

## **Summary of December 2020 Delegate Meeting and Delegate Committee Meetings:**

Please Note: due to Covid, these meetings were held on Zoom, and I attended.

### **Forum:**

This was a Q & A for Board of Director Candidates, Class of 2025. The six candidates running are: Rita Biddle, Dominic Carota, Patricia Cruz, Thomas Davies, Gregory Paveza and Thomas Powers. There are four vacancies, which will be voted on and filled during the March meeting.

### **Meeting:**

Dr. Thomas Davies, Chairman, gave an uplifting report saying that nothing has stopped us living our dog life during the pandemic. The 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the National Dog Show is going on – with new protocols in place. It's a challenge, but dogs and dog people are adaptable. Multiple departments have been working together to get this, and so much else, accomplished. Many departments have partnered to deliver high quality programs to constituents. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Trick Dog Competition was held successfully – totally virtual. In October, the Home Manners Titling Program was launched. \$17,000 was raised for not for profit through seminars. There have been 14,000 entries of virtual participants in companion events. What is particularly significant is that half are dogs who had never earned an AKC title. This is a great tool and launching pad. Feedback has been encouraging. Virtual titles will stay. 24,000 people attended the 82 breed seminars given. 30,000 people joined the virtual education programs.

Dennis Sprung, President and CEO, said that 14,000 events have been cancelled or postponed, but that there have been successes with the show and go events. Though there will be no spectators, Meet the Breeds or Judges Dinner at the National Dog Show, all judging will be streamed in real time. There are 8257 entries. The AKC is expanding their relationship with ESPN. Agility Premier, AKC National Agility, Diving Dog Championship and Flyball Championship and AKC Fastest Dog USA (Dec. 13 at 6 pm) are just some of the events that will be televised.

Financial Report, given by CFO Ted Phillips. Litter registrations are 9.5% higher than 2019 and dog registrations are 16% higher. DNA samples are 24% higher. Events declined by 48% and entries by 54%. Year to date operating costs are alright due to registrations and cost containment efforts. The investment portfolio is up 2.19%. The AKC is healthy and in a good position for 2021.

### **Voting:**

On an amendment that would prohibit a local specialty club from applying to AKC for Member Club status. Passed.

On a change that would eliminate costly balloting and time for unopposed Board candidates during the annual election. Passed.

On permitting a 2020 National Specialty to be held in 2021 in addition to a 2021 National Specialty. Passed. As an FYI – 97 National Specialties were cancelled in 2020.

There were four additional votes taken dealing with pointing breeds, spaniels, beagles and Basset Hounds. All passed.

Further News:

Emily Brostek, Manager of Educational Programs at Museum of the Dog, spoke about the upcoming Virtual Night with the Museum honoring Ron Menaker. This is Feb. 12, 2021. Clubs can register as a fundraising team. There will be a silent auction.

There are still some problems with Marketplace and false advertising. This will be looked into.

### **Committee Meetings:**

**Companion Events:** discussion on allowing juniors to use a registered Canine Partner, which they can do in 4H. They would need to say what breed they are presenting their dog as, so that the way they handle is judged accordingly. Judging juniors is about judging the person, not the dog. This will introduce them to the world of AKC and AKC shows, and help them find out what goes on. Perhaps they will meet with handlers, get a pure-bred dog and join the AKC. There was discussion about having a separate prompt on event applications for juniors so that show chairs know that entry fees can be lower than other entries, and perhaps having clubs add a Junior Advocate position to oversee and communicate with AKC on matters pertaining to them.

Any cancelled event in 2021 will have its application fee applied to the next same event.

The Assisting the Sports Modifications that were put into place in 2020 will remain through 2021. Six of these will become permanent changes.

Agility Fix and Go and For Exhibition Only will become permanent.

Virtual Rally and Virtual Agility ACT will continue through 2021. An Agility ACT Jumpers Class has been added. This can be done at a show site or virtually.

Virtual Obedience is being proposed and there will be a V in front of the title earned. The handler can get both a virtual and a regular title. Fix 'n Go will be a pilot program.

A committee was formed to work on getting more obedience and rally judges involved in these sports.

Lots of discussion on whether to eliminate the sit and down exercise in Novice.

**Bylaws:** more discussion on whether local specialty clubs should be able to apply to become member clubs. The board approves or disapproves a club for membership.

The canine genetic presentation in September was really well received, over 300 delegates logged on. Currently, the AKC has one of the world's largest canine DNA profiles. Some parent clubs (22) require genetic testing before dogs can enter national specialties.

Dr. Anita Oberbauer will participate in upcoming forums and webinars.

A few articles and sections were altered, amended, added to, but I will report on these once they have been approved or disapproved by the board.

**Herding, Earthdog & Coursing Events:** once again, no herding person was present to give a report (and earthdog and lure coursing conversations are not relevant to BCA)

**Parent Clubs:** the rescue list has been updated.

NH and NY have active dock and crop banning legislation on the books. More will be known in January in terms of where this is going. At that point, one might need to get active.

In terms of legislation, the AKC Government Relations has responded to 3300 federal, state and local bills, which is a huge increase; the AKC GR gives daily Covid updates on state legislations and rules, and how to work with local officials to put on shows; there is a task force to deal with anti-breeder harassment; the AKC Patriotic Puppy Program has launched giving owners and breeders an opportunity to work with experts to raise and train future detection dogs; support the AKC Political Action Committee (PAC) by buying a mask with a \$12.00 donation ([akc.org/pac](http://akc.org/pac)).

AKC has received health statements from 177 breeds so far. All that have been accepted are now posted. Still waiting for 36 more breeds.

AKC Reunite - eight pet disaster trailers have recently been deployed; the 91<sup>st</sup> trailer is about to be delivered; AKC has made 31 emergency grants in 2020 for a total of over \$75,000 for pet disaster and relief efforts; 434 clubs have contributed; there has been \$1,659,517.72 in donations and \$650,000 funded by AKC reunite.

Vet Outreach – all has been going well with vets and vet schools. Having the 'one hour lunch and greet' meetings now in the evenings, more can attend, and there is more time for Q & A. In addition, Dr. Jerry Klein, AKC Chief Veterinary Officer, has been able to be present for all of them. Twenty schools have participated with more to come.

Juniors – working on best practices document to attract and retain them; this year, all top juniors in 13 events are going to be awarded a jacket with a logo saying Top Junior.

There is going to be a specialty show site locator, which many clubs will find useful.

A step by step best practices manual for parent clubs is being done, as well as one for fanciers in need and at risk – recommendations and resources.

It has been a very difficult year with events still being cancelled or postponed.

Breeder Development has a letter that they will be sending to handlers asking for their help in trying to recruit new breeders into the sport.

There is lots of breeder education information on the AKC Website, as well as free Breeder Education Courses in the Canine College.

Regional Specialty Clubs becoming member clubs – twenty years ago, an amendment was passed not to allow specialty clubs to become member clubs. There was one section in the amendments where this change wasn't made – it was simply overlooked. The current amendment is to keep all sections consistent with what the delegate body voted on 20 years ago. The committee voted to approve it.

For rescheduled 2020 national specialties, each individual club can determine if they want to award a 3 point major for reserve winners dog and bitch – or they can opt out.

A code of ethics survey will go out in December.

**Canine Health:** keep informed and check websites often.

There was talk about keeping a semen bank. All dogs are valuable.

**Delegate Advocacy & Advancement:** working on a mission statement for PAC – how does PAC promote responsible dog ownership and protect dogs? Delegates need to educate people, identify allies and support them in all branches of legislation and make contributions.

The AKC budget for 20/21 has been approved.

Registration stats still exceed expectations. Litters are up too.

Delegate zoom orientation was a success. The delegate zoom handbook is moving forward with a hopeful publish date of June.

**Dog Show Rules:** board has been focused on pushing things forward to make it as easy as possible to meet the needs of competitors.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Virtual Top Dog went really well with 217 entries - \$2200 was donated to help California.

National Dog Show plans going really well with all protocols in place, real time judging will be streamed for the first time, though there is a fee - \$3 for one day, \$5 for both. After expenses, all money will be donated.

The Breeders Rewards Program has been launched. Its intent is to reward breeders who promote responsible dog ownership by encouraging puppy buyers to register and to take out AKC Pet Insurance. Breeders need to enroll. Up to \$10 per puppy can be earned.

There is now a Home Manners Program with two possible virtual titles to be earned.

Watch AKC Heroes on AKC TV from Nov. 30 - Dec. 4.

There are recommendations and suggestions for clubs on how to streamline their premium lists.

The new wording for juniors has been completed. Can use a version with age divisions or without. Discussion on organizing a Quiz Bowl for juniors.

**All-Breed Clubs:** working on a sample bylaws document with only what the AKC requires. This will make it much easier and allow leeway for clubs to do what is important and pertinent to them.

In addition to what was said in other meetings about Juniors, the costs of having Junior competitions was discussed. It is quite an expense for clubs. Juniors can take canine college courses and breeder education courses, as well as participate in many virtual events. They also discussed having the September 2021 Forum focus on Juniors. The number of new juniors is consistent with last year's numbers.

190 people logged on to the Breeder of Excellence seminar where four presentations were given (C-section, progesterone testing, brucellosis, how studly is your stud dog). Due to this success, there will be additional webinars.

The At Risk document is ready to be sent to the board for approval and then distributed to clubs. These are suggested guidelines for clubs to identify and assist those having trouble taking care of their dogs. It is positive, non-judgmental and respects privacy.

The board has extended many of the modifications that were put into place to make holding shows easier. Some of these are now permanent. A list will be compiled and sent to clubs.

It was again stressed to make sure to read all contracts, especially pertaining to cancellation policies. Shop around for superintendents.

Handlers are struggling and exhibitors are losing enthusiasm and are frustrated that the same people keep winning in the groups – there is definitely a decline in numbers. UKC is expanding.

Fast Cat is still huge and making clubs a lot of money. It is addicting and fun. Temperament Tests are also a money maker for clubs. And silent auctions do well.

Now that live streaming is permitted for casual viewing, be aware of your surroundings when filming, and don't offend anyone when you post on Facebook.

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