

September 2006 AKC DELEGATE REPORT

Submitted by: Patricia W. Laurans – GWPCA Delegate

This year, the September Delegates' meeting was held in Newark, NJ, at the same hotel where we experienced "9/11/2001". Though it brought back some very scary memories it was surely better than being in New York City with all the traffic tie-ups etc. due to the high profile folks who were attending various memorial ceremonies.

On Monday I attended the Dock and Crop Meeting, then I chaired the Parent Club Committee Meeting, As Vice-Chair of the forthcoming Parent Club Conference I attended that Committee's Planning Meeting, next I chaired the Coordinating Committee Meeting and then attended the Delegates Caucus. Those meetings went from 8:00 AM to 6:30PM

Tuesday started with the Delegates Forum and went directly into the Delegates Meeting.

At this meeting 7 other Delegates and I were presented with Delegate Medallions in recognition of "meritorious and long term contribution to the Sport". This was a distinct honor!!!

I was also elected to serve another 3 year term on the Parent Club Committee and elected to Chair that Committee for the coming year.

At the actual Delegates meeting some of the actions taken were:

An addition to Article VI: Delegates, Section 5 of the Charter and By Laws of AKC regarding eligibility was passed at this meeting. In addition to items a) thru d) which excludes professionals, commercial breeders and brokers, and publishers and persons who promote show dogs and kennels: there is now e) has a significant interest in a dog registry, dog event-giving organization deemed to be in competition with AKC or in conflict with its objects. Significant interest would include but not be limited to, ownership in, employment by, a directorship of, and holding office in. The AKC believes that those with a significant interest in organizations in competition with AKC should not be part of AKC's governing body.

A change in wording of Chapter 16, Section 4 of the Rules Applying to Dog Shows also passed. This in no way changed the section; rather it simply clarified the requirements to become a Champion of Record.

There was some very heated discussion re. the AKC entering into a contract with Petland, a retailer of puppies. Most puppies that are sold by retail shops usually come from "Puppy Mills" and "High Volume Breeders"

Comments made were that:

- Almost all Parent Clubs have Codes of Ethics that prevent members from trafficking in any way with Retail Shops that sell puppies or with the Puppy Mills or High Volume Breeders.
- Most of the dogs that our rescue groups and charitable organizations rescue come from these Retail Shops or from auctions.
- We are aware that registration of dogs has historically been the backbone of the profitable income of AKC and that because of competition, from registries that are taking much business from AKC while they provide little or nothing but a registration certificate and a post office box or email address, AKC is losing registrations annually.

- AKC is trying very hard to provide many extra services for those that register their dogs and they do these services very well Many feel that this is where the energy and funds should be spent to promote registrations rather than with an outfit like Petland.
- There was also a problem in the manner in which this was communicated to the Delegates. They were not aware that this was even a possibility until the contract was a fait accompli. Delegates could not express their cares and concerns or those of their clubs before this contract was signed.
- To a great majority of the Delegates it appeared that by signing this contract with a Pet Store Chain AKC was going against the Codes of Ethics of most of it's member clubs.
- This, naturally, caused a great deal of ire and consternation from most Delegates who represent clubs that are against promoting the sale of puppies through Pet Shops.
- We still do not know what the contract includes and this seems to be the crux of the problem.
- We know that AKC must register legitimately registerable AKC puppies but do feel that we should not promote the sale of these puppies from Pet Shops.
- It is good that AKC provides AKC registered puppies with the excellent benefits of AKC registration that are available, such as:
 1. Companion Animal Recovery (CAR)
 2. The Family Dog (an excellent magazine for pet owners)
 3. Many pamphlets re. care and training of puppies
 4. Discounted DNA registration (and therefore many benefits that come from the excellent programs of Canine Health Foundation)
 5. The Veterinary Network Certificate Programs which newly AKC registered puppies get a complimentary first visit to many Veterinarian Offices through the new AKC Veterinary Outreach Program
 6. The Canine Good Citizenship Program
 7. AKC Pet Healthcare Insurance (those who sign up get a 60 day trial free health plan.)
- **It is not OK to promote the sale of AKC puppies from an organization such as Petland.**

Note: The GWPCA Board has written a strong and eloquent letter to the AKC Chairman of the Board, Board and CEO.

Hopefully, the AKC/Petland Agreement will be clarified and, if necessary, corrected in the very near future.

Addendum to the above report:

We are most thankful that the AKC Board and Staff listened to the nearly unanimous negative reaction to the Petland Agreement. – see below:

“Message to the Delegates – September 28, 2006

At the September Delegates Meeting AKC reported that we had reached an agreement with Petland in order to facilitate the registration of dogs that are already AKC registrable.

AKC's Board of Directors and management believed that this agreement would have helped to further the mission of the AKC. Promoting responsible dog ownership to new puppy owners, implementing our care and conditions policies, and exposing more dog owners to AKC educational programs and services would have had even greater reach.

In the past few weeks we have received many comments about this agreement, both positive and negative. We have listened to the concerns and because this issue has become so divisive, we believe it is in the best interest of our sport and the American Kennel Club not to go forward with this initiative.

Ron Menaker, Chairman of the Board
Dennis B. Sprung, President and CEO”

The Parent Club Conference’s time and place, in July, 2007, will be announced in the next few weeks.

Note: you can now register your full litter; the form is downloadable at website: <http://www.akc.org/pdfs/masterform.cfm>. Breeders who use the full litter registration application can register litters for a flat \$25 fee plus \$12 per puppy. Discounts on pedigrees are also available. Doing this, breeders help AKC fulfill its mission to preserve the integrity of its registry but create value to the new pet owner. New puppy owners still have the option of changing a puppy’s name with the breeder’s consent.

Attention Show Chairpersons:

- The Irish red and White Setter will be eligible to compete in the Miscellaneous Class, effective June 27, 2007
- The Beauceron will be eligible for AKC registration, March 1, 2007 and for competition in the Herding Group effective June 27, 2007.
- The Russell Terrier will be eligible to compete in Companion Events and in Earthdog Events effective January 1, 2007
- The Junior Showmanship regulations are amended effective immediately to provide for the offering of Gift Cards (non-redeemable for cash) and Savings Bonds.

For more details the complete transcript of all Delegate Meetings may be accessed at www.akc.org

Respectfully submitted,
Patricia W. Laurans, GWPCA Delegate