

Delegate's Report for AKC Delegates Meeting March 2009

Monday, March 9th – Parents Club Conference Meeting

Discussion of sources of funding and how to develop were the main topics.

Monday, March 9th – Herding, Earthdog, Coursing Committee Meeting

The important issue is the implementation of the recommendations of the Herding Advisory Committee. Apparently, implementation is being blocked by Carol Delsman, the AKC Field Rep. This appears to be the same situation as several years ago. This Committee is working on resolving the issues.

Monday, March 9th – Parents Clubs Committee Meeting

Group Realignment Committee: Proposal will go to the delegates in June to be voted upon at the September meeting. Passage requires a 2/3 majority of those members present and voting. If passed, the proposal to increase the number of groups from seven to 10 will become effective on January 1st, 2012. John pointed out that the Board will determine which breeds fall into which groups.

2009 AKC/Eukanuba National Championship Show: Gina Dinardo spoke about this year's event that will be an All Breed/Open Show. All parent clubs have been invited to host a specialty or supported entry. Forty-three parent clubs have signed up to participate. Interested clubs are to contact Michael Canalizo. The Medallion Program has been extended to cover BOB, BOS, WD, WB, and Best Bred-By. Meet the Breeds will again be offered. Gina's deadline is June 1st.

Judges Application – Performance Component Criteria Change-Hunt Tests: Darrell Hayes explained what the field staff has decided regarding Field Trial attendance that would go towards approval when applying for a breed. Dyane There was discussion on why Hunt Tests have not been included in this criteria.

Parent Club Codes of Ethics and By-Laws Updating Project: Connie Butherus and Karen Spey have started work on this project. John Lyons and Charlie Kneifel helped write the letter that went out to all parent club presidents, corresponding secretaries and delegates under the auspices of Mike Liosis. In ten days they had received approximately 100 responses.

Parent Club Conference 2010: Peter Piusz gave an update on plans for the Parent Club Conference. The committee has had to make compromises in submitting their request to the Board. Clubs will have one representative instead of two. There will be a required fee of \$150.00 to attend plus the transportation costs to get there. This can come either from the attendee or their club. It is estimated the cost to fund the Conference would be \$216,000.00, and the committee has to find ways to raise this money. If we are successful, Paula Spector would then have to obtain a venue that would be available in July or thereafter.

Detroit Kennel Club Refund to Supporting Clubs That Have a Major Entry: Pat Laurans announced that one of the things that happened last week that affected a number of local specialties and, in some instances, regional and national specialties is that a major show held by a rather large club made a proviso whereby, if a club held a specialty or supported entry with their event, a certain amount of money from their entry went back to their club. Alan Kalter, Detroit Kennel Club Treasurer, filled us in as to what happened with their show.

National Specialty Coupon Program: Judy Hart has been working with David Roberts on a coupon program for national specialty participants that can be redeemed for specific items such as an on-line pedigree. The program will be implemented in May. Clubs whose specialty date is prior to this can contact David to see if they can be included. In order to participate in the program, a list of exhibitors must be sent to David's office by the parent clubs. The program will encompass all specialty venues.

AKC/Canine Health Foundation Donor Advised Funds: This was an extended discussion between CHF officials and the clubs present about changes in CHF procedures and policies. NOTE: a lengthy transcript of this portion of the meeting is available.

Procedures That Would Allow Local Breed Clubs to Conduct Their Business by Email: There is an AKC policy that National Clubs can conduct business by email but local and regional clubs cannot. ... Until early last year, local clubs were not permitted to hold meetings by teleconference. This policy was review because gas was up to \$4.50/gallon and AKC thought it was about time they allowed local clubs to conduct board business by teleconference. It meets all the statutory requirements and also met the requirement given to them by the NY Attorney General. AKC's purpose is to provide clubs with methods to keep clubs out of trouble, not to give misinformation that will get them into trouble. Information was put on the web site regarding the use of email that says, "unless the statutes of a state expressly prohibit conducting business by email, there is no problem." This includes dues notices, meeting notices, newsletters, and club minutes. What AKC suggests is that any clubs that wants to send out notices by email get written authorization of the members in the club who wish to receive notice by email because there are people who choose not to receive information by this method and others who do not have access to email. If there is any change regarding the use of email as a meeting mechanism, the information will be passed along as soon as they learn about it. The deciding factor is the applicable state law.

DNA Update: Connie Vanacore, Irish Setter Club of America, wanted to alert everyone that through the efforts of the AKC Board and OFA they are now able to link DNA parentage identification numbers with OFA CHIC numbers.

Train Travel with Dogs: Richard Glenn, American Maltese Association, asked that a discussion regarding transportation of dogs on railroads be placed on the next Parent Club Committee agenda. Richard will send a reminder to Pat regarding this.

Combating Animal Rights Issues: Barbara Schwartz, St. Louis Collie Club, suggested clubs follow her club's example of setting up a table at their national specialties that are manned by representatives of NAIA, the Sportsman's Club and other groups that are fighting these "Humane" organizations. This will help people get information on how and what to do if their state is being attacked. Pat encouraged clubs to adopt the arm band project that was brought to our committee two years ago by Jo Patrick. Peter Piusz will place an example of the wording on the Conference and Delegate Lists. Marilyn Vinson, Kachina Kennel Club, added that her club has asked their superintendent to place at the bottom of the involved armbands information that that entry is a registered Therapy Dog. This will show that our purebred dogs are more than show dogs.

Monday, March 9th – Delegates' Dock Crop Meeting

AVMA letters was the main topic. Several were read and there was an open discussion of what else can be done, such as bring in the members to flood letters. I presented my "talking points" for any letter.

Tuesday, March 10th – Delegates' Legislative Caucus

No presentation. Discussion of individual issues, mostly focused on NAIA.

Tuesday, March 10th – Delegates Meeting

Issues of the Delegates' Meeting:

1. Financials:
 - a. AKC's operations produced an operating profit of \$2.9 million last year.
 - b. The market value of AKC's investments depreciated by \$19.4 million or almost 31% last year.
 - c. Therefore, we no longer have an asset (over-funded pension plan), but instead a liability of \$13.9 million. This situation arose due to the market value of the pension plan's assets being reduced by 30% due to the market's terrible performance last year.
2. Revisions to the Beagle Field Trial Rules were approved over the objections of the Parent Club. There was extended discussion with the performance Advisory Committee and the AKC Board on the other side. This argument has gone on for 2 years.
3. Election of Board Members: Lee Arnold, Carl Ashby III, and Alan Kalter were elected on the first ballot as members of the Class 2013. On the 4th ballot, Dr. Robert Smith was elected as the final member of the class of 2013.
4. The first stand alone AKC Meet the Breeds event will take place at the Javits Center in New York City on October 17th and 18th, 2009.

5. Sheila Goffe, Manager of Public Education, gave an update on Canine Legislation. Presentation was a very weak overview of what the AKC does in the Legislative area.
6. Group Realignment to be read in June and voted on September. These rule changes do one simple thing, they allow for the creation of three additional Groups, i.e., going from seven to ten. And they also allow for the naming of those ten Groups. Implementation to be January 1, 2012. Costs to be presented in June and a recounting of the judging issues involved.
7. After much parliamentary maneuvering, there was a ballot by the Delegates on whether to request the Board to move ahead on a mixed-breed program. The clear majority was to move ahead.

Thank you for allowing me to represent the club.
Peter Piusz, Delegate