



The Augusta Kennel Club

an AKC Member Club

NEWSLETTER

February 2008



AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB™

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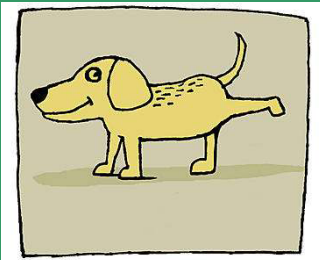
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Board & Officers

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

"Some days you're the dog; some days you're the hydrant."

- Unknown



Show Updates

PEACH BLOSSOM

Mark your calendars! The Peach Blossom Cluster at Perry is April 10-13, 2007.

A few Trophy pledges still have not yet been paid. If you pledged a trophy and have not paid, you know who you are! Please put a check in the mail to Gloria today. We are currently proofing the premium list and those who have not paid will have their sponsorships removed.

Volunteers for the show will be needed in Perry on Friday. The club will reimburse one night's hotel stay for club members that work at least 4 hours on our day at the show.

NORTH AUGUSTA FALL SHOW

Committees for the Fall Show are:

Show Chairman Audrey Bye
 Obedience/Rally Chairman..... Marlene Stachowiak
 Trophy Committee Sarah Prince/Eva Rapp
 Hospitality..... Sara Martin
 Grounds Chairman Karen Hand
 Public Information Diane Downs
 Chief Ring Steward Sara Martin
 Catalog Advertising & Sales..... Toni Reese
 Vendors Eva Rapp

Judges that have accepted assignments for the Fall show are Ann Heard, Kathleen Steen, and Kenneth Miller for breed. Contracts will be sent out in January. Sharon Crossman & Anthony Cherubini are under contract for Obedience & Rally.

Due to the increase in AKC fees for 2008, it was decided at the last meeting to raise entry fees. Due to the change in show superintendents that was necessitated by the retirement of Bob Peters, our fees related to superintending the Fall show have effectively doubled, and we were not able to break even in 2007. While we anticipate a loss on our home show, absorbing additional costs related to AKC's increase in fees is just not viable. Most premium lists are showing higher entry fees this year, and Peach Blossom also increased their entry fee. As a result, it was voted to increase Fall entry fees to:

- o \$28.00 for Breed and Obedience/Rally (no reduction for 2nd entry)
- o \$23.00 for Puppy and Bred By Classes
- o \$5.00 for Junior Handlers.

Desirably, this increase will allow us to break even on the Fall show in 2008.

MB-F charges us a full fee for Juniors, so we will request them to waive their fee on these entries, as it is the strong belief of membership that Juniors are the future of our sport and that the rate to Juniors should not be increased.

FALL MATCH

Committees for the Fall Match are:

Match Chairman..... Carol Cox
 Match Obedience/Rally Chairman..... Debbie Metts
 Match Secretary..... Audrey Bye

Match entry fees will remain at \$5 for pre-registration, but will increase to \$15 for day of match entries to encourage pre-registration.

LAMENT OF A LADY GONE TO THE DOGS

There was a time, there really was when
I was sweet and tender,
when "Show Dog" meant a Disney star
and bitch was not a gender.

I went to bed at half past ten, I went to
church on Sunday,
On Saturday I baked the beans and
did the wash on Monday.

But then I got a certain pup and an
erstwhile friend said "SHOW",
and so I did and so I do Oh! What I
didn't know.

I used to dress with flair and style that
was the life, don't knock it,
But now each dress from bed to ball
must have a good bait pocket.

I used to have a certain air, I wallowed
in perfume,
I used to smell of Niut D'Amour, Now I
smell like Mr. Groom.

My furniture was haute décor, My pets
a tank of guppies.
Now I've furniture unstuffed and well-
adjusted puppies.

Once I spoke in pristine prose, In dulcet
tones and frail,
But now I'm using language that would
turn a sailor pale.

I was taught to be well groomed no
matter where I went,
Now all the grooming that I do is in the
handler's tent.

I used to long for furs and jewels and a
figure classed as super,
Now the thing I yearn for most is a nice
new pooper scooper.

I adored a man who murmured verse,
through intimate little dinners,
But now the words I thrill to hear, are
just three, "best of winners".

I rise at dawn and pack the car, the
road ahead's a long one.
The one I routed on the maps,
invariably is the wrong one.

I really love this doggy life, I wouldn't
care to change it.
But when I get that Best in Show, I plan
to rearrange it.

When my time on earth is done, I'll go
without much nudging
Just give me three weeks closing date,
and let me know who's judging.

Membership Dues Reminder

2008, membership dues were due on January 1. There are still some members who have not paid their dues yet. Don't delay and let your membership lapse! Mail your check to Gloria today!

Meeting Highlights

The last meeting of the Augusta Kennel Club was held on Wednesday, January 2, 2008.

Topics of discussion that took place at the meeting:

1. New AKC Regulations and Fee Schedules for 2008 are in effect.
2. AKC is establishing a Humane Fund and asking clubs to donate money. The fund will promote education, responsible dog ownership, give grants. For a donation of \$1,000 a plaque will be hung in AKC's offices in recognition of the donor. A motion was made for the club to make a donation; however, after discussion, it was decided that we would not do so at this time.
3. The Augusta GSD Club requested J.D. Jones to judge GSD's. An inquiry will be made to J.D. on availability.
4. Fall and Spring shows were discussed and results are included in the Show Updates section of the newsletter.
5. It was suggested at the end of the member meeting that the education portion of our meetings should take place once a quarter rather than monthly. With more topics to discuss at meetings, they have been running longer, and there is insufficient time after most meetings for the educational portion of the meeting. This will be further discussed at the next meeting.

Next Meeting

The next regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 6, 2008, at the Wachovia Bank Building in Daniel Village. Board Meeting will start at 7:00 pm, followed by the Regular Meeting @ 8:00 pm.

Be sure and sign up with Eva Rapp or Sarah Prince for trophy pledges for the Fall show!

As always, the public is welcome at our Regular Meeting and at Education portion of the evening.

Kibbles & Bits

Do you feed your dogs Purina brand dog foods?

If so, be sure and become a member of the Purina Pro Club. Membership is free, and all you have to do is clip and save weight circles from bags of Purina dog food to earn rebate checks, logo apparel & merchandise, gift certificates for retail, travel & restaurants, free puppy starter kits, and a complimentary subscription to Today's Breeder magazine.

Further benefits can be earned for your breed's parent club just by designating them on your membership. Purina helps breed clubs by donating 10% of what you submit in weight circle points to the Canine Health Foundation and your designated breed club to help fund breed specific health research, rescue efforts, and education.

It's truly a win-win program for everyone! For more info, visit www.purinaproclub.com.

Flaxseed Oil and Fertility

by Robert Jay Russell, Ph.D.

Coton de Tulear Club of America President, www.cotonclub.com

January 16th, 2008

For years, flaxseed oil has been recommended for both human and pet consumption. It has been touted as a balm for a number of problems. Amongst the claims for this product:

1. Flaxseed oil is rich in essential fatty acids (EFAs). Flaxseed oil contains twice as much Omega 3 (fish oil fatty acid) than does fish oil and it contains Omega-6 fatty acid (linoleic acid as in vegetable oil).
2. Flaxseed oil is said to help soften stools and it helps stabilize cholesterol levels, heart rate, blood pressure. It has been used to treat heart disease, inflammation and lupus. Lignans in flaxseed oil is said to help fight cancer, bacteria, fungi and viruses. Most of these benefits have been confirmed by scientific tests.
3. Flaxseed oil is often prescribed by holistic practitioners as an aid to fertility and pregnancy in both humans and canines. It is said to improve uterine function. There is no scientific confirmation of this claim.

Given that flaxseed oil has risen to the rank of a popular "wonder drug", there's little wonder that more and more health supplements for dogs are based upon flaxseed oil and flaxseed oil has appeared in many dog foods as a health additive.

Today, we noticed the onset of some internet and newspaper reports stating that Flaxseed oil has caused infertility and in some cases the reabsorption of fetuses in canines, e.g.,

I only know that myself and several other breeders had a sudden onset of fertility problems in our bitches when using the "The Missing Link" supplement which is flax based. Problems included lack of conception & reabsorption of early pregnancies. We came to find out that this product had NOT been tested on breeding animals. This is the case with most products marketed for "pets". They do not have to be tested on breeding animals unless they are labeled for them.

I personally would not use any flax based supplements. A) flax is for horses not dogs & contains the wrong kinds of omegas. Fish based products are better for carnivores. B) it has not been proven safe for breeding animals of ANY kind.

From an article about a Newfoundland breeder in the Binghamton Press & Sun Bulletin, dated 1/16/08 (<http://www.pressconnects.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080116/LIFESTYLE/801160301>):

Before the three litters were born, Lerman said she had trouble getting any of the dogs pregnant for several years. "I had the water tested. I went to Cornell (University) and they monitored the breedings. In the end, the common denominator that inhibited pregnancies was flaxseed oil. It was in everything they ate."

She changed their meat product, treats and kibble. "I never thought all the breedings (three females) would take, but they did."

After eliminating flaxseed oil from her Newfoundlands' diet, she whelped 34 pups in three litters; one female alone had 17 pups.

Dr. Russell continues:

We strongly believe diet and health decisions--heck most decisions--should be based upon solid science, not rumor. But in the absence of definitive studies, confirmed anecdotes can provide a heads-up, especially if heeding the anecdotes will cause no harm. In this case, flaxseed oil is not an essential (absolutely required) dietary supplement, hence eliminating flaxseed oil from



The Train, the Soldier and the Poodle

After World War II, an American soldier was going back to London from the front. He was on a very crowded train, and was looking for a seat, but the only empty one was next to an older French lady, and she had her pet poodle on it.

He said, "Please, madam, I'm very tired. May I please sit here?" The lady replied, "No, you may not. My precious little poodle, Miss Fluffy, is sitting here."

The soldier walked the length of the train again with no luck, so he went back to the same seat next to the same woman and said, "Please, Madam, there are no other seats. I have been fighting at the front for months, my feet hurt and I'm very tired. May I please sit here?"

The woman told him, "I cannot believe how rude you are! I have already told you that my darling little Miss Fluffy is sitting here." At that, the American lost his temper, picked up the poodle and threw it out the window.

An elderly englishman who was sitting across the compartment looked at the American soldier and said, "You Americans do everything wrong. You drive on the wrong side of the road, you eat with the wrong hand and now you've thrown the wrong bitch out of the window!"



Washing the Dog

An eight year old boy walks into the local grocery store and picked out a large box of laundry detergent.

The grocer walked over, and trying to be friendly, asked the boy if he had a lot of laundry to do.

Oh, not laundry, I'm going to wash my dog! said the boy.

But you shouldn't use this to wash your dog. It's very powerful detergent and if you wash your dog in this, he'll get sick. In fact, it could even kill him.

But the boy was not to be stopped and carried the detergent to the counter and paid for it. The grocer continued to try to convince the boy but it was no use. The young boy's mind was made up.

About a week later the boy was back in the store to buy some candy. The grocer approached the boy and asked him how his dog was doing.

Oh, he died, the boy said sadly.

I'm so sorry son, I tried to warn you that the detergent could kill your dog.

Well, the boy replied, It wasn't the detergent that killed him.

The grocer was a bit relieved. Oh? What was it then? he asked.

Mom said it was probably the spin cycle.

the diet of breeding dogs would likely cause no harm and may indeed benefit a matings chance of success.

Of course eliminating flaxseed oil from a dog's diet may prove problematic since it is an ubiquitous additive (we found it in one of our Coton's favorite treats, Canidae Gourmet Snap-Bites, and in Merrick kibble as well as Bi-Nature Organics kibble). However, we have not seen any consistent reduction in litter size or puppy vigor here at Alika Cotons. This, too, is a single anecdote, not a conclusion of a scientific study!

If flaxseed oil is found to actually cause breeding difficulties, it probably does so because some of the chemical components of flaxseed oil do mimic the actions of hormones (it is classified as a phytoestrogen). Flaxseed oil is known to increase bleeding by decreasing clotting. In fact, the PDR for Nutritional Supplements, Medical Economic, Thompson Healthcare, Montvale, NJ, 2001, p. 151, states that "women who are pregnant should not use supplemental flaxseed oil or flaxseed because of the theoretical possibility that these lignan-containing substances might induce menstruation."

THERE'S A TIME AND A PLACE FOR EVERYTHING

Well, maybe not everything, but I do want to emphasize that flaxseed oil is not a toxin and may, in fact be highly beneficial to your dog or cat as a means of acquiring essential, beneficial fatty acids. Yet not every beneficial food is beneficial all the time, and flaxseed oil may be harmful to reproduction. Think of this as you might regard milk: it is essential pre-weaning but very problematic post-weaning. Having said that, I should note that one of my favorite food groups is Coffee Ice Cream and I am many decades post weaning!

Event Calendar

CLUB EVENTS

Augusta Kennel Club Dog Show, Obedience & Rally Trial, Perry, GA – Friday, April 11, 2008.

AREA EVENTS

The Greater Columbia Obedience Club is hosting AKC Obedience and Rally Seminars on February 9 & 10, 2008. Obedience will be on Saturday, and Rally on Sunday. Registration deadline is Jan 15, 2008. For more information, contact Sharon Crossman at (803) 364-2882, sdcrossman@lycos.com, or Phyllis Beasley, at (803) 926-8806, MeAndMyPez@aol.com.

Sandlapper Golden Retriever Club is hosting Dr. Carmen Battaglia's Breeding Better Dogs seminar on March 1 & 2, 2008. The seminar will be held at Connie Cleveland's Dog Trainer's Workshop in Fountain Inn, SC. Registration fee is \$150, due by February 20th. For more information, contact Kris Anderson, ylwreddogs@comporium.net.

Newnan Kennel Club is hosting an All Breed, Obedience & Rally Match on Saturday, February 23, 2008 at Coweta County Fairgrounds in Newnan, GA. Pre-entries, \$5, Day of Match, \$7, Juniors, Free. Pre-entries will be accepted until Feb. 18. For more information, contact Joni Smith at (770) 716-5972 or by e-mail at wksmith@bellsouth.net.

Want to know what our club is up to? Check out the event calendar on our website at 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.

Braggs

Carol Cox's *Gucci* placed 1st & 3rd in Lure Coursing at Calhoun, GA.

Sara Martin's *Ch. SCESS' No Trouble At All* finished his AKC Championship!

Congratulations to our members and their dogs on their accomplishments!



Sleeping Dragons: Hereditary Disease and Breeder Ethics

*First published in Double Helix Network News, Volume III No. 1/Winter 1995
by C.A. Sharp*

The world of purebred dogs rests on the shoulders of (two) sleeping dragons. The stockman in his pasture, the exhibitor in the ring and the breeder beside the whelping box feel the earth shudder when either is aroused.

One of these dragons-hereditary disease - seems to have taken a heavy dose of caffeine. Breeders find themselves faced with a growing list of ills. The situation has become so serious that it has caught the attention of the general public, resulting in major stories in the mainstream press and electronic media. The second dragon-breeder ethics-is sleeping far too soundly. He could bring his fractious brother under control if we would only find the alarm to arouse him.

That alarm is ethics. Until individual dog breeders and those who promote and encourage their activities-the breed clubs and registries-begin to do more than pay lip-service to ethics, that second dragon will never wake.

The registries hold up their hands, insisting hereditary disease control is the province of breeders. If the largest of them-the AKC-can go to the trouble of fighting one breeder's efforts to register a healthy black Airedale (a color which could occur as the result of a single mutation of the recessive gene for tan trim into its dominant form for solid black), why can't it make an effort to halt the breeding of animals with major heritable diseases? If the AKC wanted to, it could. And so could all its smaller cousins.

Just one example of what a registry can do is the International Sheep Dog Society's control policy for Central Progressive Retinal Atrophy. In the early 70's, there was a 14% incidence of CPRA in Britain. Two decades later only three dogs in 2000 were diagnosed with the disease.

The registry accomplished this by requiring that dogs entered in competition be examined. They published the results, whether clear or affected. They also reworked their fee structure so a pup whose parents had clear eye exams cost less to register than one with only one examined parent, and less still than one with neither parent examined.

While such a program would be much more complex for a multi-breed registry or when a single breed has multiple problems, the explosion of computer technology makes excuses based on the burden of record-keeping weak at best.

Breed Clubs tout themselves as guardians of all that is precious in their breeds. Most, if not all, have codes of ethics. But codes of ethics tend to be toothless documents that get dusted off and waved about only when a club is accused of not having addressed an ethical issue.

Codes of ethics ought to have sharp teeth, but this is not enough. Breed clubs should spend a lot more time and money educating their members and the public about the hereditary problems in their breeds, and on funding research on those problems.

No single entity will be more aware of what a breed's genetic drawbacks are than a breed club. It is in an excellent position to monitor those which have already been identified and look out for new ones. Someone needs to bring the attention of the veterinary community to specific breed concerns. Who better to do so than the organizations that allegedly exist for the protection and improvement of those breeds?

In a pilot program, The Golden Retriever Club of America, with AKC's cooperation, distributed informational pamphlets describing the hereditary problems of the breed and how to test for them, to everyone who registered a Golden, thereby by-passing pet stores and irresponsible breeders. If GRCA can do it, so can others.

Which brings us to the breeders themselves. Every person who puts dog to bitch should do so only with the intention of producing puppies as good as or better than their parents. Dogs with hereditary disease, however beautiful or intelligent, are not better. It is unethical to produce them, it is unethical to foist them off on other breeders. It is even worse to dump them on unsuspecting non-breeding owners or overseas breeders too new to a breed to know its problems.

Virtually all serious breeders, including those who baldly state that their only goal is to win, will make some effort to clear breeding stock, especially studs, for generally recognized problems. Most do it out of a feeling of responsibility; some do it only because no one would breed to their studs if they didn't. Peer pressure can be a wonderful thing.

Genetic screening must become much more rigorous. If a disease can be tested for before a puppy leaves the breeder it should be, whether the puppy is bound for a breeding home or not.

All breeding and performance animals should be tested for other diseases as soon as they are old enough. If multiple exams are required to assure that the animal is clear of disease, those tests/exams should be repeated as often as current veterinary science dictates.

If a dog has a disease it should not be bred. Its parents, offspring, and near kin should be bred only with caution, especially when specific carrier animals cannot be identified.

All this testing is only half of what breeders must do. They must also communicate. Failure to disclose hereditary disease is as unethical as lying about it, but the pressure to "shoot, shovel and shut-up" is intense.

Many years ago I acquired my first show dog. Like most novices, I was highly influenced by the breeder from whom I got that dog. I owed the breeder a puppy back by a stud of her choice. My bitch had a preliminary OFA of her hips at a year of age and was bred at 18 months.

I booked her to a stud I wanted for the following year. After she was two, I had her permanent OFA done. She failed.

The first thing I did was call the breeder. She told me the bitch should not be bred again, to which I agreed. But she went on to tell me that I should tell no one about what was wrong with the bitch. It would damage her reputation. I would damage mine (I had kept a pup from the first litter). It would also damage the reputation of the (unrelated) stud to whom she had been bred. I respected this woman. Everything I knew about dogs, she had taught me.

I spayed my bitch and called the owner of the stud to whom I had booked her, making a lame excuse for the cancellation. I could tell from the woman's tone of voice that she didn't buy what I was saying. I felt dirty.

Not coincidentally, the sire of my bitch was a half-brother to the dog which founded a line which was-and still is-known for problems with hip dysplasia.

The conspiracy of silence, of which this episode is but one small example, promotes the spread of hereditary disease while attempting to hide it.

Another example is the case of a breeder who wrote a letter to a breed magazine, stating that she had discovered her stud dog was a carrier of Collie Eye Anomaly. They had placed the dog in a pet home. She was vilified for having spoken out. Perhaps the most astounding criticism came from a man who blasted her in the magazine's letter column for her terrible treatment of her dog. The animal was alive and healthy, living in a home where he was appreciated, but since this man's letter appeared in a different issue than the breeder's original announcement, readers who missed it would have to assume something terrible had happened to the dog. So rumors grow.

Urging people to lie, intimidating them into silence, even threatening them, is not ethical behavior. Not for breeders any more than anyone else. Nor is it ethical to heap scorn and ridicule upon those who exhibit the moral courage to be open about hereditary disease.

The twin dragons continue their slumber, one half-waking and the other half-deaf to the world. It is up to the registries, the clubs and the breeders to still the one and sound the alarm that will rouse the other.



American Kennel Club News

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE JANUARY AKC BOARD MEETING

Extended Dog Name on Registration Application

The Extended Dog Name pilot program, begins February 1, 2008. This pilot program will allow a person to register a dog with a name of 37 to 50 spaces for an additional introductory fee of \$10.00. Currently name choices are restricted to 36 spaces.

Growth in Conformation Events

The Board reviewed an AKC Staff overview on the increased number of AKC conformation events held annually. There was a discussion concerning the perception by some in the fancy that the increased number of events is excessive and has resulted in a loss of entries for many shows, a wider dispersion of quality competition over more events, and more AKC championships, lessening the value of the title. The report presented information addressing both sides of the issue and alternative policies governing the accreditation of show clubs and the approval of clubs. This will be discussed further at a future meeting.

Size of AKC's Governing Body

The Board reviewed a staff report addressing the continually expanding size of AKC's Delegate body. Staff presented alternative proposals to address the current and projected rate of growth. This will be discussed further at a future meeting.

Japanese Akitas

Based on a Board request, Staff presented a report on the division of the Akita breed into two breeds based on type; the American type and the Japanese type. The Akita is registered as two different breeds (American type and Japanese type) in all major countries except the United States and Canada. Based upon input from the Akita Club of America, no action is to be taken at this time concerning the status of the breed in the United States.

Rules Applying to Dog Shows - Chapter 11, Section 8

The Board reviewed a staff proposal to codify the current Board policies on "Change of appearance by artificial means" to include the use of drugs and other substances. This will be discussed further at the February Board meeting.

Approval Requirements for Obedience Judges

The Board reviewed a request from the AKC Executive Obedience Field Staff which was approved by the AKC Delegate Committee for Obedience, Tracking, Agility and Rally. The request is to change the approval requirements for obedience judging applicants to require that a judge complete a minimum of ten (10) assignments with at least one hundred fifty (150) dogs competing in total. Exceptions to the above proposed requirements would be made for Alaska, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico. Exceptions would be based on applicants from these areas, having completed a minimum of seven (7) assignments with at least one hundred (100) dogs competing overall. A minimum of two (2) satisfactory observations would still be required for each level of judging to be approved. This will be considered further in February for a possible vote.

FSS

AKC Staff presented a proposal, which would allow dogs that do not have a complete three-generation pedigree at the time the breed becomes AKC registrable, to continue to be eligible breeding stock by being recorded in the AKC Foundation Stock Service. Dogs lacking complete three-generation pedigrees would continue to be eligible to be used as breeding stock during the Open Registration dates set at the time the breed is approved for regular status. The progeny of these dogs with complete three-generation pedigrees will be converted to AKC registration. This will be considered for a vote at the February 2008 meeting.

Three breeds were recently approved into the FSS program: Jindo, Wirehaired Vizsla, Eurasier

The following breeds meet the minimum requirements for a FSS breed to compete in Companion Events and will be added to the list of breeds eligible to compete in Companion Events effective July 1, 2008: Bolognese, Karelian Bear Dog, Kishu Ken, and Stabyhoun.

Society for the Preservation of the Desert Bred Saluki

Based on a Board request, the Staff presented an update on Salukis registered with the AKC through the Society for the Preservation of the Desert Bred Saluki. Since the inception of the program in 2001, a total of 72 dogs have been registered by AKC with a three-generation pedigree from SPDBS. These 72 dogs have produced 7 litters, which have resulted in 23 additional AKC registered dogs.

Conditional Doberman Pinscher Registrations

The Board reviewed a request from the Doberman Pinscher Club of America to include the "Z" used to designate dogs that might have the white color gene, for any Doberman Pinscher registered under the Conditional Registration Policy as well as their progeny. This will be discussed further at the February 2008 meeting.

Rules Applying to Dog Shows - Specific Fee References

The Board reviewed a request made by the Delegates' Dog Show Rules Committee. The committee voted to remove any mention of specific fees from the Rules Applying to Dog Shows, since the setting of fees is a responsibility of the Board of Directors. The specific fee amount in the Rules would be replaced with the wording "an appropriate fee." This would apply to specific monetary fees in Ch 2, Section 1, Ch 2, Section 13, Ch 11, Section 2, and Ch 17, Section 2 of the Rules Applying to Dog Shows. It was also recommended that an insert listing fees set by Board policy could be included to provide the current appropriate fee structure. This will be discussed further in February.

Judging Contracts

Based on a request from the Board, AKC Staff presented proposed amendments to Chapter 4, Section 1, and to Chapter 7, Section 13, of the Rules Applying to Dog Shows, that would differentiate between a letter of "intent to hire", and a judging contract, and that would prohibit a club from removing provisional breeds from a judge without the judge's permission even if that was the breed with the smallest entry. This will be considered further in February for a possible vote.

Continuing Education for Conformation Judges

AKC Staff presented a proposal to add a continuing education requirement for approved dog show judges. It was pointed out that currently continuing education and/or recertification is required of AKC judges, in one or more event, in every venue except conformation. Staff was directed to explore possible delivery systems, e.g. online, and to report back to the Board. This will be discussed further in February.

Club Services

The Board discussed taking advantage of a fully integrated data base for enhanced use by AKC and clubs. ISD will prepare a report of the current data base capabilities in this area for the Board.

Delegate Meetings

The Board approved the following dates and locations for 2009 Delegate Meetings:

March 9-10, 2009	Monday-Tuesday	New York area
June 8-9, 2009	Monday-Tuesday	Raleigh, North Carolina
*September		New York area
December 14-15, 2009	Monday Tuesday	Long Beach, California

*As the second Tuesday is the day after Labor Day in 2009, the meeting will be the following week. In February, the Board will determine if it is to be Sunday/Monday or Monday/Tuesday.

RANKING OF TOP 20 AKC BREEDS				
BREED	2007	2006	2002	1997
Retrievers (Labrador)	1	1	1	1
Yorkshire Terriers	2	2	6	9
German Shepherd Dogs	3	3	3	3
Retrievers (Golden)	4	4	2	4
Beagles	5	5	4	6
Boxers	6	7	7	13
Dachshunds	7	6	5	7
Poodles	8	8	8	5
Shih Tzu	9	9	10	11
Bulldogs	10	12	18	26
Miniature Schnauzers	11	10	11	14
Chihuahuas	12	11	9	12
Pomeranians	13	14	12	10
Pugs	14	13	14	19
Rottweilers	15	17	13	2
Boston Terriers	16	15	17	20
Spaniels (Cocker)	17	16	15	8
Pointers (German Shorthaired)	18	19	22	24
Maltese	19	18	20	21
Shetland Sheepdogs	20	20	16	15

See You At The January Meeting!