

## **AKC DELEGATE'S REPORT**

### **December 2008**

In 2009, AKC will be celebrating its 125th anniversary. In 1884, AKC began its all-breed purebred dog registry with just 9 breeds. As of January 1, 2009, AKC will recognize 161 breeds. With the 60 plus breeds presently in their Foundation Stock Service, AKC promotes more than 200 breeds in the U.S. today. From a handful of founding clubs, AKC now has more than 600 member clubs. In 1926, AKC conducted its first dog show in conjunction with the 150th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. It was another 58 years until AKC held its next dog show, the AKC Centennial Show in 1984 in Philadelphia and since 2000, AKC has held an annual national championship event known as the AKC/Eukanuba Invitational. AKC has created a special 125th year commemorative logo and will encourage all AKC member clubs to use this in conjunction with their club logo wherever possible throughout 2009. The logo can be found on the AKC website at: [www.akc.org/clubs/logo/index.cfm](http://www.akc.org/clubs/logo/index.cfm).

AKC announced that it is rolling out a new training program geared towards puppies and their owners. The AKC S.T.A.R. puppy program will reward responsible owners who take the time to train and socialize their new puppies. It is a natural pre-cursor to the AKC Canine Good Citizen Test. S.T.A.R. stands for Socialization, Training, Activity and Responsible owner. A special pamphlet on this program is available.

AKC will be sending a letter to all parent clubs asking for a copy of their Code of Ethics, Constitution/By-laws, and Membership Application.

The AKC Delegates' Dock and Crop Committee is asking all parent clubs who dock or crop to send a letter to the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) with a copy to the Committee Chairman about the justification in their breed standards for docking and/or cropping. This will assist in forming an official response to AVMA's revised policy on ear cropping and tail docking that states "The AVMA opposes ear cropping and tail docking of dogs when done solely for cosmetic purposes. The AVMA encourages the elimination of ear cropping and tail docking from breed standards. .... If it can be responsibly demonstrated that the purpose of performing the procedure is to protect the health and welfare of the dog, then the Association would support the appropriate surgery."

Effective in May 2009, there has been a realignment of states in some of the Divisions as follows: Division 6: Colorado, Nebraska, Kansas, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Wisconsin. Division 8: Washington, Oregon. Division 13: Idaho, Nevada, Utah, Montana, Wyoming, North Dakota, South Dakota.

Effective July 2009, Airedale Terriers will be eligible to compete in Spaniel Hunting Tests, as requested by the Airedale Terrier Club of America.

The Junior Showmanship Regulations were amended to provide for a Participation Ribbon for Novice Class exhibitors that do not receive a placement – at the option of the club. It is to be light blue and it is not required to include the club name and date.

The proposal to establish a retrieving certificate and to have all placements in a retrieving stake receive retrieving points that was sent to the parent clubs of the four pointing breeds that require retrieving points for their field championship (German Shorthaired Pointer, German Wirehaired Pointer, Vizsla, and Weimeraner) was not supported by any of the four clubs. So the present retrieving requirements will remain unchanged.

The AKC Canine Health Foundation releases podcasts every two weeks that can be assessed from the AKC website or the CHF website ([www.akcCHF.org/podcasts](http://www.akcCHF.org/podcasts)). There is presently a podcast about elbow dysplasia.

At the December 2008 AKC Delegates' meeting the following took place: (1) Rules applying to dog shows was amended to enable AKC to bill event fees to superintendents on a monthly basis for event fees. (2) Beagle field trials rules were amended to create a championship event for gundog brace beagles. (3) A vote for two amendments to Beagle field trial rules which would have differentiated Beagle Field Trial Championships based on the types of trials in which they were earned was postponed until March 2009.

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](mailto:Lynhar@verizon.net).

Lynn Worth Smith,  
AKC Delegate