AKC Delegate Committees & Delegate Meeting / September 9 & 10, 2024

Newark, New Jersey

Monday September 9:

Parent Club Committee Meeting :

- Parent club health statements are requested from each parent club, and it is important they are received by AKC and updated if they were previously received. The parent club health statements are posted on the AKC website within: *Market Place / Bred w/Heart / Breed Standard*
- Legislative Update:
  The House version of the Farm Bill has passed but the Senate version most likely will not pass until after 2024. The House Bill was favorable to the several content regs regarding purebred dogs.
- There was an 11% increase of event entries through June 2024 of which Fast Cat had the greatest increase.
- As of January 2025, professional handlers and agents listed in catalogs will be required to complete "Darkness to Light."
- The AKC program to encourage veterinarian students to learn more about purebred dogs has been scheduled with several universities throughout the nation for the remainder of 2024 and into 2025.
- AKC Archive Report:
  - There is a 4to6 week reply from AKC from automated requests but AKC is working to reduce that time period

  There are several major projects within the archives that are in progress, such as cleaning and sanitizing books as well as cleaning out material deemed not valuable to archive. However, AKC will contact clubs to either return the material or dispose of it.
- AKC is requesting the following information from Parent Clubs:
  >Update on Breeder Education Coordinator
  >Appoint a Jr's Coordinator
- The following was discussed:
  - Report on Lease/Lease Agreements for bitches & those that do not have the means any longer to breed their bitches.
  - Survey sent out regarding Stud Dog / Brood Bitch classes before BOB not after BOB, when many people leave. ***Important to remember!*** The Specialty Breed judge may not judge Stud Dog/Brood Bitch classes "before" BOB as a judge may not judge the same dog twice if entered in BOB. Therefore, if a club chooses to have those classes before BOB a different judge must be assigned.

Canine Health Committee:

- AKC CHF Updates: Colorado State University and University of PA. have been added to the residency programs.
- There are now over 3 million dollars for research in the form of grants and MOU's.OFA updates: CHIC program has over 190k dogs of which 8500 are new this year. CHIC DNA Bank / 35k samples of over 60 breeds have been submitted of which over 500 samples were sent to Cornell Univ. for hip dysplasia. (as a note: it was indicated "blood" samples are preferred over "swab" samples)
- Report on recent International Partnership for Dogs conference was held in Helsinki, Finland in which three committee members attending indicated it was a worth while conference to attend where opportunities existed to learn so much about canine legislation, research, and dog events.
- AKC DNA program was discussed in which health issues and genetic counseling were key topics noting litter registrations are down 17% to date. One indicator of the decline in registration was noted by dog food manufacturers indicating dog food sales are down!

Tuesday September 10:

Legislative Update Meeting:

Legislative actions discussed were:

- HR 1624 (Puppy Protection)
- HR 5041 & SB 2555 (Better Care for Animals act)
- HB 1788 (Goldies Act which publishes every violation issued by USDA)

It is not likely any bills will pass this year however it is important for those involved with purebred dogs to speak with House & Senate constituents to keep them informed and knowledgeable of the various bills as well as build a relationship with them.

- The Healthy Dog Importation Act generated much discussion. The act is limiting dogs entering the US that are less than 6 mos. old and must have proper inoculations from USDA approved veterinarians. The CDC (Center for Disease Control) is responsible for the implementation which took effect August 1, 2024.
- CDC has concern on diseases such as rabies, as well as unvaccinated dogs from other parts of the world which carry various worm diseases of the eyes, etc. Known as "Leishmania disease" which can impact various canine organs and attack the mucous membranes.
- AKC Legislative staff indicated the commercial impact between Canada and the US relative to the Healthy Dog Importation Act has reflected in discussions between the Canadian Govt with CDC as well as several Congressional Representatives from border states such as New York and Michigan as well as NW states.
- Since the implementation of the act on August 1, several members reported they have had no issues going into or coming from Canada while one report indicated they were asked to remove 8 dogs from their van, provide documentation and were detained for hours.
- AKC also reported at this time some of the provisions of the act have been suspended with a 12-to-18-month review of the act.

AKC Delegates Meeting:

- Voting of candidates to sit on the various committees took placed followed by the Forum presented by Dr. Bryon T. Torres, Associate Professor, Orthopedics and Sports Medicine, College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Georgia.
- Dr. Torres presentation was extremely informative on the progress of diagnosing various orthopedic diseases as well as advancements in reconstruction of canine amputations and prosthesis.
- The general meeting convened immediately following the Forum with the following business discussed:
  - Vote to approve the membership of the Big Apple Working Group. Motion carried.

Chairmans Report / Dr. Thomas Davis:

- On 9/21/24 begins the 184 years of the existence of AKC.
- Regional NOHA series to reward owners/dogs with double qualifying points in these competitions. It will run for one year culminating at Orlando in December 2025 at the AKC National Dog Show.
- The appointment of the new C.O.O., Gordon Comfort was announced who will be in the Raleigh, NC office.

Presidents Report / Dennis Sprung:

- Spoke briefly on the 23rd. anniversary of 9/11 and the 184th anniversary of AKC

Financial Report / Ted Phillips, CFO

- Period ending June 30, 2024
- Litter registrations are 17% lower than 2023.
- Events are 11% higher than 2023 or 14,675 more.
- Entries of the various events are also up from 2023.
- Operating revenue $47.9 million or 8.4% lower than previous year
- Registrations account for 68% of total revenue.
- Expenses are $46.7 million of which 51% is staff.
- Total assets = $264,001 million dollars
- All four amendment proposals were approved.
- **READ** */ Proposed amendment to Chapter 16, Section 2 of the rules applying to Dog Shows – Championships, which inserts verbiage to award championship points to a class dog awarded Reserve Best in Show. Points earned would be based on the highest number of points awarded in any breed from all groups excluding that from which Best in Show advanced*. The proposed amendment will be voted on at the December meeting in Orlando, FL.

Being no new business, the meeting adjourned at 12:10 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Danny D. Seymour
AKC Delegate