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July 21, 2008

From: Peter Piusz, Delegate of the American Rottweiler Club to the American Kennel Club

To: Board of Directors, American Rottweiler Club

Subject: Delegates' Report for Meeting June 8-9th 2008

Delegates' Discussion Group – aka “The Quincy Group – Saturday June 7th
General discussion no action to report.

Parent Clubs Committee Meeting – Sunday June 8th

Group Realignment Committee: John Nielsen gave a committee update. Looking at the number of breeds in some of the groups, and looking at the great number of new breeds coming into AKC, the AKC Board decided it would be worthwhile to establish a committee to look at the current group alignment with the possibility of changes or improvements. In October of 2007 a committee was appointed to reassess the alignment of the groups. The committee consists of Tom Davies, Chairman; AKC Delegates Karen Burgess, Marie Ann Gladstone and John Nielsen; AKC Staff members Bobby Fisher and Robin Stansell; judges Dr. Al Krause, Dr. Robert Smith and William Taylor; AKC Board Member Dr. Bill Newman; and Show Superintendent Tim James. The committee was not always of one opinion but listened to each other's opinions. They have had several meetings and though they have not finalized their recommendations, feel comfortable in releasing some information.

Because of the number of newly approved breeds and future approvals the committee feels it would be prudent to increase the number of groups from seven to ten. Two additional groups are needed based on high numbers and function. The third group would consist of the Northern breeds. They are considering moving a number of breeds to totally different groups. In each case, the parent clubs involved would be given the opportunity to poll their members and get back to the committee with their decision to accept or reject the move. Final details will be reviewed by the Board and subsequently released to the fancy.

Information will be going out to the president, secretary and AKC Delegate of affected clubs asking for a response by the end of August. Apparently, this means those breeds who will be moved, but not the breeds in the groups where these breeds will be moved to. Most of the Parent Club Delegates expressed their concerns with this process that #1 there was not enough time for their membership to consider this and respond and #2 everyone should know what is being proposed before there is any action. It does not seem to be the intention of the Committee Chairman Tom Davies to listen to these suggestions.

Dock and Crop: The discussion was on the proposal by the Canadian Dog Judge Association which is a change to the CKC Policy and Procedures Manual. They want to add the following statement, “When two exhibits of similar merits compete, the exhibit with cropped ears or docked tails should not be given preference solely by virtue of being ear-cropped or tail-docked regardless of the standard.” The

conclusion was that there was been virtually no discussion between the American and Canadian parent clubs.

Basset Hound Club Request: John Lyons gave an update on the Basset Hound Club request to the Board that Basset Hounds always be judged on a ramp during the initial physical examination of the breed at an AKC Dog Show.

Drafting Committee Request A letter went out to Cliff Dahl and his committee from the AKC staff specifying in great detail all the concerns of the Board. To date they have not received a response. The Delegates of the Newfoundland club and the Bernese Mountain Dog Club did individual tap dances to deny that their clubs were opposed to an AKC program here. When the smoke cleared, the original allegations that both clubs had written letters to AKC against the program seemed to be true.

AKC STAFF PRESENTATIONS:

Conditional Registration: Margaret Poindexter, the new Assistant VP of Compliance at AKC, presented information on the Conditional Registration Program. The initial registration process was passed in April of 2005 and AKC sought comments from the delegates at that time. It then went to ISD for implementation and back to the delegates in 2007 with an explanation of the program. The program went public in June of 2007 for dogs in which they cannot resolve the DNA exclusion. Rather than canceling the registrations, as has been done in the past, their registration status converts to a conditional registration. When they have three generations of verified parentage, the dogs in the fourth generation will be eligible to revert to full registration status. As long as the dogs are in the conditional registration status they will have a different registration number and a different registration form so that it is obvious they have a different registration status. Donna Beckman expressed concerns regarding Siberian Husky breeders who also have a number of non-purebred dogs in their kennels that might slip into this registry. Margaret explained that if there is any suggestion of impure breeding, these cases will be handled differently. The world-famous geneticist, Elaine Ostrander, was the one who suggested the Conditional Registration program with the three-generation registration status. Karen Spey was concerned that after three-generations you could allow an unknown to slip into the Stud Book compromising the purity of the Stud Book. There are two possibilities; one when the unknown sire is the same breed and the other when the sire is an unknown. There are some breeds that have a gene pool that is so small they would lose a huge percentage of the breed if these registrations were excluded.

Pat Reynolds indicated the Yorkshire Terrier Club statistician received information that a dog's registration has been changed to a "Q". Her club is requesting that AKC furnish them a list of all the Yorkies that have been changed to a "Q" registration in order to keep track of these parti-colored dogs. Barbara Schwartz knows of a lot of Collie/Sheltie crosses and you are talking about two breeds that have similar physical characteristics. You couldn't prove that it wasn't a purebred Collie. Susan Glatzer was a bit troubled that one of the motivating factors in the adoption of this program is "customer service." Steve Gladstone stated the concept of the "Q" is an additional disclosure to tell breeders that this is a dog that has these circumstances and it is up to the breeder to decide if it is worth using or not in their breeding program. He feels we came short on demanding integrity of the Stud Book when we chose not to require DNA. Pat asked if there is any way to identify the initial "problem" in the pedigree as it goes down through generations so that this identifier stays on the pedigree for all the get. Jeff Helsdon explained the "Z" track in the Doberman Pinscher dating back to an albino bitch in 1975. The "Z" stays on the pedigree for all the get, ad infinitum, indicating the potential for carrying albinism.

Administrative Research Registration Process: Kristi Munchel, Mari-Beth O'Neill and David Roberts gave an overview of the Administrative Research Registration Process. Last year the Board asked staff to pursue all registerable dogs in response to our declining registration numbers every year. They receive

approximately 400 calls or Emails a week from customers who were told their dog is AKC registerable and in many situations the litter was never registered. This new service allows us to register an AKC registerable dog without registering the litter. They are now registering about 1/3 of the requests they get. They are very diligent about looking at the pedigree. In many cases the breeder supplies the new owner with a bill of sale which indicates the sire and dam of the dog. The FAQ's are posted on the delegate portal. If the dog was sold on a limited registration, the breeder is contacted. In all cases they comply with what the breeder wishes. Pat noted the delegate Email list is held by Jim Crowley. If something is going to be placed on the delegate portal, we need notification that FAQ is on the portal and if AKC really wants us to see it they must notify us that it is there and how to access it.

A lot of Collie breeders did test breedings for PRA. The puppies that were not affected were placed but not registered and they do not want these puppies registered because they are all carriers. In that case AKC would contact the breeder. If the breeder did not want a dog registered they would not register it. If a breeder was suspended at the time of the breeding, or if there is a dog with a limited registration in the pedigree, AKC would not register the dog. AKC is looking at each request on a case-by-case basis and if it looks like it came through a qualified breeder they use due-diligence in making their decisions. Rather than just say "no", if the dog cannot be registered they offer the owner the PAL option. As a result the owner is able to be recognized and offered some feedback from the American Kennel Club and hopefully they have been educated about what they did purchase. Judy Hart expressed the feelings of many who feel this process creates a great deal of unease that these dogs are not being marked in some way and urged that the dogs involved be identified in the pedigrees.

Mixed Breeds: John Lyons announced that Dennis Sprung will be addressing this issue during tomorrow's general meeting. When the business plan for the Mixed Breeds went back to the Board for their last meeting they had concerns that were not resolved at the meeting. Dennis will be detailing these tomorrow for delegate consideration and input. Mixed Breeds for now are not moving forward and will go back to the Board at a later date for further consideration. David Roberts passed out fact sheets to those attending the meeting. This information will also be placed on the Delegate Portal. Pat asked that Charlie Kneifel send out another notice instructing delegates how to get onto the portal. It's important for delegates to check this regularly. There are detailed instructions on the delegate page on how to get on the portal with a user-friendly code. Peter reminded Charlie that he was under the impression they were going to start publishing the minutes of the committees on the portal. John will check on this.

Full Litter Registration Process: David Roberts reviewed the process whereby you register the entire litter at the same time at a discount. He indicated the response has been minimal; about fifty litters a month out of thirty thousand. Breeders have been concerned that when a dog is first registered, if that dog is transferred with a limited registration, will that be carried over. At the present time this can only be applied when the dog is first registered, but David will present changing this to the Board.

Other Parent Club Committee Issues

Petland: Pat has been contacted by several parent clubs. She is hearing from members who are concerned by recent articles in publications, and some personal lobbying that is going on, that are in support of a re-introduction of AKC partnering with Petland. The members of these parent clubs are concerned that these may be a precursor to this actually happening. What they are asking for is reassurance that if, in fact, this is reintroduced that we, as representatives of parent clubs whose various codes of ethics object to the sale of puppies through distributors, will still object to these arrangements and will continue to support our parent club position. Pat asked for a reaffirmation from the committee of our previous objection to such a relationship and where we stand on it. **There was a motion by Connie Butherus, seconded by Ricky Blackman, that the Delegate Parent Club Committee will continue to**

be staunch supporters of the parent clubs and their codes of ethics and continue to represent them.
The motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Denise Dean read a letter from the president of the Bernese Mountain Dog Club that urged that if most of the parent clubs would require DNA testing, as does their club, in a few years we would have a lot less concerns about most of the issues we have been discussing. She feels all national clubs should implement this as a requirement for entering their national specialty. The processing time is six to eight weeks and AKC has been helpful in speeding up the process. Ruth Ann suggested the letter be posted to the delegate list and the delegate conference list.

2. More complaints about the AKC online classifieds and pay attention to those listings who claim parent club membership. They may belong to another club or an all-breed club, but this does not entitle them to claim parent club membership. If AKC receives a letter from the clubs regarding false information given by advertisers David Roberts explained they will go back to the breeder and caution them not to do this again. If they do they will be removed from the list. Membership lists are supplied to AKC by the clubs and are checked every three or four days.

3. For next month's meeting there has been a request by parent clubs to have Peter Gaeta speak on Judges' Education and what are AKC's expectations and standards.

Parent Clubs Committee Meeting – Sunday June 8th
Special Session on Parent Clubs conference.

The Committee decided that we will go ahead and push for the next Conference in 2010, regardless of the action of the All Breed Committee to form a conference for their constituents. The reason is that the needs of the Parent Clubs for education of their executives only continues to grow and we have no other real solution.

Herding, Earthdog, & Lure Coursing - Sunday June 8th

1. Drafting/Carting: Following a brief discussion, it was agreed there is still interest in the formation of a drafting program. Board member Pat Scully reminded the committee the Board vote was 7 to 6 for not further discussing this venue – so there is a possibility of convincing the Board to reverse their decision from February and continue dialog on a possible drafting program. Cliff Dahl, who was instrumental in presenting this program, is no longer a delegate. Peter Piusz is attempting to contact others who have information on what has already been accomplished.
2. Individual Registrations for Performance Events. This Committee is one of the leaders in the September vote to eliminate litter registrations as qualification from AKC events.

Delegates' Caucus - Sunday June 8th – nothing important to report.

Coordinating Committee - Sunday June 8th – nothing important to report.

Legislative Caucus - Monday June 8th. This was an excellent presentation on effective lobbying by the Federation of Massachusetts. At the end of their presentation, they gave commemorative plaques to two of their legislators.

Delegates' Meeting - Monday June 8th.

1. Death of Jim Holt (the AKC lobbyist).
2. Mixed breed survey seeking club's feedback. Document attached.
3. Registration Competition (Dennis Sprung)

Dennis gave a really interesting presentation on activity by competitors to capture registrations. Unfortunately, his slides were not available as they would be "too revealing". I will comment separately on this issue in the next few weeks.

4. Proposed amendment to Chapter 11, Section 6 of the Rules

Applying to Dog Shows. The amendment was presented by a licensed dog show superintendent and agreed upon by the Dog Show Superintendents Association and approved by the AKC Board of Directors. The amendment benefits exhibitors by permitting incorrectly entered dogs to be moved into the open class. This will also benefit all those entered by providing the opportunity to maintain the number of dogs eligible to compete and thereby the number of dogs counted in the computation of championship points. There are two-thirds in the affirmative. The amendment is adopted.

The above amendment will apply to shows held on and after January 1, 2009.

5. Vote to move setting of fees for dog shows to the AKC Board of Directors – delegate approval no longer required. Defeated on individual count (originally claimed it passed by voice vote.)

6. Read for September:

a. Mr. Crowley : All these amendments would eliminate the provision whereby a dog may be entered in events under a litter number.

b. The Chair calls on the Executive Secretary to read the proposed amendment to Chapter

7, Section 13 of the Rules Applying to Dog Shows. Mr. Crowley : These amendments are to Chapter 7, Section 13 of the Rules Applying to Dog Shows. It would clarify the limit of entries and eliminate longer days that can result from multiple entries of the same dog, and would also permit judges to complete their provisionally approved breeds and advance to approved judging status without an unavoidable delay. The full text is on the orchid worksheet.

7. Group Realignment.

Statement read by Dr. Tom Davies, Chairman. This is a repeat of the points covered at the Parent clubs meeting.

8. AKC Canine Experience formerly AKC Educational Match

9. Annual update on AKC PR successes.

10. Other Issues

a. Mr. Crowley: The resolution is as follows: It is the consensus of the AKC Delegates in attendance at the June 9, 2008 meeting, that the Board of Directors take no final action regarding the listing, enrolling or registering of mixed-breed dogs and the sponsoring of competition events for mixed-breed dogs without the approval of the AKC Delegates.

Vote was almost unanimous.

Thanks for the opportunity of representing the club,



Peter Piusz