%

Puppies Sold at Retail – declined 20%

Further dismal news involves the bankruptcy filing of the AKC licensing agent. \$500,000 in guaranteed royalty revenue has been lost due to this licensing agency going out of business. Credit card revenues have been cut by 50% and sponsorship revenues have been cut by 1/3rd. The only positives: Entries are up overall by 4% despite the economy and revenues from the Weekly Wins Gallery are up.

4. Amendment Action

There were four (4) amendments being proposed and voted on at this Delegates Meeting. The amendment proposing six (6) Group Placements was not presented for the Delegate's consideration.

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 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.

Four (4) votes were received from the ECSCA Board of Directors prior to the Meeting and all four voted to approve all four amendments with the exception of one, which voted against Amendment 3/Reserve Best in Show. The rationale provided for this one negative vote was that competition for Reserve Best in Show should include the Group 2 award winner from the Best in Show winner's group.

Prior to the vote, I was able to present this reasoning to the Secretary of the Dog Show Rules Standing Committee, who explained that this suggestion was discussed at length in Committee. It was determined, however, that Reserve Best in Show should be presented to a dog that had not been defeated at the show. The Committee determined that since the Group 2 winner had lost to the winner of its respective group it would not be appropriate to include this dog in the competition for this Reserve award. I, therefore, felt comfortable voting affirmatively for all four (4) amendments and, consequently, all passed. A standing head count was taken on this Amendment, the vote being 248 affirmative, 85 negative.

Effective Date: The AKC determined that there were clusters on the 1st and 2nd of July (Sunday/Monday), 2012 and that it would be inappropriate to split a cluster with some shows having the award while others did not; therefore, the **Reserve Best in Show will be effective 07.03.2012.**

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Parent Club Standing Committee Report

1. “Parent Club of Excellence” Program
2. Moratorium Update on New “Local” Clubs
3. Juniors Project Update
4. Canine Good Citizenship Title
5. 3-Pt. Major Reserve at National Specialties
6. Meet The Breeds/NYC and Orlando
7. Bassett Hound COA Request for Adjustment of Agility Jump Heights
8. “Dog of War” Gift from Doberman Pinscher Club to VA Hospitals
9. Concurrent Specialty Dates at All Breed Shows with Independent Specialties
10. National Specialty Catalogue Sales Policy Change

1. “Parent Club of Excellence” Program

At the March Delegates Meeting, a proposal was submitted to promote PCs and Breeders of Merit (BOM). An Ad Hoc Committee was formed and 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 will 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. The criteria categories, with a point assessment of 0-5 pts., includes: 1) Increase in membership; 2) Breeder of Merit program participants; 3) Juniors Scholarship Program; 4) Mentoring Program; 5) Meet The Breeds participation; 6) Judges Education; 7) Judges Mentoring Program; 8) Health testing participation as stipulated by By-Laws; 9) Code of Ethics; 10) Club communications; 11) Legislative activity; 12) Annual recognition program (Top 10); 13) AKC events participation (breed appropriate); 14) Constitution and By-Laws current with AKC and relevant State laws; 15) Narrative on anything that does not fit into above criteria.

The criteria would be weighed so that clubs of all sizes would have a level playing field. Development cost of the program would be minimal and limited to spread sheet development and score accumulation. The intent of the program is to provide a road map for clubs to excel, change direction, enhance strengths, minimize weaknesses, and expand programs. Annual re-qualification would be required.

Next step involves the refinement of the program criteria to present at the December meeting. It would then be submitted to the Coordinating Committee and the AKC Board for approval.

2. Moratorium on New “Local” Clubs

AKC Board member Alan Kalter reported that at the July meeting the Board voted to lift the moratorium on new Specialty Clubs. The determination was made after a careful evaluation revealed that Specialty Club events held in conjunction with all-breed events and specialty shows have a positive impact on entries and participation in all-breed shows. The moratorium continues on new “Local” Clubs, although the Board would prefer to refer to it as a “pause” as they continue to examine its data.

3. Juniors Project Update

At the Committee Meeting in March 2011, a project was initiated to determine how Parent Clubs assist their Junior handlers. Committee member Karen Spey assumed responsibility for compilation of the information. Karen reported that the feedback she was receiving focused on decreasing expenses and increasing recognition. Board member Steve Gladstone expressed concern that the Junior’s Program has evolved into an “apprentice” handling program.

4. Canine Good Citizenship Title

Committee member Larry Sorensen is spearheading this effort to recognize CGC as a title. Since 1998, over 500,000 dogs have qualified under the CGC testing program. Obedience training has been identified as the single most important program offered to the public community. People want good dog citizens. This program is ripe for expansion opportunities. Under consideration is making the CGC an official award or a suffix title as either or both will benefit everyone. Stay tuned.

5. 3-Point Major Reserve at National Specialties

This initiative is being submitted for re-proposal by Committee member Bill Blair. A 3-point Major Reserve would be awarded to RWD and RWB at a Parent Club National Specialty with the proviso that the entry would equate to at least double the points necessary to award a 5-point Major.

Several points were highlighted: 1) At a recent show, a dog went Reserve at a PC National Specialty over 63 dogs; the following weekend, the same dog won a 4-point Major over 12 dogs; 2) “Major” events are now much less frequent due to the economy and gas prices; 3) the additional award would elevate the National Specialty; and 4) Parent Clubs would have to designate one National Specialty per year for this award.

As previously discussed, the proposal failed back in 2003 by a slim margin because the Board Liaison at the time, Tom Davies, did not support it. Tom’s position on this proposal has reversed and a straw poll of the Committee supports moving forward quickly without the need for further study and discussion. If the Board acted on this at the December Meeting, it could be read and voted upon by the Delegates by June 2012.

6. Meet The Breeds/NYC and Orlando

MTB 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 18th, 2011. These two events provide the largest continuing public education opportunity for pure-bred dogs.

7. Bassett Hound COA Request for Adjustment of Agility Jump Heights

The Bassett Hound COA has requested on a Staff review of the Agility Jump Height requirements for their breed. Staff has refused to endorse an adjustment by breed to Agility rules on jump heights because 1) the “Preferred” Agility titles offer parallel title opportunities, and 2) Staff is concerned that all breeds

would request adjustments to favor their dogs and they are worried about setting a precedent in this instance.

While acknowledging the AKC's position, the Basset Hound COA faces a difficult challenge because its members are giving entries to other venues which offer lower jump height requirements and, consequently, foregoing AKC events. It is interesting to note that this Club took on the challenge to lower jump heights in Obedience, a change they initiated that is now beneficial to many small breeds. There was quite a bit of discussion regarding this request at the Obedience, Tracking, and Agility Standing Committee and a sub-committee had been formed to review this issue. Despite varying viewpoints on the subject, the motion not to endorse the Basset Club's request that the OTA support their request for a jump height reduction in Agility passed unanimously.

8. "Dog of War" Gift from Doberman Pinscher Club to VA Hospitals

173 packets containing the DVD on "War Dogs of the Pacific" was gifted to every VA Hospital honoring this country's war dogs. There were over 1,000 war dogs in WWII and 25 Dobermans were killed at Guam. Dobermans are currently banned from military bases and the DPCA would like to see this ban reversed. Overseas, the military will not ship back to the US any working dog no longer on active military duty. The DPCA wants the military to remove dogs from active duty role only here in the US to prevent this from happening.

9. Concurrent Specialty Dates at All Breed Shows with Independent Specialties

After evaluating the pilot program on concurrent specialties and determining that the format has been successful in providing a boost in entries for the all-breed show, the Board voted in August to end the trial period and to permit independent specialties to be held concurrently with an all-breed show with the following limitations:

1. The specialty club must obtain permission from the all-breed club in order to apply;
2. The maximum number of independent specialties will be determined by the Event Operations Staff, considering the adequacy of the all-breed show's facility;
3. The specialty must be held on the same grounds as the concurrent all-breed show (i.e., the same physical address);
4. The entry on the Specialty breed(s) is limited to 100 entries in both the specialty and all-breed club events;
5. The ownership of the corresponding date must be agreed upon in writing prior to event approval;
6. The all-breed class must be held prior to the independent specialty in order to accommodate the Group judging; and
7. Evening specialties will be permitted for breeds that are not holding concurrent specialties with the all-breed show.

10. National Specialty Catalogue Sales Policy Change

The Board will consider at its October 2011 Board Meeting a cost-saving club proposal to permit National Specialties holding consecutive days of AKC events to sell catalogues one hour prior to judging of the first regular class at a National Specialty. This will permit National Specialties offering multiple AKC events to have a combined catalogue. The current policy prohibits the distribution of catalogues until one hour prior to regular judging of the specific event.

Canine Health Standing Committee Report

1. CHIC Report
2. Veterinary Outreach Program (Scholarships)
3. Breeder of Merit Program
4. Bloat Survey
5. Parent Club Health Conference Report
6. NAIA Conference

1. CHIC Report – There are currently 145 breeds participating in CHIC with over 70,000 CHIC numbers issued. There have been over 13,000 DNA samples collected with 163 breeds represented. 50 breeds have collected over 50 samples and 34 breeds have collected over 100 samples.

2. Veterinary Outreach Program – The listing of student grants has been published. It was noted that fewer grants were given this year because funds available for distribution were less. In prior years, the highest scholarship amount had been \$15,000 with 2 grants at \$10,000; this year, the largest amount was only \$3,000. Both Royal Canin and Bayer Aspirin decided not to support the veterinary scholarship program because of economic cutbacks. Revenues from sponsorships is disappearing; however, support of this program is critical to the AKC. Bayer had sponsored the AKC Breed Poster and distribution of “The Complete Dog Book” to veterinary students. Both programs have been discontinued. Royal Canin supported the “Canine Reproduction” book to vet students. That has been discontinued. There is now serious concern for the future of the Veterinary Outreach Program. One of the suggestions from the Committee is that clubs should consider regionalizing their scholarship programs to benefit local vet schools.

3. Breeder of Merit Program – Discussion continues regarding the incorporation of Parent Club health requirements into the Breeder of Merit program.

4. Bloat Survey – Results are to be published in the December AVMA publication with an article to follow in early spring to the general public.

5. Parent Club Health Conference Report – With 268 attendees, this sold-out conference received accolades pre, during, and post conference. The presenters, the best panel participants to date, are considered to be the “rock stars” of canine research. There were 128 breeds represented, including new and FSS breeds, 25 vet students attended, and 17 vet schools were represented.

6. 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.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara A. Penny
AKC Delegate

EXHIBIT A

GROUP REALIGNMENT PROPOSAL September 2011

The Delegate Realignment Committee has finalized the proposal for Group Realignment. The 2 documents attached (both PDF files) are:

1. The Proposal and Q&A (**copied below**);
2. The Committee suggested placement of breeds within the groups (**file attached**).

We will be presenting the proposal to the AKC Board of Directors for consideration, in order to have it read to the Delegate Body in anticipation of a vote at a subsequent meeting. The major change from our previous work is the additional split of the Working Group into three. The recognition of many new breeds into that current group, as well as those anticipated to be added in the fairly near future, warrants the split.

There are two important things to keep in mind. First, the only thing that the Delegate body will be called upon to vote is the additional groups (along with their designations). If that change is approved, the Board of Directors will have the responsibility of making the actual group assignments for the breeds. The attached listing is the Committee's initial recommendation for that assignment. In the end, however, it will be up to the Board to populate the groups.

We consider our listing to be evergreen. That is, we expect that the Board will take into consideration, reasoned recommendations from the Parent Clubs and from the fancy. We will make your comments known to the Board to aid in their deliberations. It is important to understand that it will be at least two to three years before the changes come into play.

We hope that you will take the time to read the proposal and make your thoughts known. With that in mind, we have included a link below to a Comment Form for your use.

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/viewform?formkey=dDJjMG9pQ3MyZEpGay11dWp1QzQ0OFE6MQ>

Please use it and have your voice heard. We will try to address any questions and will continue to keep everyone informed as this progresses. Thank you for your interest and participation in the process.

The Realignment Committee

Memorandum for AKC BOD and AKC Delegates

Subject: Group Realignment - The time has come

In October, 2007, the AKC Board of Directors appointed a committee to evaluate the existing alignment of breeds within the seven variety groups and determine if a different alignment would better serve the Sport.

In 2009, the committee reported its recommendations to expand the number of groups from seven to ten and to move breeds from the current groups to the new groups. The proposal was scheduled to be voted on at the March 2010 Delegate meeting.

At the March, 2009 Delegate meeting, the Committee recommended that the proposal be referred back to the BOD, as additional information had rendered a vote premature. The BOD subsequently referred the action back to a re-formed Realignment committee, which began its work in 2010.

In accomplishing its task the Realignment Committee met in person, via conference call and through email coordination. In its study, the committee considered the current groupings, the previous comments from all stakeholders, the development of AKC record keeping and event management software, the numbers of breeds in the recognition pipeline and AKC plans for streamlining the breed recognition process, and the parallel work of the AKC Judging Approval Process committee. A composite of Frequently Asked Questions (and Answers) that provide detail is included in this summary

Significant changes in the Groups include splitting the Working Group into three groups, the Hound Group into two groups and the Sporting Group into two groups. A listing of proposed Groups as well as a suggested composition is included in this summary.

Note that this is a two-step process. The first step will be the approval by the Delegate Body for the addition of four groups. The Board of Directors will then be tasked with the placement of breeds within those groups. It is expected that the reasoned input of the fancy will be an integral part of the placement.

The committee recommends the addition of four groups to the listing currently in place (7 groups). This change which requires Delegate approval to amend Chapter 3, Sections 1, 15, 17, 18, 19 and 20, and Chapter 6, Section 3 of the Rules Applying to Dog Shows. Concurrently, the committee notes that it may be useful to remove the reference to the number of groups from all of the above sections, except Chapter 3, Section 1.

In addition, Chapter 2 of the Rules Applying to Registration and Discipline refers to the number of groups, and would require Delegate approval to amend.

The committee, by submission of this report, requests the Board of Directors of the American Kennel Club, in accordance with Article XX of the Bylaws of the American Kennel Club, propose and submit the necessary amendments to the Delegate body, to be read at the December, 2011 meeting of the Delegate Body, published in two issues of AKC Gazette, and voted upon at the March, 2012 meeting of the Delegate Body.

Respectfully submitted,

The Realignment Committee

REALIGNMENT FAQ

Why realign the groups?

The proposed Group Realignment will

- Align breeds that are similar in conformation, structure or function
- Improve judges' education by building on similarities
- Accommodate new breeds within the groups
- Increase entries/enhance exhibitor experience by providing additional opportunities for group placement
- Improve spectator understanding of dog shows

Why now, when the proposal two years ago was set aside?

A number of factors influenced the decision to postpone the Realignment Initiative. Most of those issues are now resolved, or are on parallel timelines to implement solutions. Revision is inevitable, or the current scheme becomes unmanageable.

With entries declining, how can AKC justify enlarging the number of Groups?

AKC recently revised the process for accepting new breeds. As these breeds gain full recognition, and begin appearing in our events, the current groups will become unmanageable. Additional groups bring additional positive competitive opportunities for our exhibitors.

If we do nothing what happens to sizes of the Groups?

As of 7/1/2011	<u>Current</u>	<u>2014 Projected (adding Miscellaneous)</u>
Sporting	29	39
Hound	28	41
Working	28	42
Terrier	29	31
Toy	23	25
Non-Sporting	20	23
Herding	26	38

Can't we just divide fix the large groups and avoid moving other breeds around?

Incremental solutions only solve half of the problem, but not at half of the cost. After reviewing the comments from the previous proposal, and understanding the impact that new breeds will have, the committee felt that a comprehensive revision now would mean we should not have to revisit the groups in 3, 5 or 10 years.

What's different about this proposal?

A major concern with the 2008 proposal was that the projected size of the working group was not addressed. This proposal answers that concern.

How long will this take to implement?

Current estimate is 3 years from approval to implementation. Assuming approval would occur in/before mid-2012, implementation would be mid-2015.

How do these groups align with other organizations?

There was no attempt to mirror any other organization's structure. There are similarities - and differences - to FCI and others.

What input do Parent Clubs have in this process? Will they have opportunity to determine what which group their breed is assigned?

The committee took into consideration the previous comments of all stakeholders. Cogent, well-supported Parent Club inputs will be given due weight by the AKC BOD in placing breeds into groups. In the long term, however, the groups will be based on an overall plan to enhance the Sport.

Eleven groups?

- Group 1: Sporting - Pointer & Setter
- Group 2: Sporting - Retriever & Spaniel
- Group 3: Scent Hounds
- Group 4: Sight Hounds
- Group 5: Working – Utility
- Group 6: Working – Molosser
- Group 7: Working – Spitz
- Group 8: Terriers
- Group 9: Toy
- Group 10: Non-Sporting
- Group 11: Herding

- Sporting group: Divided into Pointer/Setter and Retriever/Spaniel breeds by considering both physical form and function
- Hound group: Divided into Sight and Scent by function and the physical characteristics related to each.
- Working group: Divided into Working-Utility (multi-purpose breeds which vary in ancestry and function), Working-Molosser (generally dogs of the Mastiff type) and Working-Spitz (breeds which have common physical characteristics and ancestry).
- Terrier Group: Unchanged
- Toy Group: Toy Group: one breed moved to another group and one breed added.
- Non-Sporting Group: Based on similarity of form and function, Spitz-type breeds were moved to Working-Spitz. Non-Sporting name is retained.
- Herding Group: Several breeds moved to other groups. Remainder of composition unchanged.

With this many groups won't shows take longer? The administrative time to move additional groups in and out of the ring(s) should not add more than five to ten minutes. Groups can also be judged concurrently. Of course, more entries resulting from realignment could mean shows would become longer---and that would be a good thing.

How much more will this cost for AB clubs?

The club determines actual costs based on what it decides to award. Should the club opt for rosettes, estimated pricing is \$35-\$50 per each additional group. Prizes are also at the discretion of the show-giving club. Note: Rosettes and/or prizes are not required by the Rules.

How will realignment affect the approval of judges?

AKC has developed a favorable package for judging approval which relaxed some requirements and enables judges to attain approvals on a compressed time frame.

What about existing group clubs?

When realignment is implemented, Group Shows may only offer competition for breeds in the new groups. A breed or variety may only be eligible to compete in one group and that would be the new group

to which it is assigned. Existing Working, Hound, Sporting and Non-Sporting clubs eligible to hold AKC events at the time of implementation, may concurrently hold shows for the two new Sporting or Hound Groups, the three new Working Groups, and the Non-Sporting Group may hold shows for the Non-Sporting and Working-Spitz groups. There may be no inter-group competition, nor Best in Show at these events. When a club offers competition within the new groupings, they would be treated as two separate, but concurrently held, Group Shows. There are currently nine approved Sporting, eighteen approved Hound, ten approved Working and seven approved Non-Sporting Group Clubs.