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To the Board of Directors of the American Rottweiler Club

Subject: Annual Report of the AKC Delegate

The details of what has occurred over the past year are contained in my quarterly reports after each Delegates' meeting.

I take the opportunity of this report to talk about a few specific issues that are very important to the American Rottweiler Club.

PAWS

The position of the ARC has been to wait for the legislation to reach its actual form before committing to whether we are in support of it or not. At the same time, we have supported the participation of the American Kennel Club in the political process as representatives of the pure bred dog owners and breeders. As members of the AKC, the ARC has a primary expectation that this is a necessary role for the AKC.

The AKC has stated that in the final form the legislation will provide a numerical criteria for "dealers", an explicit exemption for shelter and rescue organizations, and clarification of the definition of "retail pet store." This draft will also clarify that persons who sell dogs for hunting, security or breeding purposes cannot be singled out for any special treatment under the Act.

The AKC also says that the law will include a provision exempting from the definition of dealer retail sellers of dogs and cats who are in compliance with the standards of not-for-profit organizations such as the American Kennel Club who have kennel standards and inspection programs that the Secretary of Agriculture has certified are at least as effective as those required under the Animal Welfare Act.

There is no point in our taking one side or the other until we see the proposed actual law.

WDS as a Parent Club Sport Open to the American Rottweiler Club

The AKC Board approved the Working Dog Sport for four Parent Clubs (the American Bouvier des Flandres Club, the American Rottweiler Club, the Doberman Pinscher Club of America and the German Shepherd Dog Club of America). These clubs will be able to hold up to five Working Dog Events per year, sanctioned and run by these National Clubs.

The action of the AKC Board followed endorsement of WDS by the Delegate Parent Clubs Committee with the qualified recommendation that:

Each Parent Club is directly responsible for its own events and cannot assign this responsibility to others.

The Parent Clubs involved are directly responsible for this program. For example, a WDS Advisory Committee could be formed with representatives from the participating Parent Clubs. This has been done for other AKC Sports.

Each Parent Club may run up to 5 events in a calendar year.

The program should be run on a test basis for two or three years and then reviewed.

The final set of regulations are under review by the 4 parent clubs and must be submitted for final AKC Board approval before implementation.

The American Rottweiler Club has been one of the leading proponents of the implementation of WDS for Parent Clubs with a goal of holding an annual event.

Legislative Action by the AKC on Breed Specific Legislation and the Docking Issue

We have been working with the AKC's Legislative Department. On our side, we provide responsive action on key issues at the local level from our members and from the other Parent Clubs that are networked with us through the Delegates Crop Dock Group. From the AKC side, they provide information, contacts, and direct lobbying on key issues.

As with all efforts, there have been successes and there have been failures.

We are especially grateful for the commitment and the effort shown by the AKC and President Dennis Sprung to defeat New York state bill A11242. This bill would criminalize tail docking and outlaw ear cropping in New York and force owners to prove their dogs' tails were docked prior to Sept. 1, 2007, or that the surgery was performed in another state in order to show or compete in any AKC event

The fight goes on and we all need to realize that our ability to own Rottweilers is directly at stake.

The Revision of the Rottweiler Standard

My job, as Delegate, has been:

1. to inform the ARC Board of the procedures of the American Kennel Club and to insure that those procedures are followed as the ARC Board follows the process through.
2. to update the AKC staff on the progress of the standard revision.
3. to explain the actions and desires of the ARC to the AKC to better achieve our goals.
4. to insure that commitments are met by both sides in terms of timing.

Anyone who wants more information or with questions or comments, please contact me directly.

Sincerely,



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