



# The Augusta Kennel Club

an AKC Member Club

## NEWSLETTER

March 2008



AMERICAN  
KENNEL CLUB™

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### Board & Officers

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 Vice President..... Audrey Bye  
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 Corr. Secretary ..... Sara Martin  
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### DOG

*When God made the earth and sky,  
 the flowers and the trees,  
 He then made all the animals  
 And all the birds and bees,  
 And when his work was finished,  
 not one was quite the same.  
 He said, "I'll walk this earth of  
 mine and give each a name."  
 And so he traveled land and sea  
 And everywhere he went,  
 A little creature followed Him  
 Until its strength was spent.  
 When all were named upon the  
 earth and in the sky and sea,  
 The little creature said, "Dear  
 Lord, There is not one left for me."  
 The Father smiled and softly said  
 "I've left you to the end.  
 I've turned my own name back to  
 front  
 And call you Dog, my friend."*

~Unknown

### Spring Show Update

Only 1 short month to go to the Spring Show in Perry!

The premium list is being mailed out this week by Onofrio, and is currently available on their website at [www.onofrio.com](http://www.onofrio.com).

We need volunteers to help with our day on Friday, and other days if you can help out. Club members who work a minimum of 4 hours on any day, can be reimbursed for their hotel room expenses for that night.

Ring Stewards are also needed for obedience & rally. If you can help out, please contact Carol Cox. Club members who steward in obedience/rally may opt to either have their hotel room reimbursed, or receive monetary compensation (\$25 for the 1<sup>st</sup> 4 hours and \$5 hour for each additional hour). However, you can only request one or the other. If you are sharing a room with someone, we ask that you not "double dip" and request compensation/reimbursement for both of you.

This is a big show and it takes a lot of people pitching in for things to run smoothly, so if you can help out, PLEASE DO! We all like to get out there are show our dogs, but remember, we are the HOSTS, and the exhibitors are our GUESTS!

### Fall Show Update

Judging contracts and assignments have been sent out and all have been received back. AKC has approved all events.

The Match application will be submitted in March. If you know someone that is working towards their judging license that would like to judge, please contact Carol Cox.

### Kibbles & Bits

#### Rabies Challenge Study

The Rabies Challenge Fund Charitable Trust will determine the duration of immunity conveyed by rabies vaccines. The goal is to extend the required interval for rabies boosters to 5 and then to 7 years. This project is the first of its kind in that it depends primarily upon grassroots gifts for funding the costs of conducting the requisite vaccine trials. Our contributions to date have come mostly from kennel clubs and private individuals. The Challenge fund is a federally registered 501(c)(3) charitable organization [Fed. EIN # 84-6390682].

For more information, visit <http://www.rabieschallengefund.org>.

### Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 3, 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.

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

# The Canine Immune System

By Lew Olson, PhD Natural Health, LMSW-ACP

How often do we see our dogs exhibiting dry flaking skin, thinning coats, running teary eyes, excessive foot licking, hot spots, chronic diarrhea, hyperactivity, inability to gain weight or mood swings? We may try different dry dog foods, visits to the vet for antibiotics or cortisone drugs or special shampoos. However, usually these symptoms reappear, only to start the treatment cycle of drugs and bathing all over again.

The most common diagnoses for these symptoms are flea allergies, dermatitis, environmental allergies or food allergies. Treating skin disorders is the most frequent reason for trips to the veterinarian. However, all these symptoms often point to another disorder - either an under active immune system, or an overactive immune system. Let's examine both of these.

## Under Active Immune System

A suppression of the immune system can occur when the body's system is compromised by immune suppressing factors. These can include over vaccination, vaccinating during a bitch's heat cycle or pregnancy, antibiotics, use of steroid drugs, protein malnutrition, insufficient calories, vitamin or mineral insufficiencies, hormonal fluctuations, virus and disease and other specific drugs. Other illness and systemic diseases can also lower the immune system, such as diabetes, renal failure, systemic lupus erthematosus and neoplasia.

A suppressed immune system leaves the dog with poor ability to fight bacteria and virus, prone to infections and poor health, and leaves a dog susceptible to cancer and inability to fight insults of the environment, such as pesticides, herbicides and other pollutants. The dog lacks the ability to develop normal immunity to everyday exposure to routine infections that other dogs can fend off naturally.

## Overactive Immune System

This condition is called autoimmune disease. The body literally overreacts to normal agents found in the body, and develops antigens to destroy them. The immune system goes into 'overdrive,' and not only tries to destroy the cells it may see as bacteria, but can start to destroy normal red blood cells. The body will begin to see these cells as 'foreign,' and react by developing skin allergies, hot spots, teary eyes and other common symptoms of allergic response. However, the autoimmune response can go further, creating other autoimmune disorders.

These diseases can be either acquired or congenital. Information from Cornell University indicates that the acquired immunodeficiencies are more common than the congenital. Acquired immunodeficiencies can be triggered by:

- Puppies not receiving colostrum during the first 48 hours of life
- Parvo or distemper infection
- Ehrlichiosis
- Demodex
- Drug reactions
- Over Vaccinations
- Modified live vaccination response
- Poor diet or malnutrition
- Chemicals in the environment
- Stress

Some of the drugs implicated in triggering autoimmune responses include anticonvulsants, potentiated sulfonamides and reaction to vaccination at time when the dog is not in good health or stressed. Poor nutrition and vaccinations can trigger the immune system to over react, by reacting to the ingested material, injected antibodies or the struggle in fighting off bacteria and virus. \*Never Vaccinate a dog unless they are in perfect health.\*

The new anti-inflammatory drugs for dogs (NSAIDs) have been suspected in some reactions as well

*To be posted VERY LOW on the refrigerator door – pet nose height.*

## DEAR DOGS:

The dishes with the paw prints are yours and contain your food. The other dishes are mine and contain my food. Please note, placing a paw print in the middle of my plate and food does not stake a claim for it becoming your food and dish, nor do I find that aesthetically pleasing in the slightest.

The stairway was not designed by NASCAR and is not a racetrack. Beating me to the bottom is not the object. Tripping me doesn't help because I fall faster than you can run.

I cannot buy anything bigger than a king sized bed. I am very sorry about this. Do not think I will continue sleeping on the couch to ensure your comfort. Dogs can actually curl up in a ball when they sleep. It is not necessary to sleep perpendicular to each other stretched out to the fullest extent possible. I also know that sticking tails straight out and having tongues hanging out the other end to maximize space is nothing but sarcasm.

For the last time, there is no secret exit from the bathroom. If by some miracle I beat you there and manage to get the door shut, it is not necessary to claw, whine, bark, try to turn the knob or get your paw under the edge and try to pull the door open. I must exit through the same door I entered. Also, I have been using the bathroom for years -- canine attendance is not required.

The proper order is kiss me, then go smell the other dog or cat's butt. I cannot stress this enough!

## ENGLISH DOGS TO SOUTHERN DAWGS

(English) German Shepherd Dog (Southern) Poh-leece Dawg.

(English) Poodle (Southern) Circus Dawg.

(English) St. Bernard (Southern) "Thank Gawd, Here Comes The Whiskey Dawg"

(English) Doberman Pinscher (Southern--TWO versions) Bad A## Dawg, or Dobimin Pincher.

(English) Beagle (Southern) Rabbit Dawg

(English) Rottweiler (Southern) Bad A## AND Mean As He## Dawg OR Rockwilder. Good dawg to guard the still.

(English) Yellow Lab (Southern) Ol' Yeller Dawg.

(English) Black Lab (Southern) Duck fetchin' Dawg.

(English) Greyhound (Southern) Greased Lightnin' Dawg.

(English) Malinois (Southern) Another type of Poh-leece Dawg.

(English) Blue Tick Hound, Red Bone Hound, etc. (Southern) Prized Coon Dawgs.

(English) Pekinese (Southern) Mop Dawg.

(English) Chinese Crested (Southern) Nekkid Dawg.

(English) Dachsund (Southern) Wienie Dawg.

(English) Siberian Husky (Southern) Sled-Pullin' Dawg.

(English) Bouvier, Komondor (Southern) "What The He## Kinda Dawg Is That?"

(English) Great Dane, Mastiff (Southern) Danged BIG Dawg.

(English) Any dog that raids the henhouse (Southern) Egg-Suckin' Dawg.

(English) Any lazy dog (Southern) Good fer nothin' Dawg.

(English) Any dog that's died and been buried (Southern) Best danged Dawg I ever had.

~By Jeff Kinman

Other drugs, such as cortisone, prednisone and other steroids work to suppress the immune system (therefore reducing allergic reactions) but in this further suppression, can create more problems. As soon as these drugs are removed, the symptoms usually come right back, with a further compromised immune system, leaving the dog more susceptible to further infection. Antibiotics may suppress the immune system, and unselectively kill all bacteria, therefore destroying the friendly bacteria in the digestive system, which in turn lowers the immune system.

Chemicals that can affect the immune system include pesticides, herbicides and household cleaners. Dogs are lower to the ground, and have a greater tendency to be closer to yard chemicals, agents used in the house for pest control and chemicals used in carpets for stain and dirt resistance.

Some of the same things that trigger autoimmune disease can also lower the immune system. It can be difficult to determine whether it is an under or an over active immune system problem. A good diagnosis is necessary along with a blood panel and urinalysis to determine autoimmune diseases.

Now, let's briefly examine some of the more common autoimmune disorders.

### Thyroiditis

The thyroid gland is essential for the production of protein. When this gland is not working properly, it is first seen in poor coats, thin hair and brittle hair. Other symptoms can be obesity, low energy, difficulty staying warm enough, irregular estrus cycle, poor stamina, and poor resistance to infections. A blood panel can be drawn to test for this disease, but the timing and type of test are important considerations. Also, yearly tests need to be continued to monitor the thyroid. There are some speculations that low thyroid can be caused by poor diet and a selenium deficiency. Low thyroid can cause elevations in the blood panel of ALT, ALK PHOS and Cholesterol.

### Vitiligo

The disease shows its symptom through loss of pigment. It will generally appear as white hair growth in a 'ticking' pattern, anywhere on the body. The pigment of the mouth can mottle or turn pink, and toenails and areas around the eyes can turn white. It is an autoimmune response, in that the body suddenly starts destroying the melanocytes, or the cells that produce pigment. It can be associated with diabetes, Addison's Disease and hypothyroidism. Although no medical treatments are known, good nutrition and use of antioxidant drugs have seen to help stop this condition from becoming worse.

### Addison's Disease

This condition is caused by an underactive adrenal gland. Sometimes this can be caused by long term use of cortisone drugs, which can cause the adrenal glands to shrink in size. Symptoms include discoloration and darkening of the skin, diarrhea, weight loss, loosing of coat hair in patches and increased thirst. The dog may seek heat, walk unsteady and have mood swings. The danger of this disease is that the symptoms can wax and wane, and so it is often misdiagnosed or treated as other conditions. Blood panels can show increased kidney values, raised potassium and calcium.

### Cushing's Syndrome

The opposite of Addison's disease, Cushing's is an overactive adrenal gland. Symptoms of this disorder include a heavy or rounded body with thin limbs, along with wasting of the muscles. Sometimes increased body hair will appear. Blood value indicators can include raised liver values along with increases in cholesterol, triglycerides and glucose.

### Hemolytic Anemia

The anemia in hemolytic anemia is caused by the bodies over reacting to an antigen, which in turn can attach itself to the red blood cells. The body then begins to destroy its own life supporting red blood cell supply. This most often affects young adults, and females are affected more often than males. Treatment is most often cortisone type drugs, to suppress the over active immune system. However, this in turn suppresses the already compromised immune system. Sometimes this disease is so aggressive, that chemotherapy drugs such as cytoxan are used to further suppress the immune system. There is speculation that certain prescription drugs, dog anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDS), anti-seizure medications and vaccinations can often initiate this autoimmune disorder.

## YES, I AM A SHOW DOG

They asked if I'm a show dog, I  
heard my Mom say "No".  
She said that I was better,  
And didn't need to go.

I show my family that I love  
them,  
With hugs and kisses true,  
With extra special tenderness,  
When one is sick or blue.

I show my family that I care,  
Almost every day,  
When strangers pass by our  
house,  
I shoo them all away.

I show my family I adore them,  
When I greet them at the door,  
With happy yips and wagging  
tail,  
Who could ask for any more?

I show my family that I'm loyal,  
And love them all the same,  
When they make mistakes with  
me,  
Or forget to play my favorite  
game.

I show my kids that I'll protect  
them,  
When Monsters come in the  
night,  
I chase them all out the  
window,  
And cuddle to ease the fright.

So I may not be a show dog,  
With pretty hair and bows,  
But my family, they do love me,  
And it's for them that I do show.

*-By Marian Whitley*



## Event Calendar

### CLUB EVENTS

**Spring Show** - The Augusta Kennel Club partners with the Atlanta Kennel Club, the Valdosta Kennel Club, the Combined Specialty Clubs of Atlanta, and the North Georgia Hound Assn. to host the Peach Blossom Cluster on Thursday, April 10<sup>th</sup> through Sunday, April 13<sup>th</sup> at the Georgia National Fairgrounds in Perry, GA. Four days of events all on one show site! Come join us for one of the largest events in the Southeast!

### AREA EVENTS

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.

## Meeting Highlights

### Wednesday, February 7 Meeting

Entry fees for the Fall show were discussed. Now that the increased AKC fees are in effect, many clubs have increased their entry fees to absorb the additional cost. However, in reviewing the AKC Event Calendar and premium lists that have been mailed out thus far this year, the highest entry fee in our area is \$26. At the last meeting, it was voted to increase our entry fee to \$28, which would make us the highest entry fee in the area. It was discussed that since we are a one day show, we may be shooting ourselves in the foot by going to \$28 and reducing entries. A vote was conducted and unanimously passed to set the entry fees for the Fall show at \$26.

Entry limits for obedience were adjusted to decrease novice and increase open and utility limits. This decision was based on history over the past 4 years. Classes in open and utility have filled to the limit, and have required us to return entries, while novice has not filled to the entry limit.

### Wednesday, March 5 Meeting

Details on the upcoming Peach Blossom cluster were discussed. See page 1 for more information.

AKC has formed and been approved as a PAC (Political Action Committee) and is requesting donations from it's member and affiliate clubs of up to \$5000 for 2008. A motion was made to instead send \$2500 to AKC and \$2500 to the Georgia Canine Coalition, which has done a great job in supporting smart legislation and in protecting the rights of owners, sportsmen and fanciers in the state of Georgia. It was voted and unanimously approved to send AKC \$2500 and GCC \$2500.

An additional request for donation was made for AKC's Canine Health Foundation. The club donates annually, and it has been awhile since we have made a donation. A motion was made to send CHF \$1000.

The hosting an obedience seminar for the Fall with Chris Elliott was suggested and discussed. It was decided that if we can find a venue and cover expenses, we would proceed with the seminar.

An education night to show Carmen Battaglia's "Breeding Better Dogs" , and Jeff Brucker's "Preparation and Presentation of the Show Dog" Seminars was discussed. Audrey will contact Wachovia to see if there is a night which we can have the meeting room after Peach Blossom.

A few members still have obligations outstanding for trophies for Peach Blossom and for their 2008 dues. If you have not paid, please send a check to Gloria Janda ASAP please!

## Braggs

- ✿ Sarah Prince and LeeLee went Best Puppy and Group 2 at Saturday's show in Charleston! On Sunday, they went Winners Bitch, Best of Opposite, and Best of Breed!
- ✿ Sarah Prince and Teddy won their class, went Best of Breed and Group 1 at the match in Valdosta in February!
- ✿ Audrey Bye & Max to have rally pictures used in an upcoming rally article in Working Dog Magazine.

*Congratulations to our members and their dogs on their accomplishments!*

## Member Education

### Obedience Seminar

If you are interested in attending an obedience seminar with Chris Elliott in Augusta this Fall, please let either Audrey Bye or Debbie Metts know. It is expected that the seminar will fill quickly.

We need to find a suitable and affordable place to host it. There will be 10 working spots and approximately 20 audit spots available. The price will be established once we find a place, but tentatively we are planning on around \$175+/- for working spots, and \$75+/- for audit spots.

If you have suggestions or contacts for a seminar site, please let us know.

### Movie Night

The club has purchased a DVD set of Carmen Battaglia's popular seminar "Breeding Better Dogs" , and Professional Handler Jeff Brucker's "Preparation and Presentation of the Show Dog" Seminar.

Each of these seminars is approximately two hours long, so neither can be viewed after our monthly meeting. After the Peach Blossom Cluster, Audrey Bye will contact the bank to see if we can schedule a movie night in the next few months where we can invite club members and their guests to come and view these seminars.

Watch your newsletter for updates!

## Rabies Challenge Study

One of the most important vaccine research studies in veterinary medicine is underway at the University of Wisconsin School of Veterinary Medicine in Madison. Dr. Ronald Schultz, a leading authority on veterinary vaccines and Chair of the Department of Pathobiological Sciences, has begun concurrent 5 and 7 year challenge studies to determine the long-term duration of immunity of the canine rabies vaccine, with the goal of extending the state-mandated interval for boosters. These will be the first long-term challenge studies on the canine rabies vaccine to be published in the United States.

Dr. Schultz comments that: "We are all very excited to start this study that will hopefully demonstrate that rabies vaccines can provide a minimum of 7 years of immunity."

This research is being financed by The Rabies Challenge Fund, a charitable trust founded by pet vaccine disclosure advocate Kris L. Christine of Maine, who serves as Co-Trustee with world-renowned veterinary research scientist and practicing clinician, Dr. W. Jean Dodds of Hemopet in California. The Rabies Challenge Fund recently met its goal of \$177,000 to fund the studies' first year budget with contributions from dog owners, canine groups, trainers, veterinarians, and small businesses. Annual budget goals of \$150,000 for the studies must be met in the future.

Dr. Jean Dodds, DVM states: "This is the first time in my 43 years of involvement in veterinary issues that what started as a grass-roots effort to change an outmoded regulation affecting animals will be addressed scientifically by an acknowledged expert to benefit all canines in the future."

Scientific data published in 1992 by Michel Aubert and his research team demonstrated that dogs were immune to a rabies challenge 5 years after vaccination, while Dr. Schultz's serological studies documented antibody titer counts at levels known to confer immunity to rabies 7 years post-vaccination. This data strongly suggests that state laws requiring annual or triennial rabies boosters for dogs are redundant. Because the rabies vaccine is the most potent of the veterinary vaccines and associated with significant adverse reactions, it should not be given more often than is necessary to maintain immunity. Adverse reactions such autoimmune diseases affecting the thyroid, joints, blood, eyes, skin, kidney, liver, bowel and central nervous system; anaphylactic shock; aggression; seizures; epilepsy; and fibrosarcomas at injection sites are linked to rabies vaccinations.

Study co-trustee Kris Christine adds: "Because the USDA does not require vaccine manufacturers to provide long-term duration of immunity studies documenting maximum effectiveness when licensing their products, concerned dog owners have contributed the money to fund this research themselves. We want to ensure that rabies immunization laws are based upon independent, long-term scientific data."

More information and regular updates on The Rabies Challenge Fund and the concurrent 5 and 7 year challenge studies it is financing can be found at the fund's website designed by volunteer Andrea Brin at: [www.RabiesChallengeFund.org](http://www.RabiesChallengeFund.org).

# American Kennel Club News

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM FEBRUARY AKC BOARD MEETING

### Growth in Conformation Events

The Board discussed an AKC Staff overview on the increased number of AKC conformation events held annually. Alternatives to current policies governing the accreditation of show clubs and the approval of clubs were presented for Board consideration.

The sense of the Board was that rather than just addressing specific policies, there had to be a clearer understanding of exactly what the purpose of dog shows should be, what real or perceived problems existed and what were the best ways to comprehensively address them. Staff was directed to prepare a list of questions that would focus on these issues and to also assemble pertinent statistics and facts.

### Size of AKC's Governing Body

The Board reviewed a Staff report addressing the continually expanding size of AKC's Delegate body. As with the growth of events, Staff was directed to prepare a list of questions that would focus on issues or perceived issues in this area and to also assemble pertinent statistics and facts.

### Conditional Doberman Pinscher Registrations

The Board considered a request from the Doberman Pinscher Club of America to apply the "WZ" prefix to the registration number of any Doberman Pinscher brought into the registry through the conditional Registration system, as well as their offspring. This is the same prefix used to identify potential carriers of the white gene. While this would affect very few dogs, the Board was reluctant to establish this type of precedent of treating a dog as if it were a potential carrier of the white gene with no information or evidence to substantiate this. It was VOTED to respectfully decline the request.

### FSS Enrollment for Fully Registered Breeds

The Board discussed an AKC Staff 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.

Following a motion by Mr. Merriam, seconded by Mr. Gladstone, it was VOTED (unanimously) to permit dogs lacking complete three-generation pedigrees to continue to be recorded in the AKC Foundation Stock Service at the time the breed is approved for regular status. These dogs will 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.

### FSS Guidelines

The Board reviewed a Staff proposal to revise the time frame that a breed must remain in Miscellaneous prior to requesting full registration. Staff suggests that breeds with 1,000 or more dogs enrolled in FSS may be evaluated after six months in Miscellaneous. Breeds with less than 1,000 dogs will be evaluated at the end of each year in Miscellaneous. This will allow breeds with significant numbers of dogs enrolled to move forward in 18 months. It will be discussed further in April.

### Irish Red & White Setter

The Board reviewed a request from the Irish Red & White Setter Association. The club is seeking acceptance into the AKC Stud Book and eligibility for the Irish Red & White Setter to compete in the Sporting Group. This will be discussed further in April.

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

The Board reviewed a revised 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 in April.

### New Club Requirements

The Board reviewed the criteria used to accredit the various types of AKC clubs. There was discussion on adopting a formal policy governing the number of club members required to receive sanctioned and licensed status. This will again be discussed in April.

## CONFORMATION EVENTS

### Rules Applying to Dog Shows Chapter 11, Section 6 Entry Changes

The Board reviewed a request made by the Dog Show Superintendents Association. Their proposal would permit a day-of-show change from an ineligible class to the open class. Following a motion, it was VOTED (unanimously), to add the following wording (underlined) to Rules Applying to Dog Shows Chapter 11, Section 6:

**Section 6.** No entry may be changed or canceled unless notice of the change or cancellation is received in writing or by telegram by the Superintendent or Show Secretary named in the premium list to receive entries, prior to the closing date and hour for entries, except that a correction may be made in the sex of a dog, or a dog may be transferred from one division of the Puppy Class to another or between the Puppy

and Twelve-to-Eighteen Month Class at a show prior to the judging. A dog determined to be ineligible, by its owner/agent, for the class in which it has been entered, may be transferred to an eligible open class at a show prior to the judging of any regular conformation class within the sex of that breed, and that dogs which according to their owners' records have completed the requirements for a championship after the closing of entries for a show but whose championships are unconfirmed, may be transferred from one of the regular classes to the Best of Breed or Variety competition, provided this transfer is made by the Superintendent or Show Secretary at least one half-hour prior to the scheduled start of any regular conformation judging at the show. No dog may otherwise be transferred to another class. Owners are responsible for errors in the entry forms, regardless of who may make such errors.

This Rule change will be read at the March Delegate meeting for a VOTE at the June Delegate Meeting.

#### **German Shorthaired Pointer Breed Standard**

Following a motion, it was VOTED to authorize the German Shorthaired Pointer Club of America to ballot its membership on the proposed breed standard revisions, in accordance with the club's Constitution and Bylaws. The proposed revisions are to the nose, color and disqualifications sections of the standard.

#### **AKC Online Entry Service**

Based on a January, 2008 request from the Dog Show Superintendents Association (DSSA), the AKC Staff presented the DSSA concerns about AKC's online entry service for Agility events.

#### **COMPANION EVENTS**

Following a motion it was VOTED to change the approval requirements for obedience judging applicants, effective immediately:

Provisional judges must judge a minimum of ten (10) assignments with at least one hundred fifty (150) dogs competing in total, prior to applying for regular status. In addition, two (2) satisfactory observations must be completed, with the second observation being done within one year prior to the request for regular status. Exceptions to the above proposed requirements would be made for Alaska, Hawaii, and territories outside of the continental United States. Exceptions would be based on applicant-residents from these areas, having completed a minimum of seven (7) assignments with a minimum of one hundred (100) dogs judged and two (2) satisfactory observations from an AKC Field Representative.

#### **Rally Team Competition – Jump Heights**

The Board reviewed a Staff request to add the following language (underlined) to Chapter 4, Sections 3 and 4 of the Rally Regulations to clarify the setting of jumps for Rally team competitions:

If jumps are required, they will be set based on the height of the smallest dog on each competing team.

This will be discussed further at the April meeting, with a possible vote.

#### **Licensing of Agility Trial Secretaries**

The Board reviewed an AKC Staff proposal that would require all secretaries who administer nine or more Agility trials in a calendar year to be subject to licensing by The American Kennel Club. This proposal would be effective on or after January 1, 2009. This will be discussed further at the April meeting

#### **Drafting Business Case**

The Board reviewed a Drafting business case which was developed in response to Board and Delegate requests. Based on the administrative issues of developing a uniform drafting program across various breeds and the reported current participation levels by clubs and exhibitors, the Board voted to discontinue program development.

#### **Public Relations**

Daisy Okas, Staff, reviewed the dog club classified advertising program that AKC is launching. It was approved by the Board in October 2007. The program is being called "Demand AKC Papers."



*See You At The March Meeting!*