

AKC DELEGATE'S REPORT

June 2009

In the June 11th AKC Chairman's Report it was stated that AKC staff continues to develop successful legislative strategies based on mutually respectful interaction with policymakers. AKC is pleased to now offer a nationwide legislative tracking service which is updated daily. This database provides access to pending canine legislation, including bill text, official legislative summaries and latest legislative developments. If anyone hears of a bill that should be added to this list, AKC should be alerted at: doglaw@akc.org or call the Government Relations Department at 919-816-3720. It is suggested that interested parties sign-up for AKC's complimentary e-newsletter *Taking Command* for up-to-date information. For more information visit the following: http://www.akc.org/canine_legislation.

AKC has announced that AKC CAR (AKC Companion Animal Recovery), which is a 501©3 not-for-profit, is now the largest non-profit pet recovery service provider in North America. To date, the organization has enrolled 4 million companion animals and recovered more than 360,000 lost pets. This year AKC exclusively partnered with Positioning Animals Worldwide (PAW) for the first-ever canine GPS tracking technology combined with 24/7 recovery services. AKC CAR makes donations annually for veterinary student scholarships, grants for search and rescue teams and donations for natural disaster relief. AKC CAR enrolls all active service, military and law enforcement K-9 dogs for free. For more information visit: www.akccar.org.

Doug Ljungren, AKC Performance Events Vice-President, has sent two communications to all pointing breed clubs: (1) "Getting There is Half the Battle" addresses the future of field events and offers suggestions to maximize opportunities for participation such as: (a) clustering of events – two clubs clustering their field trials with one trial Fri/Sat and another Sun/Mon. (b) coordinating with neighboring events (field trials) – making the order of the stakes which would allow participants to attend both trials. (c) holding a hunt test in conjunction with a field trial. (2) "New People – New Opportunities" suggests offering new participants a helping hand in getting started in field events. These suggestions include (a) field trial clubs that don't hold hunting tests should become licensed to hold such an event – which encourages beginners. (b) walking field trials or walking stakes at horseback trials can serve as a transition into the sport of field trialing. (A recent analysis showed 40% of field trials in the Northeast include walking puppy and derby stakes, while only 11% on the West Coast hold these stakes.) (c) the Juniors Program, which is designed to increase involvement of young people from the ages of 9 to 18, was recently created to allow dogs with Master or Senior Hunter titles to enter the Junior Hunter level if handled by a junior handler. For more information on the Juniors Program, contact Lisa Carroll at: LAC@akc.org.

At the May 2009 AKC Board meeting the following were adopted: (1) Rally Regulations were amended to allow clubs to put the date of the trial and the name of the

club on the face, back tab or label attached to the ribbon. (2) Agility Regulations were amended to allow clubs to hold a FAST class agility trial on the day preceding or following two consecutive days of agility trials. This becomes effective September 2009. (3) Match Regulations were amended to require clubs to notify AKC no later than 15 days prior to holding an “OC” match. This becomes effective August 1, 2009.

AKC announced that Bayer’s K9Advantix, the topical solution that repels fleas, ticks, etc., will sponsor the AKC Veterinary Outreach, Veterinary Network programs, and the AKC Online Breeder Classifieds (OBC). Veterinarians participating in AKC’s Veterinary Network program receive the latest information on purebred dogs, canine health research, AKC events, permanent identification and pet health insurance. The program also offers all puppies newly registered with AKC a complimentary first veterinary office visit with one of the 3600 practices currently enrolled in the program.

The AKC Board reviewed the Performance Events staff’s suggested changes to Procedure 6, Running and Handling of *Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedures for Pointing Breeds* that would add wording to clarify out-riding of scouts. Also revisions regarding tracking collars were discussed. These items will be voted on at the Board meeting in July. (*If anyone wants details on the tracking collar regulations, please contact me and I will send them.*) There was also a discussion of possible additional new titles that could be developed in Performance, Companion and Conformation sports.

An article of interest by Doug Ljungren that appears in the 2009 summer edition of *AKC Breeder* is available online at: AKCbreeder@akc.org. The article is entitled “Breed Vital Working Characteristics Into the ‘Mind, Heart and Spirit’ of Your Dogs.” (I’m happy to send copies of this article if requested).

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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