

Delegate's Corner #3

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LCA AKC Delegate

The December Delegate's meeting is a little different than your typical meeting as it's the only one built around a separate event, that being the AKC / Eukanuba National Championship in Orlando, Florida.

The meeting itself is a little different than usual as well. This is the meeting at which Delegate's running for the AKC Board of Directors give a speech highlighting their platforms and then answer questions from the remainder of the Delegate body. This year's candidates will be elected at the next meeting in March and will serve a 4 year term (the 4 successful candidates become known as the Class of 2017).

Prior to the formal Delegate's meeting on Friday, the Delegate committee meetings took place on Thursday. As I usually try to do, I attended both the Parent Club and the Health Committee meetings. I also attended the legislative caucus and the Delegate Coordinating Committee meeting in which each committee chair provides an overview of the activities of each individual committee. I also attended the Delegate Newsletter (Perspectives) committee meeting.

Here's an overview of significant information LCA Member should be aware of.

Health:

The AKC will sponsor a Parent Club Health Conference in St. Louis, Missouri between August 9th and 11th of next year. Each Parent Club may send a representative. The conference fee will be picked up by AKC. Additional members in attendance must register and pay the regular conference fee.

The AKC's Canine Health Foundation (CHF) is one of several sponsors of a major initiative to study the issue of bloat (gastric dilation) in our dogs. AKC is beginning a funding drive to raise the money necessary to mount this initiative. In addition, in early 2013, a Webinar discussing the Bloat issue will be available to anyone wishing to watch. More information will be available shortly. Bloat is an issue the Leonberger community continues to deal with. We should be mindful of the importance of this study and of the funding that will be required to make it happen.

OFA (Orthopedic Foundation for Animals) is going to be assuming the functions previously handled by CERF (Canine Eye Research Foundation). AVCO (The American Veterinary Ophthalmologist Association) recently had a falling out with the CERF and decided to align themselves going forward with OFA. The absorption of the existing CERF database is still being discussed. I'll let you know what I find out about this as information becomes available.

The Kennel Club of England has recently published a document called the "Breeding Health Improvement initiative", a generic (non breed specific) toolkit for improving the health of our puppies. It is a PDF that may be downloaded from the following Web Site: <http://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/download/13823/bhcbreedhealthimpstrat.pdf>

Titer Recommendation:

It is a recommendation of the committee that dogs should be titered every 3 years following the puppy series of vaccinations. It is also highly recommended that puppies be titered for an immune response following completion of the puppy series because there is some evidence that the vaccines, in rare cases, may have failed to show a zero response following administration of the vaccines.

Parent Club:

The 3 point major for reserve BIS passed almost unanimously at the last Delegate's meeting. The new Specialty application form which will be sent to club presidents of record will include a box which allows a PC to opt out of the 3 point major program. So far, 26 parent clubs have chosen to recognize the 3 point major award. The ribbon awarded for Reserve BIS must be a different color combination than the traditional purple and gold BIS ribbon.

There are the beginnings of talk among the Parent Clubs that AKC might begin offering competitions for spayed and neutered dogs, much the same as the LCA has done for years.

The AKC has announced a titling program for CGC (Canine Good Citizen). It will officially go into effect on 1/1/13. 1200 dogs have already qualified for the title. In order to be eligible for the title, a dog must be registered with the AKC. The cost of processing the paperwork for the award is set at \$20.

AKC COO John Lyons will be retiring on January 8th. The new COO, Daryl Hendricks will assume John's duties as of that date. I had several opportunities to speak with Daryl over the weekend and found him to be an extremely nice guy who is very dedicate to our sport. I'm looking forward to working with Daryl in the future.

A Breeder's Symposium is scheduled for the 2014 AENC (AKC / Eukanuba National Championship). It will be free to all participants and will be scheduled during the December event.

Next meeting March 11-12 in Newark, New Jersey.