

Delegate Meeting Minutes

June 12-13, 2016

Submitted by Don James

LCA Delegate

Apologies for the lateness of this report. Following my election to the Parent Club committee, I'm not able to take notes during the meeting so I must wait for the Committee Secretary to publish the minutes. I received them on July 26th.

Parent Club Committee – Pat Laurens Chair

A presentation was made by AKC's Liz Sorota, AKC's Marketplace Administrator. Marketplace is a AKC effort designed to allow breeders to advertise available litters on the AKC website. The idea behind Marketplace was to allow breeders who cannot afford to mount their own web presence a chance to do so using the AKC's website. There is a nominal charge of \$10/month or \$99/year.

Many Delegates have issues with Marketplace because it implies that every listing on the website is a "responsible breeder". Many of us know that is not the case. The one Leonberger breeder listed for a time on Marketplace claimed affiliation with the club, but, in fact, is a well-known Midwest backyard who has never been a member of the LCA. There is an optional requirement of subscribers to answer 13 questions about their breeding program which are designed to properly vet proposed Marketplace advertisers. The hope for many Delegates is that this questionnaire will become a requirement and not just an option. If done correctly, Marketplace can become a multi-faceted public information site for those seeking either a purebred puppy or a breed rescue.

CGC stats for June:

There are currently 46,000 dogs who have attained the CGC status.

AKC Pet Disaster Trailers

Pat reports that, as of June, 328 clubs have participated in some way in the disaster trailer project.

Donations total \$978,000.00 in addition to a \$250,000 contribution from AKC ReUnite.

AKC has been trialing (with several high population breeds) an email "blast" program designed to alert people in the area where a large Specialty is planned. The idea was simple. Use AKC's vast database to isolate pet owners in those areas and notify them of an upcoming event. Some of the participating clubs did see an overall increase in show attendance but most did not notice any particular difference between the "blast" specialty and those in past years.

In 2008, a proposal to increase the number of groups at AKC events from its current 7 to 11 was voted on by the Delegate body. It lost by 16 votes. The proposal has been re-introduced to the Delegate body and work will begin by a new committee which should result in another proposal for Group Realignment. I believe the Leonberger breed should be included in whatever group the Newfs, the Saints and the Pyrs are placed. I have very good connections with the members of this committee and am completely confident we will be included in the group we decide would be the best for our breed. As we move through this process, I will make the LCA's membership aware of what's happening when

more progress has been made by this committee. We want our membership to be included in this decision.

One of my assignments as a member of our Board is to lead a group of members in the development of a formal archive program for the LCA. We have several people in the club who possess materials and artifacts that are vital to preserving the LCA's colorful history. I have introduced this project to the Delegate body offering to share the LCA's experience with them because many clubs are in the very same boat that we are.

All Breed Club Committee – Ann Wallin Chair

A Power Point presentation was made to the group which highlighted the results of 2 different surveys which have been done by the All Breed committee involving Best Practices. This survey was designed to show a typical All Breed club what other clubs are doing that have been successful for them. A 2nd survey was recently completed that centered on Event presentation. The results of this survey are being tabulated and should be available by the end of this year.

A proposal has been made by the Board to create a series of regional representatives who will be available to clubs which are having trouble presenting events successfully. These reps will study a show during one year, then do analysis and review of findings and recommend changes which can be implemented for the next year's show. A follow up will then be done to see which of the recommendations were implemented and the overall success of the events based on implementation of these recommendations.

There is concern at AKC about the precipitous falloff in Junior Showmanship entries. A survey has been mounted and sent to current and former Junior handlers in an effort to determine the causes for this entry drop-off.

The AKC Board has chosen not to pursue an idea which would result in the awarding of championship and Grand Championship points to Group placements 2, 3 & 4.

Delegate Advocacy & Advancement Committee – Dan Smyth Chair

DAC is mounting an effort to determine why clubs are not sending their named Delegates to the quarterly meetings.

A new procedure for dealing with dogs that are DQ'd from shows due either to attack on another dog or a human is in the works and will be announced during the next Delegate meeting. A DQ'd dog will be scheduled for a reinstatement examination at least ½ hour prior to judging and must immediately leave the site. When the dog is DQ'd, the handler must immediately DNA swab the dog on site. If this is not done, the DQ'd dog cannot be reinstated. A fee of \$500 is required to complete the process. If the dog is required to leave the grounds, the AKC Field Rep is responsible for seeing that this is done. All of these rule changes are to be discussed at the July session of the AKC Board.

DAC is working on 2 videos. One will deal with the importance of a club's AKC Delegate while the other shows a new Delegate what to expect when they attend their first meeting.

Companion Events Committee – Larry Wilson Chair

AKC staff is still working on developing the AKC Nose Work title.

An Agility Premiere Class has been introduced to competition and has, so far, been very successful in attracting current agility champions to reenter competition.

AKC has an obedience trial manual available to any club thinking of hosting an obedience competition.

Dog Show Rules Committee – Cindy Miller Chair

The new of Achievement award is still in the works. Recommendations from the Board will be relayed to the Rules Committee at the September meeting.

Date of show will no longer be required on show ribbons. This will allow a club to use ribbons ordered for one show for another if all were not used up during the original event.

The Board will review a couple of proposals. Currently, NOHS handlers are identified in the official program by an asterisk following the entry. Many NOHS handlers believe judges might discriminate against them if they know they are owner handlers and have asked that AKC investigate some other method of identifying NOHS participants. The Board put the “asterisk” program in place last year and wishes to let it run for the next year to see how it works before implementing any of the proposed changes listed above.

There are proposals being considered that would allow altered dogs to compete in non-regular classes at AKC sponsored events. There is, obviously, a lot of opposition to such a rule. There are so many elements to this discussion, it will be years before anything like this ever becomes a reality.

By Laws Committee – Gretchen Bernardi Chair

An amendment has been proposed to Article IV, Sections 1 & 7 to change the manner in which AKC grants member club status to parent clubs. Currently, if the Board has the power to deny membership to a club without providing a reason for the rejection. The Parent Club committee has a subcommittee whose task is to help 36 clubs whose breeds have been recognized but have yet to gain member club status.

There was a discussion concerning the practice of many Delegate Judges in performance events who regularly charge a per dog honorarium which is then donated to charity. Regardless of the terminology, these charges are considered fees and Delegate judges, as of this writing, are not allowed to charge any type of fee for their services. Other Delegates mentioned that other dog show positions do result in income for someone who is also a Delegate (i.e. Agility Superintendents). There will be a lot of discussion of this matter over the next couple of months as there is nothing in the By Laws that deals with appropriate discipline when matters like this occur. A motion was made to compel the Board to send out a reminder of the current policy to all current Delegate judges.

A discussion of the continued necessity of mounting a nominating committee each year for the election of the Board of Directors. Candidates who are not nominated may still gain a position on the ballot by obtaining the requisite number of valid Delegate signatures. Maybe the time has come to move to a system which is solely based on candidates getting on the ballot by going the signature route.

Canine Health Committee – Susan Hamill Chair

The Tick initiative fund raising campaign has been very successful. A check for \$43,000.00 was presented to CHF Executive Director Diane Brown. You may have noted an email that was forwarded to LCA Members this week announcing an AKC grant for the study of tick borne diseases.

A Canine Brucellosis sub-committee has been formed to develop a best practice for breeders regarding this disease.

A presentation was given by Delegate Julian Prager on USDA requirements for importing dogs for the purpose of breeding.

Herding & Earthdog Committee Bob LaBerge Chair

FAST C.A.T. has been approved as an AKC Performance event. This offshoot to the lure coursing program times dogs on a straight line course. A title will be available.

A Farm Dog title has been approved. Farm Dog is basically a CGC for dogs who live and work on a farm.

Delegates General Meeting Monday, June 13th, 2016

Dennis Sprung detailed for all the Delegates the revised rules for dealing with dogs who have been disqualified for behavioral issues during a show. This will be the new policy:

A list of all of those dogs that were DQ'd over the last five years will be sent to superintendents and show secretaries. It will be updated on a regular basis. A new accident insurance policy to cover judges at AKC-approved events was taken out. This policy is in addition to the existing AKC liability insurance policy for judges. Criteria was established for proof of insurance on the part of the owner of the reinstated dog. Also, whenever a dog is DQ'd, it must immediately leave the venue and the same is true following a reinstatement procedure.

Lastly, we are recommending to the board that in these situations the owner or handler is to be asked to use a DNA swab. If the dog is not DNA'd, it will be ineligible for reinstatement. In addition, at the time of reinstatement, the dog will again be DNA'd. There will be a \$500 processing fee to cover the costs.

Brandi Hunter, AKC's Vice President of Public Relations and Communications gave a presentation on AKC's social media programs and some new ideas that are being implemented to grow the AKC brand.

Joe Baffuto, AKC's Chief Financial Officer provided updated quarterly financial information to the Delegates. AKC's overall financial picture has improved over the past couple of years and we've seen, for the first time in a while, a significant uptick in the number of AKC registrations. We've seen a 7% increase in the number of litters registered and an 11% increase in dog registrations. These are significant numbers.

Two changes to be voted on at the September meeting were read to the Delegate body:

The Executive Secretary read the proposed amendment to Chapter 3, Sections 4, 5, 7, 17 and 19, of the Rules Applying to Dog Shows - Dog Show Classifications as follows:

Change the italicized paragraph to become a part of the rule rather than a Board clarification, without changing the wording. In Section 5, it would add the statement regarding the first day of a multiple-day show being used to calculate age. In Section 7, it would change the italicized definition of professional handlers to make it part of the rule, not a Board clarification, without changing the wording. Additionally, in Sections 17 and 19, it would change the italicized definition of the professional handlers to make it part of the rule, not a Board clarification with the only change being the removal of the effective date. The amendment will be published in two issues of the AKC Gazette and will be voted on it at the September 2016 meeting.

The Executive Secretary read the proposed amendment to Chapter 6, Section 9, of the Rules Applying to Dog Shows - Premium Lists and Closing Entries as follows:

Premium Lists and Closing Entries would allow entries in any form to be accepted 24 hours after the closing date and time when it falls on a postal holiday. The amendment will be published in two issues of the AKC Gazette and will be voted on at the September 2016 meeting.

I did speak during the General Meeting about concerns I (and many fellow Delegates) have about the implementation of the AKC website's Marketplace.

The Chair recognized Don James, Delegate for the Leonberger Club of America, who spoke about AKC Marketplace as follows:

In light of what Ron said about the importance of the AKC Marketplace now taking its digital footprint, I think it's important to make sure that the breeders that are listed on AKC Marketplace are, in fact, as it says, responsible. The Parent Clubs Committee yesterday was treated to a presentation by Liz Sorota [AKC Vice President, Marketing] who is now in charge of the Marketplace. One of the things that she said they were considering was requiring everybody who was going to be listed on Marketplace to do a 13 question survey that would either have to be answered by filling in or by multiple choice before they would be allowed to be listed on Marketplace. They are considering that. I would suggest it be mandatory because one way that we can ensure that the breeders listed on Marketplace are, in fact, responsible is to get those 13 questions answered.

The next meeting will be held September 11th and 12th in Newark, New Jersey.