

Report By

STCA Delegate: Holly S. Stump

The 11 standing committees meet on the first day of the meeting. They run a morning session and an afternoon session. I went to the Parent Clubs Committee Meeting from 9-11:30 and the Canine Health Committee from 1:00-3:30. At 3:30 the first caucus was run. The standard format of from the floor delegate discussion was followed. Following this there was a meeting of those concerned with the crop and dock issue and the discussion was centered on how to respond to the new AVMA policy statement. On Tues AM @ 7:30 the second caucus took place, it was the legislative caucus and focused on hot topics. At 9:00 AM the forum took place. The topic this quarter was Q & A for board candidates. Finally at 11:00 AM the regular formal delegate meeting was called to order.

Parent Club Committee Meeting: (Chair :Pat Laurens)

- E-Lists

- There is a parent club conference e-list with 587 members and 9335 posts
 - I have been on this for a few years
- There is a parent club e-list
 - I joined after the meeting

- Group realignment

- John Nielson reported that it is done and report has been unanimously accepted (not approved) by the board
 - They will be discussing @ the January board meeting. They have published a request for comments by Jan 1 and for them to be sent to Jim Crowley
 - Request was made that mailings go to all club delegates and not just parent club delegates
 - Alaskan Mal does not want to go to Nordic group
 - Was asked if there was a time line for formal proposal from board and if this would be considered in parts or as all or nothing

- Delegates approval only needed to change 3 of groups and names of groups (by-law change) and not needed to move breeds around (policy change)
- Code of ethics & By-Laws
 - Connie Butherus and Karen Spey will be requesting them from all clubs for a new database. Correspondences will go out from Mike Leosis's office to corresponding sec, delegate and president of all parent clubs. This was last done 12 years ago.
- AVMA new crop dock policy meeting
 - To be held right after 3:30 general caucus
 - What are parent clubs going to do?
 - Bill Newman (AKC board member who is AVMA liaison) was "wow" blindsided by this change in policy. It had been 3 years since they last spoke about this topic.
 - Dennis Sprung (AKC president / CEO) read AKC's reply to AVMA. It was very good and AKC is not going to budge.
- New Business
 - Hartland pet auction center inspections certificate
 - They published that they held an AKC certificate of inspections approval in a letter to customers. What they really had was a one-day inspections passing report. Which clearly states that is in not an AKC endorsement of any kind. They inspect health, records, ID and conditions.
 - They were told by AKC legal to remove language from web site
 - Margaret Poindexter (AKC general council and past inspections program manager) explained the real process
 - Because they sell AKC puppies we have right to inspect them. AKC spends 6 million dollars a year running the department of 15 inspectors. They do about 5500 inspections a year. This is 1/3 the USDA total welfare budget.

- Big discussion about issuing any type of certificate to auction houses even if they pass inspection for the day. We give them to private and commercial kennels when they pass. After heated discussion staff left room and came back 10 min later and said they would not give them certificates. Margaret was very disappointed with this as were many others. Asking them to do things our way and then treating them like second-class group.
- Considering 2010 parent club conference
 - A bit less grand than last one because of economy
 - Coordinating committee getting details together to submit to board
- Oct 22nd there was a new format meeting of each subcommittee chair and key AKC staff in NYC (including Dennis Sprung – president, John Lyons- COO, and Jim Crowley – Exec. Secretary) Ron Menaker (AKC BOD chairmen) was also there. They will probably continue this in some form going forward.
- Crufts and The Kennel Club
 - AKC wrote to them advising them on what they should do about breed standards and public attack on purebred dogs and lack of broadcasting. BBC was only going to televise if they removed 18 breeds. Crufts said no way. The BBC film pedigree dogs exposed has now aired in Canada. The FCI of UK has filed lawsuit so rights cannot be sold until resolved so we might get a short break before it comes to USA.
- Peter Gaeta (AKC Director Judging Operations)
 - Clubs need to get onboard with ringside mentoring program ASAP
- Carting / drafting program on hold
- Bassett hound club
 - Why can't they mandate how they want breed judges. Expected to be judged on ramp is not “ will be judged on a

ramp” which is what they want. They also want it used for JR’s judging.

- 3 parent club committee members running for board
 - Alan Kalter
 - Lee Arnold
 - John Neilsen
- John? Reported credit card fraud with Topeka Kansas national facility
 - Site great but several venues have had card problems
 - Ongoing FBI investigation

Canine Health Committee: (Chair-Constance Vanacore)

Perspectives (the delegate newsletter)

- Jan 5th deadline “Sample Fatigue”
- Next might be on creating Parent club health surveys with objective in mind
- Margaret Poindexter (vet outreach)
 - AVMA? AKC career achievement award selected by AVMA
 - 1st year students need to get something from AKC
 - Royal Canin sponsoring this effort
 - “Practical Guide to Dog Breeding” By Dominique Gran Jean
 - Originally a German book so a little off for US market but still OK
 - Complete card set of each breed with links to parent club web sites and health concerns
 - Welcome letter and bookmark from AKC

- Still working on concept of how we make requirements from our scholarship recipients
 - Class presentation etc / ambassador program for AKC for next session
 - Committee asked to see scripted message before it goes out
- CHF
 - \$175,000 from Fri night gala and auction
 - Calendar \$5,000
 - 1.2 million for new research
 - 1.2 million for continued research
 - Jan 09 new proposal peer review
 - Pod casts Connie Fields
 - 5 new ones AKC / CHF
- CHIC
 - Two new member clubs 120 breeds total
 - 9000 dogs qualified
 - 1/5 were this year
 - 7000 DNA samples
 - 1/7 this past 3 months
- AVMA
 - Liaisons Bill Newman and Pat Haines
 - Need to stay friends despite dock crop non-communication. New guy in charge is from USDA
- Old Business
 - Cloning statement
 - There was no board directive to revisit statement so taking off of table

- DNA ID to be tied to CHIC database
- Breed standards and health concerns
 - Does this committee need to be involved or is it parent club committee issue alone?
- Disease codes are not standardized in veterinary medicine. How do we get there?

Caucus #1 : general from the floor discussions

- Champions
 - Majors limited to same sex entries
 - Age requirements for majors
- Point divisions
 - Should they be changed to new territories
 - Flow of movement should play a role (lakes, mountains etc)
- What to do about old clubs that need rejuvenation
- Points
 - Should supported entries before a national count when recalculating point breakdown for a region
- Should we change 5 day show limit for bad economy
-

Caucus #2 legislation hot topics

- Introduced Shelia Goffe replaced Walter Bebout
- AB 1640 review
- MA HB 1948 saga

- Was good behavior based dangerous dog bill, morphed into terrible anti dog bill
- MA ballot initiative greyhound racing now illegal
- John Ronald
 - How can we get past always being on the reactive side?
- Miami has over 155,000 imports coming through...
- NY state has 61 delegates while Al has one..... need to work together more

AKC BOD Candidate Q & A

- 7 candidates took part in this
 - (Carl Gomes was unable to attend)
- They all support mixed breeds in companion events
- Carl and Fred only ones who support term limits
- What to do about decline in registration
 - Carl cannot ignore where purebred dogs come from including commercial breeders. We register 16% of all purebred dogs. Need to offer more to community and it does not mean only the ones we like where they came from.
 - Allan AKC dog is better off, win back customers we have trashed including commercial breeders
 - Bob preach to the public how good we are not ourselves
 - Example limited registration means we do not think it is good enough to be bred. Quality concerns
 - Judy things were easy when there was no competition. It is no longer a cash cow. Used public relations and marketing
 - Lee market our care and conditions program
 - John capture from commercial side need all registered dogs with us

- Fred makes it work for bottom line for breeders who are using other registries. Make AKC dogs worth more by public education and marketing
- Does delegate body need reorganization
 - Carl 1884 structure will need to change, maybe regionalization
 - Allan maybe regionalization
 - Bob no
 - Judy no
 - Lee no
 - John loose too much
- Allow mixed breeds into ob, rally and agility
 - Carl yes
 - Allan yes
 - Bob No
 - Judy No
 - Lee yes
 - John No

General Delegates Meeting

- Meeting called to order
- Nominating report read (4 vacancies)
 - Lee Arnold
 - Alan Kalter
 - John Nielsen

- Robert Smith
- Delegate body endorsed candidates
 - Carl Ashby
 - Fred Bock
 - Judith Daniels
 - Carl Gomes
- All spoke for 5 Min
 - (Jim Crowley read something from Carl Gomes he could not attend)
 - See AKC submitted minutes for text of speeches
- Chair informed delegate body of the passing of Marshall ‘Pete’ Simonds Oct 1
- 6 new delegates seated since last meeting
- 9 New delegates introduced @ their first meeting
- Minutes approved from September with notation by Pat Laurans
- Voted on one new kennel club
 - Kennesaw Kennel Club
- Ron Menaker AKC Board Chairman
 - New 125th logo (files provided so clubs can use)
 - 161 breeds
 - 1887 15x20 room w/ one file desk
 - 1926 first dog show
 - 2009 2 locations 400 employees
 - Feb open house (see pdf file) will have special 125 time line
 - The Complete Dog Book over 2 million copies since 1929
 - 600 clubs

- 2009 Eukanuba open format to celebrate 125th
 - Parent clubs requested to do nationals or supported entries
- Presidents report Dennis Sprung (Ideas – please share feedback)
 - Future program
 - Develop an initiative program to improve breeding programs. Semen collection on outstanding dogs
 - Funded, endowed, profitable to AKC
 - Residual income to benefit existing AKC programs like CHF, museum, Humane fund and legislative fund
 - Funded by \$25 activity fee annually for every dog participating in AKC events
 - Committee to make selections but recommendations can be made as well by parent clubs
 - More meet the breeds
 - Take on the road with performance events
 - PR package to go with it
 - Economic Impact
 - New brochure
 - 6 categories
 - 85 data fields by state
 - Star program
 - AKC puppy classes 9 (at least 6 weeks)
 - Health care, house breaking and behavioral issues, simple commands, lead training
 - 2500 evaluators are signed up already
 - researched with CGC evaluators, piloted in CA

- More Product licensing
 - Marley and Me a start
- Congressional newsletter
 - In Session, AKC's Congressional Newsletter
 - Sent bi-monthly to all congress members and staff
 - Will encourage congress to contact AKC on all dog related issues of concern and al aspects of canine legislation
 - Will feature
 - news and info about the AKC and it's clubs
 - info about our public education programs
 - info about our charitable donations
 - info about our grass routs efforts that benefit all dogs, owners and communities
 - highlights our government relations efforts
 - highlights services we offer on local, state and federal level
- Jim Stevens AKC CFO
 - 11 months of 2008 revenue \$61 million
 - (1% lower than 2007)
 - 11 month operating expenses \$58.5 million
 - (up less than 1% from 2007)
 - 11 month surplus of \$2.6 million
 - about 1 million less than 2007
 - 11 month investments down \$17 million (28%)
 - took from 2003-2007 to make that gain
 - 5.1 million gain for 2007

- \$14.4 million deficit for 11 months of 2008
 - net surplus of \$8.8 million in 2007
 - rate of registration decline still going up
 - 11% lower than last year
- votes on rule changes
 - passed to allow AKC to bill superintendents on monthly basis
 - two of three beagle proposals postponed because parent club changed position and want to give delegate body their rationale before being asked to vote
 - Championship for gun dog brace in beagles passed
- Daisy Okas (communications)
 - Disney
 - Reviewed Underdog, Air Buddies, 101 Dalmatians anniversary release, Shaggy Dog, Firehouse Buddies and Eight Below
 - We do have to advertise their films, they do not do it for free.....
 - 20th Century Fox
 - Fire House Dog (had DVD insert like we had been doing)
 - Also Public service announcement
 - Marley & Me
 - PSA and insert (we got to see them)
 - Also expanded this into product licensing
 - Continuing to work with Disney for Bolt will have CAR component
 - Hachiko with Richard Gere Akita
 - Worked with parent club to put credit line at end of film about breed and the AKC as a resource
- John Lyons AKC COO

- 4th Q AKC achievement awards (see file for details of recipients)
 - (Restricted to responsible dog ownership day efforts)
- Introduced Shelia Goffe (new gov't relations)
 - See AKC published minutes for full credentials

Files included with this report

4th Quarter 2008 Community Achievement Awards.pdf

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AKC Statement on AVMA Crop and Dock Policy.pdf

American Kennel Club - Lifetime Achievement Awards.pdf

CoordCommittee_at_AKC.pdf

Dec2008 Chairman's Report

febopenhouse.pdf

fullakcminutesofdelegate meeting.pdf

Highlights from the December 2008 AKC Delegates Meeting.pdf

Joan Savage Named 2008 AKC Breeder of The Year.pdf

MYDecexpensereport.doc