



The Augusta Kennel Club

an AKC Member Club

NEWSLETTER

July 2007



AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB™

In This Issue

Fall Show & Match Update	1
Meeting Highlights	1
Kibbles & Bits	1
Article: Cool Ideas for Summer	2
Event Calendar	3
Braggs	3
AKC News.....	4
Article: Two Left Turns	6
Article: Lifetime Dog	8
2007 Membership List	Insert

Board & Officers

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

"Ever consider what they must think of us? I mean, here we come back from a grocery store with the most amazing haul- chicken, pork, half a cow. They must think we're the greatest hunters on earth!"

~Anne Tyler



Fall Show & Match Update

Time sure does fly! The Fall show is only 3 short months away!

AKC has approved the show & obedience trial, the rally trial and the match. Judging panels have also been approved.

Premium list revisions have been submitted to MB-F.

We have a wonderful line-up of Judges for the Fall show:

JUDGING PANEL

Ms. Marleen Burford, Atlanta, GA

Obedience (Utility & Open), Boston Terriers & Bulldogs

Mrs. Jean Fournier, Calhoun, GA

Best in Show, Non-Sporting Breeds (except Boston Terriers & Bulldogs) Working Breeds (except Samoyeds & Siberians)

Mrs. Myron (Corky) Gauger, Perry, GA

Non-Sporting Group, Toy Breeds/Group

Ms. Helen W. Gleason, Hudson, FL

Herding Breeds/Group, Miscellaneous Breeds, Juniors

Ms. Annette Howe, Charleston, SC

Rally (Novice, Advanced & Excellent), Obedience (Novice)

Dr. Harry Smith, Durham, NC

Terrier Breeds/Group, Samoyeds & Siberians, Working Group, Hound Breeds/Group, Sporting Breeds/Group

From the Last Meeting

- Half of the Dogsteps DVD was shown. General comments from those watching were that this is excellent information. The remainder of the DVD will be shown at a later meeting.
- Both the Hippodrome and Julian Smith Casino Ball Field are unavailable for the ATTS test on Saturday, October 20th. Other dates and locations are being explored.
- Ballots for the winner of the AKC Outstanding Sportsmanship Award were cast, and the winner will be announced at the Summer party in July. Nominees for the award were Carol Cox, Toni Reese, Sarah Prince and Nancy Kille. Congratulations to all four nominees! We know you are ALL outstanding sportsmen!
- Condolences to Angie Hubbard on the loss of "Lillie", Burch Grant's Tiger-Lillie CDX.

Kibbles & Bits

Q. What is the difference between an A/OA match and a B/OB match?

A. The AKC requires clubs to hold A/OA matches to establish a club's eligibility to hold Dog Shows & Obedience Trials. A/OA matches are more formal than fun matches, or B/OB matches, and must closely resemble a licensed show. In an A/OA match, no corrections or additional run-throughs are allowed in rally and in obedience, and conformation classes must conform to AKC rules. Exhibiting in an A/OA match helps the show giving club complete its requirements to move towards show giving status, and creates additional shows & trials in the area.



Dog Days of Summer

IDEAS TO KEEP YOU & YOUR DOG CHILLIN'

By Audrey Bye

On one of the e-lists I am on, someone asked for ideas on how to keep dogs cool at outdoor summer events. Personally, I don't tolerate heat well and neither do my dogs, since they are kept inside in the A/C during the summer months. I sent a list of ideas for keeping yourself and your dogs cool, and thought others might find this list of suggestions useful.

Some ideas to help keep your dogs and yourself cool:

1. I have a portable rechargeable power source that I can take with me to shows to plug in a floor fan, crate fan, or other small electrical appliances. It will also boost a dead battery, inflate a flat tire, recharge a cell phone, has a built in flashlight and the unit will quickly recharge from a vehicle DC plug. I got it from Amazon.com as they had the best prices, and free shipping. It's made by Xantrex.
2. I take a cooler full of ice water with me wherever I go with my dogs in the summer. The ice melts, but the cooler will keep the dog's water icy cold all day.
3. Use space blankets to deflect sun and heat off crates and vehicles. You can buy shade cloth inexpensively in sizes large enough to cover vehicles from greenhouse supply stores like Envirocept Greenhouses. (<http://www.greenhouses-etc.net>).
4. Refill empty plastic soda bottles with water and freeze them. Place them around the edges inside your dog's crate and they can lie against them to keep cool. When the ice melts, you also have cold drinking water for both you and your dogs. Freeze them well ahead as it takes a full 24 hours for them to freeze solid.
5. You can make your own reusable and inexpensive ice packs by filling heavy gauge Ziploc freezer bags with a mixture of water and rubbing alcohol. The alcohol prevents the ice packs from freezing solid. The more alcohol you use, the less solid the ice pack will be. When a dog get too warm, hold an ice pack to their belly and to the bottoms of their paws to bring down their body temp. Dogs sweat through their paws and this cools them down fast.
6. It's easy to make cooler bandanas and cool mats for yourself and your dogs using polymer crystals, and there are instructions for making these at several sites on the web. You can also buy them, but they are inexpensive and so easy to make, plus if they get soiled, they are easy to replace. You can buy the crystals at garden stores, but from personal experience, I suggest buying them online from Watersorb. Their medium polymer crystals have the dust removed, which prevents the mat or bandana from "sweating" sticky polymer when you use it. (http://www.watersorb.com/polymer_cool_neck_bands.htm). A site with instructions on how to make bandanas and dog mats is at <http://www.crystals.us/CICoolTies.htm>. These also make good fund raisers for dog events.
7. Cooler coats work to cool your dog by evaporation. The chamois coat is soaked in water, and as the coat dries, it cools the surrounding air. <http://www.pettemp.com/05koolcoatmain/index.htm>
8. Pet Edge makes a nifty crate fan with a cooler insert that works like old fashioned air conditioning. The insert is frozen, then snapped onto the back of the crate fan. When the fan is turned on, it draws air over the ice pack and cools it. You can buy additional cooler packs for long days in the heat and keep them "charged" in a cooler.
9. For yourself, get a spray bottle, fill it with ice water, and keep it in your cooler. A spritz of ice cold water on your face feels fabulous when you are hot!

Hope some of these ideas help you be cool!!

Augusta Kennel Club, July 2007

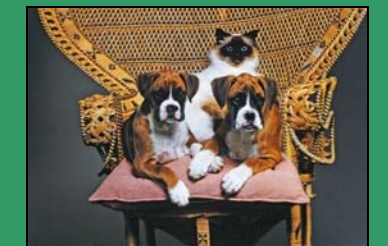
TOP 10 REASONS TO BREED DOGS

10. Thought the house was too orderly
9. Never did like having a full nights sleep
8. Wanted my Vet to get a new BMW
7. Thought the furniture looked too nice
6. Love the sounds of puppies in the morning, noon, afternoon, evening, midnight, pre-dawn, etc.
5. Garden and backyard needed renovations, and didn't want to pay a gardener.
4. Neighbors didn't complain enough
3. Kids weren't enough of a challenge
2. If you can train & show one dog, why not ten
1. Wanted to see if spouse really meant those vows



"In order to keep a true perspective of one's importance, everyone should have a dog that will worship him and a cat that will ignore him."

~ Derek Bruce



Event Calendar

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be our Annual Summer Party, to be held on Wednesday, July 11, 2007, 6:30 PM at Logans Roadhouse in the Augusta Exchange Shopping Center. All members are welcome, and may bring guests. The dinner is Dutch Treat. RSVP to Carol Cox at (706) 737-4464, or rhapsodywhippets@comcast.net.

AREA EVENTS

Jae-Mar-S Academy of Dog Obedience will be hosting obedience run throughs at the school on Saturday, June 30, 2007. An informal rally course and agility equipment will also be set up, along with CGC testing and a BBQ lunch. The event is being held to raise funds for William McClure & his dog Ari to travel to Slovakia later this year to represent the USA at the World WUSV Championship. William & Ari are one of our own, and 1 of only 3 teams (out of 7,000 teams!) to qualify for the GSDCA-WDA team. For more info or to make a donation, contact Marlene Stachowiak at (706) 863-3737, or by e-mail at jaemars@knology.net.

Connie & Brian Cleveland will be conducting a 2 day Theory & Problem Solving Workshop on June 30-July 1 at the Dog Trainer's Workshop in Fountain Inn, SC. Cost \$245, workshop limited to 16 attendees. For more information, visit their website at <http://dogtrainersworkshop.com>.

The Dog Obedience Club of Greenville will be hosting obedience run throughs on Saturday, July 14, 2007 at the Dog Trainer's Workshop in Fountain Inn, SC. For more information on this event, contact Demi Osborn (864)232-4526 whis2@bellsouth.net or Barb Mina (864)268-0824 bfmina@charter.net.

The Charleston Kennel Club & The Charleston Dog Training Club will be hosting a B/OB/R Match on Sunday, July 15, 2007 at the Exchange Park Fairgrounds in Ladson, SC. All profits from this event go to benefit the Military Pets Foster Project. For more info, click [here](#), or visit the Charleston Kennel Club website.

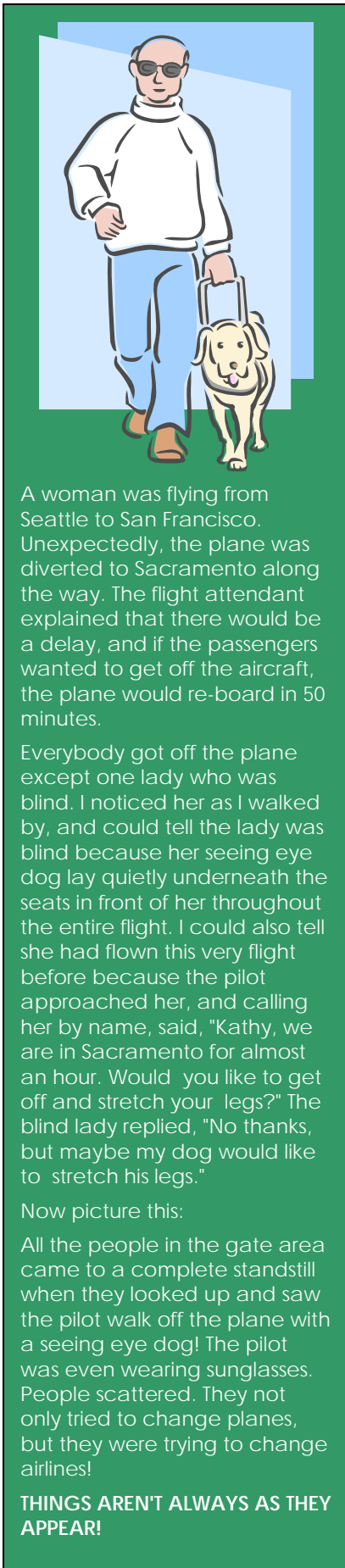
Western Carolina Dog Fanciers Assn. will be hosting their 2nd A/OA/Rally Match on Sunday, July 15 at the Ramsey Regional Activity Center in Cullowhee, NC. Pre-entries are required for this event (\$6) and the match closes Wednesday, July 11. For a premium list or more information, contact the match secretary, Nancy Davis at (828)627-2093 or by e-mail at crecomforts@bellsouth.net

The Carolina Canine Obedience Assn. (CCOA) will be hosting an obedience seminar with Kathryn Willis at the Piedmont Kennel Club Building, Charlotte, NC, on November 3 & 4, 2007. Both working & auditing spots will be offered. The club is offering an early bird discount for registration & payment by August 1. For more info, e-mail Chris Jafarkhani at igvinnie@yahoo.com.

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 Stantiford's Izzy (Am Staff) whelped 8 pups!
- 🐾 Sara Prince's Chance (Boston Terrier) went Winners Dog, Best of Winners and Best of Breed from the 6-9 months class over 2 days!
- 🐾 Angie Hubbard & Niko (Dachshund) Q'd for their 1st and 2nd Rally Novice legs on Mother's Day weekend in Columbia!
- 🐾 Bob & Diane Perry's Grace (Scottie) had a great time in Perry in the 12-18 month class!
- 🐾 Sara Martin's co-owned Piper (English Springer Spaniel) finished his Rally Novice title!
- 🐾 Terry Dickey's dogs (Australian Shepherds) cleaned up at the nationals! Too many awards to list, but there were wins & placements in breed, herding and rally!



A woman was flying from Seattle to San Francisco. Unexpectedly, the plane was diverted to Sacramento along the way. The flight attendant explained that there would be a delay, and if the passengers wanted to get off the aircraft, the plane would re-board in 50 minutes.

Everybody got off the plane except one lady who was blind. I noticed her as I walked by, and could tell the lady was blind because her seeing eye dog lay quietly underneath the seats in front of her throughout the entire flight. I could also tell she had flown this very flight before because the pilot approached her, and calling her by name, said, "Kathy, we are in Sacramento for almost an hour. Would you like to get off and stretch your legs?" The blind lady replied, "No thanks, but maybe my dog would like to stretch his legs."

Now picture this:

All the people in the gate area came to a complete standstill when they looked up and saw the pilot walk off the plane with a seeing eye dog! The pilot was even wearing sunglasses. People scattered. They not only tried to change planes, but they were trying to change airlines!

THINGS AREN'T ALWAYS AS THEY APPEAR!

- 🐾 Georgie Blackburn & Chili (Australian Shepherd) placed 5th for MVA at the National Specialty, and made the cut for Best of Breed!
- 🐾 Audrey Bye and Max (Rottweiler) earned their first leg in Open with a 4th place finish!
- 🐾 Terri Jenkins and Peyton (Shih Tzu) placed 2nd in the 12-18 month class at their National Specialty and went Best of Winners at two shows and Winners Dog at two shows in May!
- 🐾 Debbie Metts and Batman & Birdie earned their Junior Hunter titles!

Congratulations to all of our members and their dogs on their accomplishments!

American Kennel Club News



VETERINARY & CLUB RELATIONS

AKC has asked its clubs to get more involved with vet schools, vet tech programs, and their local veterinarians to foster a better relationship and understanding between the veterinary community and the purebred dog fancy.

Some of the recent dog legislation that has been introduced across the country has had a serious impact on the sport of purebred dogs (i.e. mandatory spay/neuter laws, breed bans, anti-tethering, etc.), and has received support from state veterinary associations and veterinary groups within the community.

New anti-dog laws in cities like Louisville have reduced entries by over 30%, and threaten major AKC events like the Eukanuba Invitational in Long Beach California.

The Augusta Kennel Club challenges its members to come up with creative ways to engage the veterinary community of the CSRA on becoming better informed on the sport of purebred dogs. Please bring your ideas to future meetings, and invite your veterinarian to attend a club meeting or event.

CONDITIONAL REGISTRATION

The AKC's DNA programs have resulted in an unprecedented level of accuracy to the AKC registry by evaluating the parentage of many AKC dogs and litters. However, for that very small percentage of registered dogs that are found, often years after birth, to have an unknown ancestor, the AKC has canceled the registration.



To maintain genetic diversity, improve customer relations, and still maintain the accuracy of the registry, the Board of Directors approved the concept to allow the issuing of *Conditional* registration certificates and pedigrees, rather than canceling the registrations of a dog, all of its littermates and all of their progeny in these cases.

This concept was discussed at the September 2005 Delegate Meeting where AKC's Consultant on DNA Science and Technology Dr. Elaine Ostrander recommended its implementation.

What is a Conditional Registration and Pedigree?

When unknown parentage is indicated via DNA testing, the status of the registration will be downgraded to "conditional" until a three generation pedigree is established. "Unknown" will be noted on the registration or pedigree for the ancestor in question. This will only occur in cases where the dogs are believed to be purebred, but a registered parent is found to be incorrect.

The documents will have a different colored border and will be clearly labeled as Conditional. Also, a new registration number will be issued so that people familiar with AKC registration numbers can tell at a glance that the registration is different. For example, a dog initially registered as TN123456/01 would be registered with Conditional registration as QT123456/01. Thus, these dogs will be clearly noted as Conditional by their registration number, similar to the 'Z' used in the registration number for descendants of white Doberman Pinschers. In addition, the word "Conditional" will be boldly stated on the registration certificate which will have a yellow border (compared to purple for standard registrations or orange for limited).

Why is this measure being adopted?

AKC continues to collect a rapidly growing number of DNA samples. By the close of 2006, the AKC had more than 425,000 DNA profiles from 196 AKC and FSS breeds in its database.

With our Frequently Used Sires requirement, many dogs are DNA profiled when they are three or four years old and have sired seven or more litters. AKC evaluates their parentage, and if incorrect parentage is found, it is sometimes not possible to determine the correct parentage of the litter because a potential sire is deceased or unable to be located. Currently, in these cases the registrations of the litter and its members and their offspring are canceled. A single case of an unknown sire can result in the cancellation of hundreds of AKC registrations. The negative reaction, especially from owners who registered their dog with AKC only to later have it canceled, is very damaging to AKC's image.

Again, it is important to note that Conditional registration is only to be issued in cases where the dog appears and is believed to be purebred – it is just that one of the dog’s ancestors is unknown.

Why are Conditional Pedigrees considered the solution?

The AKC Board, staff, and Dr. Elaine Ostrander (consultant to AKC on DNA science and technology issues) have carefully and thoroughly considered this issue, weighing the benefits and drawbacks to various solutions.

In her September 2005 address to the Delegate Body, Dr. Ostrander recommended that AKC adopt this solution to allow for informed breeder decisions while maintaining a large population for genetic diversity.

The conclusion reached by all is that totally removing purebred dogs from the gene pool may not be the best thing for the breed populations or for AKC’s relationship with dog owners. By fully disclosing the incident of unknown parentage, breeders and dog owners can make their own, informed opinions about whether or not they will buy or breed a certain dog.

Will the registrations ever revert to Full?

Current policy for introducing breeds into the AKC registry requires a three-generation pedigree on each dog. This policy will also apply to dogs when an “unknown” dog is found in its pedigree based on a failed DNA test. After three generations of DNA-profiled parents, the registrations will revert to Full for the litter in the fourth generation. Returning to full registration after three generations of verified parentage is also in line with the acceptance of imported dogs with three generation pedigrees from the country of origin.

Can these dogs be bred?

If both sire and dam have AKC DNA profiles, the litter may be registered. Litters already registered when the registration is converted will be changed to Conditional status.

What about event participation?

A dog with Conditional registration may participate in any event in which ILP dogs may participate. They may not participate in Conformation events or Field Trials, and titles previously earned in these events will be removed from the dog’s record. In the fourth generation of DNA-profiled parentage, the registration will revert to Full and the dog may participate in any AKC event.

Is the breeder penalized?

The discipline policies have not changed. When incorrect parentage is discovered via compulsory DNA programs, such as the Frequently Used Sires requirement or the Compliance Audit Program, the breeder is subject to a graduated schedule of penalties. When the DNA is on file on a voluntary basis, discipline is not applied.

What about dogs which are not purebred?

Conditional registration is only for dogs that appear to be purebred and had full AKC registration prior to the DNA exclusions being found. If the dogs in question do not appear to be purebred, an impure breeding complaint can be made to the Impure Breeding Committee, which will open an inquiry and take appropriate action.

Will the new mixed-breed DNA test be employed in determining Conditional status?

No. These new DNA tests are designed to determine the primary and secondary genetic heritage of mixed breed dogs, not to certify whether or not a dog is purebred. The AKC believes that the best way to determine parentage of a dog is still based on AKC’s long-standing DNA program and AKC does not intend to use these tests to evaluate a dog’s status as purebred. The AKC has long had procedures in place to deal with cases of impure breeding and will continue to use this method in dealing with any matters concerning the parentage of AKC registered dogs. AKC will, however, maintain positive contact with the laboratories offering breed identification testing, and may incorporate some of these techniques as a tool in registration inquiries in the future.

How will this affect the integrity of the AKC studbook?

A dog or bitch is listed in the AKC studbook after their first litter is registered. If a dog with Conditional registration (noted with the letter designation Q in the AKC registration number) appears in the studbook, it will help breeders quickly identify incomplete pedigrees. Having this tool will alert breeders that a Conditional dog has remained in its breed’s gene pool.

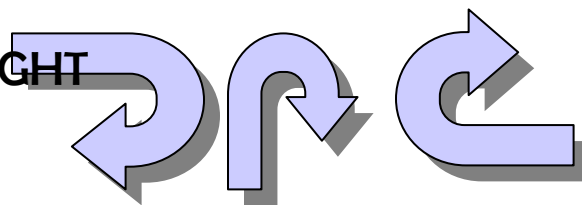
Will Conditional Litters be eligible for advertising in AKC’s Online Breeder Classifieds?

Yes, but the litter listing will note that the litter has Conditional registration, with a link for more information.



TWO LEFT TURNS DON'T MAKE IT RIGHT

By Dr. Al Grossman



For the past five years, part of which I spent as an AKC Delegate, I have seen AKC inadvertently shoot itself in the proverbial foot. The PAWS legislation, which tore the fancy apart, and the “clandestine” approach to the agreement with the Petland Pet store chain come immediately to mind.

During this period PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) and the HSUS (Humane Society of the United States) turned themselves into a powerful legislative juggernaut backed by millions of dollars that were milked from a gullible public and have become a royal PITA (Pain in the Ass). AKC was slow to recognize their growing influence and has suffered the consequences,

Three major tsunamis occurred during this time to create a perfect storm for AKC and the world of purebred dogs. First was the expansion of leisure time and the phenomenal growth of the recreation industry. Many different opportunities arose for leisure time activities from Little League baseball to the explosion of the cruise industry. The cadres of die-hard fanciers stopped growing as the next generation found other pursuits more interesting and challenging. Breed and All Breed clubs began to wither and die on the vine as few new members were to be found.

A growing number of entrepreneurs saw an opportunity to make a fast buck from the growing pet dog population by starting “registration” bodies and issuing a piece of paper stating “Your dog is now registered with God All Mighty Kennel Club” – no need for a stud book, inspections, DNA testing or whatever. You now have a purebred dog registered on the cheap. With a PC and a printer you too can become a registration body. Just print the meaningless document and collect the dough.

At last count, AKC had 26 competitors in the registration business. For many years the only “real” competitor was the United Kennel Club. At least they maintained a stud book, published magazines, and held dog shows. Everyone could live with such legitimate competition.

Interestingly enough the number of homes with dogs as pets has increased as AKC registrations dropped. The registrations of AKC began a steady decline as people either were not convinced of the value of registering a dog with AKC or were deceived by effective advertising and promotion to register with other bodies. Of course, it did not help that many puppy mills, discouraged by AKC’s growing number of stringent rules about inspections, frequent sires’ DNA confirmation, and emphasis on health and good animal husbandry, turned away from the AKC bureaucracy and created their own registration bodies, which for them simplified their registrations and cost them less money. The new registration bodies were able to promote these “new” registration entities to the pet shops, which sold their products, by giving them kickbacks.

Some of these entrepreneurs also found another gold mine. They helped foster the breeding and promotion of so-called “designer dogs.” CockaPoos, Labradoodles, Puggles and the like began to be the “in” thing for the unsophisticated public. Eureka, another vein to mine.

Now along came the most vicious threat to the sport of purebred dogs – the resurgence of the Animal Rights Movement. This is a movement so insidious that it grows like a cancer. An unhealthy amalgamation of extreme environmentalists, Greens, Greenpeace, ALF, PETA, HSUS, etc., has learned to prey upon weakened institutions like a bunch of jackals. It appeals to the young and idealistic who are seeking a cause to give meaning to their lives. They practice all of the techniques of cults and give them a philosophy of veganism, environmentalism and radicalism. Upset the status quo, be in the forefront of a new movement, change the universe and you will be part of the new chosen ones, is their motto. This has high appeal to impressionable young people and is a message as old as time now supported by money, advertising and hucksterism.

These people have become dangerous. They have destroyed facilities using animals for research. They have killed and maimed animals in their quest for the new nirvana. They have harassed researchers and others involved in vital medical research. Lastly, and most telling, they have learned the art and skill of manipulating legislative bodies. With their huge cache of money, they have been able to mount punitive anti-dog legislation in city after city and state after state. The punitive, anti-dog legislation in Louisville, Kentucky shows that the inmates have taken over the asylum.

Many years ago, when I was the publisher of Doral Publishing, Patti and Rod Strand came to me about publishing a book exposing the takeover of the Animal Humane movement by groups of fanatics. We published it under the title THE HIJACKING OF THE HUMANE MOVEMENT. It was a great critical success. As a result of its publication, I received a number of death threats, but I also got to participate in the founding of NAIA (National Animal Interest Alliance) and served on its first Board of Directors.

As I became more and more concerned about this insidious cancer, I approached AKC to take some affirmative action against these fanatics. I got plaudits for my writings but the powers-that-be at AKC indicated that the situation wasn't too serious and that I was being an alarmist. So much for foresight.

As these events hovered in the background, they finally came together to form a perfect storm which hit AKC and the fancy with unprecedented violence. AKC and the fancy reacted with shock and dismay at our failure to anticipate the results of our inaction and the support of PAWS and Petland without consulting the delegate body and the fancy in advance. The realization of unintended consequences struck us like a thunderbolt. We have been scurrying around ever since trying to regroup and decide on a corrective course of action. As the famous Oliver Hardy of the Laurel and Hardy comedic team would say, "Well, here is another nice kettle of fish you've pickled me into".

Having painted this canvas full of gloom and doom, I would like to take this opportunity to change my pallet and paint another type of picture. Hopefully one that uses brighter colors and offers some clues to a better future.

First off, we need to recognize we are no longer in a growth industry. We need to re-identify what business we are in. Just like the Pennsylvania Railroad, who discovered they were not just in the railroad business but the transportation business, we are no longer just in the dog game. We are a part of the leisure and recreation industry and must begin to act accordingly. We must change our constitution and by-laws to accommodate this change.

- 🐾 We need to recognize that the sports of Agility and Rally are the growth portion of our new industry, and begin to give them the recognition and representation they deserve.
- 🐾 While the emphasis on the bottom line is important to our survival, we should not become overly dependent on the roller-coaster stock market for a major share of our income.
- 🐾 We should initiate a study of the possibility of acquiring the UKC so there would be one strong body representing purebred dogs. Greater economies of scale would be possible with this concentration of resources.
- 🐾 AKC should move out of New York, sublease the current facilities, and join with the Raleigh portion of the company. As our registration income shrinks, it is folly to stay in New York with its ultra-high costs. Admit the division was a mistake and now rectify it.
- 🐾 Let's admit that the delegate body has become unwieldy as the number of clubs joining AKC increases. The new constitution and by-laws should address a new way of representation, making sure that its duties and responsibilities are more clearly spelled out.
- 🐾 The archaic notion that the Board of Directors of AKC must come from the delegate body has to be reviewed. We should have the opportunity to bring in expertise from other arenas to give us wise counsel as needed. We need to open our eyes to the realities of the 21st century. Our flexibility is being limited by our own "inbreeding". We need what we extol in our dogs – "hybrid vigor," which some good outcrosses can give us.
- 🐾 The Board of Directors should cease micromanaging the organization and delegate more authority to the President and staff.
- 🐾 The National Championship show should be permanently located in one city so it can grow its' identity. It needs to be placed in a location that can rival New York City as a destination city. Tampa and Long Beach do not meet those criteria – Las Vegas does. Good transportation, lots to do and see, and excellent facilities. It's a natural.
- 🐾 We need to change the direction and philosophy of how to combat animal rights legislation. AKC should take a leaf from Union organizers and hire people to go to the hot spots, organize the campaign, help letter writers, and lobby the local/state legislators in place. They should spend at least a month on-site to do this.
- 🐾 AKC should retain a PR firm whose sole job is to poke fun and ridicule at some of the preposterous things that animal rights groups do. They need to point out that these people don't realize the consequences of their own actions and spell out the unintended consequences. Humor can be very effective, especially biting humor.

I leave you with the following guideline. Tactics knows what to do when there is something to do; Strategy knows what to do when there is nothing to do.

Published in the June issue of the Canine Chronicle. Dr. Grossman, a long time judge of Sporting Dogs and publisher of Doral Publishing is now the President of WinningSolutions.info, a website devoted to developing the Professional Mentor concept via vital information for the beginning breeder/exhibitor at <http://winningsolutions.info>.

Lifetime Dog

By Eileen Mitchell, San Francisco Chronicle, June 16, 2007

So there I was by myself, sitting outside Tully's and enjoying a latte while reading the paper, when a young woman approached me.

"Excuse me," she said with a concerned look. "Is your dog OK?"

Who was this person? Puzzled, I reassured her that Elvis was fine. He'd gone on a long walk earlier that morning and couldn't be budged off his La-Z-Dog recliner. I had to ask. "I'm sorry, but do I know you?"

"No," she replied, smiling. "It's just that I see you around town and you're never without your dog. I wanted to be sure he's OK." She was right. Without thinking about it, my greyhound, Elvis, has become such an integral part of my life that even strangers see me incomplete without him. Although I've loved many dogs since childhood, none have been like this one. To use an expression coined by "A Good Dog" author Jon Katz, Elvis is my "lifetime dog," a dog that I'll hold dear long after he's gone and others have staked their spot on the sofa.

"So many people told me they had one dog in their life that meant everything to them, that stood out in their hearts and memories," Katz responded when I sent him an e-mail asking about the expression. "Sometimes it was a dog that entered their life at a critical juncture or changed their life. When people hear the term, they all nod. Loving a dog can be a powerful experience."

Indeed. Because Elvis isn't "just" a pet. He's my companion, my friend, my joy. He isn't a replacement for the husband I never married or the children I never had, as is the common stereotype of single people. Johnny Depp could be my betrothed and cherubs my children. I wouldn't love this dog one iota less. When Stu and Barbara Homer of Golden State Greyhound Adoption delivered Elvis to my home on that hot June day five years ago, I had no idea what a life-altering occasion it was. As the underweight ex-racer jumped out of their truck and I met my new trembling, deer-like dog, I was struck by two emotions: first, delight that he was so pretty, immediately followed by sheer terror: how would I manage this horse in my house?

But over the next few weeks, as we adjusted -- he to his new home and me to my new dog -- we began to establish our life together, the one that I cherish today. I love that Elvis greets me at the door with a toy in his mouth, jumping with joy whether I've been gone 10 minutes or 10 hours. I love how he rests his head on my lap while I'm watching TV, wanting nothing more than to feel my touch. I love how he gobbles his food with gusto and then, with kernels of rice still on his nose, does a happy little trot as if to offer his compliments to the chef.

I love how he meanders over to my bed every night after I've turned out the lights and taps my face with his soft, wet nose before retiring to his La-Z-Dog recliner. I love caring for Elvis, stroking his knobby head, rubbing his velvety ears, observing him with other dogs, other people. Such as my neighbors' 15-month-old baby, the adorable Isabella.

When Bella sees Elvis, she flaps her arms like she's preparing for liftoff and -- having walked for all of three weeks -- stumbles unafraid toward the great big dog. Elvis, who towers over the tiny toddler by a good 10 inches, leans down and gently nuzzles Bella's cheek and she gurgles with unabashed joy. Talk about your Kodak moment.

Today, when I look at my beloved dog who will soon turn 8, I can't help but note his gray muzzle and eyebrows. Like his human, Elvis is showing signs of age. And unlike the life I might have enjoyed with the man I never married or children I never had, I realize, with an ache, that our time together will be much too brief.

That explains why I'm so fond of one particular "Twilight Zone" episode. Titled "The Hunt," it features a recently deceased man and his dog. As they amble down a country road in the hereafter, they come upon a gate. "Welcome to heaven!" the gatekeeper declares. Except for the dog, that is. "What kind of heaven won't allow dogs?" the old man asks. "If he can't come in, then I'll stay out with him. He's been my faithful companion all his life. I can't desert him now."

So the old man continues down the road with his dog. Later, they come upon another gate. "Welcome to heaven!" the gatekeeper greets both man and dog. When the old man inquires about the previous gatekeeper's proclamation, he learns it was the devil. "He gets people who are willing to give up a lifelong companion for a comfortable place to stay," the old man is told. "They soon find out their mistake, but then it's too late." And man and dog pass through the gates, toward the light. Toward heaven.

When I cradle my dog's face in my hands and look into his liquid eyes, so full of unwavering loyalty and love, there's no doubt. Elvis is my faithful companion. My lifetime dog. And this is heaven.



See You At The July Party!