

Sept 8 & 9th 2008 AKC Delegates Meeting, Newark NJ

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 Canine Health Committee Meeting from 9-11:30 and the Parent Clubs Committee from 1:00-3:30. At 3:30 the first caucus was run. The topic this quarter was a committee report and Q&A on group realignment. At 5:30 I had to attend the new delegates orientation followed by a dinner with AKC staff and board members. On Tues AM @ 7:30 there was a special preview showing of a movie "War dogs of the South Pacific" done for the Doberman Pincher Club for their 100th anniversary celebration. At 8:30 the second caucus took place. Generally this is legislative and focused on hot topics. This quarter it was slightly different because it included presentations by AKC staff. Finally at 10:00 the regular formal delegate meeting was called to order.

Canine Health Committee: (Chair-Constance Vanacore)

Perspectives (the delegate newsletter)

Discussed the limitation of one committee reviewed / submitted article per issue.

Perspectives also will not run previously published material

Going to look into how to get concerns addressed to be able to reprint

Vet Outreach

Sponsor Royal Canin wants 1st year students to get something. New book out "Practical Guide to Dog Breeding" and this is the choice. Third year still get "AKC Complete Dog Guide".

Scholarships

Were sent out to 24 students @ 18 schools. School selects applicants.

Need to use these winners as AKC ambassadors more

Sponsor needed at \$50-\$75,000 level to fly them all to Raleigh and then give them small stipend (\$200-\$300) to host events on campus

Committee needs to advise AKC on scripting the message

OFA sponsors them to Canine health Conference

New Puppy vet vouchers

Not really working. Only 5% of vets are participants. About 76,000 vets / 50,000 practices in USA

Certificate very slow to reach puppy registrant. Never in hands before first visit to vet.

General notes

Note made that Banfield (PetSmart Vet Services) is going to be collecting data on clients pets. They will soon have largest population stats on US pets.

CVMA (CA Vets Association) had large animal / agricultural vets break off association with them. Group getting very off center in policy.

Bill Newman and Patti Hanes are liaisons to AVMA

With new AVMA leadership they tried again to reconnect. Not real positive in reception.

AVMA said universal scanner would be nice

AVMA feel Banfield biggest threat not AR

Committee may ask AKC if they can seek out American Animal Hospital Association relationship since AVMA is not so strong Run by board and done under vet outreach

Canine Health Foundation –

9 new projects funded for 2009 (less genetic emphasis now because they are realizing how long it will be before cancer is gone from our breeds. Need clinical research for the “now”. Sat Sept 6th this years were completed.

5 - cancer

2 - heart

1 - infectious disease

1 – eye

Get about 40 grant applications. They have 90 peer reviewers who look at impact, experimental design, investigator credentials and budget quality (bang for the buck). Each reviewer only looks at those that are within his or her area of expertise. Each reviews about 3-5 requests (50+pages each).

Fri Dec 12th @ Long Beach CHF dinner and auction- Please attend

CHIC (canine health information center) / OFA

110 breeds currently enrolled out of 140ish recognized by AKC (must have at least 3 tests identified for a breed and parent club must require at least two to be done to get a CHIC # on a dog)

Rolled into Parent Club Code of Ethics (Do we even have this (drafting code of ethics) on club agenda)

6000ish samples for 100 breeds. 30 breeds have over 50 samples. 10 researchers using DNA and starting to see results.

Cornell has its own bank managed by Nate Sutter but not by design to be public like the CHIC one.

Discussion on linking DNA profile data with CHIC data. Will need to go to board for policy change. Health committee will work out specifics of policy change request.

AKC BOD - Requested new opinion from committee on cloning of pets. Look at existing policy statement to see if it needs to be changed. 3 year old policy “recognizing that cloning had no benefit to pure bred dogs at this time”

Parent Club Committee Meeting: (Chair :Pat Laurens)

Memoirs read for the passing of long standing committee member George Sexton

Need to join E-List (contact John Neilson)

Group Realignment (go to 3:40 caucus dedicated to topic)

Drafting

Committee was chaired by cliff, but got nothing back

Want to have AKC board reconsider recognizing drafting titles given by parent clubs (would require some standards to be in place for tests)

Conditional registrations

Will supply names and # of any in breed to parent clubs

2400 reviewed, 900 accepted

Full Litter Registration

Concerns about having to decide limited at that point

Mixed breed program

Defeated Six to six needed majority of board

Board will direct staff not to pursue

Spent 3 years on topic, and now “dead”

Parent Club Judges Education

Template handed out for putting program in place by parent Clubs (Enclosed PDF & I will mail with expense report to Monica). By 2009 all clubs must use it

Want clubs to teach how to be mentor

Want clubs to submit approved ringside mentors list

(we do not have any on file with AKC)

Graduate Study

Student of Dr Haines (Hilary from OH state) doing research on 5 of top 10 breeds. Survey to buyers from Internet and Parent Club Breeders.

Code of Ethics

By now most clubs have them. Last study done by committee n 1997

Going to do new one

Who has them, how they incorporate, how many hearings etc

Judging

National specialties can have classes not governed by AKC (sweeps, Bred by, award of merit, futurities etc)

Should make this clear in judge's contracts if they are going to do them for you

Should outline how you want them done also

Details (how run and who is eligible) in premium also

Caucus #1 : Group realignment

Final recommendation by this study group to go to board

10 groups

Split hound (sight / scent)

Split sporting (pointers & setters / retrievers and spaniels)

Get rid of non-sporting and move most to companion

Northern Breeds Group added

Would take 9-12 months after approved to implement. First chance of approval would be March 2009.

Will have to work out judging and such, Probably be provisional time (18month) to keep groups you had and 18 month fast track approval for new breeds in groups etc.

this is all policy and does not require delegates vote. Going to 10 groups is by laws change and does require delegate vote. All parent clubs wishes have been upheld in this process of moving breeds.

I have attached PDF file of each group with breeds

New delegates' orientation and dinner (attended by 33 new delegates)

(held once a year, I was lucky to have it at my first meeting)

Greeting by president

AKC overview by many staff members

Dinner for AKC staff BOD and new delegates

Special Presentation

Preview of Hollywood produced film "War Dogs of the South Pacific" commissioned by Doberman club for their centennial celebration in Oct in Topica Kansas. Very moving film. They are trying to get it on war channel / history channel / animal channel. Using it to promote pure bred dogs and American dogs. Right now our military imports dogs.

Caucus #2

Generally this is legislation / hot topics. This quarter it was a bit different in that it was presentations from group and AKC staff.

Patti Strand Two main fronts headed our way (anti breeder movement)

Efforts to "adjust" shelter data to show overpopulation

Paint purebred dogs as genetic nightmares (UK is seeing this now full bore)

Walt Bebout AKC Govt relations

Overview of department

Stacy Mason AKC Inspections / compliance

Slide show of what she generally sees for AKC high volume kennels

General Delegates Meeting

Meeting called to order

Delegates instructed to fill out and cast ballots for standing committees

14 New delegates introduced (Myself by Patti Strand)

Minutes approved from June

Voted on two new kennel clubs

Ann Arbor kennel Club

Mount Bachelor Kennel Club

James Stevens- AKC CFO Financial / Report (PDF attached of his presentation)

Expenses less than 1% over last year

Litter registration down 9% from last year

Dog registrations down 11% from last year

Pedigree sales down almost \$600,000 from last year

Alternative revenue (royalties) down 667,000 from last year

affinity credit card / product licensing etc

Increased event fees carried us (2,000,000)

Employee head count 2002 was 441 now 392

Investment

Unrealized loss in stock market was 3.2 million

compared to 3.8 gain last year

Net surplus for year through July was 20,000 !!!!!!!!!!!

Core revenue (registration and pedigrees) loss

2006 9 million

2007 7 million

less than half core revenue is registrations where it was 75% in 1990

18% of registrations come from within the fancy. So pet owners are subsidizing the sport. They now are choosing competing registries. How are we going to finance the sport already events run at a loss of 7.5 million registrations at peak (1992) were 1.52 million. This years projection is 725,000 if the trend is allowed to continue we will be 250,000 by 2018 scholarships, conferences, CHF, museum will all suffer.

"Where do we go from here?"

Dennis sprung AKC President / Report (PDF attached of his presentation)

Are fewer dogs being bred?

% of dogs & bitches from our registry that become part of stud book remains constant

28% bitches (at least one litter)

18% dogs (at least one litter)

number of litters from fancy remains constant at about 55,000 per year

We have competition from 30 all bred registries now

Some sponsoring events now

Flat registration fee of \$10 free breeding stock registrations

All for-profit so \$ status not available

Litter sizes are not smaller

% homes with pure bred is up 7%

buyers are just as likely to register as 10 years ago if they get blue slip (44%)

“My Friends, for the generations that will follow us, it can no longer be business as usual”

Ron Menaker AKC Board Chairman / Report (PDF attached of his presentation)

“Make no mistake, the very future of the AKC and our sport is at risk.”

Do not let us be one of those household names that fade away

Westinghouse, Pan American Airline, Standard Oil,

EF Hutton, Woolworth's, Montgomery Ward

Management has been instructed by board to pursue all registerable dogs without lowering our bar. Including pet shop sector / high volume breeders

Compliance Program

Inspections etc

“Our problem is not an expense problem. It's a revenue problem and a serious revenue problem.”

John Lyons Chief Operating Officer

Open House at new facility in NC Oct 14th 2008 All invited 1-7PM

25 years of service medallion awards to qualified delegates

Ballots not ready so will announce during lunch

“Demand AKC Papers”

Club Advertising program highlighted ([paperwork included as PDF](#))

Attachments to this report:

[ChairmansSpeechSept2008.pdf](#) (full talking points and Power point slides of his speech)

[demandAKCpapers.pdf](#) (paperwork for club advertising initiative)

[FinancialPresentationSpeech.pdf](#) (full talking points and Power point slides of his speech)

[fullminutessept08.pdf](#) (full meeting minutes prepared by AKC)

[Groups7-31-08-Repaginated.pdf](#) (proposed new groups with breeds listed)

[Parentclubclassroom.pdf](#) (parent club judges ed stuff that must be followed by 2009)

[PatlaurensCOE.pdf](#) (letter from Pat Laurens (past board member and chair of parent club committee) and 3 examples of codes of ethics)

[PresidentsSpeechSeptember2008.pdf](#) (full talking points and Power point slides of his speech)

[standingcommitteeresults.pdf](#) (election results for standing committee)

[septakcdelexp.pdf](#) (my expense report)