



339 County Highway 106
Johnstown, NY 12095

May 1, 2008

To: The Board of Directors of the American Rottweiler Club

Subject: March 2008 Report of the Delegate to the American Kennel Club

DELEGATE'S PARENT CLUB COMMITTEE MEETING

March 10, 2008. Regular Session.

Draft (CARTING) Test Update:

- a. Curt Curtis explained that in 2000 AKC was approached by a group interested in recognition of the Draft Test as an AKC event. Twenty-seven clubs responded and approximately twelve of the clubs already had draft classes already in place or were looking into establishing a program.
- b. Unfortunately, you have a sport being developed that has the potential of very minimal entries. There was both positive and negative input regarding the sport. AKC's job in developing the plan was to present both sides to the Board of Directors as well as the financial impact to AKC that showed a projected loss in the first five years of a quarter million dollars.
- c. Two of the three major players (Newfoundlands and Bernese Mountain dogs) did not want to participate and were concerned about the possibility of unqualified breeds participating in the sport.
- d. The program was presented to the Board with both pro's and con's. Curt's recommendation, based on what AKC was hearing from the clubs involved, was that they not go forward with the program.
- e. If the clubs are still interested, what are they willing to pay in regards to entry fees to support the club's efforts to hold these events? After meeting with the Board of Directors, a letter was formulated that was sent to the interested clubs explaining why AKC was not going forward with this. The letter was sent so that the clubs did not hear about this through the Board minutes.
- f. The Greater Swiss Mountain Dog delegate, Cliff Dahl, is the one who has really pushed this forward. Cliff expressed his disappointment in the results after eight years of work on this project. He was under the impression the presentation would be given to the Board, that it would be discussed for their input, and sent back to him with their concerns. There are issues that need to be addressed, but the clubs should be given the opportunity to address these concerns.
- g. John Lyons explained that the Board had directed Staff not to pursue the proposal but stated the Board is always open to feedback from the fancy if they feel there is more valuable information to be considered. To John, from the beginning, there were three problems. 1) That the level of passion expressed in the room is not necessarily matched by the fancy. 2) That, in talking with the parent clubs, it was obvious that they all wanted to do it a little differently. 3) That financially it was a loser. He added that clubs can still offer Draft Tests as a special attraction. They just will not be a titled event.
- h. **There was a motion by Pat Laurans that this issue be revisited by the clubs involved, that the questions addressed by the Board be sent back to the group for their answers and the proposal resubmitted to the Board for their decision.** The motion passed unanimously. The advisory committee that worked on the proposal was composed of the Bernese Mountain Dog, Briard, Greater Swiss Mountain Dog, St. Bernard, Great Pyrenees, Rottweiler, Leonberger and

Collie clubs. John Lyons stated the Board determination, based on the facts as they knew them, does not change, but this does not mean that they won't listen to Cliff and his committee if they have further input. NOTE: Cliff retired as a delegate effective at the close of this meeting.

- i. The Consulting group's analysis that projected the \$250,000 loss will be sent to Peter Piusz by Kristi Munchel.

Working Dog Sport: Doug Ljungren gave an update on the Working Dog Sport. There were four breeds approved; German Shepherds, Doberman Pinschers, Bouviers and Rottweilers. Each of the breeds was permitted to hold five events. The Rottweilers are still interested and will be applying for two events. The Bouvier club did not have enough workers to hold an event. They may pair up with the Giant Schnauzer club in the future. The German Shepherds have held three events. The Doberman Pinscher club held one event that was well-attended. In events held in 2007, there was a total of 42 entries. There have been no more applications for 2008. Peter stated it was never the idea to have five events in a year. The clubs are happy just to be allowed to have one. Many people do not understand the sport. It is not what you may think it is. It is all about control. The people involved are long-time participants in the sport and there have been no incidents.

Jeffrey Helsdon, Doberman Pinscher Club, described attending the Working Dog Trial held at his National as an "Epiphany". This trial demonstrates how our breeders have the capability to breed dogs that can be used to protect America. These events can be used to funnel our dogs into homeland security. There is a bill being introduced that requires the Secretary of Homeland Security to appropriate three million dollars for breeders of dogs that can be used for this effort. Officers of the AKC, and many military, government and law enforcement officials from around the nation will gather to celebrate the centennial of the Doberman Pinscher in the United States at a special ceremony in Topeka, Kansas in October in conjunction with the annual specialty show of the Doberman Pinscher Club of America. World War II Marines who were dog handlers have been invited to attend this event to receive an award.

Parent Club Conference CD: The Parent Club Conference CD is on-line and can be downloaded or printed out. It can be accessed at www.akc.org/clubs/PCC2007. The CD contains written summaries of each session. All parent clubs can access the information and any parts can be printed in their club newsletters.

Dock and Crop: The Dock and Crop Committee will meet on Tuesday at 8:30 A.M. Topics will be legislative issues in Pennsylvania and feedback on un-docked and cropped dogs at the AKC/Eukanuba show. It was noted that Jay Phinizy is making a presentation to the Legislative Committee that is cross-timed with the Dock and Crop Committee although the Dock and Crop committee has traditionally held their meetings on Tuesday morning.

Letter to Certain Parent Clubs re: ILP Pilot Program for Rescue Groups: David Roberts sent a letter to certain parent clubs hoping to encourage them to get all the dogs adopted by their rescue groups enrolled in the pilot ILP program. He indicated the response to the letter was not overwhelming. Clubs they did hear from did not want to put in the time that would be involved. There was more paperwork involved. They did not want to collect money and then send the money to AKC and wait for reimbursement. Volunteers from the rescue groups take dogs into their own homes until they find someone to adopt them and did not want to change the methods they have been using for years. David did not want the effort to die so he came up with Plan "B." AKC will try another pilot program with these same rescue groups. It has been re-named PAL, Purebred Alternative Listing. They've given the program greater value with more benefits involved. Dogs enrolled in the program get a different colored AKC certificate that is titled Purebred Alternative Listing. Owners receive the *Family Dog* magazine, an opportunity to enroll in the Pet Health Care Program, the lost and found CAR Program, and can sign up to receive the monthly AKC e-newsletter. Everyone who adopts a dog through these rescue groups will be

given a PAL folder. In the folder will be a brochure which emphasizes the benefits of the program. It will include a \$10.00 off coupon with an application to enroll in the program. It will explain the events in which they can participate, how their fee goes to support the various educational and legislative efforts, and the AKC Canine Health Foundation. The applications will be individually numbered so that they can be tracked to see whether or not the program is a success. If they only get a few back it would be obvious that it would not be worth the effort to continue. Peter explained that at all three Parent Club Conferences the structure and tax status of rescues was discussed. Emphasized was that money is to go directly to the rescue organizations, so there is no liability to the parent clubs. In response to a question from the audience, John Lyons responded that dogs with a positive ID that go through auctions can be registered in the program. The goals of the program are to get more people involved with AKC.

Parent Club Involvements/Responsibilities re: the AKC Invitational: Peter Piusz expressed concerns that clubs in one area are responsible for involvement in the “Meet the Breeds” booths. There have been comments on the Parent Club-L about staffing booths at the AKC/Eukanuba Show. Because the show is at the same venue year after year clubs have to rely on local people to staff the booths and it is becoming harder to find enough people to do this. Ron Menaker stated he recognizes this is a problem. Dennis Sprung added AKC is looking for opportunities to bring “Meet the Breeds” around the country as an independent event for the public and they are in the process of seeking sponsorship. It would not be tied to a dog show, but would have demonstrations including obedience, agility, rally, etc. One of the goals would be that a single group of people would not have to shoulder the entire responsibility. Meet the Breeds was an offshoot of the British “Discover Dogs” that brings in a gate of 40,000 people. Sherry Wallis, Akita Club, felt people who man the booth should get an incentive to do this and suggested that workers should receive a ticket to the final event. Ron explained that for the past three years they have been feeding and giving tickets to those who work the booths and are looking for an additional way to recognize these workers.

Ron Menaker presented an in-depth reminder on how the AKC/Eukanuba Invitational is conducted and the many decisions that determine the venue and television coverage. The intent was not to run a dog show to compete with another event but to get our message out to the public as to why they should buy an AKC dog and register it with AKC. We spend three million dollars a year on PR but it is not enough. Alan Kalter, head of one of the largest PR firms, volunteers a lot of his time to try to help us. A televised Invitational Show was one of the things he suggested to help us get our message out. The Eukanuba people want a certain audience and we must balance the fact that running the show is totally paid for by our sponsors. In return, we look at this as an opportunity to get a lot of TV time we could not otherwise afford. Six million people viewed the 2007 show which is 50% more than when we started. The viewing audience for the taped presentation is far greater than it is for live and production costs of doing a live show are twice the cost of tape. Plus, you get twelve more viewings on tape during the year as opposed to six on the live. The Animal Planet people want a positive number of ratings and our show is the highest rated program ever. In addition, if you look at this year’s financial Annual Report, the auditors valued our TV commercials at \$1,663,000.00.

When we started out on this effort, an AKC team coupled with our sponsor and Animal Planet looked at over three dozen sites searching for venues that met their criteria. Although Ron didn’t have the information with him, he indicated he would be glad to share the criteria with anyone who contacts him about this. They need to consider that Agility and Obedience have size requirements. They also need an arena at night that can televise, and need enough hotels so that if they get the numbers they have been getting they have hotels to handle these numbers. They need enough parking and RV parking spaces. The networks and the Eukanuba people want to be in one of the top five media markets to make their investment worthwhile.

It is incredibly difficult to find venues that can house and meet the criteria that Long Beach has. Even if you find a possible site you have to think of the facility, the food, the hotels and the difficulty of rotating year after year. Ron's not saying that we won't do this at some time in the future, but the difficulty and magnitude of rotating the venue has to be considered. It has to be a three or four year decision. Long Beach has been a success for the AKC and a success for the fancy. Ron welcomes the opportunity for anyone to obtain the criteria by contacting him or Michael Canalizo. If you have a facility that meets these requirements they would be happy to make a visit. They've made over thirty visits to date.

Ron Address the suggestion that the AKC should not be holding events in California due to recent anti-breeding legislative activity. He feels that by staying involved with the state in a positive way, we put the AKC in the best position to get legislators behind us and gain a favorable outcome. Long Beach started out with a breeding ban. The Mayor of Long Beach worked to defeat the ban. On the issue of the spay and neuter bill that is now on the books is in the city of Los Angeles, there are people are out there fighting the legislation and we are out there lending our assistance. If we pulled out of California we would not have the ability to negotiate. We're a product of our success. We started out in Orlando and Tampa with 250,000 square feet. We are now at 350,000 square feet and we don't fit those venues any more. We don't want to cut back on the show or set limits on it any more. This past year 43% of our entries were Bred-by-Exhibitors. If Ron has his way, in five years if it's 90% then the show will be known as a Bred-by-Exhibitor Show. They are accomplishing a lot of things they wanted to accomplish. The Board is not sitting around saying they are wedded to this or that. A lot of the dog food companies are reticent about sponsoring shows. Pedigree has pulled out of sponsoring all championship shows in the United Kingdom except Crufts. Our sponsors are good partners who are willing to move if we find the right venue that meets our criteria and has the media market. However, if we do move to a new venue it will probably be for a period of at least four years. It's not as simple as someone saying' "why don't you go to Orlando, they have a new arena." Ron's comments were met with a great deal of enthusiasm from the audience.

Pat Laurans asked if the sponsors define the time of year the show is held since certain clubs around the country are the ones that suffer every time. Ron explained this year's event date was moved a week due to the show calendar and a different set of clubs was affected. This will happen two years in a row but then won't occur for seven years. No one weekend will be perfect. Due to the flexibility of the dog show calendar, it may affect a club one or two years, but not again for a few more years. Moving to a Thursday/Friday is not the answer since one of the sponsor requirements is to go with a Cluster which brings more people in. Certain times of the year would not be considered because they are low viewer periods. On the other hand, the Super Bowl weekend brought in the highest numbers. Ron announced that parent clubs will be invited to hold a specialty or supported entry in Long Beach at the 125th Anniversary Show in 2009 that has an anticipated entry of between 6,500 and 7,000 dogs. Bill Russett, Western Reserve Kennel Club, said his club has lost 500 entries per day with previous conflicts and with the number of entries anticipated at the 2009 show in Long Beach they will lose an even higher number.

Letter from the Basset Hound Club: Barbara Wicklund spoke on the letter that was sent on February 11th from the Basset Hound Club of America to the AKC Board. They are seeking a dog show rule for the required use of a ramp during the initial physical examination of the Basset Hound breed at an AKC Dog Show.

DELEGATE'S PARENT CLUB COMMITTEE MEETING

March 10, 2008. Closed Session.

The Committee discussed whether to pursue another Parent Clubs Conference and if so when. It was agreed to make the effort for 2010. Financials of the last Conference in 2007 were requested from John Lyons.

Peter Piusz was asked to be Chairman and accepted.

There was considerable discussion of how hard this will be and what support will be given by the AKC.

DELEGATE'S LEGISLATIVE MEETING

March 11, 2008.

Jay Phinizy, former Delegate and current New Hampshire state representative spoke about working with your state legislators.

DELEGATE'S LEGISLATIVE MEETING

March 11, 2008.

1. Chairman's Report (excerpt): We have asked Clubs to join us in promoting responsible breeders of AKC puppies with the new "Demand AKC Papers" program whereby clubs place classified advertising in their local newspapers sending puppy-buyers to resources to help them find those responsible breeders. Once new exhibitors are ready to become involved in the sport, AKC now has two newly re-named programs, the AKC Canine Experience and the Purebred Alternative Listing or PAL program which will nurture our future fanciers.

The first AKC Canine Experience (formerly the AKC Educational Match) was held last month in Raleigh, North Carolina to welcome nearly 500 newcomers. Fifteen specialty dog clubs with 107 volunteers hosted educational booths and seminars in the morning before novice exhibitors tried out their new-found skills in the afternoon match. For purebred dog owners who do not have AKC registration the new PAL program (formerly the ILP) launched last month allows dogs that are ineligible for registration but are distinguishable as a member of an AKC-registrable breed, to participate in AKC Companion Events, AKC Performance Events and AKC Juniors competition. So whether a purebred dog lover is a life-long fancier or a first-time attendee at a match, the AKC strives to give exhibitors the opportunities and tools to get started in a variety of sports and help them find clubs to continue their journey. Ultimately, many will compete at spectacular championship venues hosted by AKC to showcase what they have accomplished with their dogs. And in terms of communicating our messages, a happy involved purebred dog exhibitor is our best advertisement!

2. AKC Board election. The Class of 2012 was elected unopposed: Dr. Thomas M. Davies, representing the Springfield Kennel Club; Walter F. Goodman, representing the Skye Terrier Club of America and Ronald H. Menaker, representing the Rockford Freeport Illinois Kennel Club. There was an election for the vacancy in the class of 2010: There were 334 Delegates eligible to vote, which makes the majority 168, and the result of the ballots are as follows: Dr. Carmen L. Battaglia, 174. Dr. Fred C. Bock II, 160. (Carmen was elected.)
3. Proposed amendment to Chapter 3, Section 7, of Rules Applying to Registration and Discipline. The proposed amendment was recommended by AKC's Board of Directors. This amendment, which allows changes in the dog's name under certain provisions and requirements, if it does not impact the AKC Stud Book or our event records.

The proposal was adopted as follows: Section 7. The name of a dog registered with The American Kennel Club will be allowed to be changed provided the dog was whelped in the United States and in cases where the breeder(s) first individually registered the dog, their written consent would be required. A dog name containing a Registered Kennel Name cannot be changed without the written

consent of the owner(s) of that Registered Kennel Name. However, no change in the name will be recorded by The American Kennel Club after the dog has produced or sired an AKC registered litter or received an award at an AKC licensed or member event.

4. Proposals read for vote at June meeting see attached.
 - a. Dog Show Rules, Chapter 11, section 6. Add:

A dog determined to be ineligible, by its owner/agent, for the class in which it has been entered may be transferred to an eligible open class at a show prior to the judging of any regular conformation class within the sex of that breed or variety,
 - b. Several rule changes to put all responsibility for setting fees in the hands of the Board without Delegate approval.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter Piusz". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P" and a long, sweeping underline.

Peter Piusz
Delegate of the American Rottweiler Club to the American Kennel Club