

AKC DELEGATE'S REPORT

September 2008

The September AKC Delegates' meetings were held in Newark, New Jersey and we were all reminded of being there on 9/11 and watching the Twin Towers come down.

The proposed AKC Group Re-alignment was a major topic at the Delegates' Caucus. The changes involved would move the present 7 groups to 10. There would be two sporting groups that would define the difference in those breeds' performance requirements. One would include spaniels and retrievers and the other would include the pointing breeds. The establishment of a Northern Breeds group would also take place. More detailed information will be on AKC's website: www.akc.org. This proposal will come before the Delegate body for a vote in the future.

A film on war dogs in the South Pacific during World War II that will appear on HBO was shown. These brave dogs assisted the troops with fighting in the jungles where the enemy was hard to see. Old films and current interviews with some of the participants made this a remarkable view.

The mixed breed issue is still on going. The results of the Mixed Breed survey was available. 60 clubs responded: 34 All-Breed Kennel Clubs, 21 Parent Clubs and 5 Dog Training Clubs. The questions asked in the survey were those AKC Board had not yet attained consensus on:

- Should AKC appear in the name of the affiliate organization that administers the mixed dog listing service? (Yes – 34. No – 24. Tie – 2.)
- Should group exercises in Obedience, specifically long sits and downs, be combined to save time? (Yes – 26. No – 25. Tie – 5)
- Do club bylaws prevent mixed breed classes? (Yes – 14. No – 40. Tie – 1)
- Do you agree with a \$35 listing fee? (Yes – 34. No – 16. No opinion – 9. Tie-1)

A discussion on DNA testing took place at the July 2008 AKC Board meeting. It was stated that DNA tests may determine if a dog is purebred, while the specific parentage may not be verified. Additional new DNA advances were mentioned. It was suggested that the Board get professional input on the state of the technologies to determine if and how AKC might take advantage of them.

In the August 2008 AKC Gazette an article entitled *Call To Action* by Matthew Scheuber stated "It takes a special kind of dog to join the ranks of K9 soldiers". "The military wants to hear from breeders of German Shepherds, Belgian Malinois, Labrador Retrievers, Golden Retrievers, Vizslas and German Shorthaired Pointers. Contact: Ursula Shriver, Lackland Air Force Base. 210-671-3125." It should be noted that an article in *USA Today* in 2007 mentioned the three breeds that the TSA trains and works with are: German Shepherds, Belgian Malinois and Vizslas. They are trained at a military base in Texas and many of the dogs are imported from EU countries.

Doug Ljungren, AVP of AKC Performance Events, made an excellent presentation to the Delegate body in June regarding eight case studies of local clubs working together to provide and maintain land for Performance Events, some with success and others with less. Locations featured included: Killdeer Plains Wildlife Management Area, Upper Sandusky, OH; Highland Recreation Area, Highland, MI; West Kentucky Wildlife Area, Paducah, KY; United Beagle Gundog Federation grounds, Morgantown, KY; Lake Murray State Park Field Trial Ground, Ardmore, OK; Lima Kennel Club, Lima, OH, Pennsylvania Brittany Club grounds, Polk, PA; Scatter Creek Wildlife Management Area, Rochester, WA. Copies of Doug Ljungren's presentation can be obtained by e-mailing Lisa Carroll, Manager of Performance Events, at LAC@akc.org.

The September 2008 AKC Chairman's Report dealt with the enormous challenges to AKC in reversing the continuing decline in registrations. AKC has seen a 53% decline in registrations and today there are at least 30 All-Breed registries in addition to AKC, whose combined registration numbers exceed that of AKC. AKC is the only not-for-profit registration. AKC intends to reach out, communicate, and educate those in the retail sector as to why an AKC puppy is the gold standard and why they should be registered with AKC. In achieving this objective, AKC intends to continue to "raise the bar" by vigorously enforcing their policies and also makes it clear that AKC will continue to enthusiastically support the Parent Clubs' Codes of Ethics.

As many of you know, the Vizsla was the featured breed in the August issue of the AKC Gazette. The article was entitled *Red, Willing and Able*" by Bud Buccone. Well worth a read.

Remember, I represent you with The American Kennel Club. Please feel free to contact me anytime. Phone and fax: (434) 374-4051. E-mail: Lynhar@verizon.net.

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