

AKC DELEGATE'S REPORT

June 2011

The American Kennel Club announced a new title open to all AKC dogs. The AKC Therapy Dog title, or "THD", will launch June 27th as an official suffix title and will reward dogs and their owners that have provided ongoing community service to help improve the well being of others. The title will be open to all AKC dogs that have completed a series of criteria – must be certified by a participating therapy dog certification organization and have performed a minimum of 50 community service visits. To obtain a title, an owners must complete an application along with evidence of documented visits. Application forms are available on www.akc.org/akctherapydog. The program will accept documentation going back to January 1, 2000.

AKC added a new way to qualify for the 2011 AKC/Eukanuba National Championship (AENC) – Veteran dog status. Any dog or bitch between seven and twelve years of age, as of the first day of the show, that has won an All-Breed Best in Show, National Specialty or was once ranked in the top five of their breed according to AKC breed points, will be invited to compete for Best of Breed, and if eligible, for the Best Bred-By-Exhibitor Award. Since May 1st, the AKC website has shown a list of dogs who meet this criteria. The Veterans must be intact since they are eligible to advance to compete in Group and Best in Show competition.

More Juniors Competition has been added to the AKC/Eukanuba Nationals. Juniors-specific competition in AKC National Obedience Invitation and AKC Agility Invitation. Entries will open July 25, 2011 and offer Beginner Novice and Novice classes. For additional information and a list of full eligibility requirements visit www.akc.org/events/obedience/national_obedience_invitational/2011/junior_competition.cfm. For questions, contact Trial Secretary Lisa Strickland at ims2@akc.org.

At the June 2011 AKC Delegates meeting the publication strategy regarding digital communications of the *AKC Gazette* will be published on the AKC web page for the downloading will contain a link to parent club websites. *Family Dog* will offer a digital version in July, but will still be printed and will likely be the most read dog magazine in the world.

The AKC Delegates Field Trial & Hunting Test Events Committee will offer a production to the entire Delegate body at the meeting Forum in September entitled "Field Events 101". It will cover pointing breeds, hounds, retrievers and spaniels. We will have a video and then four individuals describing the work of the above dogs. This will, hopefully, assist in the education of a body of Delegates that are mainly Conformation oriented.

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@aol.com.

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