



Perspectives

The Delegates' Newsletter

Volume 26, No. 1

March 2013

In this issue...

- 1 Editorial**
by Carol Williamson
- 2 Candidate's Article**
by Lee Arnold
- 3 Candidate's Article**
by Carl C. Ashby, III
- 4 Candidate's Article**
by Judith V. Daniels
- 5 Candidate's Article**
by Dr. Thomas M. Davies
- 6 Candidate's Article**
by Alan Kalter
- 7 Candidate's Article**
by Gail A LaBerge
- 8 Candidate's Article**
by Harvey M. Wooding
- 9 How We Each "Went to the Dogs":
A Composite of Stories from Delegates
about How each First Got Into Showing**
by Patricia Reynolds
Eleven stories from the Delegates talking about how they started and their mentors along the way.
- 15 My Start in Showing And Some Views on
the Effect of Limited Registration**
by Marylyn DeGregorio
Are Limited Registrations harming the sport?
- 17 What is Right for You and Your Club?**
by Carol Plesur
Three vs. four Delegates Meetings
- 18 Three Delegates Meetings vs. Four
Meetings Per Year**
Dr. Whitney Coombs
Three vs. four Delegates Meetings
- 19 Stepping Into the 21st Century With
Added Values**
by James R. Dok
Three vs. four Delegates Meetings
- 20 The Big, The Bad and The Ugly - Storm
Sandy, October, 2012**
by Margaret L. DiCorleto
A story of Hurricane Sandy
- 22 Take A Tour on the S. S. Minnow
(Gilligan's Island) - or Take a Trip to the
Dog Show**
by Bob Eisele
The importance of promoting the sport of dog shows within a club's territory
- 23 Making Dog Shows Appealing for Regular
Dog Fanciers**
by Bo Bengtson
An open letter to the AKC Delegates Show Rules Committee
- 26 Getting to Know You:
Geraldine (Jerry) Werk**
by Sylvia Thomas
An interview with a new Delegate
- 28 A Rare-Breed Opportunity!**
Pat Cruz
Announcing a series of Open Shows

Perspectives WRITERS' GUIDELINES

Thank you for your interest in contributing to Perspectives. Following are guidelines we ask our contributors to follow. They simplify our jobs as editors and yours as writers and help us produce a quality publication while enabling us to get Perspectives out on time.

- **Write for your audience.** Perspectives is prepared by and for AKC Delegates who represent a wide variety of member clubs through the country. Our readers are very knowledgeable dog people.
- **Be certain that any facts in your article are accurate.** Double-check them. Clearly state when a statement is your own opinion.
- Whenever possible and appropriate, **try to include input/quotes from others who are experts on your topic.** Always attribute any quote to its original source.
- **Articles should be submitted typewritten and double spaced or electronically, via e-mail.** Solicited articles should be sent to the committee member who requested the article. Unsolicited articles should be submitted to the Issue Coordinator for the upcoming issue OR the Editor.
- **We suggest articles be approximately 300 to**

1000 words in length. Longer articles should be discussed with the Issue Coordinator or the Editor before being submitted.

- Do not rely entirely on spelling and grammar checkers as they do not proof word usage. **After preparing your article, read it once more before submitting it.** Use a dictionary to check word meaning and spelling. (Remember, computers don't know the difference between a tow head and a tow truck.)
- **Send in your article as early as possible.** Beginning with the March, 2012 issue, submissions will be due by the 15th of the month following each Delegates Meeting. If your article arrives after the issue deadline, it will likely not be used in the current issue and may be returned to you or held until the next issue.

A submission to Perspectives may not be reproduced in other publications for a period of one year without the written permission of the author and the Perspectives Editor.

Again - thank you for your interest. Without you, there would not be a Perspectives.

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Perspectives

The Delegates' Newsletter

Perspectives is a publication for, and written by, the Delegates, with an occasional article solicited by Editorial Board members ONLY from acknowledged experts in their field. It is a forum for

the exchange of ideas, for argument, for news. Through this medium, we hope to become better informed and, thereby, better equipped to fulfill our responsibilities as Delegates. Your contributions are welcome, and necessary, in making this publication a useful enterprise. Please assist the Editorial Board by submitting material via e-mail. We reserve the right to reasonably edit all copy submitted. Opinions expressed in Perspectives are not necessarily representative of the views of the Editor, the Perspectives Editorial Board, or of the American Kennel Club.

Following the last meeting, I received a very good suggestion pertaining to *Perspectives*.

In the Table of Contents, you will notice a brief description of our articles. This will enable you to select and print those you particularly want to read.

We will try this for a time or two and see if it works.

Enjoy!

CANDIDATE'S STATEMENTS

AKC Board of Directors, Class of 2017

Editorial Every year, the *Perspectives* Editorial Board invites the candidates for the AKC Board of Directors to submit a short article for inclusion in our March issue. This year, the question was developed by the *Perspectives* Editorial Board at its meeting held December 15 in Orlando, and the question, along with instructions for submitting a statement, was provided to all candidates on December 16.

To avoid any suggestion that we may favor one candidate over another, the same ground rules apply to all: Responses are limited to 500 words and are sent directly to the Editor.

Each response is printed exactly as submitted; we do not edit, correct, or change the candidates' statements in any way. Any response that exceeds the 500-word limit or misses the 5:00 p.m., January 18, 2013, deadline is returned and is not printed.

This year, candidates were asked the following question: "Other than declining registration and financial matters, identify a significant core issue for AKC and explain your position and how you would address it."

You have had an opportunity to get to know the candidates

for the AKC Board of Directors, Class of 2017, through their answers to questions posed at the Forum and through their presentations made at the December 2012 Delegates Meeting. You may have also read information on the candidates in commercial dog publications, or in written materials received from the AKC or directly from the candidates.

On behalf of the *Perspectives* Editorial Board, we encourage you to consider the following statements as part of the information on which you base your vote.

CANDIDATE'S STATEMENT

LEE ARNOLD, Southern Colorado Kennel Club

Candidates' Statements



Have you ever considered a proper definition for The American Kennel Club? If asked, what would the response be? If you are “The Fancy”, your answer might include such words as Registrations, Breeders, Club of Clubs, Events, Dog Legislation, etc.

If you are not part of the Sport and asked the same question, your answer might be quite different. The perception among millions of pet owners is that AKC is an organization that televises Dog Shows showing people dressed to the nines, running around a ring with their dogs, much like contestants in a beauty contest.

Different strokes for different folks.

I venture to say that hardly anyone would mention the word HEALTH in answering the question. Whether Humans or Canines, Health is our most precious commodity.

AKC should be proud of that fact and promote the organization that addresses the health issues of all dogs, the AKC/Canine Health Foundation. Every one of us should be gratified for the research that has led

to tests, markers, and cures for many of the genetic diseases affecting our dogs. Since 1995, over \$35 Million has been raised for this purpose. Funding that came from the Corporate World, AKC, Parent Clubs, All Breed Clubs and individuals.

For the past 16 years as a CHF Board Member, Secretary, Vice-President and currently as Chairman, I am honored to have worked with the dynamic group associated with this remarkable work.

We must spend money to get this message heard. What a phenomenal story we have to tell. We initiated and funded the Dog Genome program. In the past few months, new programs have been rolled out, like the million dollar Cancer initiative sponsored by the Golden Retriever Club. The Canine Athlete Initiative addressing the injuries of our Sporting and Working Dogs. The Bloat initiative that will save many dogs lives.

This message must get out to the masses and let the world know all the good we do to ensure the HEALTH of ALL dogs.

We have been on the receiving end from the various AR Activists with their misleading advertising portraying us as the “bad guys”. Our answer is and should always be, “our dogs health is our first and last consideration”.....period.

Of the candidates running for the Board, I am honored to be the poster boy for DOG HEALTH. At the December Delegates Meeting, the bylaws amendment recognizing canine health as part of the AKC mission statement was read, and hopefully

you will support its adoption at the March meeting.

One way to reach the masses would be an AKC Telethon on Animal Planet or a highly rated cable channel, showing our dogs, interviewing our Breeders of Merit, Researchers, and letting the world know that we are the Dog’s Champion.

The Health of our dogs and our advocacy for it dissemination should be our primary concern. We need to do it now. Tomorrow will be too late.

CANDIDATE'S STATEMENT

CARL C. ASHBY III, *United States Kerry Blue Terrier Club*

Candidates' Statements



I am bullish on the future of the American Kennel Club. I believe we stand as the foremost hope for dogs as companion animals as well as the guardian of purebred dogs in the United States. This is an awesome responsibility and one where success is not optional. This is the foremost challenge we face.

Meeting this challenge is going to require us to view ourselves in a different way. It means taking a much broader view of our role in dogs and our future. It means a commitment to advocacy significantly beyond what we are currently doing and to find new and innovative ways to fund our work. It means rethinking how we fit in the 21st Century, developing a shared vision of the future, and taking aggressive actions to meet our mandate.

In many ways the American Kennel Club has changed little during the past 128 years. That cannot be said for the world around us. During the past twenty years we have seen our registrations drop by 66% and still dropping. The desire for purebred dogs as family pets has

given way to “rescue” dogs that have become the dog of choice for many young families. Local ordinances, and state and federal regulations (most fueled by the animal extremists) have made it more difficult to own and breed dogs. Couple these with changing lifestyles, a plethora of recreational choices, and cultural evolution we face daunting challenges.

Our events, which prove the merits of purebred dogs, have faced significant challenges as well. Every core event except Agility has experienced flat or declining entries the past five years. The introductions of new competitions and titles have been the only factors that have slowed the decline. Analysis of entry patterns clearly shows that new competitions coupled with the same dog being more times during the year has been the reason for flattening of the decline.... not new exhibitors. Bottom line...the numbers of exhibitors is declining, the average exhibitor age is increasing, and title innovation will not be the long-term answer.

The American Kennel Club is at a “tipping point.” We can continue along our 128 year path of registrations and events revenue, which will result in a much smaller and insular AKC or we can carefully consider what we want our future to be and make the decisions required to make it a reality.

Time is of the essence. We have the resources to transform ourselves if we act now. Our future will include our historical past of registrations and events but it must also include a much

broader role in the world of companion animals.... determining that role is the challenge.

Change is never easy. There are ways to build consensus, create a shared vision, and get about making it a reality. Responsibility for starting and leading the process is the Board of Directors. As a Director I will work diligently with fellow Board members to move us forward.

Its time to quit talking and start acting!

PLANNING AKC'S FUTURE

JUDITH V. DANIELS, Mt. Baker Kennel Club

Candidates' Statements



Article IX: Board of Directors General Powers...states, "The Board of Directors shall have the *general management of the business and affairs* of the AKC...". It's within this context that I refer to *quotes* from The Power of Ethical Management, by Norman Vincent Peale and Kenneth Blanchard.

Referring to registrations and finances is vital to the big-picture approach to AKC's future. We cannot continue "business as usual", or concentrate on one issue - all are intertwined with consequences, and current considerations are too short term. *"Managing ONLY for profit is like playing tennis with your eye on the scoreboard, and NOT on the ball."*

Economics-I 01 teaches us that raising prices results in fewer sales. While higher registration fees match last year's bottom line figures, fewer registrations diminish our gene pool. And, if unchecked, we could eventually have NO DOGS to register.

"The 'purpose' in an organization is the vision of the organization communicated from the top...it all comes down to how people - both employees and cus-

tomers -perceive the way they are being treated by the organization and its management. The Board of Directors, and especially its Chairman are referred to as the "soul" of the organization, and through them, the organization's values are communicated "

When stakeholders do not perceive that their organization serves them, the organization will begin to fall apart. We've had a few "fumbled balls" and some general discontent, but the good news is that we can insure a positive tum-around with proper long-range planning, focused on a combination of improved service and communications, and expanded public relations.

AKC's values should be articulated to the public, and to all levels of government.

We should develop ways to HELP clubs serve their areas and garner public support, while sponsoring successful AKC Events. But, instead, it seems that AKC continues to ask for more FROM them.

Parent Clubs are the very foundation of our values. AKC has sponsored four Parent Club Conferences (1st in 2002), and their value to Parent Clubs and the sport has been immeasurable. Now I understand that there will not be another Conference due to "lack of funds". Our values mandate service to the fancy and dog-owning community. From the movie, Field of Dreams, "If you build it, they will come!". This is another way of saying that improved service increases positive involvement, and, therefore, the bottom line.

Many AKC judges don't feel

appreciated or respected by the organization, and are not provided with reasonable roads to advancement. This must change if we are to have a positive future.

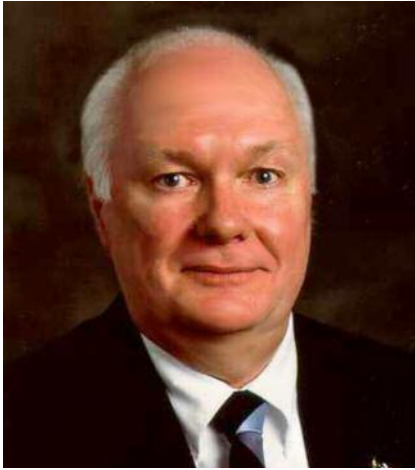
I care deeply about AKC, and ask for the opportunity to serve at a time of great challenge. Our greatest successes will occur when *"key members of the organization take time to assess and reflect on where the organization is, where it is going, and how it is going to get there."*

I ask for your vote so that I may be a part of that vital process.

MAKING THE AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB RELEVANT IN THE 21ST CENTURY

TOM DAVIES, *Springfield Kennel Club*

Candidates' Statements



In 1884, the American Kennel Club was organized by and for sportsmen whose dogs were purpose bred and used primarily for hunting. Breeds were prized for their hunting style and ability as much as for their appearance. Their most important characteristics were demonstrated in working or field events. Early dog shows were livestock proving events that related the dog's appearance to its working ability.

As time progressed, America was moving from an agrarian to a suburban and urban society. The dog began to move from a worker to a companion. As such, its tractability and suitability as a companion became most important. The AKC recognized this, and in 1933, established the sport of Obedience. Thus, it made itself relevant to a broader group of the dog owning (and loving) general populace.

The growth of the middle class in post WWII America, with more time and disposable income, gave rise to a mushrooming in individual dog ownership. This provided for a move from the large scale breeding

operations of the past to individualized breeding programs on a much smaller scale. Breeders continued to prize breed related instincts and performances, as the physical appearance and aesthetic qualities of the dog gained importance. As families took advantage of AKC shows, Junior Showmanship provided an expanded venue for them. Multitudes of changes were made to conformation shows to address the increasing interest in dog shows on the part of the general public.

In the mid 1990's, the advent of AKC Agility trials opened AKC events to an even broader and more extensive populace, giving more relevance to AKC, and opening the organization to more of the general public.

The American Kennel Club of 1884, of 1933, of the 1950's and 60's, and even 1990, no longer exists. Societal changes at each generation require adaptation in order to be relevant. We have been able to adapt somewhat at each of these times. However, changes in society come at a more rapid pace as time progresses, so AKC must be willing to make the necessary adjustments in the organization to maintain its relevance.

AKC continues to make changes to our sport in many ways. The problem is, however, most of the changes are aimed at us – the AKC core constituency. This helps to keep AKC relevant to us. The problem is how to become relevant to the owners of the 60 million dogs that are not within our core of fanciers.

Some efforts towards making

AKC relevant to non-core folks are being made. Witness the Canine Partners program, the 4-6 month classes and Open Shows. These are aimed at bringing the dog owning and loving public into the AKC fold, as well as enhancing AKC programs for us. Effective strategic planning is needed to assess the current organization, examine the dog owning community, decide what is required and make some potentially difficult decisions for the future.

Please share your ideas.

CANDIDATE'S STATEMENT

ALAN KALTER, *American Bullmastiff Association*

Candidates' Statements



There are numerous important issues impacting the AKC today, including the growth of registrations, revenue, events, and clubs. However, I believe the core issue we must address is the declining active breeder population and the frequency of their litters. The root causes of this decline are based on economic, social and legal elements. While we are addressing each of them today, we must do more – and we can.

The economic impact on breeders is driven by three factors – the economy, the public's desire for a purebred dog, and the ability for prospective owners to connect with breeders. The economy appears to be improving, presenting greater opportunity for breeders. While the vast majority of all AKC breeders are concentrated in specific parts of the country, those seeking puppies are more dispersed geographically. Today, the Internet is the starting point for almost all people as they begin their search for a puppy – for both breed and breeder information. The AKC is perfectly positioned to become the leading resource in that quest

with our in-depth breed information and our online breeder classifieds. We must accomplish that by investing in both further enhancements to the site and driving traffic to it through search engine maximization. When searching for a puppy, AKC should be in the top three results for every breed. By accomplishing that, we will significantly enhance every breeder's ability to find homes for their puppies in the time frame that works for them.

Over the years, we have seen the public's desire for a particular breed skyrocket due to some issue - like Dalmatians after the movie "101 Dalmatians." Today, we have a similar situation with a new breed – "shelter dog." Broadening the public's passion for purebred dogs and the public's perception of breeders are both social issues that have economic impact. The best source of credible information for the people we must reach is not traditional media, like TV or print; it is, in fact, social media like Facebook, Twitter, and Pinterest, plus You Tube. 80% of adults 18-49 use social media and about 50% of them use it every day. We must launch an ongoing program that is consistent, frequent, and confident; communicating the benefits of purebred dogs and the dedication of our responsible breeders to produce puppies which preserve type, and improve health and temperament. The annual cost for that is significant, but within our ability financially.

While fueling demand for purebred dogs and bringing puppy buyers to breeders, we

must also strengthen our commitment and efforts to protect our right to responsibly own and breed our dogs. The AKC Government Relations department led by Sheila Goffe has been our stalwart defender in this fight for our rights. At the suggestion of Dave Hopkins, I have established a committee comprised of Attorney-Delegates, AKC General Counsel Margaret Poindexter, and Sheila Goffe to proactively address breeder legislation issues.

At the very beginning of the American Kennel Club there was the breeder. Ensuring that for the future is mandatory.

CANDIDATE'S STATEMENT

GAIL LABERGE, Atlanta Obedience Club



A significant core issue facing AKC is the negative public perception of AKC and the Fancy as it relates to breeders and pure bred dogs. This affects our ability to attract new owners and participants into the sport. This negative perception is being driven almost exclusively by groups such as HSUS, ASPCA and PETA. The general public, unfortunately, has bought into the belief that if you buy a pure bred dog from a breeder you have committed a “sin”. The ability of the Animal Rights groups, especially HSUS, to generate the public belief that you and I are responsible for the dogs in shelters or rescue groups because we breed is one of the largest hurdles we must overcome. Not only has this affected those of us in the Sport of Dogs, in terms of mandatory spay/neuter laws, and limit laws, but also it discourages anyone who might be interested in becoming involved in the sport. In order to continue owning, working, showing and breeding Pure Bred Dogs, we must turn public opinion around.

You may wonder why it is important to turn around public

opinion since the majority of the general public are only going to own a “pet dog” and never enter our world of breeding and showing. I believe we need to have the general public understand what we do, why we do it, and how we do it if we are going to gain their support on legislative issues. As a registered lobbyist working on canine legislation, not only in my state but across the country, I see the impact on officials that the phone calls, letters and e-mails from a constituent have on an individual in office. The Animal Rights groups understand this impact and have used e-mail, letters and social media to influence the general public on legislation. Besides asking people to contact their official, they request financial support to promote legislation that would, in the end, prevent us from ever owning or breeding a dog. We have to show the public the other side of the issues, our side.

There are no quick fixes in turning public opinion around, but there are several steps we can take to begin to turn the tide of public opinion in our favor.

- Never underestimate the power that educating children will have on their parents at home. The Animal Rights groups know this and have been targeting children for many years. We need to expand our educational programs on being a responsible breeder and owner; especially the two AKC children's programs.
- The average dog owner relies on advice from their Veterinarian. We need to educate these young

Veterinarians on Pure Bred Dogs, by expanding our Veterinarian Outreach Program.

- AKC has a great story to share. Targeted PR campaigns promoting AKC, CAR, SAR and the Canine Health Foundation, to the public not the Fancy. In order to survive and grow, we need to reach out and bring the public into our world.

CANDIDATE'S STATEMENT

HARVEY WOODING, *Westminster Kennel Club*

Candidates' Statements



There are a number of great brands in the market place today. What separates companies like Apple and BMW from the rest is that they have outstanding products that support the brand. In short, they are desirable.

AKC is a wonderful brand too. It is highly recognized. It is highly respected. In a word it is venerable. But that is not good enough. So a core issue that we face is that our product, an AKC registration, is not as desirable as it once was.

So what do we do to address this issue? The answer is that we have to offer a better product. It is the dog, its quality and value, around which everything else revolves. I believe that there are at least four steps that should be taken by AKC that will help make an AKC registered dog the most desirable pet one can own. Some are controversial, and we may never accomplish all of them, but we must move aggressively in this direction:

- Include a health component in the Breeder of Merit qualifications. Do it now!
- Require that every dog that we register also has a DNA identi-

fication profile. It's time AKC takes on this responsibility.

- Work out and implement a system whereby each health certification achieved by an individual dog becomes part of its permanent AKC registration record.
- Ultimately, we need to require that breeding stock meets agreed upon health standards. There are countries that legislate some very onerous standards. If **we** are proactive, we can accomplish a great deal within boundaries that we set, not that are imposed on us by others.

Taking these four steps would do wonders to raise the quality of our product. Each is objective; each is verifiable; each can be accomplished by any breeder.

But that is not enough. We also need to be aggressive in developing demand for the quality and desirability of our product. **Meet the Breeds®** has become a premier event in our arsenal for promoting AKC and pet ownership. **TAKE IT ON THE ROAD!** It gives our breeders a forum. It promotes the good things we do. Best of all, the event makes money. As they are implemented, we should use it call out the four steps above, shouting that when one obtains an AKC registered puppy, it is the best product of its kind in the world! If we were to buy advertising to create the number of impressions generated by the publicity around this event it would cost millions. Let's use it.

I may appear naive and to be a Pollyanna. However, I believe that we have a good product that could be and should be the best.

Let's not miss the opportunity to make it just that and convince our customer that we are the only source for a dog that makes sense.

I hope you agree with me and that you will give me a chance to help turn our brand from venerable to the Most Desirable.

HOW WE EACH “WENT TO THE DOGS”: A Composite of Stories from Delegates about How Each First Got Into Showing

Patricia Reynolds, YORKSHIRE TERRIER CLUB OF AMERICA

People *Spurred by some posts on the Delegate Email List, I solicited the following tales from various delegates about how each first got into this glorious world of dog shows. The one thing that struck me about almost all of these stories is how each of us had a mentor that was invaluable in teaching us the ropes, everything from grooming to handling to just being a good role model. It is my hope that these eleven stories will remind each of us that we were all novices once too and inspire us to fulfill that role for others who come behind us.*

From Patricia Reynolds, Delegate, Yorkshire Terrier Club of America:

My first show dog was a little Maltese purchased from Marjorie Lewis, an old-time breeder whose foundation dogs came from the revered Villa Malta line. Marge was a great mentor; and in 1985 she sold me a 6 month old "show prospect" when I called her looking for a pet, after finding her name in a book on the breed that I had bought in a pet store.

I had never even been to a dog show, but I did have some interest in them. I begged for this puppy that I fell in love with, and she sold it to me after telling me to "sleep on it" for a week and to come back the next Saturday. I think she just wanted to see if I would change my mind or buy another dog that was easier to get. She later told me that having her dogs in a home where they would be loved was much more important than finding a

"show home," but she had really wanted this puppy shown.

I did go back with cash the next week, and after another long conversation she gave me the registration papers for Gidget and helped me fill them out. She did not ask to stay on them as co-owner, but she did something much better. She taught me to groom my dog, and she gave me a schedule of the shows she was going to in the next 3 months. I chose two of those weekends to go, the first of which I just tagged along in her RV and "helped" (now I know how very little help I really was, probably much more of a hindrance in hindsight). The second weekend my dog was entered, and Marge showed her for me while I watched excitedly from outside the ring. We then made a deal that she would handle my dog free. She was a PHA handler with about 10 to 12 dogs entered each week (Yorkies, Griffons, Lhasas, Bostons, and Maltese). In return I would continue to "help" her.

I learned so much in the next three years from this woman. I learned to groom all these breeds, how to lead-break puppies, and how to distract the judges' attention from the dogs' faults and accentuate their strengths. She finished my Maltese, while I was busy "holding" ringside and taking back in the dog that was supposed to lose—lol.

Then I bought my first Yorkie from her and showed her myself, but still with Marge's expert guidance. She always had time to

help me, whatever I needed. She was the perfect mentor, and she introduced me to a great group of show people---the old-timers who helped each other out, from saving grooming space and RV parking to holding majors and taking dogs in for others when one had a conflict. When Marge got too old to drive the RV (at least in the eyes of her family), she sold hers; and I bought a much smaller one. She went with me to shows with a smaller string of dogs---just 2 or 3 usually. She continued to show until she was well into her 80's and ended up with Alzheimer's. She died over five years ago, but I will never forget that she was the one who got me into this wonderful sport and became like a mother to me.

From Larry Wilson, Delegate, Philadelphia Dog Training Club:

It all started in 1985 when after losing a Miniature Poodle to age, I received a phone call from my vet asking if I would consider a four year old, rescued Bichon Frise. I first said no, as I was interested in getting another Poodle. But I was willing to go to the breeder's home to look anyway, and the next week Brandy moved into our family.

The problem was this was his fourth home and apparently he had been teased or disciplined harshly, as he was a little nasty and had a biting problem. The breeder suggested I take him to an obedience class. So off Brandy and I went to learn dog obedience. We both loved the class so

much. He, because for the first time in his life, he was doing things right and was being praised for it, and I, because I was so fascinated to see how my dog's little doggie brain was learning. Brandy went on to earn his Companion Dog Title and became an affectionate, devoted friend. I still have all his ribbons. I've been active in obedience trials ever since.

I have come a long way since my very first dog show. The brochure (Premium List) said it was "unbenched." I thought it was nice of them to tell us that, so we took our own chairs.

From Helen Prince, Delegate, Scottish Terrier Club of America:

As a child I was never allowed any pets except a green baby chick one Easter which became a loud crowing rooster and had to leave my suburban neighborhood. Consequently, my husband and I were married only a week when I got my first pet, a cat! Lucky for me my husband had grown up in a family with Scotties, Labrador Retrievers, Chesapeake Bay Retrievers, and cats. Three years later we were asked to baby-sit a friend's Scottish Terrier bitch for three months, and our reward was a Scottie puppy from the first litter! I was sort of disappointed at first, as I was holding out for a black Lab.

Not knowing what I was getting into by accepting this Scottie pup, I soon discovered that my Scottie needed LOTS of grooming if she was going to look like the beautiful pictures I saw. My friend told me that I could get "free" grooming lessons if I joined the local Scottie Club, so

we joined the club, I went to the "free" grooming lessons, only to learn at the end that I owed the club \$60 for the lessons, but would not have to pay that amount if I entered the local specialty show sponsored by the club. Being young (and not having \$60), I entered the show, only to place 5th out of five. The wonderful judge came up to me afterwards to praise my grooming and handling, but also to tell me I really should get myself a real "show" dog! Then the club asked me to be their secretary since I was an English teacher who could write letters and take minutes. I was hooked!

My first mentor was Mrs. Blanche E. Reeg, of Blanart Kennels, whose dogs won both Westminster and Montgomery County Kennel Club several times in the 1960's. She was instrumental in my getting my foundation bitch from her line, not a champion, but with a great pedigree. I had several champions from this line. Blanche was one of a few women in the 1960's who showed their own dogs in a world that was dominated by male handlers. She said that she would set up beside handlers, such as Johnny Murphy, and groom her dog on the side that was opposite to the handler so she could compete, as she said the handlers did not want to help the women.

With her advice, I used to take in grooming customers and practice doing the head--they could not tell the difference, but it helped me to learn to do it right! My former long-time friend and partner for 20 years was Elizabeth Cooper, of Denver, Colorado, who imported Am. Ch Perlor Playboy from Scotland,

the father of my top producing stud. Our later import from England, Ch. Balgownie Bulletin, was also a great influence in American Scottish Terrier lines, as was Ch. Princescot High and Mighty, the grandfather of Ch Roundtown Mercedes of Maryscot, "Sadie," a Westminster, Eukanuba, and Crufts winner.

In the past 40 years ago, I moved up the ranks of the local dog club offices, joined the Parent Club, and have served on that Board for more years than I care to count. I did get my "real show dog," in fact many of them. I have never regretted those grooming lessons and my first Scottie, as they entered me into the wonderful world of dog shows and dog people, many of whom I met through travels abroad. I did not get my black Labrador Retriever either, but since all three of my children now have Labradors and not Scotties, I get my Lab "fix" often. Besides you can get three Scotties on a sofa, but only one Lab!

From Dr. Sophia Kaluzniacki, Delegate, Canada del Oro Kennel Club:

My first show dog was purchased in 1956 from a pet shop. He was a German Shepherd of excellent breeding with many champions and top winners in his pedigree. Two of his grandparents were BOB and BOS at the National Specialty.

In those days these puppies did not come from puppy mills, but from local breeders who disposed of what they considered pet quality through pet shops. As a naive teenager, when I saw his pedigree (purchased a five-generation pedigree for \$2.50 from

an ad in Dog World), I decided I had a show dog and that was the beginning of everything in the dog world for me.

I looked up the breeder of the great dogs in his pedigree (Grant Mann of Liebestraum Kennels), and he became a mentor for me. What a wonderful start in dogs! He inspired me to help other youngsters throughout the years. I always gave interested youngsters who wanted a show dog a big break in price as long as they could show me they earned the money themselves and promised to come to handling and obedience classes. I got more than one started that way. Wish more of that happened today...

From Blackie Nygood, Delegate, Mispillon Kennel Club:

Probably everybody who cares and a lot who do not give a damn already know that my involvement with the "wonderful world of dog shows" started with my then-husband deciding we would show Bassets. We had previously owned what was supposed to be a show quality Bulldog, but he did not pan out; and when we moved back to New York City from Bard College, he was terrified so we found him a nice home on a pheasant farm.

We then got a pet Basset Hound and fell in love with the breed. When he died, we looked all over Connecticut and finally found Joan Scholz and her Manor Hill Bassets. She agreed to let us have "Benny" - a 6-month-old puppy - for \$200.00. Please remember - this was around 1965. She handled him at first; then-husband Jim Grinder (whose pipe fell out of his pocket and hit the dog on the head when he was being stacked); rapidly

followed by Jane and Bob Forsyth and finally Howard Nygood, who finished him. CH Manor Hill Fringe Benefit was a beautiful example of a Basset in conformation and temperament and went on to win the National Specialty with his daughter going BOS.

We used "Benny" at stud on our bitch, a retired Champion also sold to us by Joan, who was advisor, critic and mentor all the way. She and I remain good friends. Howard agreed to handle the breeding (don't even ask what is involved in breeding Bassets!) and I helped. "Mrs. Grinder, would you please try to hold her steady?" "Mrs. Grinder, would you please move her vulva a bit?." "Mr. Nygood, my nose itches." Finally we agreed on "Howard and Blackie" under the circumstances. It wound up with Howard and I falling in love and getting married as soon as I was divorced. To help pay our handling bills I had agreed to help Howard groom and care for his dogs. One evening while docking poodle puppy tails he "playfully" tossed the handful of tails in my face. I leaned over the table and gave him a great big passionate kiss, and the rest is purebred history!

From Kathy Coxwell, Delegate, Bearded Collie Club of America:

When I was a small child, I read and re-read a book about four Cocker Spaniels, one of which went to a dog show home. I decided right then that I wanted to show a dog. It was not until I was grown and married, with two small children, that my dream of showing came true. I bought my first Bearded Collie in the early 1980's, but I didn't

show her myself. Kinda defeated the purpose, huh? I bought another Beardie and was determined to do the showing.

My only handling class was standing outside the ring watching and trying to imitate what the people on the inside were doing. My first opportunity to show came in Atlanta, and there was a major in bitches. I stood outside the ring suffering from a combination of anticipation, fear of wetting my britches, and the thought that I just might not win. My turn came and into the ring I went, trying hard to appear nonchalant and confident. I watched the others (thank heavens I wasn't first in line) and decided all that looked pretty easy and, of course, I could pass myself off as knowing what I was doing. Read on...

When the time came to take my dog around, I proudly gathered her lead and proceeded to cover the ground at a pace just short of the speed of light. I was sprinting (not gracefully trotting) when I heard a loud bump and felt a pain in my right flank. Looking back at my dog, who was trying valiantly to keep up with me, I had failed to notice the table in the ring that was used to examine small dogs. Crash! Bam! Bang!

Into the table I went, full speed ahead. I may have even carried the table with me a few feet. There was immediate laughter on all sides, and I knew I was a pathetic excuse for a handler. The judge, an older man no longer with us, was very kind to me. He concealed his smile, and I wasn't excused or charged with cruelty to my dog for trying to make a Greyhound out of a Beardie. But most wondrous of

all, I took the major! Who says there are no miracles?

I wish I were a gifted handler, but I was born a klutz; I am still a klutz, and I will die a klutz. But for one brief moment on a magical day in a horse arena in Atlanta, Georgia, I was the winner. My dog finished at eleven months without any further assistance from me!

Chris Walkowicz was a wonderful mentor, even though I was in Alabama and she was in Illinois. My breeder in Atlanta has fallen into disgrace because that kennel became a puppy mill, so I'd rather not go there. I received help, but it wasn't always what I should have been given.

Chris, however, has always been an honest breeder, honest judge and great friend. I have shown some since the beginning, but I'm just not good at it, so I have to admit using a handler. I'm 100 miles from Montgomery, 100 miles from Mobile or Pensacola, 25 miles off the interstate and, until about 7 years ago, 10 miles from the nearest beer store. It is hard to find a handling class, and people in Monroeville think showing dogs is something only people who should be in a mental home would do. I do go to obedience in Cantonment, Florida, 74 miles from my house, and 74 back. LOL

From Marile Waterstraat, Delegate, Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever Club (USA):

In the early 1980's, my husband and I were looking for a hunting dog. He had had a Lab, which I thought would be too big for our smallish condominium, and although I liked Goldens, I also felt they were too large.

Eventually I discovered Tollers on the cover of *The American Dog Book*, by Kurt Unkelbach, which I had ordered for my library. I knew my husband would enjoy telling people he owned a Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever. After several years of searching, we were able to purchase our first Tollers in February 1983 from a breeder in Massachusetts.

That fall we received a call from her informing us there was a rare breed show outside of Baltimore that we should get together at. I told her I had never been to a dog show, and didn't have the faintest idea about how to go about showing a dog. She said, "You're a librarian, buy a book." So, I purchased *Handling Your Own Dog* by Martha Covington Thorne, somehow got hold of a show lead, and ran up and down my driveway practicing. A week before the show, I broke my foot, and while we did attend the show, my incipient show career was delayed.

The next year we decided if we were going to do this again, we should take handling classes and were able to enroll in some given by a professional in our area where we finally got some help in handling. That fall, we once again trekked off to Timonium to the Baltimore Area Rare Breeds Association and T.O.B.I rare breed show. I do not remember exactly how many entries there were, but my memory says over 300. There were no sporting breeds other than Tollers. I won my breed under judge Mrs. Pat Neugarth Black, ran around the ring for Group, and collected that ribbon too. I entered the Best in Show ring, knowing I didn't have

a chance, as I had had no competition other than my own breed. I was stacking my boy for the final judge's look, when I heard the judge, Mr. Frank Wolaniuk, say, "Lady, you won!" That was the start of my showing career, a Best in Show.

From Mary Anne Fowler, Delegate, North Shore Dog Training Club, Inc.

As a child growing up in a small town in Kansas, I had several dogs.

People did not have "registered dogs" there that long ago. They were beloved pets, however.

In 1962, while I lived in France, I decided to bring home a Dachshund from Germany. Bauz von der Schenkenburg was registered with the Deutcher Teckel Club, and I transferred him to AKC when I returned from Europe. I lived in a Chicago North Shore community where one of the country's top high schools was located. I read an ad for dog training by North Shore Dog Training Club, an AKC member club, and enrolled him, proudly telling my friends that Bautzi was attending New Trier! Obedience was our "thing" for my first two imported Dachshunds. I then bought an AKC one from a fine local breeder and member of the Dachshund Club of the Great Lakes. She encouraged me to show her in conformation. My next Dachshund simply refused to stand for examination. A tracking instructor taught us to a TD title. My last Smooth won an Agility title in order to receive a Versatility Certificate. My now retired Wirehaired took up Field work after helping my breed club host an event. None of my

Dachshunds have elected to go down in that "dark, dirty" hole just to visit with a rat, however.

From Margaret DiCorleto, Delegate, Chow Chow Club:

My husband and I bought our first Chow from a breeder who had placed an ad in the local paper. We knew nothing about health clearances or pedigrees, but picked a cute puppy and named him Mikko. Because there was a dog show very close to us, we somehow figured out how to enter and off we went! When a fellow exhibitor asked me who he was "out of," I really didn't know what they meant. We didn't win anything that day but entered another local show. This time an exhibitor asked me if I wanted a dog I could win with (I'm sure she must have pointed out some of my dog's obvious faults.) and suggested I call her about an up-coming litter.

Mikko was retired from the show ring and soon developed every health problem known to man or dog. He had chronic ear infections, thyroid and parathyroid problems, and glaucoma and blindness before he was five. Oddly enough, despite his inbred background, he had an excellent temperament – at a time when Chows were not noted for their good dispositions.

We purchased our first "show" Chow from the woman who offered us a puppy and thus began our serious education about the breed and showing. Our life quickly came to revolve around going to dog shows both in the US and in Canada.

We don't show much now, but I stay involved in the show world through my all breed club and my regional breed club where I

am show chairman.

From Ann Lettis, Delegate, Grand River Kennel Club:

Although I was not born into the dog world, I was definitely born with a deep love of animals. Raised in the heart of East New York Brooklyn, from the time I could walk and talk horses were my love and I had no fear of any four-legged creature. However, all that changed when I was about 5 years old. A relative had a small dog in her yard and I went with her to feed him. Looking back I suppose the dog wasn't too hungry because he just stood looking at the dish. Wanting to help him out, I bent down to push the dish closer. He may not have been hungry, but he sure was protective over his food and proceeded to attack me. He was small, but so was I and everything is relative. That incident instilled a fear of dogs in me that lasted for years combined with distrust, as after all, I was trying to be nice and that was the response I got from a dog, so I decided to stick to horses. My fear of dogs was so great that if I saw one a block away I would begin to hyperventilate. Years went by avoiding dogs at all costs until one day my brothers' friend came to the door and with him stood Mugs, a boxer. I froze and for the first time ever looked into the big brown eyes of a dog. Mugs never moved an inch, but those eyes were so filled with love. No, I didn't run out and get a Boxer, but did decide not to judge all dogs on the actions of one.

My family eventually purchased two Boston Terriers, which I became attached to. As an adult I did purchase a Boxer,

"Will", who I decided to take to obedience classes. Truthfully I never knew there were obedience trials, or for that matter even any dog shows other than Westminster. Never a competitive person, and I am sure no one will believe this, but I was also very shy and quiet at the point in my life. However, Will was my buddy and it wasn't so much competition as it was doing something fun with him.

Another Boxer came into my life, and she led me to conformation, which I loved. After strict obedience here I could kiss my dog when the judge wasn't looking, play with her after the exam and I loved that. About this time BSL raised its ugly head and I, of all people, knew no one breed of dog was bad, and the fact I had been attacked was my unintentional fault. Wanting to know more about BSL I called Nancy Barr at the AKC, and my life changed. I not only researched all I could on the bully breeds but purchased my first AmStaff, only to find he was the perfect dog for me. With great mentoring from both Nancy and Ken Marden, I began testifying at hearings, communicating with legislators, and haven't stopped since. Nancy asked me to form the NYS Federation, which I did approximately 30 years ago. Because of my past feelings about dogs I am very committed to teaching people how to be responsible. Since I know the fear all too well I never tell anyone not to be afraid of a dog, rather how to be safe around dogs. Being asked to partake in the AKC Safety Video for Kids with my Staffordshire Bull Terrier was extremely meaningful to me, as I had come full cir-

cle. After so many wasted years afraid of dogs, now I was defending them, teaching responsible dog ownership, safety around dogs, experiencing the joy of being a breeder/owner/handler, winning a National, receiving group placements, and most recently putting titles on grand and great grand get from my line. My work in legislation/education has been my way of giving back to dogs what they have brought into my life.

From Richard Rohrbacher, Delegate, Welsh Springer Spaniel Club of America:

As children, both my wife and I had a dog, but neither of us were active in their care. When we were first married, I worked in retail store management, mostly afternoons and evenings. My wife worked mostly mornings and afternoons as a dietitian in a major hospital in northern New Jersey. She decided that we should get a dog to keep her company those evenings that I worked late. I said that was a fine thing to do. She wanted a Cocker Spaniel and I said that was fine by me too. So we purchased our first dog in 1977.

Brandy was a little American Cocker Spaniel we picked out of

a cardboard box. As a puppy, he was dutifully enrolled in obedience classes, since he was much smarter than his two owners. This foray into dog training started our long involvement in obedience training and competition, and conformation, with both Cocker Spaniels and Welsh Springer Spaniels.

In 1979 we met Adrienne Bancker during a training session at a local dog obedience club. She offered us Robbie, a young male Welsh springer spaniel to train as an obedience prospect. When Robbie entered our apartment in 1979, he expanded our focus from American Cockers to Welsh Springer Spaniels. Since then, we have spent 33 years training and showing Welsh Springers and American Cockers in both the show ring and at obedience and rally events.

Adrienne introduced us to a new breeder in Georgia, and we obtained Kismet (CH Statesman's Charming Kismet, UD) from Statesman kennels. Kismet became our foundation bitch and the start of Rysan Welsh Springers. Kismet earned her championship, a UD, was twice BOS at the Welsh Springer Spaniel Club of America national

specialty, the first Welsh to earn a HIT at a multi-breed show, and produced 9 champion get in 3 litters. And not to forget how we started, I turned that first little Cocker Spaniel into Brandiwyne XVII, UD in 1984.

These eleven stories are all different in many ways. Yet there is a common thread running through them all: We all have to start somewhere, and we all have to have assistance getting from that "start" to where each of us is right now. Along our paths there were wonderful mentors for each of us. Can we each pledge to pass that knowledge on to others so that they can also enjoy their joyous journey in the dog show world?

MY START IN SHOWING AND SOME VIEWS ON THE EFFECT OF LIMITED REGISTRATION

MARYLYN DEGREGORIO, *Taconic Hills Kennel Club*

Limited Registration

Since the beginning of Limited Registration, there are too many "responsible" breeders who will not sell an intact dog to anyone, keeping all "show prospects" or other future breeding stock for themselves. In many cases this is so they can concentrate on show careers of their chosen "show dogs". This is expecting a bureaucracy to intervene in dog ownership, in this case, the AKC. The AKC will prevent the (successful) showing and breeding of a dog with limited registration instead of the breeder taking responsibility for puppies produced and the education of the people in the homes into which these puppies are placed.

There are times that a potentially great puppy in a litter is deemed a pet and sent off on Limited Registration to be spayed or neutered. This may end up becoming the dog with the temperament, health, even conformation that should be bred. There are things we cannot predict when we send young puppies home with their new owners. A well bred litter should have dogs with some potential in more than the few the breeder can keep; the way many of us began was with well bred "pets" that we showed and finished because we realized this was a possibility and also because these breeders took their time to mentor and encourage a novice. That is exactly how I started showing. It's how a number of people I know started

in the late 1970's and early 1980's.

Limited Registration for too many breeders is a way to avoid having to develop another new person in the sport. I know a lot of people who came to the breed ring from obedience because it was another venue to try. On the way they learned and became show people themselves. On one of my Doberman lists, there is a new Doberman owner who is entering her Limited Registration dog in conformation shows, not knowing this is not legal. If this Limited Registered dog had come with a



requirement to neuter, that experience would have been automatically closed to her. What if her dog is the one in the litter that develops into the best one? Up to now, she was not aware that her dog was ineligible to compete. How much would other exhibitors want to

stand on enforcing Limited Registration if removal of that entry meant the difference between a major and just two points?

My own first Doberman champion was sold as a pet and then returned to the breeder at eleven months because they just could not keep her. Offered to me when I was showing a backyard bred pet who was not competitive, I could not understand why the breeder still did not see what I as a novice could. My bitch finished, and the littermate kept by the breeder did not.

However, the mentoring offered by her breeder was invaluable in my continuing in this sport, along with an appreciation for what this breed is supposed to be about in terms of temperament as well as "show structure".

This happened with my first Whippet champion too. Sold as a pet, I got her at thirteen months because I already had her littermate who did not turn out. One of the co breeders already had another littermate who finished much later. My Whippet finished owner handled, not choosing judges, in twelve shows, four weeks, with three big majors and a group placement from Betty Fell. She went on to produce far better in two litters than anything else those breeders had before or since. She was also top ten in very limited showing by me at accessible shows when I could make them (full time job with no flexibility), with no "connections" and no

advertising. Again, I give almost all credit to the breeders who handed me an intact bitch and stood back to let me do as I pleased, but always there to help, to answer questions, to become some of my best friends and mentors.

This is only my own experience. Arco dob Mann was sold as a pet. His breeder was convinced he would never be more until she saw him a few months later. I don't remember anyone else from that litter but I bred to Arco. He is still a dog against whom I compare other Dobermans as my ideal.

These are three of my personal experiences. None of these dogs was destined for the show ring at the time they were sold. Breeders do not always know who will be the best dog to carry on what was intended when the litter was planned.

Limited Registration eliminates potential new enthusiasts by putting up a "do not enter" wall to conformation competition. When it does that, it begins to kill off new novice owner handlers who want to try the breed ring. Like the woman who, until she was told today on one of the Doberman lists where this topic has also come up, thought it was okay to show her Limited Registration Doberman in the breed ring. Limited Registration was the beginning of the excessive elitism described by one of our new delegates on the email list as dog shows full of independent contractors. I will add: and too few young enthusiastic newbies.

I started when the world was open to me even though I had dogs handed to me as pets. I may not show now - I do prefer



performance events and occasionally show, but I am very active in making sure others may have shows to attend. I am show chair for my specialty club, which continues to hold truly independent specialties, assistant show chair for one of my all breed clubs, trophy chair for another, and AKC Delegate for Taconic Hills KC. I volunteer at events for my obedience club, Port Chester Obedience Training Club. I spend more time ensuring that we can have shows and hoping that someone younger than I will "get the bug" and then start to give back too.

We are not developing enough new blood because breeders using Limited Registration have closed the door to outsiders in many cases when it comes to their best puppies.

Some breeders using Limited Registration who insist that this ensures only the best from each litter gets bred--- many, many of these breeders import dogs from Europe, from South America - countries where there is no Limited Registration. They breed to dogs from these countries. They find they have to expand their own gene pool by going places where breeders try a combination and then try that

combination with a suitable littermate too, and find the best producers.

The percentage of dogs registered with AKC with Limited Registration has increased dramatically since its inception. But I ask you: Is that really good for our breed or our sport?

WHAT IS RIGHT FOR YOU AND YOUR CLUB?

CAROLE PLESUR, *Italian Greyhound Club of America*

Delegate Meetings

After more than two years and much discussion on both sides of this issue, we will have the opportunity at the March Delegates Meeting to decide if we want to attend three or four Delegates Meetings a year. Delegates on both sides have been very vociferous about their feelings.

There are many issues to be considered. Some of them have simple solutions while others are more complicated.

With three meetings a year, we would be able to attend more Delegate Committee Meetings. I represent a Parent Club - however, committee meeting times were recently shuffled and as a result, I cannot attend the Parent Club meeting because the committee of which I am a member, Delegate Advocacy and Advancement, meets at the same time.

The change could allow scheduling the Legislative Committee at a more reasonable time than 7:30 in the morning. Think about how hectic the day before the actual Delegates Meeting is. Some of us start as early as 8:30 (new Delegate Orientation) until

after the Coordinating Committee meeting. If you are on the Perspectives staff, you don't even get time for lunch!

There is the question of travel costs. While there would be one more hotel night and food, there would be only 3 air fares. For those of us who are reimbursed by our Clubs, this could be a huge savings to financially strapped Clubs. Delegates who have to hire someone to care for their dogs or board them, would have an expense savings. Also, it would be less stressful to our dogs not to be in the care of someone they do not know in a different environment than they are used to.

Would Delegates attend a meeting in AUGUST? Meetings are scheduled 2 years in advance - certainly that would give Delegates enough time to schedule their vacations on some other week during the summer months than the Delegates Meeting days.

And then there is the huge question of Delegate "empowerment." We would be meeting the same number of days with the same amount of time to meet

and greet fellow Delegates and discuss upcoming issues. If Committees had urgent issues to discuss, teleconferences could be an option).

So, when you vote in March, consider all the issues that personally affect you and the club you represent. Do not be blindsided by hysterical rhetoric from either side. It's your decision.

2013 AKC DELEGATES MEETINGS

March 11-12, Monday-Tuesday, New York City area

June 10-11, Monday-Tuesday, Raleigh, North Carolina

September 9-10, Monday - Tuesday, New York City Area

December 12-13, Thursday - Friday, Orlando, Florida

THREE DELEGATES MEETINGS VS. FOUR MEETINGS PER YEAR ENHANCED DELEGATE EMPOWERMENT

WHITNEY COOMBS, *Catoctin Kennel Club*

Delegate Meetings

In March we will be asked to vote on a Delegates Advocacy and Advancement Committee proposal to reduce the total number of Delegates Meetings held each year from four to three. On the surface, this sounds like a reduction in the role of the Delegates. However, when we get past the initial reaction to this proposal and look at the benefits that can result from the change, I think that the result will be an enhancement of our roll and the contributions we can make to our sport and our clubs.

The proposal provides for a three-day meeting in both March and August and a two day meeting in December. The interval between meetings increases from three months to four months. The number of days per year that will be available for committee meetings and Delegate interaction increases from the current four days to five, while the number of days for the official AKC Delegates Meetings is reduced from the current four to three. In total, the number of days that the Delegates will meet remains the same at eight days per year.

Several concerns have been raised by Delegates about the impact of this proposed change. Specifically:

There will be less opportunity for sub-committees to work on issues — Actually, the proposed two days of committee meetings will provide greater face-to-face meeting time for

sub-committees. Between meetings, work on these projects can continue via mail, email, conference calls, internet GoToMeeting or Skype conferences.

We will have less time to interact with other Delegates, Staff and Board members — As noted above, the proposal maintains the total number of meeting days per year at eight. However, the mix of meeting types actually allows for an additional day of committee meetings and informal discussions through the reduction in official Delegates Meetings.

There are no cost savings from this change — Three meetings per year will save AKC some limited costs in meeting room rentals, but not as much as originally hoped for. But there will also be some savings to AKC in terms of reduced staff preparation time, travel expenses, and time out of the office. Delegates and their clubs may also realize some cost reductions from fewer trips, possible lower airline fares due to including Saturday in the flight schedule and lower weekend hotel rates.

It will take longer to get rule changes and Bylaws changes enacted — Perhaps. Currently, due to low attendance at our June meetings, little AKC business is scheduled for that meeting. Nevertheless, to complete the required two readings of a motion and to vote on it currently requires nine months. Under the proposal, it will take

twelve months to complete.

Concern over the six month time gap between meetings — As noted above, we would only be increasing the time between meetings from three months to four months.

August is a bad time to hold a meeting — Like June, August is a traditional time for vacations and reunions. However, with adequate prior notice of meeting dates, schedules can be adjusted to accommodate the AKC Delegates Meetings, too.

In summary, this proposal provides the opportunity for increased Delegate interaction and participation. I encourage you to think about the positive aspects of this proposal and vote to approve it.

DELEGATE MEETING TRANSITION: STEPPING INTO THE 21ST CENTURY WITH ADDED VALUES

JAMES R. DOK, Gig Harbor Kennel Club, Inc.,
Chairman/Sub-Committee on the Reduction of Delegate Meetings

Delegate Meetings

Two years of committee work, reaching out to the Delegate body with significant due diligence, comes to a vote at the March 12, 2013, Delegates Meeting. In my twenty years as a seated Delegate, it is safe to say, no other subject coming before this body has had as much disclosure, input, sharing of thoughts, and transparency than this DAAC proposal to reduce the number of meetings we attend each year.

Amending the Charter and Bylaws of the American Kennel Club, Inc., is an arduous task, for it requires a two-thirds majority to prevail. Given the time passage to arrive at this critical vote, we find ourselves no longer being on the “cutting edge” of AKC governance. The Board of Directors has restructured their frequency of Board Meetings as well as those of the AKC Canine Health Foundation. Due to “information technology” in real time, these reductions make very sound business sense.

Our Delegate body is best advanced when we are informed and efficiently deliberate the issues at hand, so that we are reflective as being “responsible participants of AKC Governance.” All of us should aspire to be seen by our constituents in this light. Candidly, and if we are honest within our own ranks, our Delegate body has had some sour moments from the Delegate floor. When information on issues is “twisted,” willfully not disclosed by a few Delegates, the result is

“the lack of sound governance.”

Let me be clear on this issue: **Irresponsible deliberative interaction by our Delegate body is demeaning to the essence of who we profess to be.** When this occurs, we cease being a valued asset of the American Kennel Club. Our Member Clubs deserve better informed advocates.

At the December 14 Delegates Meeting, I presented to the Delegate Body a “PROVISO” which will be disclosed additionally in the March AKC communications from James Crowley, Executive Secretary. That “PROVISO” states:

Should the amendment brought forward by the DAAC Committee be approved & accepted by the Delegate body at its Regularly Scheduled Meeting, March 12, 2013, the Amendment’s stipulated changes will remain in effect for two (2) years.

Whereupon, continuance of the reduction of meetings, shall stand for reaffirmation by the Delegate body. A “simple majority” vote will be required for continuation.

The purpose of the “PROVISO” is clear. If the Amendment passes with the required number of votes, the reduction of meetings will only last for two years. Then, the Delegate Body will have the obligation to rescind the Amendment or further the stipulations of three

meetings per year with a simple majority vote at hand.

It is understandable, that some individuals resist change because it may effect change in their previously organized calendar. Should the Amendment pass, our first three-meeting agenda will become effective on April, 2015. After two years of participation, April, 2017, the Delegate Body would be required to vote on whether to extend the schedule of three meetings per year or rescind that schedule, and return to four meetings per year.

My two sub-committee members, Whitney Coombs and Carole Plesur, have made significant contributions to our task. Each share their experience & perspectives in this publication as well.

- **Yes**, this Amendment does save AKC funding, but only about \$78,000.
- **Yes**, this Amendment saves individual Delegates funding for the ever increasing airfares.
- **Yes**, this Amendment gives the opportunity for Member Club Delegates to attend twice as many Committee Meetings than experienced today.
- **Yes**, this Amendment empowers Delegates that value their interface with friends, AKC Management, and invited staff on a much higher frequency than we experience today.
- **Yes**, amending our Charter & Bylaws by reducing the fre-

DOK, cont'd

quency of our meetings per year will empower individuals to become better informed advocates and more meaningful delegates for their Member Clubs.

Frequency of meetings does

not empower Delegates; the quality of those meeting sessions does.

DAAC urges you to vet all of the information you've gained over the past two years. We welcome any questions, pro or con,

and urge you to vote in favor of passing the Amendment in March 2013.

THE BIG, THE BAD AND THE UGLY...STORM SANDY, OCTOBER, 2012

MARGARET L. DICORLETO, *Greater Murfreesboro Kennel Club*

In the days leading up to October 30, 2012, meteorologists and reporters seemed to be trying to outdo themselves finding adjectives to describe the approaching storm. Once the storm had passed, words to describe the devastation to the New Jersey shore, Staten Island, and Long Island seemed to fail. The damage seemed beyond description; the destruction to homes and businesses indescribable.

While pundits were looking for words, the AKC was already taking action. Communication in all forms was used to alert pet owners to heed storm warnings. A press release from AKC Communications was sent to the media giving tips to pet owners about what to do if they stayed in their homes or if they evacuated. Lisa Peterson, Director of Club Communications, estimates the message, "to be prepared" reached some 60 million people in the areas likely to be affected. Emails were sent to officers of clubs in the storm's path advising them that AKC Canine Support and Relief Fund would be ready to help. Messages were posted on Facebook and Twitter.

Once the storm had hit, one

survivor described her area as total chaos, homeless people and homeless pets everywhere. But relief efforts began and represented a complex network of groups and individuals working together to provide assistance to needy pets and owners. It would be impossible to mention all of the organizations and individuals involved. The AKC Humane Fund established a special Storm Sandy Fund and many all-breed clubs and specialty clubs donated generously. The Fund offers grants to clubs that are helping others as well as to shelters and rescue groups. AKC sent blankets, toys, beds, food and cleaning supplies to shelters in New York and New Jersey.

Many local animal shelters had to cope with "owner surrenders" brought in before the storm and then damage and lack of power after the storm. These shelters and local rescue groups thought that providing food for dogs in their care and for pet owners displaced or devastated by the storm would be their biggest concern. Because of the generosity of major dog food corporations and individuals, food and supplies were not a

problem and were distributed to shelters, rescue groups and individuals that needed them.

Dedicated volunteers stepped in and did what needed to be done. One such volunteer is Debbie Fierro who volunteers for the Mayor's Alliance for NYC's Animals, www.animalallianceny.org. Debbie is a driver for one of several Wheels of Hope trucks. After the storm, she went to Staten Island and the Rockaway section of Queens and gave food to roaming animals and helped transport animals that needed to be taken to safety or needed medical care. She said that when residents saw the Wheels of Hope truck, they begged for help for their animals. Many animals were taken to the ASPCA emergency shelter in Brooklyn. She is concerned that the shelter will be closing soon and many animals have not been reclaimed by their owners. She asks, "What's going to happen to them? Unclaimed animals will need foster homes or adoption."

Another special volunteer is Joanne Anderson who volunteers for Last Hope Animal Rescue and Rehabilitation, www.lasthopeanimalrescue.org,

a private rescue that takes dogs from municipal shelters for rehab and re-homing. The group works closely with the Hempstead and Babylon Town Shelters. She said she is grateful for the huge amount of dog food that has been donated and which Last Hope has been able to disperse where it is needed most.

Last Hope has received one of the Storm Sandy grants. Joanne said that they are reserving the Sandy grant funds for special-needs veterinary care of dogs they've acquired because of the storm. Dogs that have come into their care have needed anything from dental extractions to heart worm treatment.

She is also concerned that the number of pets needing new homes will not abate for some time because their owners are still displaced. Because of delays inherent in the insurance/FEMA system and as people lose their temporary housing, circumstances beyond their control may force some to give up their dogs.

Although the storm caused unimaginable damage and disruption to the lives of people and their pets, the situation could have been much worse. After Hurricane Katrina, there were thousands of animals abandoned by their owners because evacuation shelters for people did not allow animals.



AMERICAN KENNEL CLUBSM

Proper emergency planning can help save the life of your pet. The American Kennel Club has prepared the following checklists to help pet owners pack a portable pet first-aid kit and prepare for an emergency evacuation. Preparedness is important in any disaster situation and these checklists can be applied to any emergency that calls for evacuation from your home.

Evacuation Checklist for Pets

- Dog medicine(s), i.e. heart worm, flea, ear mite medicine, etc.
- Dog Bowls
- Dog Food (1-week minimum, 2-week suggested), dog treats, etc.
- Can opener
- Leashes: walking leash, short leash
- Harness (to attach to seat belt)
- Extra dog tag, (masking tape, laundry pen)
- Cell #, Hotel # and Room #
- Pet records stored in waterproof container or plastic sealable bag
- Crate
- Dog bed/blanket/toys
- Supplies/paper towels, rug cleaner, toilettes, towels, flash light
- Current dog photograph(s) with your notification information: useful for fliers should your dog go missing or must be left at shelter
- Dog friendly hotel listings/ telephone lists
- Shampoo
- Litter/portable litter pan
- Duct tape
- Bottled water
- Pet First Aid Kit

Portable First Aid Kit for Pets

- Water-proof storage container for kit
- Antiseptic/anti-bacterial cleansing wipes/Alcohol prep pads
- Eye wash
- Eye and skin wash in one
- A sock (foot wrapper)
- Latex surgical gloves
- Electrolyte powder (add to water on hot days)
- Emergency space blanket
- Small flashlight
- Bottled water
- Medicated balm
- Leash and collar
- Soft muzzle
- Speak to your vet about what to pack in case your dog has a sudden allergic reaction
- Flexible bandage
- Gauze roll
- Bandage scissors- to cut gauze and to clip hair around wounds
- Wood splint
- Paper towels
- Plastic baggies
- Small cold pack and hot pack (self activating)
- Cotton swabs
- Antibiotic ointment/packets
- Tweezers
- Space for copy of dog's papers & vet records (sealed in plastic bag)

Leaving animals behind was emotionally devastating for owners and cruel for the animals that had to fend for themselves. Residents who would not evacuate and leave their pets risked their lives and complicated rescue efforts.

In response to this situation and to ensure it did not happen in another major disaster, the Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards Act (PETS) of 2006 was adopted. This law is "intended to ensure that state and local emergency preparedness operational planning addresses the needs of individuals with household pets and service animals following a major disaster or emergency."

Pet owners will no longer have to make the agonizing choice of what to do with their pets in the event of an evacuation.

Urging people to be pro-active, AKC provided a valuable service by offering pet owners tips on how to cope with the pending storm and by alerting clubs to available resources. The hard work of so many individual volunteers and organizations certainly changed the outcome for many pets affected by Storm Sandy. Their work is not done, of course. There are still pets that need to be reunited with their owners, placed in foster care, or adopted. Shelters still need repairs and supplies. Recovery efforts will

continue for months.

Delegates who live in disaster-prone areas--and that can be anywhere these days--should encourage their club members to have a disaster plan. Clubs are also encouraged by AKC to develop a Disaster Preparedness Plan "for the benefit of companion animals affected by natural disasters in any given area and to actively disseminate this information to the public in addition to volunteering in your community during disaster relief activities." Disaster preparedness information is available on the AKC website. It is never too soon to be ready; the next catastrophe may be around the corner.

TAKE A TOUR ON THE S.S. MINNOW (GILLIGAN'S ISLAND) OR — TAKE A TRIP TO THE DOG SHOW

BOB EISELE, SUFFOLK COUNTY KENNEL CLUB

Territories

I think we all agree that a club has a responsibility to promote the sport of dog shows within their territory. The question one must ask is how well a club can accomplish this without having a show in their territory?

My wife and I got our first pure-bred Siberian Husky in 1980. Neither of us had any experience in the sport, so for the first three years of showing we only attended local shows on Long Island. Attending those shows, we learned about the sport of dogs and our puppy got some much needed training. At one of the shows on Long Island we picked up our first purple ribbons. After that we were hooked and we ventured out to All Breed and Specialty shows that were held in the surrounding states.

There used to be a time when the only reason a club would leave its territory to hold a show was the lack of a suitable show site in their territory and then maybe only move to a neighboring community. Now the AKC is constantly getting requests from clubs to hold their shows over 125 miles outside their territory. When you take into consideration that this mileage is measured as the crow flies, this could easily be a three-hour trip. Yet these clubs are still being allowed to maintain their control over their territory and restrict other clubs from using sites in it, even though they may not have held a show there for decades.

If the closest dog show was three hours away, how could a young family, new to our sport get the experience and training needed to compete? Packing up

the kids and the dog for that long a trip to show their dog for ten minutes, surely would feel like a three-hour tour that lasted for ninety-eight episodes.

Rules Applying to Dog Shows:

Chapter 2, Section 3. Each member club or association not a specialty club which shall hold a show at least once in every two consecutive calendar years shall have the sole show privilege in the city, town, or district which has been assigned to it as its show territory.

As this section is written, the only requirement necessary for a club to maintain control of their territory is for it to simply hold a show. This section does not make any reference as to where that show must be held to maintain control of their territory.

However, this is not the only section in Chapter 2 that references a member club's territory. Chapter 2 goes on to state that a club not holding a show in their territory for two years can be held in **DEFAULT** and that the AKC could consider another club's application for membership within that territory.

Chapter 2 Section 6. If a member club or association not a specialty club shall fail to hold a show within the next calendar year after a licensed show has been held within the show territory of said member club or association, the AKC will consider such failure sufficient reason to consider an application for membership in the AKC by any other club or association organized to hold shows within said territory which shall conform to the requirements and

conditions of Article IV of the Constitution and Bylaws of the AKC although said member club or association so in default shall not consent thereto.

It becomes much clearer when one reads both of these sections that in order for a club to be able to restrict other clubs from using a site in their territory, they should be required to hold a show in that territory at least once in every two years.

Suffolk County Kennel Club proposed a change to Chapter 2, Section 3 that would have cleared up the contradiction of these two sections. In the original proposal that was read at the Delegate Meeting, a club would lose their right to restrict other clubs from having a show in their territory if they had not held a show in their territory for two years. It would have also allowed them to regain this right by having a show in their territory.

A number of delegates were concerned that the original motion as read, would allow a club that had not held a show in its territory for years, to kick other clubs out of their territory simply by returning to their territory for one year.

When time came to vote on the motion at the September meeting, Suffolk County Kennel Club considered the ideas of fellow delegates and planned to present the following amended proposal: *Proposed Rule (changes to the rule are underlined):*

Chapter 2, Section 3. Each member club or association not a specialty club which shall hold a show within their territory at least once in every two

consecutive calendar years shall have the sole show privilege in the city, town, or district which has been assigned to it as its show territory.

Failure to hold a show at least once in two consecutive years will result in that territory being "Open" to other clubs wishing to hold a show in that territory, without needing permission from the club assigned to that territory.

Any clubs that have held a show in an "Open" territory will be granted concurrent privileges to that territory for their use to hold show/shows in that territory, if ever a new club is established in that territory or the original club returns, to regain their show privileges in said territory.

This amended proposal would have cleared up the contradictions of the two sections and pro-

tected clubs that had held shows in a territory which had been abandoned and had been without a show for more than two years.

Why allow a club to get their territory back if they have left it for more than two years?

The personality of a prior group of members, financial reasons, or site availability in the club's territory may have forced them to locate their show outside their territory. If situations change, clubs should not be penalized. They should be encouraged to hold local shows and build the awareness of the AKC brand in their community.

Why even allow any exclusivity?

A club may have a site where the revenue of a spectator gate is required to keep their show in the black. It is highly unlikely that a spectator will attend two shows

within the same year, unless they are a real enthusiast.

Multiple clubs working a territory dilutes the support from the local business community and puts a strain on the working membership within that community.

Local shows spend money and create revenue within the community, which helps build relationships with local businesses and strengthen ties to local politicians. These relationships are important in our fight to restrict our rights as responsible dog owners.

The proliferation of the local dog shows in the past helped build the AKC to all its glory in the 1980's and 1990's. The AKC needs to encourage clubs to hold local shows, promote the sport and reestablish AKC brand in the local markets.

TO THE AKC DELEGATES SHOW RULES COMMITTEE: MAKING DOG SHOWS APPEALING FOR REGULAR DOG FANCIERS

BO BENGTON, American Whippet Club

Everyone who cares about dog shows in the U.S. must be concerned by the lack of new fanciers and the inability of AKC shows to keep pace with the growth of other sports in the U.S. and with dog shows overseas. The average AKC all-breed dog show last year had 816 dogs in competition, compared to almost 1,300 in the late 1970's. The largest AKC show in 2011 had 3,172 dogs, compared to more than twice that number at shows in much smaller countries, in Great Britain, Scandinavia and Europe.

AKC has made several attempts to improve the situation with innovations such as

the Grand Champion title, the unofficial 4-6 month Puppy class, the Owner-Handler Series, the Reserve BIS award, etc. The Grand Champion program has boosted entries considerably, while the more recent additions are so far mostly still inconclusive.

It is my belief that much more needs to be done for AKC dog shows to become an activity that most people who love pure-bred dogs would enjoy being involved in. Over the years a jungle of rules and restrictions has grown up, all introduced in the laudable effort to keep shows functioning smoothly and exhibitors well behaved. The

effect, however, has been a repressive atmosphere that is not conducive for allowing most people to spend a pleasant weekend with friends and their dogs, and the result is that many simply drop out, don't return, and find some other, more congenial weekend activity.

It is probably impossible to make shows more enjoyable simply by changing the rules; a different attitude towards dog shows in general, to breeder-judges and novice exhibitors in particular, is required. It is also, of course, important to maintain conditions that allow the professional handlers to do their job efficiently without too many dis-

tractions, and the balance between over-regulation and anarchy (as sometimes seen in countries with less stringent rules than AKC's) is a fine one. Nevertheless, I believe it's important for AKC to make some changes.

I have discussed this subject with the Board of the American Whippet Club, and submit the following proposals to the AKC Delegates Show Rules Committee with their support. I realize that not everything in the following fits under this committee's title, but there is no committee for "Making Dog Shows More Appealing," and I hope the following will encourage discussion and hopefully result in some changes.

WHAT DO NOVICE EXHIBITORS WANT?

A way must be found to make sure that novice exhibitors have a good time at their first show, come back, and eventually become regular dog show fanciers. Far too many first-time exhibitors do not enjoy the experience, are confused by the proceedings, have no idea why their dog lost (as is almost invariably the result), feel they are treated rudely by fellow exhibitors and even judges, and are therefore lost to the world of dog shows after just a single attempt.

This subject is so important for the future of dog shows that it merits special consideration. Without a steady supply of new fanciers, dog shows will never become the popular pursuit they could be. As a start, a survey of first-time exhibitors needs to establish what their main complaints are, and what changes they would like to see.

The fact is that a regular AKC dog show, where the judge is under strict time pressure and risks being disciplined unless he or she sticks to the mandated number of dogs judged per hour, will not be a satisfying experience for an exhibitor who has no previous knowledge of dog shows.

I am aware that there is, in fact, something called New Exhibitor Briefings. However, I have never seen one being held, nor has any of the new exhibitors I talked to participated in one, or even knew that they existed.

I hope this subject can be addressed separately in more detail.

ENCOURAGE BREEDER-JUDGES

Restrictions must be eased for breeder-judges who want to remain active both as exhibitors and as judges. It is vital for the sport that successful breeders do not cease active involvement in this area when they become judges. Only a small percentage of the more than 3,000 AKC approved judges officiate on a regular basis, and most of those who do so naturally find no time for showing dogs themselves. Yet even breeder-judges who officiate only infrequently are so hampered by restrictions that it's easier to either quit showing, which hurts the sport in many ways (only one of which is a loss of entries), or to stop judging, which is equally detrimental to the sport.

As an example, it is currently considered a conflict of interest for a judge to handle a dog that is not owned or co-owned by the judge or an immediate family member. This means a breeder-judge may not show a

puppy they bred and sold to a novice exhibitor. It should not be considered inappropriate for a breeder to assist their puppy buyers at shows or to handle any dog he or she has bred. (In many cases the owner agrees to list the breeder as co-owner in order to allow him to show the dog. That is in itself a break of rules, however, since AKC specifically prohibits a judge from co-owning a dog "for the sole purpose of handling it.")

No judge may of course own or co-own a dog being exhibited at a show where the judge officiates, regardless of breed. However, this rule currently also applies to shows held as many as three days before and three days after a show where the judge officiates, even those held up to 200 miles from the assignment, which is unnecessarily restrictive, especially for dogs co-owned but not shown by a judge.

It is also vital to encourage more breeders and owner-handlers to become judges, in order to balance the (perceived) bias that allows ex-professional handlers to become multi-breed and multi-group judges much faster than others. Most experienced exhibitors in my club feel that past professional handlers who become judges favor professional handlers unfairly. Whether they actually do so or not, the fact that exhibitors believe this is the case obviously hurts entries and creates an unpleasant atmosphere.

If AKC makes it easier for breeder-judges to expand their repertoire it would help the sport in many ways. Anyone who has judged his or her own breed in a satisfactory manner for a few years should be able to

add more breeds simply by passing a breed standard test.

The fact is that the U.S. is dangerously low on all-rounder judges. AKC has (according to the 2011 Judges Directory) a total of 22 judges who are approved for all breeds. As a comparison, e.g. Canada and Australia, both with a far smaller dog sport, each has over a hundred judges approved for all breeds.

ADD MORE CHAMPION TITLES

As the success of the Grand Champion title has proved (there were 40,000 more entries in the specials class the year this title was introduced than the year before), exhibitors love titles. It's a major reason many people keep showing their dogs.

Although serious fanciers may have reservations concerning the value of e.g. the Grand Champion title, the fact that it has contributed to a great increase in Best of Breed entries is an important positive development in itself. It would therefore be in the sport's interest if further opportunities for exhibitors to title their dogs were introduced. e.g. a Junior Champion, a Veteran Champion, and a Multi-Purpose Champion title come to mind. The exact requirements for each title can be determined at a later point; the most important reason for introducing them would be to encourage more exhibitors to show their dogs more often, and to make showing more appealing for fanciers who may not be able to seriously campaign their dogs at top level.

These new titles can easily be financed by requiring exhibitors to apply for championships earned and paying a small fee

for receiving an AKC certificate.

ALLOW SPAY/NEUTERS TO BE SHOWN

Currently dogs that are spayed or neutered may only be shown in Veteran classes at independently held specialty shows. Many quality dogs are spayed or neutered while still in their prime for a variety of reasons; there is no reason they should not be allowed to continue to be shown in separate Spay/Neuter classes. Whether they should also be eligible to compete for Best of Breed can be discussed, but even allowing spayed and neutered dogs to compete in a separate class would be a step forward, permit more people to be involved, and increase entries.

A SPORT, NOT A BUSINESS

If we want dog shows to be a popular pastime we must stop promoting the idea that dog shows are a "business," and as part of this we must encourage human participants to dress casually and appropriately. This is a sport, not a business meeting. One of the least appealing aspects of dog shows for male judges and exhibitors is to put on the tie and jacket that are virtually obligatory, almost regardless of location or weather. If professional golf players can wear casual dress, why can't we? (And they make a lot more money than dog people do, so theirs is obviously a more financially important activity.)

Women judges and exhibitors have an easier time in this respect, but the principle that you should wear clothing that's appropriate to the weather and to a sports event still applies.

If we could judge and show in short-sleeved, open-necked sports shirts when the weather demands it and without fear of criticism, the sport of showing dogs would be a whole lot better off.

At the very least, the recommendation to wear coat and tie should be deleted from the "Rules, Policies and Guidelines for Conformation Dog Show Judges." As long as what the judge wears does not interfere with the judging, AKC should not get involved in how judges dress.

A REGIONAL RATINGS SYSTEM

Finally, AKC must introduce a regional ratings system, in addition to the national one that's now ubiquitous. Nothing that's been discussed about dog shows among exhibitors in recent years has attracted such a universally positive response as the idea that you should be ranked with the dogs in your own region — those you actually compete with. A regional Top Dog ratings system would transform the sport and generate a huge burst of enthusiasm among local exhibitors everywhere.

Since AKC has already divided the U.S. into different regions for the purpose of champion points ratings, all it would take is someone with computer know-how to figure out how to implement this.

A regional ratings system should, of course, be based on where the dog wins, not on where its owner may reside. An owner's address frequently is in a completely different part of the country from where the dog is shown.

The regional ratings system

should be an addition to the current national rankings, not a replacement, allowing those with the wish, time and money to continue competing on a national level, in addition to regionally.

I apologize for the length of

this missive but hope you will feel that the subject is important enough to merit attention and discussion, and would be pleased if it could be disseminated among AKC Delegates for further discussion.

Respectfully,
Bo Bengtson
AKC Delegate for the American Whippet Club
P.O. Box 10, Ojai, CA 93024
E-mail: bobengtson@impulse.net

GETTING TO KNOW YOU...GERALDINE (JERRY) WERK

SYLVIA THOMAS, Kennel Club of Riverside

How did you become involved in dogs? How long ago was that?

I had always wanted a dog and not having been allowed to get one, I brought home any wild creature I could get my hands on. After the woodchuck that kept the entire neighborhood awake all night, my parents allowed me to get my first dog on the condition that I would never bring home another wild animal and that I would pay all veterinary bills. I was 12 when 'Angel', a 5 week old Beagle/Cocker mix with demodectic mange came home with me from the local pound.

I did pet sitting to pay for all of her veterinary bills, including having her spayed. In spite of knowing nothing about training, I managed to teach her all kinds of tricks, but was never able to teach her to walk on a leash without pulling or to come. When loose outdoors, 'Angel' was a runner and never once in her life did she ever come when called.

Angel stayed with my parents when I went away to college and later married. In the 1970's, when I was in my mid-twenties, I decided I wanted to get a pure-bred dog. Top criteria: it had to

be a dog that would learn to come when called. I began attending obedience trials and matches to see what kinds of dogs seemed to best come when called. This was my first exposure to the sport of obedience, and I was hooked.

I ended up with an English Cocker Spaniel from a breeder who offered a free obedience class to all her puppy buyers. I ultimately trained 'Dierk' in obedience and also began showing in the breed ring with the encouragement of his breeder. I sadly lost that dog at age 2 to a genetic problem. Since then I have had two Pembroke Welsh Corgis, an Airedale mix, and now have two Briards.

Tell us a little about yourself... what do you do "in real life?" Your occupation, etc.

I have a degree in Animal Science and retired in 2010, having spent most (over 35 yrs.) of my career working for UCLA's School of Medicine, Division of Laboratory Animal Medicine. I managed the Veterinary Diagnostic Lab at UCLA, oversaw animal health surveillance, supervised 10 vet techs, and was involved in Compliance, Quality Control and Safety.

What breed(s) do you have?

I currently have two Briards, 6 ½ yr- old Liza (Ch. Tango's After the Ball, CD) and 21-month old Philippe, (Lebec's Flying Leap).

Are you involved in conformation, obedience, or other performance events?

Liza and I compete in obedience and currently have two legs toward our CDX. Liza is also a certified Therapy Dog (TDI) and we actively visit hospitals and other facilities. Philippe is still maturing. He has 3 points and has been started in obedience, tracking and agility.

Do you actively exhibit and/or breed your dogs?

I do not, nor do I want to breed, I but appreciate those who do so responsibly.

Do you judge? If so, what breeds or groups do you have?

I am a CGC evaluator, but I do not judge.

What club do you represent?

I represent the Hollywood Dog Obedience Club. I have been a member 6 years and have served as a board member at large, Recording Secretary, President,

and am currently Vice President.

When did you become a Delegate? What was your interest in becoming a delegate?

I have just become a Delegate, having received notification of my appointment from AKC in mid-July (2012). I was interested in becoming a Delegate to help improve my club's awareness of AKC matters and to facilitate communication between my club and AKC to ensure we stay current.

Tell us a little about the club you represent.

The Hollywood Dog Obedience Club, which has been an AKC member for 63 years, is a relatively small (54 member), non-profit club dedicated to providing low-cost opportunities for people to train their pet dogs in the Los Angeles area, with hopes that well-behaved dogs lead more enriched lives and are less likely to end up in shelters. The Hollywood Dog Obedience Club offers puppy and novice obedience classes on an ongoing basis with occasional advanced classes and fun classes, etc. We include CGC training as part of our novice obedience classes, offer CGC testing, have drop-in rally practice, and mentoring for newcomers to the sport of competing in obedience. The club has a number of members who are active in Therapy Dog work. We hold an annual obedience trial, annual tracking tests, agility trials, and this year will be hosting an AKC Tracking Seminar on November 3rd. We also field a Top Dog team. As part of Responsible Dog Ownership Day, the Hollywood

Dog Obedience Club sponsors a booth at the Glendale (CA) Police K9 Foundation's, K9's in the Park event that raises funds for the Glendale Police dogs which are not included in the city budget. Proceeds from our CGC testing at that event are donated to the police dog foundation. We also have been long time supporters of Guide Dogs of America.

What do you think is the most pressing issue facing our sport? Why?

As is frequently mentioned by others, the graying of the sport and the difficulty in attracting young people is a pressing issue for the sport as a whole. An enormous issue for my club is financial. Being an urban club, we do not have our own training grounds and must conduct our obedience classes in a Los Angeles city park. Due to the city's budget crisis, our park-use fees have doubled within the last year, which has forced us to reduce our classes from two days to only one day per week and increase our fees. Another pressing issue is club leadership. In addition to serving on the board of the Hollywood Dog Obedience Club, I am also on the board of the Briard Club of California, another small club. It is quite apparent that many clubs have a few people who do all the work sustaining club activities. It concerns me that AKC keeps coming up with program after program it wishes clubs to implement and administer. While I can understand the goal is to increase participation by providing more programs, with so few people doing all of the work, the

thought of trying to add more programs is rather daunting, exhausting, and discouraging. I fear spreading our workers and volunteers too thin will ultimately reduce participation rather than increase it. With limited coffers, it is also impossible for our club to bankroll additional events or programs. We already struggle to do what we do.

Given the many fronts and issues AKC is facing (anti-dog legislation, declining registrations, reduced revenue, competition with other registries), do you have any ideas about what it should do?

Well, from recent reports, the AKC is NOT suffering from reduced revenue but has in fact had a substantial increase of revenue in the last year and registrations are up with the inclusion of non-purebred dogs. I do think anti-dog legislation is a big threat, and AKC should continue its efforts in the political action arena and public education regarding proposed legislation. The general public is not aware of just how much impact anti-dog legislation has or what that impact actually is, and has been misguided regarding the actual intent of much of the legislation.

A RARE-BREED OPPORTUNITY!

MARA B. BOVSUN, Features Editor, AKC Publications
Invited by PAT CRUZ, Heart of the Plains Kennel Club

New Exhibitors

This spring, dogs from Miscellaneous Classes, the FSS breeds, will have five chances to compete in a series of All-Breed and Open Shows. The Open Shows, the first of their kind to be held with an all-breed event, will be held concurrently with the annual Ladies Kennel Association of America (LKAA) shows.

Classes for the Miscellaneous breeds will be offered, as always, at the LKAA's All-Breed Dog Show, Rally and Obedience Trial, Friday and Saturday, May 17 and 18, 2013, at the Planting Fields Arboretum, Oyster Bay, New York. Two more opportunities, Open Shows, will be hosted by the Cirneco dell Etna Club of America, and will be held concurrently with the LKAA event both days. A fifth competitive opportunity will be the Miscellaneous class at the Long

Island Kennel club show, Sunday, May 19, at the Old Bethpage Village Restoration, Bethpage, New York.

The Open Shows will help satisfy breed-club requirements for full AKC recognition and, hopefully, earn the FSS breeds competing the chance to earn their CM title over the weekend.

There will also be rally and agility trials throughout the weekend. At the LKAA show, on Saturday, May 18th, newcomers to the world of agility will have a chance to sample the sport at AKC's "My Dog Can Do That" an event in which owners and handlers take dogs through a first lesson in jumps, tunnels, and weaves. The American Kennel Club will have their booth at the shows with staff available to answer questions and offer help with shows, pedigrees, standings, etc.

MB-F is the superintendent for all shows. For more information and the premium, contact: MB-F for the all breeds and Lucia Prieto, Cirneco Dell Etna Club of America, for the Open Shows, pres@cirneco.com or check www.infodog.com.

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Without you, there would be no *Perspectives*.

Carol Williamson, Editor