

## DELEGATE REPORT SEPTEMBER 13/14, 2010

**Parent Club Committee Meeting** held at 9:00 a.m. on September 13<sup>th</sup>. **Tom Davies, AKC board member reported on the results of the recent board of directors retreat in New York.** Davies reported that one of the main foci of the retreat had been discussing possible event enhancements to increase entries at conformation events. The Board came up with four ideas that they intend to pursue and to expedite as much as possible. They are:

1. **Reserve Best in Show**
2. **Increase group placements from four to six**
3. **Add a four to six month puppy class**, not for points, but would be eligible for a special new suffix title and would also provide a way for clubs to meet compliance requirements for shows and allow those seeking judging credentials to gain experience similar to in a match situation. This could also be offered at specialties.
4. **Add an amateur owner handler competition**, similar to the bred by competition already offered at some shows, which would also offer a chance for getting a check mark in a compliance box for participating clubs.

The first two of the above would require a rule change and therefore a delegate vote would be required before these changes could be made. The second two would not according to the board, although some delegates opined that the third would require a vote as it creates a new class. The reason that the board opined that no such vote was required was that this was a non-regular class, more akin to a match held within the shows at the option of the club. There was broad overall initial support for all four ideas, but it was agreed that the last two required significant refinement before implementation to firm up all rules for them.

**Code of Ethics sub-committee reported they had completed their study and had received responses from 104 parent clubs between March 2009 and June 2010.** The commonalities in the documents used by the clubs (Code of Ethics and bylaws and membership applications) were quantified and listed in declining order and will be available on the delegate portal at the AKC website. There were significant variations used by various clubs, but all appeared to be striving to preserve and promote the integrity of the individual breeds.

**The report on the Parent Club Conference held in Raleigh in August 2010 concluded that it was the most successful conference yet.** The conference was enhanced by the ability of staff to participate and the attendees' ability to tour the Raleigh facilities. The conference was supported financially by AKC, CAR, and Eukanuba.

**Meet the Breeds in Long Beach has 110 clubs signed up to participate and more are anticipated.** Details are available at MeettheBreeds.com. Another stand alone Meet the Breeds will be done in conjunction with the Cat Fancier's Association this year at the Javitts Center and all clubs were encouraged to participate. There will be a \$300 stipend

paid to each club by cash or check as directed by the club, plus \$80 per diem for food and parking for workers.

**John Lyons reported on the AKC Referral Program, wherein AKC sends clubs a new title report each month.** It was intended that clubs use this document to find sources of new members for the clubs, but a recent survey revealed that only 13% of clubs were utilizing it for this purpose. **Lyons also reported on the new Breeder of Merit program that will officially launch on October 1, 2010.** The purpose is to recognize breeders in the fancy by differentiating them, promoting them, paying tribute to the dogs they produce and their breeding programs, and giving them an incentive to register their puppies on sale or transfer. **The details of the program were delineated by David Roberts and Maribeth O'Neill. To be considered a breeder of merit one must:**

- 1. have been involved in AKC events for at least five years;**
- 2. have put four titles on four different dogs they have bred** (titles can be in conformation, obedience, or performance);
- 3. be a member of an AKC member or licensed club;**
- 4. perform all health tests on sires and dams pursuant to parent club recommendations;** and
- 5. commit to register 100% of puppies bred.**

**The benefits accorded to those Breeders of Merit will be:**

- 1. registration papers will bear a Breeder of Merit designation and a gold border;**
- 2. complimentary access to \$20.00 per month of free online reports in the AKC online store;**
- 3. online record support to assure accurate, complete and accessible records;**
- 4. certificate of distinction, suitable for framing;**
- 5. free online breeder classified listing with BOM designation;**
- 6. acknowledgement on the AKC website and in the Gazette;**
- 7. free or discounted fees on secondary transactions such as duplicate applications and changes to limited status of registrations;**
- 8. web banner for display on websites;** and
- 9. lapel pin.**

**The Bylaws Committee meeting was at 1:00 p.m.** It was announced that the issue of **judges fees remained under consideration** and no report from the subcommittee formed by the board on this issue had been issued yet. There was discussion of the **changes that would be required in the bylaws if the delegate meetings were changed from four to three meetings per year.** There was also discussion of the fact that the word “purebred” had been inserted several places in the charter and bylaws in 2001 and whether, with the current mixed breed initiative, this needed to be removed, clarified, or just left alone. No action was taken on this. There was also discussion of the fact that Article 4, section 1 requires that clubs have three shows in three years to gain entry as a club in AKC, but board policy has actually been to require a ten year history. A vote within the committee as to whether to propose a change to this section to conform to the current policy failed to pass. It was decided that it was best to leave the more restrictive policies at the board level so they could be changed more readily as long as they were not being used indiscriminately. There was also discussion about the concept of **“associates” or “partners” with AKC**, a status that would accord no voting rights but be more of a supporter status such as many other non-profits have been using for years, both to raise funds and also to have people feel they have a stake in the organization and which can be used for purposes of political clout.

**The Legislative Caucus and the Forum at 7:30 and 9:00 a.m. on September 14<sup>th</sup> were both centered on the presentation by Bill Bruce, the director of the Animal Control and Shelter in Calgary, Canada.** I had previously heard Mr. Bruce speak at the NAIA conference attended in 2008, and the presentation here was substantially the same, so I will not repeat that report again. It can be found in a previous issue of the Express. I will only say that **it was very impressive to hear an animal control official emphasize responsible pet ownership rather than traditional animal control tactics.** Mr. Bruce firmly and rightly understands that breed specific legislation and numeric limits on pets are **not** the answer and that these sorts of “solutions” to the issues do not get to the REAL issues: canine aggression, noise, smell, and care and conditions. He correctly sees that education is the most powerful tool to change behavior. He has achieved over 95% compliance with dog licensing, returns almost all lost animals to their ownership the same day or very soon, and has almost 100% adoption rates for animals that remain in the shelter. His is truly the model we should all be promoting in our own communities, and the details can be found on the website for Calgary’s Animal & Bylaws Services.

**The general meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m., and committee elections were held. Alan Kalter gave a report on the importance of breeders achieving 100% registration of puppies bred and transferred and outlined the improvements made to comply with this.** Basically there are **now six ways to achieve 100% registration:**

1. Full Litter Process allows breeders to register all puppies to the breeder at time of litter registration for a discount, with subsequent transfers being able to be either full or limited;
2. Full Litter Offspring gives breeders who have already registered the litter a second opportunity to register all puppies to the breeder at a discount;
3. Full Litter Plus allows all puppies to be registered to the new owners at the time of the registration of the litter, with AKC contacting the new owner later for the name of the puppy;
4. Full Litter Offspring Plus is same as (3) except is done after the initial litter registration;
5. Registration at Time of Sale allows breeders to have buyers fill out the papers at time of sale, pay the \$20.00 to AKC when puppy is picked up, and breeder can mail in. this can also be done online; and
6. Unregistered Dog Program allows the breeder to record the new owner information in the AKC’s Online Record Keeping System, and the AKC will contact the new owners via their automated system to remind the buyer to register their new family member.

**Gina DiNardo gave a report on the Associate Member Program which is still in the research phase.** To facilitate this research 20,000 surveys were sent out to individuals to see if there was enough positive response to justify the expense to develop such a program; and if so, what the appropriate range of charges for such a membership would be.

The **Chairman’s Report by Ron Menaker** was an announcement of the four new programs set out in the Parent Club committee report and a report on the Breeder of Merit program and the fact that **the 2010 Eukanuba show in Long Beach will be televised this year by ABC**, thus increasing the audience four to five-fold the previous audience with Animal Planet. **President Dennis Sprungs’ report was a recognition of the**

**successful Parent Club Conference and a review of the status of the AKC Humane Fund**, which makes grants to parent club rescue programs and to women's shelters that accept pets in their facilities. They also administer the ACE program and the AKC Hall of Fame.

**Alan Kalter and David Roberts did a presentation on Who Is the AKC?** Their powerpoint stated that every member of every member club is a part of AKC. AKC is responsible for kennel inspections that promote good care and conditions for the dogs that reside there, works to promote good legislation and oppose bad bills, and has the following programs under its auspices: Canine Animal Recovery, which has been responsible for the recovery of 385,000 pets; Canine Health Foundation; the Dog Museum; ACE awards; Canine Good Citizen and STAR puppy tests and certifications; veterinary outreach program which has given out over \$1,000,000 in scholarships to veterinary and veterinary technician students, plus given educational presentations at the schools; Responsible Dog Owner Days programs; and Canine Ambassador Program, for educational outreach in schools. All except CAR operate at a loss and require financial support from AKC.

Except for four votes on Field Trial Rules, the only matter voted on at this meeting was a **proposed change to Article VII, Section 1 of the Bylaws to eliminate the current term limits that require persons to have a one-year hiatus from the board of directors after two terms on the board. The vote on the amendment was: 157 in favor, and 220 against. A two-thirds vote was required to pass the amendment, so it failed.** The term limit remains in effect.

**The one matter on the agenda for a vote in December is whether to change Chapter 7, Section 12 of Dog Show Rules to allow the afternoon judging periods to not be further divided.** In other words, there would simply be a time listed for all afternoon breeds, with no further breakdown as to specific times. This would be at the option of the show chair.