



# The Augusta Kennel Club

an AKC Member Club

## NEWSLETTER

April 2008



AMERICAN  
KENNEL CLUB™

### In This Issue

Spring Show Update.....	1
Fall Show Update.....	1
Kibbles & Bits.....	1
Article: This Means War.....	2-4
Event Calendar.....	4
Article: Proposed Pit Bull Ban.....	4-5
Article: Keeping Dogs Safe.....	5-6
AKC News.....	6-8

### Board & Officers

President..... Carol Cox  
 Vice President..... Audrey Bye  
 Treasurer..... Gloria Janda  
 Rec. Secretary..... Debbie Metts  
 Corr. Secretary..... Sara Martin  
 Board of Directors... Angie Hubbard  
 Board of Directors... Diane Johnson  
 Board of Directors..... Nancy Kille  
 Board of Directors..... Sarah Prince



*Walking on the beach one foggy morning, where waves renew the sand with each passing wave, in front of me were only the paw prints of a lone, but happy dog, which haphazardly ran somewhere ahead of me. The occasional print was erased away by a stray, emboldened wave. I turned and looked behind me and found my footprints neatly adjacent to the same paw prints. We were walking playfully together - separated only by time. I saw them and remembered them, much the same way I remember my dear departed friends - as a pawprint in the sand. Perhaps not forever on this earth, but as a memory eternal - forever on my soul, walking playfully together - for life and thereafter.*  
 ~Author Unknown

### Spring Show Update

It's over and the show was a great success! Thanks to all of our members that attended and helped out. This is a big show, and we can't do it without the help of everyone pitching in.

Entries overall were down by about 200 dogs +/- . This is not surprising as numbers across the country are down, due to the price of gas, the increase in daily living expenses, and the recession.

A bench committee hearing was held on our show day. A complaint was lodged against an exhibitor in Rally for overcorrection of her dog upon exit from the ring.

A follow up meeting to the show will take place in Conyers on Tuesday evening, May 13, and will be attended by Carol Cox, Sara Martin and Audrey Bye.

### Fall Show Update

B Match application is ready to be submitted to AKC. If you know someone that is working towards their judging license who would like to judge at the match, please have them contact Carol Cox.

Suggestions were made last year to hold a C match for Rally and Obedience. This will be discussed at the May meeting.

The Judging panel is complete and approved by AKC.

If you would like to sponsor a trophy for your breed or donate to the general trophy fund, please please bring your checkbook to the May meeting. The trophy list must be submitted to MB-F by the end of the month.

Good news! We will be able to recycle the left over rosettes from last year's show. The ribbon company can print new center streamers at a cost of about 38 cents each. This is considerably less than \$2.89 for a new rosette.

### Kibbles & Bits

#### PAWS4LAWS.COM

Did you know that the American Rottweiler Club has a legislative action website from which you can send emails and print letters to lawmakers on anti-canine legislative issues?

The ARC is the first breed club to endeavor to "get the word" to every dog owner, regardless of the breed they own. Please take part in the only nationwide project of its kind geared to help owners of all breeds.

The club also offers banners and brochures that are available free of charge for clubs to display and pass out at their shows and events. This is offered to ALL clubs, not just rottweiler clubs.

For more information, visit [www.amrottclub.org/bsl/bslmain.htm](http://www.amrottclub.org/bsl/bslmain.htm) and [www.paws4laws.com](http://www.paws4laws.com)

### Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 7, 2008, at the Wachovia Bank Building in Daniel Village. Board Meeting will start ay 7:00 pm, followed by the Regular Meeting @ 8:00 pm.

As always, the public is welcome at our Regular Meeting.

# This Means War

By Cindy Cooke, J.D., Legislative Specialist for the UKC and ESSFTA

At 8:45 on the morning of September 11, 2001, I was in a hotel room at Newark airport. I was getting ready to go to a meeting, scheduled to start at 10:30. I had the TV news on while getting dressed when the newscasters suddenly announced that a plane had crashed into the World Trade Center. I looked out the window and saw the black smoke coming from one of the towers. My only thought was concern for a friend who worked at the World Trade Center. After assuring that she was okay, I walked down to the meeting, which was delayed because everyone was crowded around a television set, watching the news. None of us thought it was anything worse than a terrible accident. At 9:03, however, we saw the second plane first approach and then burst into flame as it entered the second tower. I turned to the woman standing next to me and said, "We're at war."

I'm not writing this month's column to convince you that we should be at war in Iraq or Afghanistan, but rather to talk about a war on our own shores, a war where the casualties are piling up. I'm talking about the war between dog owners and the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS).

We've been at war for a long time. Like Al Quaeda, the leaders of the HSUS patiently prepared for war. Long before we even suspected their intentions, the current leaders of HSUS were honing their fund raising skills and their talent for manipulating the media. Again, like Al Quaeda, HSUS didn't start with a big, all-out attack. Al Quaeda attacked some embassies and the USS Cole before 9/11. HSUS skirmished with animal owners in hundreds of local battles. At first, HSUS sought easy targets. Fur farmers, for example, were a common choice. There weren't many of them, and fur coats were associated with pampered, rich women. Most of us were not affected by the attacks on the fur industry. Circuses, hunters, farmers, and restaurant owners were other common targets, and for a long time, the good guys won about half the time. If we had paid attention, we would have had a preview of the battle to come, but we didn't.

It's not like we weren't warned, but we didn't listen. Patti and Rod Strand wrote a book in 1993 entitled *The Hijacking of the Humane Movement: Animal Extremism*. Most of us didn't read it until years later. Sportsmen were the first group of dog owners to recognize the threat. They wisely organized to resist the threat to their rights to hunt and fish, but they ignored the wider threat to all animal ownership. Dog owners who didn't hunt paid no attention at all to the steady erosion of hunter's rights. We were all so busy minding our own business that we didn't even see that HSUS was planning a 9/11 for us - for all of us.

Last year, HSUS rolled out their equivalent of planes crashing into towers - it's called "Mandatory Spay/Neuter Law", or MSN for short. The typical MSN law requires all dogs and cats to be spayed or neutered by age four months unless the animal's owner obtains an expensive breeding permit, allowing a single litter a year. Last year's California Assembly Bill 1364 sent shockwaves through the country. The scales fell from the eyes of dog owners who suddenly knew that we were at war - at war with a well-funded, politically sophisticated enemy, who has been devising their strategy for decades.

Like Americans after 9/11, we were quick to fight back. We rallied our forces, raised money, wrote letters, attended meetings and forced AB 1634's sponsor, Assemblyman Lloyd Levine, to withdraw his bill. We patted ourselves on the back and congratulated each other on winning the big one. But it wasn't the big one; it was the first big one. Not long after Levine withdrew his bill, Los Angeles passed an MSN ordinance for all of LA County. Within the first two months of 2008, MSN bills were being considered in New Jersey, Virginia and Arizona. Just weeks after UKC hosted the Canine Registry conference in North Las Vegas, Nevada, that community passed an MSN ordinance.

All across America, HSUS sleeper cells are waking up and invading the homes of American citizens. Disguised as city attorneys, animal control officers, or as representatives of so-called "humane" organizations, these animal rights "true

## PROMERIS WARNING

This is a very important message to my family & friends who have dogs-cats--and to alert you to the hazard of using a new Flea & Tick Preventative called ProMeris  
<http://www.promeris.com/consumer/>

This is a new product designed to be a more effective product than other flea/tick treatments that was just released this year. It is available thru a vet and not currently on-line. I got ProMeris this week for my 7 dogs (6 Huskies & 1 Golden-Airedale), and the results were debilitating for nearly all of them--including me. Since my incident this week, my vet has pulled it from distribution and alerted the manufacturer, Fort Dodge.

Here are my results: Within less than 2 hours after applying, 4 of my dogs had vomited from 2-4 times, 3 were disoriented and stumbling, 1 was dragging his back leg, 1 was salivating. I had very similar symptoms, like an allergic reaction--my lips were swollen, eyes very red, mucous membranes, such as eyes, nose, and mouth were stinging. I was very disoriented--dizzy equilibrium and not able to drive. To make this a short story--all 7 of my dogs were admitted to the hospital for veterinarian care, and 3 of them remained for care, IV fluids and observation for 24 hours. I was in the emergency room. I'm home now and so are the dogs. We're all feeling much better. Vet bills were over \$2,500 and Fort Dodge is paying for these. Not only can the product cause this reaction, it has a highly noxious odor that permeated the house and is just starting to dissipate after 3 days.

Your dogs/cats might not have the same reaction, but given my experience--I wanted to help you all become well-educated about the product.

~Kathryn L. Leinthall Kalein T  
Welsh Terriers

believers" are in positions where they can push for MSN ordinances and dog limit laws. Many of the new animal control ordinances are patently unconstitutional, but they are enforced because dog owners don't have the resources to fight back.

If recent legislation hasn't convinced you that we are fighting for our very survival, maybe the story of Robert Attleson will wake you up. Robert Attleson lives in Littleton, Colorado, where he and his long-time partner, Melissa, raise English Setters. In addition to breeding and showing dogs, Bob is active in an organization called "All Setter Rescue." Bob has lived in his home long enough that his mortgage is paid off, so about 18 months ago, he bought the house next door, partly as a tax shelter. The number of dogs at Bob's house fluctuates as he raises and sells his litters, and moves the occasional rescue dog in and out. In the decades that Bob has lived in Littleton, not one complaint has been lodged against him for barking, for smells, or for letting his dogs run loose. When the Littleton city leaders passed a dog limit law, Bob thought his second property would keep him within the requirements of the law. The city fathers didn't see it his way. Instead, Bob became a target for harassment by animal control. Like most citizens who have never had to fight their own government, Bob tried to be reasonable, but he soon realized that he would have to leave Littleton altogether.

He purchased property 60 miles outside of Littleton, but couldn't move his dogs immediately because he needed to put up fencing. On February 14, Bob told city officials that he would have all of the dogs out of Littleton by February 18. Animal Control insisted on a meeting with Bob on February 19 to verify that the dogs were indeed gone, so they agreed to meet at 10 a.m. Having settled this, Bob and Melissa headed out to the Plum Creek Kennel Club dog show the following morning to show their English Setters, Pig and Jo, in the Best Brace competition.

Meanwhile, animal control, knowing that Bob was out of town at the dog show, requested an emergency court hearing on Friday, February 15. The Court called Bob's home and left a message informing him of the hearing. When he failed to show, the Court issued a fugitive warrant and authorized animal control to seize Bob's dogs. According to a neighbor, animal control staked out Bob's home to ensure that Bob and Melissa actually left the house before the raid. Neighbors told Bob that animal control came to the house, and when no one answered the door, departed quickly. What the neighbors didn't know was that animal control was going back to the judge to request a forcible entry warrant. About four in the afternoon, four police cars, two animal control vehicles (one from out of town, since Littleton only has one animal control truck), six police officers and two animal control agents arrived at Bob's two houses. A battering ram was used to break down the front door of the first house and the back door of the second. A window was broken so that officers could hand a litter of nine four-week-old pups through the window to waiting animal control officers. In total, four adult dogs, including the dam of the still-nursing pups, were removed from the two houses, and sent to the Colorado Humane Society. (Note: Just a few months ago, the Colorado Humane Society was the subject of a criminal investigation by the state Attorney General because of questions of financial management and care of the animals. As a result, the city of Littleton actually canceled its contract with Colorado Humane. Interestingly, the current Littleton animal control officer is a former employee of Colorado Humane.)

Melissa came home about 6:00 to check on the puppies. Seeing her doors broken down and windows broken, she raced inside to discover that her dogs were gone. There was a note telling Bob that when he came home from the dog show, he was to turn in his three show dogs to animal control. The note included an order from the judge that none of Bob's dogs were to be returned to him or to any person who may be a friend of Bob's. Melissa finally reached Bob on his cell phone. He was happily telling her that their brace of English Setters had won Best Brace in Show when Melissa told him that he needed a criminal lawyer, and fast. Bob took the three show dogs to their home in Strasburg.

Remember, this is Friday evening of a three-day weekend. Still, Bob had a lot of friends and by Saturday morning, he had located an attorney. On Sunday, he met with attorney Susan Martin and began preparing to fight back. Bob wasn't sure if the court had issued an arrest warrant, so he spent the rest of the weekend in Strasburg. His priorities were simple. First, he wanted his dogs back. Second, he wanted to stay out of jail. Third, he wanted to fight back.

His lawyer set up an emergency hearing on the following Friday, February 22. The charges against Bob were two counts of violating the three-mammal limit law, one count of having an unlicensed kennel, and one count of endangering the animals, based on a single allegation that an animal control officer inspecting in 2007 smelled urine.

During the pre-hearing negotiations, the prosecutor agreed to let Bob have all of his dogs back, but he had to plead guilty and agree to an outrageous sentence. This deal allowed Bob to meet his top priorities - he got his dogs back and he didn't have to go to jail. However, he got three years deferred jail time, \$3,000 in fines and another \$1,000 to reimburse the county for the "care" of his dogs. In addition, for the next three years, animal control may make unannounced inspections of his two homes in Littleton, and Bob is not allowed to bring a dog into Littleton, even to go to the veterinarian. Finally, Bob was forced to agree to an inspection of his Strasburg property by the city of Littleton.

## Sat-Nav Collar to Track Lost Dogs

10 Mar 2008, LONDON:

Soon, dog owners will be able to hunt down their missing pet pooches, thanks to a high-tech dog collar based on sat-nav technology.

The lockable collar, which was previewed on the first day of the Crufts Show is made of anti-cut material to thwart thieves and can trace an animal even if it inside a building. The device works by sending texts to the owner's mobile telephone if the dog crosses a fixed boundary.

After receiving the text message, the owner can log on to a website where, using the sat-nav technology of the collar, they can locate the pet's position.

Makers Retrieva say that the collar is due to go on sale in July costing about 200 pounds, plus a monthly fee.

"Dog theft is out there but it's not high on the list of police priorities, for obvious reasons. But for owners or families, if a dog gets lost it is a traumatic experience," Times Online quoted Andrew Stuart, the company's director, as saying.



None of the above penalties are authorized by law. The penalty for violating the limit law in Littleton is a fine, not to exceed \$999. By holding Bob's dogs as hostages, the city was able to force him to agree to penalties that the court could not have legally imposed.

If California Bill AB 1634 didn't wake you up, maybe the story of Bob Attleson will do it. As with 9/11, we're coming late and unprepared to the toughest fight of our lives. Every dog owner must write one letter, make one phone call, and put up some money to stand up for our rights. If you don't act, you may well be the last houndsman in your family.

## Event Calendar

### CLUB EVENTS

**Preparation and Presentation of the Show Dog** – Jeff Brucker's professional handling seminar on DVD will be shown to club members and guests on Wednesday evening, May 21 at 7:00pm at the Wachovia Bank Building in Daniel Village. The seminar is about 2 hours long. RSVP to Audrey Bye, (706) 650-2329, or [abye@bellsouth.net](mailto:abye@bellsouth.net) by May 20.

**Breeding Better Dogs** – Dr. Carmen Battaglia's breeding seminar on DVD will be shown to club members and guests on Wednesday evening, June 11 at 7:00pm at the Wachovia Bank Building in Daniel Village. The seminar is about 2 hours long. RSVP to Audrey Bye, (706) 650-2329, or [abye@bellsouth.net](mailto:abye@bellsouth.net) by June 10.

**Obedience Seminar** – A two day obedience seminar with Chris Elliott will be held on Saturday, September 13 and Sunday, September 14, 2008. Both working and audit spots are available. Please see the attached flyer for details and registration information.

**Fall Match & Show** – Mark your calendars for Friday, October 3 for the match, and Saturday, October 4 for the show.

### AREA EVENTS

**Columbia Obedience Club** – Obedience and Rally Trial Saturday, May 10 & Sunday, May 11. If you can steward, the club needs some help. Please contact

**Palmetto Obedience Club** – Obedience Trials Saturday June 7 and Sunday June 8. Rally trials Friday June 5 and Saturday June 7. Note the trial is being held in a new location – Northwest Recreation Center in Spartanburg.

Want to know what our club is up to? Check out the event calendar on our website at [www.augustakennelclub.org](http://www.augustakennelclub.org). The event calendar is regularly updated with information on our future events, and also includes a handy list of upcoming shows in Georgia, South Carolina and North Carolina.

## Proposed SC Pit Bull Ban Has Some Owners Concerned

SC lawmakers have proposed a ban on pit bulls in some Palmetto State towns

Thursday, Apr 24, 2008 - 06:23 PM Updated: 06:51 PM

By Joy Howe Augusta Chronicle

Aiken, SC -- When you hear about pit bulls...you probably think of dog fighting. Even pit bull owners tell me they realize their pets are at the center of controversy...but they say they're not going to give them up just because a few people are crying "wolf."

Sandra Whittaker, pit bull owner: "They're sweet companions, very sociable. All of mine get along with my small dogs, I just love the breed, in general."

Sandra Whittaker loves all animals, but she has three pit bulls that are like her children...and hates the thought of someone trying to take them away from her.

Whittaker: "If it ever comes down to that, I'm going to just say 'ok, I'm moving to Canada, or Alaska, because I'm going to go where my dogs can go, especially if they're pit bulls."

She opposes a new bill that could ban the dogs from some South Carolina towns. Some believe the dogs are naturally aggressive...but experts say it's not the dog, it's the owner.

Christy Baughman, Aiken S.P.C.A.: "Every dog, especially a head-strong dog, like pit bulls, they need to be properly trained, and it doesn't need to be a six-week course of training, it needs to be lifetime training."

Pit bulls have gotten a bad rap over the past few years...

Baughman: "They do have a high prey drive, so small animals, they think that they're toys, they don't realize, just like young kids they think small animals are toys and they just want to play with them and sometimes, they get a little out of control."

But, some say eliminating them altogether is nothing more than a quick fix.

Baughman: "A few years ago, it was Rottweillers, working in a shelter for a few years, I saw that trend, I saw it was the Rottweillers, and then they went out and the pit bulls came in, and if they ban those, there's going to be another breed. There's always going to be another breed."

This dog owner doesn't think it will ever fly...

Whittaker: "It's going to make a lot of people mad, and they're going to get to the point where they'll sign a petition to get it all changed, but they're going to have to do a lot to make people get rid of their dogs."

If the bill is approved, it would go into effect on July 1st of this year. However, local animal control officials tell me individual town leaders would then have to make their own rules...so even if it passes, it could take some time.

Experts say pit bulls will generally attack only if they are aggravated or scared. They say you should never turn your back to any dog that is coming toward you because a frightened animal will go for your neck. If you feel threatened, the best idea is to leave calmly and call animal control.

[http://www.wjbf.com/midatlantic/jbf/news\\_index.apx.-content-articles-JBF-2008-04-24-0045.html](http://www.wjbf.com/midatlantic/jbf/news_index.apx.-content-articles-JBF-2008-04-24-0045.html)

## **Dog Owners and Breeders Advised to Keep Dogs Safe at Home and on the Road**

The American Kennel Club® is warning pet owners and breeders about an alarming rise in dog thefts in recent months. From parking lots to pet stores and even backyards, more dogs are disappearing. In the first three months of 2008, the AKC has tracked more than 30 thefts from news and customer reports, versus only ten for all twelve months of 2007.

Media reports have chronicled the escalation of these "dog-nappings" from all around the country. Incidents have included armed robbers entering a breeder's home, tiny puppies being stuffed into purses at pet stores and most recently, purebred pets being snatched from cars in parking lots and even shelters.

"The value of pets in people's lives has been on the rise for a long time and now we are seeing thieves trying to capitalize on this. Whether they seek to resell the dog, collect a ransom or breed the dogs and sell their offspring, thieves seem to be attuned to the increased financial and emotional value pets have in our lives," said AKC spokesperson Lisa Peterson. "Losing a treasured family pet is devastating to the owner."

"Criminals look for weaknesses and exploit them. They know pets can't protect themselves, so that means owners need to be alert," said Lt. John Kerwick, a law enforcement K-9 handler and the President of the U.S. Police Canine Association, Region 7. "Be wary of anyone who approaches you and asks too many questions about your dog or where you live. This is a red flag that they may be out to snatch your pet."

Peterson added that "These 'dog-nappers' are misguided and naive. They're stealing living beings, not jewelry that can be pawned. Plus, it's unlikely that they can sell the dogs for high prices without proper registration papers, and these inept criminals are not realistically going to collect a ransom. Caring for a dog -- and especially breeding -- is a time consuming endeavor that requires a lot of knowledge. Thieves will find themselves with a frightened and confused animal that needs a lot of care."

The AKC offers the following advice to prevent your "best friend" from being a target of a crime:

### **At Home**

Don't let your dog off-leash — Keeping your dog close to you reduces the likelihood it will wander off and catch the attention of thieves. A Saint Bernard that had wandered away from his owner in Nebraska was snatched up right off the road.

Don't leave your dog unattended in your yard — Dogs left outdoors when no one is home for long periods of time can be potential targets, especially if you live in a rural area and the fenced-in yard or dog runs are visible from the street.

Keep purchase price to yourself — If strangers approach you to admire your dog during walks, don't answer questions about how much the dog cost or give details about where you live.

Breeders need to be aware of home visits by potential puppy buyers — Criminals posing as would be "puppy buyers" have visited breeder homes to snatch dogs, while other homes have been burglarized when the owner was away. From Yorkies in Los Angeles to Bulldogs in Connecticut, thieves have targeted young puppies of these highly coveted breeds.

### **On the Road**

Never leave your dog in an unattended car, even if it's locked — Even if you are gone for only a moment, an unlocked car is an invitation for trouble. Also leaving expensive items in the car such as a GPS unit or laptop will only invite thieves to break and possibly allow the dog to escape.

Don't tie your dog outside a store — This popular practice among city dwelling dog owners can be a recipe for disaster. Reports have surfaced of such thefts in Manhattan. If you need to go shopping, patronize only dog-friendly retailers or leave the dog at home.

Be vigilant when entering or leaving establishments or venues catering to dogs such as grooming salons, veterinarians, doggie day care or hotels — Be aware of your surroundings, such as slow moving vehicles, or people watching you and your dog. Carry pepper spray as a precaution and, if possible, don't walk alone late at night or stay in a well lit area.

### **Recovery**

Protect your dog with microchip identification — Collars and tags can be removed so make sure you have permanent ID with a microchip. Keep contact information current with your recovery service provider. Several pets have been recovered because of alert people scanning and discovering microchips. For more information and to enroll your pet in a 24 hour recovery service visit [www.akccar.org](http://www.akccar.org).

If you suspect your dog has been stolen — Immediately call the police / animal control in the area your pet was last seen.

Have fliers with a recent photo ready to go if your dog goes missing — Keep a photo of your dog in your wallet or on an easily accessible web account so that you can distribute immediately if your pet goes missing.

## **American Kennel Club News**

### **HIGHLIGHTS FROM APRIL AKC BOARD MEETING**

#### **Events and Entries Update**

Mr. Sprung reported that for the first two months of 2008, the total number of entries increased by 3% and the total number of Events by 16%. The largest increases in entries occurred in Agility and Specialty shows. Size of AKC's

#### **Mixed-Breed Proposal**

Based on a Board Request and Strategic Planning Goals, Staff presented a proposal to create a program for dogs not eligible for AKC registration or the AKC PAL program. Staff's proposal would identify these dogs as mixed-breed dogs, and would allow dogs to compete in stand alone AKC Agility, Obedience and Rally events within certain guidelines. This would not be an AKC program but would be administered by an existing AKC affiliate organization or a newly created 501-c4. The Board discussed the research and data presented which has been collected over the past three years. This proposal will be discussed further in May by the Board, with additional feedback sought from the Delegates at the June meeting.

#### **Rule Book Price Increase**

Staff presented a plan for an increase in the price of AKC rule books to help cover the actual cost of publication. Without objection, Staff is implementing the price increase effective July 1, 2008. All rule books will have one uniform price of \$5.00. A \$3.00 shipping/handling fee charge will be applied on all rule books that are processed and shipped from the Raleigh office. Free, downloadable PDF copies of the latest version of all rule books are available from the AKC website. Rule books will continue to be sent free of charge to Superintendents/Event Secretaries, Public Education Coordinators, AKC Clubs, upon receipt of a request on club letterhead, and AKC Judges. The AKC Booth will continue to provide rule books at no charge to Delegates, Judges and Exhibitors.

#### **Rules Applying to Dog Shows - Chapter 11, Section 8**

Following a motion the Board VOTED to revise its policies on "Change in appearance by artificial means" to include the use of substances or drugs. The revised policy is as follows:

*When the judge of a sweepstakes or futurity finds that a dog is ineligible to compete under this section, the dog should be excused. A dog may only be disqualified in a sweepstakes or futurity under the provisions of Chapter 11, Section 8-A.*

*A dog is considered changed in appearance by artificial means if it has been subjected to any type of procedure, substance or drugs that have the effect of obscuring, disguising or eliminating any congenital or hereditary abnormality or any undesirable characteristic, or that does anything to improve a dog's natural appearance, temperament, bite or gait.*

*Even procedures, substances and drugs which are absolutely necessary to the health and comfort of a dog shall disqualify that dog from competition if the former had the incidental effect of changing or even improving the dog's appearance, temperament, bite or gait.*

*There may be cases in which a veterinarian has prescribed some drug as being necessary for the health of a dog. In such cases, the veterinarian's advice should be followed, but the dog should be withheld from competition in dog shows or obedience trials until all possible effects of the drug have worn off.*

### **New Club Requirements**

The Board reviewed the criteria used to accredit the various types of AKC clubs. Following a motion by Dr. Haines, seconded by Ms. Scully, the Board VOTED to adopt the following policy, governing the basic membership criteria for applicants seeking member, licensed and sanctioned status, effective January 1, 2009:

Clubs applying for member, licensed or sanctioned status shall meet the following club membership requirements:

All-Breed, Group and Obedience Clubs 30 members /25 local

Specialty Clubs 20 members /12 local

Agility and Earth Dog 20 members /12 local

Field Trial Hunting, Coursing, Herding 20 members /12 local

Coonhound 15 members /8 local

Tracking 12 local members

### **Growth in Number of Member Clubs/Size of AKC's Governing Body**

The Board reviewed a Staff analysis on member club growth which included a list of questions addressing real or perceived problems regarding the size of the Delegate Body as well as how all segments of the Sport were represented. This will be discussed further at the May meeting. The Board will also review the impact of Group Clubs as potential member clubs, as over 100 of them are close to meeting AKC membership requirements.

### **Foundation Stock Breeds**

The following breeds have requested advancement to the Miscellaneous class effective 01/01/09.

- Entlebucher Mountain Dog
- Finnish Lapphund
- Xoloitzcuintli

The following breeds have requested acceptance into the AKC stud book and eligibility to compete in the following groups effective 01/01/09.

- Irish Red & White Setter, Sporting Group
- Norwegian Buhund, Herding Group
- Pyrenean Shepherd, Herding Group

### **Online Audio and Video Programming**

Dr. Haines presented the Board with plans to provide new educational tools to breeders via online audio and video programming, beginning in June 2008. The programming will be developed by AKC and the AKC Canine Health Foundation and will include:

- Educational programs sponsored by AKC and CHF (i.e. the Breeders' Symposia)
- Interviews with researchers with completed grants, summarizing the results of the projects and communicating outcomes.
- Interviews with researchers about the need for samples or participation
- Interviews about various AKC and/or CHF programs (i.e. CGC, Canine Legislation, Donor Advised Funds, Heritage Society, etc.)
- Educational programs sponsored by breed clubs (i.e. National Specialties, and All-Breed Cluster Shows; perhaps even breed-specific programming)
- Basic informational interviews of veterinarians and veterinary researchers

### **Judges Conflict of Interest: Discipline**

Based on a Board request, Staff reported on current policies regarding situations where judge commits acts in connection with judging and exhibiting dogs that the judge knows should know, to violate rules, policies or guidelines. Judging operations only handles cases involving judging privileges. Any case concerning all AKC

privileges or privileges would be handled by the Compliance Department. Following a motion Merriam, seconded by Mr. Menaker, it was VOTED (unanimously; absent: Mr. Goodman) to reaffirm the existing policy.

#### **Prong Collars**

Staff advised the Board that there has recently been an increased use of prong collars exhibitors at AKC events. The Board reconfirmed their concern and Staff will publish articles reminding exhibitors, judges and professional handlers of the Board policy training collars and that uses of these devices is a violation of AKC policy. Executive Staff will be directed to monitor the use of unacceptable equipment at dog shows.

#### **Incorporating AKC Registrable Dogs into AKC Registry**

Chapter 3, Section 6 of Rules Applying to Registration and Discipline grants AKC the authority to register dogs of AKC registrable stock. Dogs or litters may qualify for registration if pedigrees show no break in AKC lineage and all dogs and litters originate from AKC registrable stock. Staff advised the Board that without objection it will begin registering dogs of AKC registrable stock lacking litter registration papers provided that the dogs are otherwise deemed registrable by staff. The majority were in favor of this proposal.



*See You At The May Meeting!*