

**To: The GWPCA**  
**From: Pat Laurans, Delegate**  
**Subject: September AKC Delegate's Meeting**

**I arrived in New York for the Delegate's Meeting Sunday evening, September 10th.**

**Our Meetings began Monday morning with the Delegate's Caucus.**

**This was followed by lunch and the various Committee Meetings. I chaired, the Parent Club Committee Meeting and the Coordinating Committee Meeting.**

**There was time for a quick supper and then at 8:00 PM there was a presentation on the PAWS , followed by Q and A. This ended at 9:45PM – a long day**

**Tuesday morning began with the Dock and Crop Meeting.**

**Following that AKC's DNA consultant, Dr. Elaine Ostrander, spoke at the Delegate's Forum re: how DNA affects the AKC now and in the future. She announced the discovery of two new markers for hip dysplasia which accounts for at least 20% of the affected cases. It appears that DNA research is the answer that will separate AKC registered dogs with few inherited genetic problems from the rest of the canine world over the next decade.**

**It is important that Parent Club members have their dogs registered with Canine Health Foundation's CHIC (Canine Health Information Center.) CHIC now has 20,000 dogs in its program and they have started a DNA pilot storage program. Blood will be stored in Missouri and cheek swabs at California Davis.**

**Programs to spur DNA Certified Registration and Develop a Body Mass Index are being cooperatively sponsored by the AKC Health Committee and the AKC Parent Club Committee. More about this will be announced very soon.**

**Next Dr. James Holt, AKC's Washington, DC Lobbyist led a question and answer session re. the proposed PAWS bill. Some major concerns of a few, re: the definition of commercial breeders, how it changes the affect on hunting dogs (they are already covered by the present statute) and the large unregulated importation and online breeders problems were answered. We were assured that the Senate committee that is working on this bill has under consideration some modifications that will clarify and satisfy many of the dissenters. The message was that this bill will likely pass with or without our input and that it will be a far better bill with AKC's input. It is hoped that clubs will support AKC's desire to sit down, as invited, so that they can help shape the final bill and its regulations**

**To paraphrase another Delegate: It is better that it be a statute. A Department of Agriculture regulation can be changed with little fanfare if a hostile administrator**

takes office. It would be better if it takes an act of Congress to change it.

PAWS as introduced in May is open to several unfavorable interpretations. These may well be unintended consequences. Experienced strategists know that they are well advised to pursue as many options as possible, and to avoid open confrontation when possible because politics is the art of the possible. Those who are adamantly on the “just say no” side are putting all their eggs in one basket - defeating the amendment to the Animal Welfare Act no matter what it eventually looks like. That is a high risk approach. The much better strategy is to also pursue the second possible option: to change PAWS so it achieves its intent without damage to hobby and show breeders. It’s a win-win strategy. Senator Santorum’s statement announcing his intent to make changes is in the public record, and suggests that AKC’s approach is working. We need to have the patience to await the next stage: modification of PAWS, and hold our judgment until then.

An important part of the Delegate meeting was the annual Committee elections. After the meeting was over, once again, I, your Delegate, was elected to Chair the Delegate Parent Club Committee.

Several new amendments for Field Trials were passed (see AKC minutes on the AKC website) and also a new rule which permits a common closing date for Cluster Shows. This closing date rule change will be helpful to exhibitors and will eliminate many errors when making entries.

At the January 2006 meeting the Delegates will vote on a change in Chapter 11 of the Rules Applying to Dog Shows. re. disqualifying a dog that threatens or attacks a judge. In the new Section 8-A, if judges put down the reason for excusal as “threatened or menaced” on three occasions, the dog is then administratively disqualified by AKC. A dog that attacks any person in the ring is automatically disqualified when an attack occurs.

Many clubs have made contributions to: AKC/CAR Canine Support and Relief Fund. I have suggested that the GWPCA do so.

If individuals wish to make a tax-deductible donation, you may send it to the address below. Contributions made to the AKC/CAR Canine Support and Relief Fund are used to immediately purchase needed equipment and supplies and deliver them directly to contact centers.

**AKC/CAR Canine Support and Relief Fund, The American Kennel Club  
260 Madison Avenue - 4th Floor, New York, NY 10016-2401**