



The Augusta Kennel Club

an AKC Member Club

NEWSLETTER

May 2008



AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUB™

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Board & Officers

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 Board of Directors ... Diane Johnson
 Board of Directors Nancy Kille
 Board of Directors Sarah Prince

*"I loathe people who keep dogs.
 They are cowards who haven't
 got the guts to bite people
 themselves."*

~ August Strindberg



Fall Show Update

Premium list revisions were submitted to MB-F this week. If you sponsored a trophy and have not yet paid for it, please get your check to Gloria or Audrey at the next meeting, or by July 1st at the latest. Final revisions to premium list are completed in July, and any trophies that have not been paid for by that time will be dropped from the premium list.

The conformation B match application was submitted and approved by AKC. The obedience and rally match will be a C match this year, also known as "run-throughs". This type of match allows exhibitors to work on what they need to in the ring, and is less formal than a B match. No class ribbons are awarded, and because there is no competition involved, it also allows for exhibitors to run a dog through more than once if desired, time permitting.

2008 Outstanding Sportmanship Award

AKC provides each member club with a medallion to award to one of its club members as an Outstanding Sportsman.

This award is designed to honor an individual who deserves special recognition, a member that has made a difference in the sport of purebred dogs, embodied the AKC Code of Sportsmanship, and has been an active and valued member of the club.

If you have a club member in mind that you would like to nominate, please contact Sara Martin by Wednesday's meeting on June 4, as the vote will be conducted at the June meeting. The medallion will be awarded at the Summer Party in July. You can reach Sara via e-mail at smcalypso@msn.com, or by phone at (706) 373-2206.

Kibbles & Bits

AKC Canine Experience (Education Match)

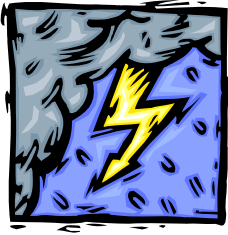
An AKC Canine Experience is a **multi-club, multi-sport event** that introduces and welcomes owners of newly AKC-registered puppies to and educates them about the sport of purebred dogs. The day-long event features educational presentations and provides an opportunity for potential owners to be mentored by experienced exhibitors and club members prior to an afternoon match, during which new exhibitors and future fanciers practice their newly learned skills. Only licensed and member clubs are eligible to host an AKC Canine Experience.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 4, 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.

Mark your calendars as we will host a special guest presentation by Gail LaBerge & Jody Allgood of the Georgia Canine Coalition. Gail & Jody are coming from Atlanta to talk about the GCC, and how we can be proactive in our communities in heading off anti-canine legislation that is spreading across the county.

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



A Gathering Storm – Part 1

By Dr. Carmen Battaglia

Over the years one can find many examples of an event which at the time seemed small and unimportant only to be later learned that it had grown large with unintended consequences. It was the repeated occurrence of these scenarios that eventually led to the expression, “big things often-times come from small beginnings”.

In this regard there is now, within the dog world, a chain of events that has been defined as more than just an annoyance. These are a series of small events that can be described as a gathering storm but, unlike those of the past, this storm is being driven by forces that are connected in unusual ways. At its center is the repeated and effective use of several undefined labels. They have become the primary tool that fuels these turbulent winds. The storm is being driven by the fundamental idea that breeders should do the right thing. The motivating argument for this comes from the Animal Rights Movement which identifies the expectation that a responsible breeder would analyze his/her pedigrees for problems using DNA technology and the other certifications, tests and protocols that are available (OFA, CERF, PENN HIP, etc). The idea, of course, is popular but for those who study these events and how they are used to influence the future, it seems clear that the conditions are now right for a disaster. Unfortunately, there is no authority in the dog world who can say with any certainty how much damage this storm will cause. What is certain is that it has now reached a level that makes it a clear and present danger.

Storms in a sport, like those in society, are always risky because they usually bring with them unwanted damage. What has gone unnoticed about this storm is how the animal rights movement has used a series of undefined labels to drive the winds that have already altered and changed the dog world. Until now, most of these changes have gathered little national interest. Now, however, through the use of well-crafted labels, they are able to describe a person, thing or event in either a positive or negative light. Over the years they have learned how to use the power of the undefined label to capture the interests and attention of the public, the clubs and the breeders.

The use of labels to drive ideas is not new in an industrialized society. Advertising agencies and political campaigns use them to influence policy, regulations and elections. The hotter the issue, the more dramatic the pitch, and the more clever the strategy. When the issue is ideological, labels are used to energize supporters. They are also used on websites to announce the issues and promote the problems. When combined, they become the important vehicles for influencing opinions and changing perceptions. Sociologists call this the “labeling process”. Their studies focus on the groups and organizations that use the labels to exploit a situation, target a group or identify a victim. In this regard, the “labeling process” is best known as an applied method. Studying how they are used to achieve certain goals involves a search for the motive and the desired objective. Many times the goal is subtle and not easily noticeable. Understanding how the change agents use the “labeling process” is key to understanding how they are able to drive their programs. This is important in today’s climate because the breeders seem to enjoy using the undefined labels without ever knowing their meaning or purpose and, more importantly, who will become their next victim.

One of the newest labels gaining in popularity has been designed to make the breeder its victim and their pups the target. It’s called the “responsible breeder”. What makes this label so dangerous is the attention it calls to the quality of the pups produced. What makes it politically correct is the fact that it has many meanings and interpretations and, most importantly, it offers everyone who “does the right thing” the opportunity to label themselves a breeder. Underneath its exterior, however, is the special emphasis it brings to the quality of the pups being produced and sold. It assumes that if a pup is of poor quality, unhealthy or has something wrong, it should not be bred. Most breeders agree with this notion and respond by selling their pups without AKC registration papers, or with a limited registration or perhaps a spay/neuter contract. The underlying assumption is that they are being “responsible breeders” and would not want to continue to produce low quality pups given the technology and protocols that are available. The latter point is key to the strategy. The notion that the unsound and unhealthy should not be sold for breeding is fundamental to this label and, with that logic, the best indicator of whether a breeder is being responsible or not can be tested by what they produce and how they register it. This method identifies some breeders as better than other breeders. This scenario salutes those who breed to produce better quality. In the background, however, there are some important and very fundamental questions. For example, why do so many breeders endorse the use of DNA but have little or no understanding of its uses or benefits and why have only a small fraction of the breeders actually used it? Why are so many breeders not trained in the use of DNA testing or the techniques available for managing the normals, carriers or affected when they occur in their pedigrees? The animal rights strategy sees this as opportunity. Their logic suggests that because there is widespread support for a technology they do not understand or use, the quality of their litters is not likely to improve. Thus, over time, a determination can be made as to whether a breed and its breeders are making progress and thus, being “responsible breeders”. Said another way, if quality pups are the goal, a responsible breeder can be measured by how they sell their pups. In retrospect, there is a lesson to be learned from this simple logic and how, through the use of undefined labels, the animal rights movement has been able to create havoc in the world of purebred dogs.

In the past, the most popular use of the undefined label was to describe the commercial or high volume breeders as "puppy mills". Other labels were then linked to it. They were called "overpopulation", "vicious dogs", "dangerous dogs", "responsible dog owner", etc. While each of these labels enjoyed widespread acceptance, none were ever defined. In each case, the fancy and the public accepted them without any understanding of what they meant or what they were intended to do. Now, after more than ten years of use, they are still undefined. For these reasons, it is important to appreciate who creates the labels (change agents), why they are using them and what affect they are having on the AKC, veterinary schools, dog clubs, registrations (stud book), and, ultimately, the breeders.

By design, most of these labels are left vague or never defined. This reduces the chances for resistance. When catchy words and phrases are linked to them, many ideas can be pushed to support their agenda. It is not just the general description given them that gathers attention, it's the success they have had convincing breeders, their clubs and the writers to use undefined labels. Whether this new label will follow in the footsteps of the others is yet to be determined. But based on the past, it is safe to say that we should take this opportunity to understand its potential.

History shows that one of the earliest undefined labels targeted breeders by calling them "puppy mills". Catchy phrases were added to describe them as irresponsible individuals who owned dirty kennels and carried out careless breedings. This label was then linked to a negative form of animal husbandry as a way to grow the idea into something bigger. Some of the first uses of this label focused on the breeders in certain states and cities. It resulted in changes in policies, zoning, regulations and even legislation. The strategy being used today closely parallels this scenario. It focuses on issues the Animal Rights Movement believes need to be changed. Their current strategy begins with the fancy (breeders/writers) as they push for acceptance in conversation, at meetings and on websites. Follow-up efforts are then used to identify the problem that fits their strategy. This step usually involves their critic groups who are developing court cases that will follow. Their use of the law and the courts has already resulted in a negative and financial impact on hundreds of breeders and their dog clubs. Their efforts have been effective only because they are able to create labels the community will accept.

In the past, it was only the like-minded groups within the animal rights movement that were able to function as change agents. In the beginning they were forced to use negative incentives and the courts to push their agendas. But over the past 20 years they have effectively learned how to use legislation and the courts and the breeders to introduce new changes in zoning, ownership, breeding rights, care and conditions etc. Typically they use the argument of "raising the bar". Sometimes they call it "raising the standard". Today, when the term "puppy mill" is used, it quickly arouses a negative and emotional response. More importantly, it demonstrates how one undefined label in the hands of a determined group can manipulate the masses.

From the beginning, their goal was to control, limit and reduce the ownership and breeding rights of the breeders and those who exhibit purebred dogs. Thus far, they have successfully done both. What is best known about their efforts is the ripple effect they are having on the gene pools of many breeds. This is one of the most dangerous aspects of this new label. The cumulative effects they are having on registrations cannot be ignored. Related to this problem is the impact they are having on the gene pools of the 35 breeds listed in Table 1. The unintended and cumulative consequence of their efforts continues to gather momentum only because there is acceptance without understanding. What must be learned from these experiences is that most of the undefined labels are used

Table 1. AKC Litter Registrations (1997-2001)

Breeds	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000	1999	1998	1997
Salukis				84	79	80	63	67
Belgian Tervuren				84	84	78	89	106
Belgian Sheepdogs				83	80	80	85	101
Retrievers (Flat-Coated)				82	100	75	96	84
Petits Bassets Griffons Vendeens				75	83	72	100	92
Bedlington Terriers				66	64	57	56	57
Spaniels (Welsh Springer)				61	63	58	57	60
Wirehaired pointing Griffons				55	66	44	37	41
Binards				51	61	57	60	58
Spaniels (American Water)				49	45	57	42	68
Lowchen				49	44	37	24	35
Spaniels (Clumber)				47	60	43	51	46
Black and Tan Coonhounds				47	47	48	55	57
Anatolian Shepherds				42	48	49	41	45
Pulk				40	36	48	36	46
Polish Lowland Sheepdogs				40	38	28	9	0
Miniature Bull Terriers				40	42	49	42	44
Kuvassok				35	48	49	55	84
Spinone Italiano				33	6			
Finnish Spitz				30	27	30	27	39
Scottish Deerhounds				28	28	27	27	33
Retrievers (Curly-Coated)				27	25	25	31	28
Komondorok				26	23	32	31	40
Canaan Dogs				26	25	20	18	11
Spaniels (Field)				25	28	28	36	29
Spaniels (Irish Water)				25	23	33	22	21
Greyhounds				25	30	24	32	29
Sealyham Terriers				24	18	21	17	28
Skye Terriers				24	23	25	38	31
Pharaoh Hounds				23	19	16	20	19
German Pinschers				23				
Spaniels (Sussex)				20	16	21	22	16
Dandie Dinmont Terriers				20	33	38	30	33
Ibican Hounds				18	12	13	17	19
Plotts				18	35	30	8	0
Foxhounds (American)				18	14	14	15	13
Harriers				11	6	6	10	11
Otterhounds				8	7	2	4	9
Foxhounds (English)				7	8	5	7	6
				2001	2000	1999	1998	1997
Total for all 150 breeds				461,843	506,727	527,023	555,964	564,165

to suggest something good. Later they are used to fit an agenda that will produce a negative effect. The most dangerous part of the process is how well they are able to reach beyond the obvious. In the early stages of acceptance, the critic groups remain in the background preparing to use the courts as opportunities present themselves. With this infrastructure in place, the animal rights groups are able to extend their reach. Their success can now be measured through declining registrations and the numbers of pups being sold on limited registrations or on spay/neuter contracts. The "responsible breeder" label is the vehicle being used to establish a new kind of husbandry, one that will eventually be guided by new, tougher quantitative standards. During the initial stages of implementation, their strategy only whispers about a better way. They do this by painting a picture of something that is good for everyone. At the center of their storm is the attention they are giving to DNA technology and health certifications which most breeders and their clubs endorse. In their words, a "responsible breeder" is expected to screen and test all of their stock before breeding. This idea sounds great on the surface but this is only the first step. As the breeders and their clubs continue to embrace this label, the animal rights activist slowly begins to lobby for the required use of both DNA and health screening. This follow-up step is called "raising the bar". It is unfolding one step at a time. We already have heard their voices asking that more testing be used on breeding stock. Next they will push for testing as a condition of breeding and then as a condition to register breeding stock and their pups. In some quarters, they already are asking that it become a condition for entry in some AKC venues. As the popularity of the "responsible breeder" spreads, they will attempt to further extend their reach into the AKC stud book and the registration system. To this end, the change agents and their critic groups have already taken the first step by raising the level of awareness. Some believe they are ahead of schedule. What is so interesting is how well the breeders have accepted their ideas.

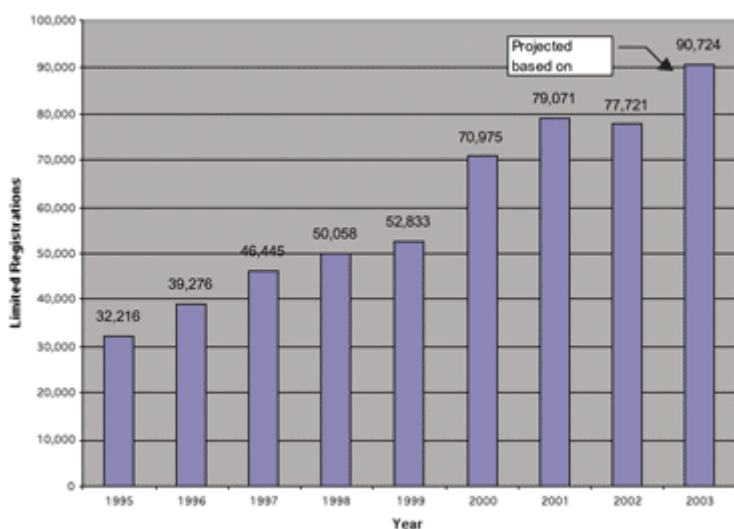


FIGURE 1. LIMITED REGISTRATIONS

Notice in Figure 1 how quickly the breeders responded when they were told that in order to be a "responsible breeder" they should sell their pups on limited registrations or on spay/neuter contracts as a way to control "overpopulation" a problem that does not exist. Figure 1 also shows that after only nine years well over 100,000 dogs each year continue to be removed from the gene pools of all breeds. Not only has the animal rights movement been able to encourage breeders to reduce the size of the AKC stud book, they have identified the "responsible breeder" as their next victim. Unfortunately, the dog world has not noticed the negative effect limited registrations and spay neuter contracts are having on registrations and the stud book. The strategy, thus far, has linked two ideas together. The first was to convince the breeders that they

could reduce overpopulation. The second was to separate the breeders and the buyers from the AKC. More than half of all pups sold on limited registrations and spay/neuter contracts were not being registered. Both efforts shrink the number of breeders and litters. Unfortunately, the impact they continue to have on the stud book and particularly the 35 breeds listed in Table 1 should not be ignored. These breeds are now registering fewer than 100 litters per year. The greatest dilemma now comes if this trend continues because it currently is on schedule to collapse the diversity of several gene pools and their ability to maintain breed health (Ostrander).

Conclusion

The strength of the winds that are pushing this storm has been marked and identified. It is heading toward the fancy with an unusual force. They have already unleashed a new kind of husbandry which is likely to have a qualitative and quantitative form of measurement. The plan and the mechanism that is driving this storm is intended to continue on its path of reshaping the dog world piece by piece. While these trends seem to be clear, hardly anyone seems to be noticing. In retrospect, we can now see the true meaning of the phrase, "big things often-times come from small beginnings". More will be said about the plan and the labeling process in the next article (Part 2). If you would care to express your ideas on this subject, forward them to me in care of the editor at k9chron@aol.com

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- Ostrander, Elaine, Presentation at a Workshop for the AKC Directors December 13, 2004, NY, NY.
- Willis, Malcomb, "Breeding Dogs" Canine Health Conference, AKC Canine health Conference, Oct. 15-17, 1999. St. Louis, MO.

A young man arrives for a date with the farmer's daughter with a very bad case of gas. The father opens the door and tells the young man to come in and take a seat, which happens to be next to the family dog and across from his date. The father sits on the other side of the room.

Conversation ensues and the young man feels one building up. Straining for control, he can't hold back and one escapes.

phheert!!!

The father looks over at the family dog and yells, "Duke!"

The misdirected blame relaxes the young man enough to allow another, more deadlier stinker out.

phhheerthphth!!!!

The father, more agitated, glares at the family dog and yells, "DUKE!"

The date blushes. The young man, relieved that he is not found out, let's go the motherload.

phhheerthphthertphert!!!!!!

The father, enflamed, bellows to the dog, "Duke! Get over here before that boy craps on you!!!"



Event Calendar

CLUB EVENTS

Summer Party – The summer party will be held in mid-July. The location and date will be announced at the June meeting.

Member Education – A DVD presentation of Dr. Carmen Battaglia's Breeding Better Dogs and How to Choose the Best Puppy will be shown on Wednesday, June 11, at 7:00 pm in the meeting room at the Wachovia Bank Building. The presentation is about 2½ hours long and is free of charge. Everyone is welcome! Please RSVP to Audrey Bye by June 10th if you are coming. RSVP to abye@bellsouth.net or by phone at (706) 650-2329.

Obedience Seminar – Chris Elliott Obedience Seminar will be held on Saturday, September 13 and Sunday September 14. Working spots are full, but if you are interested in an audit spot, they are still available for \$75 for both days. Registration forms are available on the club website.

AREA EVENTS

Evan Lions Dogwalk – Saturday, June 7, 2008 - 9:00am-12:00 noon at the Columbia County Library Memorial Garden (behind the library). There will be working dog demos, a dog walk, concessions and vendors, photos, and prizes for dog participation. \$10 event fee goes to benefit the local Project Courage, helping children in distress, and Leader Dogs for the Blind.

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.



Meeting Highlights

Wednesday, June 4 Meeting

Locations for the summer party were discussed. Not a lot of options that meet our needs. Sara will contact Bonefish Grill about dates in July. It was proposed that a flat rate of \$15 be charged to members, with the club picking up the balance. This would be extended to members in good standing, and would not apply to guests.

A letter was received from NAIA Trust requesting support of kennel clubs for their legislative division. NAIA was discussed and an motion was made and carried to sent them a \$500 donation for their legislative action fund.

First reading of membership application for Bill Weygant was read. Bill is sponsored by Audrey Bye and Debbie Metts.

Discussed getting a banner, table and table drape for the club tent. Audrey will get quotes for next meeting. Also discussed polo shirts with logos for club events and shows. There was sufficient interest in the members present to purchase a shirt, so Audrey will obtain quotes for the next meeting.

Wednesday, March 5 Educational Presentation

An education night to show Jeff Brucker's "Preparation and Presentation of the Show Dog" Seminars was held on Wednesday, May 21, 2008. Seven members (Audrey Bye, Eva Rapp, Debbie Metts, Toni Reese, Petra Orzechowski, Nancy Brotemarkle, and Diane Downs) and one guest (Marion Daniel) were in attendance.

The DVD was very educational, not only for learning how to handle, prepare and win in the conformation ring, but a good deal of what was presented was also relevant for obedience trainers.

Braggs

- ✿ Sarah Prince had a whole bunch of brags on her dogs! So many that she had to make a list of them!

Congratulations to our members and their dogs on their accomplishments!

AKC Ace Awards 2008

The American Kennel Club is accepting nominations for its 2008 Awards of Canine Excellence (ACE). To qualify, the purebred dog must be AKC registered or registrable, and have performed some exemplary act, whether large or seemingly small that has significantly benefited a community or individual. One award will be given in each of the following five categories: Law Enforcement, Search and Rescue, Therapy, Service, and Companion Dog. When appropriate, dogs earning honorable mention will be cited.

Each of the five honorees will receive a cash award of \$1,000 and an engraved sterling silver medallion, which they will receive at a special presentation ceremony at the AKC/Eukanuba National Championship in Long Beach, California in December 2006. In addition, the names of the five recipients will be engraved on the ACE Awards plaque that is on permanent display in the AKC Headquarters in New York City. Dogs receiving honorable mention will be awarded an engraved bronze medallion. All entrants will receive an AKC ACE Certificate of Recognition in acknowledgement of their nomination.

Anyone can nominate a dog. The owner of the dog is permitted to submit the nomination for his/her own dog. All submissions for The American Kennel Club Awards for Canine Excellence for the year 2008 must include the following:

- A non-returnable, clear, color photograph of the dog - no scans please.
- A 500-word-or-less description of how the dog has demonstrated excellence.
- Dog's call name, registered name if applicable, breed, age and sex.
- Owner's/Nominator's name(s), address and phone number. E-mail address if available.
- Deadline for applications is June 30, 2008

Download a Nomination Form from the AKC website at <http://www.akc.org/news/ace/nominate.cfm>.

Submit all information to:

Ronald N. Rella - ACE Awards 2008
The American Kennel Club
260 Madison Avenue, 4th Floor
New York, NY 10016

AKC Rule Change Allows Owners to Rename Their Dogs

The American Kennel Club® (AKC) is pleased to announce a registration rule change that now allows owners of AKC registered dogs to change the official name of their pet. Dogs are eligible if they were born in the U.S., have never been bred, or have not won any awards at an AKC event.

"We have a lot of interest from AKC registered dog owners looking to rename their dogs," said David Roberts, AKC's Assistant Vice President of Registration. "In most cases, the dog is a beloved pet and the owner would like to pick a name that has special value to them. The new rule allows owners to change the name when transferring their AKC registered dog, or to request a name change at any time."

Previously, a policy was in place that only allowed the owner to change a dog's name if the dog had been individually registered by its breeder and the request was accompanied by written permission from the breeder. The new regulation reads:

"The name of a dog registered with The American Kennel Club will be allowed to be changed provided the dog was whelped in the United States and in cases where the breeder(s) first individually registered the dog, their written consent would be required. A dog name containing a Registered Kennel Name cannot be changed without the written consent of the owner(s) of that Registered Kennel Name.

However, no change in the name will be recorded by The American Kennel Club after the dog has produced or sired an AKC registered litter or received an award at an AKC licensed or member event.

Any name change must comply with all AKC requirements."

The service fee for a name change is \$25. The Dog Name Change Authorization form is located online. The completed form can be faxed to the AKC at: 919-816-4261 or mailed to the address on the application.



Dogue de Bordeaux Becomes AKC's 158th Recognized Breed

The Dogue de Bordeaux, sometimes referred to as the "French Mastiff", will be eligible for full AKC® registration and competition in the Working Group at shows held on and after July 1, 2008. The breed, among the most ancient of purebred dogs, could often be found guarding the vineyards or butcher shops in France; they were also used for hunting large game such as bear and wild boar. It wasn't until the 1960's that the breed made its first appearance in the United States.

The AKC also welcomes six new breeds into the Miscellaneous Class on July 1: Bluetick Coonhound, Cane Corso, Cesky Terrier, Icelandic Sheepdog, Leonberger, and Norwegian Lundehund.

American Kennel Club News

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MAY AKC BOARD MEETING

Events and Entries Update

AKC reported that for the first quarter of 2008, the total number of entries increased by 3% and the total number of Events by 8%. The largest increase in entries were in Agility with 16,500 entries and Conformation with over 5,100. The slowing of the growth rate in Rally was discussed. Size of AKC's Governing Body.

Rules Applying to Dog Shows, Chapter 17, Section 2

The Board reviewed a request from AKC internal auditors to amend Rules Applying to Dog Shows, Chapter 17, Section 2. The suggested change would permit the schedule of payments for events to be set by Board policy, in order to accommodate monthly billing of AKC licensed superintendents. This will improve efficiency and accuracy of accounting. The change would be effective on January 1, 2009. It will be discussed further in July. FSS Enrollment for Fully Registered Breeds

Fines for Non-Compliant Clubs

The Event Operations staff presented proposed updates to the schedule of standard penalties and fees assessed for non-compliance of the Dog Show Rules. This will be discussed further in July.

Electronic Show Results

Staff presented a proposal to require all AKC licensed superintendents to submit show results in an electronic format. Currently AKC licensed superintendents who service more than 10 all-breed events are required to submit show results in an electronic format. Without objection, effective July 1, 2008, Event Operations will require all AKC licensed superintendents to submit show records for all events in an electronic format acceptable to AKC. **FSS**

Entlebucher Mountain Dog

It was VOTED (unanimously) to advance the Entlebucher Mountain Dog to the Miscellaneous Class, effective January 1, 2009.

Irish Red & White Setter

It was VOTED (unanimously) to accept the Irish Red & White Setter into The American Kennel Club Stud Book, effective January 1, 2009 and to allow the breed to begin competing in the Sporting Group on January 1, 2009. The AKC will maintain an open registry for the breed until January 1, 2012.

Norwegian Buhund

It was VOTED (unanimously) to accept the Norwegian Buhund into The American Kennel Club Stud Book, effective January 1, 2009 and to allow the breed to begin competing in the Herding Group on January 1, 2009. The AKC will maintain an open registry for the breed until January 1, 2012.

Pyrenean Shepherd

It was VOTED (unanimously) to accept the Pyrenean Shepherd into The American Kennel Club Stud Book, effective January 1, 2009 and to allow the breed to begin competing in the Herding Group on January 1, 2009. The AKC will maintain an open registry for the breed until January 1, 2012.

Xoloitzcuintli

It was VOTED (unanimously) to advance the Xoloitzcuintli to the Miscellaneous Class, effective January 1, 2009.

Treeing Walker Coonhound

The Board reviewed a request from the parent club of the Treeing Walker Coonhound, the Southeastern Treeing Walker Association. The club is requesting approval to advance the breed into the Miscellaneous Class. This will be discussed further in July.

AKC Charter and Bylaws, Article IV, Section 1: Membership

Staff presented a Bylaw amendment that would make Group Clubs ineligible for AKC membership. Staff recommends a wording change to Article IV, Section 1 of the Charter and Bylaws of The American Kennel Club, Inc. to specify the types of clubs that would be eligible to become members of the AKC.

Retriever Advisory Committee Recommendations

There was a motion to approve six rule changes to Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedure for Retrievers. The proposed rule changes would take effect on July 1, 2009. The rules changes would be read at the June 2008 Delegate meeting for a vote at the September 2008 Delegate meeting.

Breeders Committee

Staff advised that the first AKC/CHF podcasts are imminent. These podcasts will feature AKC/CHF Breeders Symposia lectures by leading scientists, researchers, and CHF grant recipients, and will target both novice and experienced breeders. Podcasts will include basic applied genetics, anatomy and physiology as well as breeding techniques. New podcasts will be released every two weeks. The first two podcasts are:

- Mathew Ellinwood DVM, PhD, discussing how the field of genetics can assist in developing the tools necessary for responsible breeders.
- Sharon Center DVM, talks about the research being done to correct some common genetic liver disorders.

The next AKC/CHF Breeders Symposium will be held on May 31 – June 1, 2008 at North Carolina State University in Raleigh, NC.

Continuing Education for Conformation Judges

Staff presented a proposal to implement a continuing education requirement for approved dog show judges effective January 1, 2009. The proposal would require all judges to recertify their approval every five years by attending an AKC presented seminar, which will include information on the latest Policy and Rule changes, Standard revisions, ethics, contracts, the approval policy, a procedure test, appropriate tests on new breeds and any additional demonstrations and information considered relevant by AKC. All new breed judges are required to attend a Basic Institute before they are granted regular status in their initial breed(s). The Board expressed a desire to see alternatives that did not mandate travel to and attendance at seminars.

Obedience Regulations – Chapter 1, Section 2

Staff presented a proposed change to Chapter 1, Section 2 of the Obedience Regulations to permit group clubs the option to hold all-breed obedience and rally trials. Specialty Clubs may already do so.

It was VOTED to consider the matter at this meeting, waiving the usual notice requirement. It was VOTED (unanimously) to amend Chapter 1, Section 2, of the Obedience Regulation, effective immediately.

Delegate Meetings

The Board considered a letter from Daniel Smyth, Chairman of the Delegate Advocacy and Advancement Committee, requesting that the Board reconsider the dates selected for 2009 Delegate Meetings. All of the designated meetings are on a Monday/Tuesday, whereas the Delegate Committee would like to see one or more Sunday/Monday meetings. It was the sense of the Board that this could be considered going forward beyond 2009, but that the dates of previously announced meetings should not be changed. Staff was directed to study the options for one or more Sunday/Monday meetings in 2010.



See You At The March Meeting!