

Summary of September 2020 Delegate Meeting and Delegate Committee Meetings:

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

Committee Meetings:

Canine Health: Dr. Calvin Carpenter, the new Executive Director, was introduced and spoke. He started during challenging times, but has all the tools he needs to work effectively virtually. He said that financially, they are on sound footing – recovered from early stock market issues. They have met the 2020 funding goals. Added 49 new grants – most in cardiology, general oncology and neurology. Some research is delayed due to restrictions, but lots picking up again. Outreach in education continues – five webinars have been held, four more to come. Fund raising is challenging, but they do have strong support. The AKC/CHF Purina Conference will be held in August in St. Louis.

Starting October 1, OFA Advanced certification exams will need to include an echo, which must be done by a board certified veterinary cardiologist.

Vet outreach has been impacted – all conferences and events have been cancelled. Dog show tours are starting back up and luncheon conferences will continue on Zoom. Many are already planned. Vet school scholarships are still continuing.

Templates for any parent club that wants to start a reproduction semen bank are available now. It can be set up any way a parent club wants, which is why there are multiple templates.

Marketplace – parent clubs need a prominent place here; people will always get a puppy, better from us. Stats show that referral lists are not used as they used to be – demographics are changing, and with them, so should parent clubs. Change in membership of clubs can have to do with where people are getting their dogs. 85% more viewers since last year. Should be on there even if puppies from current litter are all placed.

Breeder education is needed. Breeder mentoring is needed, and this should include telling breeders to breed more. The demand is out there and will be met if breeders don't. Guidelines are being worked on.

Herding, Earthdog & Coursing: unfortunately, no herding report was given (and I will not write up earthdog or lure coursing notes as truly not relevant)

Fast Cat – increasing tremendously – up 126 % compared to same time last year! It's easy to do with Covid restrictions. A very good money maker.

Bylaws: current in print structure does not conform to Roberts Rules of Order, so they will be redo and follow progression.

Lots of discussion about whether to allow local specialty clubs to become member clubs. The big issue is that they would be able to have delegates.

Discussion on having DNA verification of registry. When testing is done, AKC is able to do parentage testing with a 99% confidence rate. Testing would be done for all sires and dams. Could be cost prohibitive. Lots of DNA testing done in health areas; should move forward in genetic testing and have it be economically and logically feasible.

Advocacy & Advancement: litters and registrations are up; events are down 60% - thousands of events have been cancelled, huge loss of entries, and 2021 still looks challenging; Fast Cat, Hunt and Scent work outpacing last year, agility gaining ground

Working on assisting clubs to embrace juniors – need a document to educate them, a code of ethics. What exactly is an AKC Jr – do they have their own dog or someone else's dog, what is the difference between a JR and a child showing for a professional handler?

Companion Events: need to encourage, attract and retain juniors in sports

The AKC short term fixes should be extended until next summer to encourage as many as possible to enter

The AKC Invitational in Orlando will take place with modified qualifications. The Obedience & Rally Nationals are moving forward too with good entry numbers. The Agility National will be held in March in Tulsa.

There is a strong possibility that virtual classes will be extended past December, as well as adding new classes. These have reached new audiences.

Dog Show Rules: quite a few actions have been implemented and/or modified to assist during these times (in case anyone wants to review these, they are attached).

Lots of work is being done on streamlining the premium list. Many pages will be cut, as each page costs clubs money

Developing a Best Practices document for Juniors

All-Breed: events are still limited but there is growth; clubs need to put on events that they might not have considered – this will also grow membership; judging & education webinars are offered weekly

There is work being done on a Best Practices document to help those who become at risk – which can be for any number of reasons. Goal is to give clubs tools and knowledge to help people in need before it becomes overwhelming.

The confirmation shows which have recently taken place have all reported that everything went smoothly. The only concern was with cluster shows – by the third day, people were getting less careful and getting tired of masks. Everyone is watching for future shows – no one can get tired of masks, rules and guidelines

Again, the AKC has responded and took action to help conformation shows during this stretch of time (refer to attached document)

There is a push to donate to AKC PAC. For \$12 donation, you can get a face mask. 100% goes to PAC

There has been a rise in bad behavior on social media. Do clubs' bylaws have anything in the to deal with this?

Parent Clubs: \$2,303,842 raised; 90 trailers to 29 states; 13 in pipeline. Since May 30th, five have been deployed – mainly in Oregon, Washington and CA areas.

13,500 events have been cancelled; 69% of all breed shows; again, talking about the success of FAST CAT, as well as virtual events; there have been 52 breed seminars with 15,000 attendees; there are lots of online tools for kids – engaging and fun.

Forum: a terrific, and extremely easy to understand, presentation was given by Dr. Anita Oberbauer on The Current State of Genetic Testing (a living document). She is a Professor in the Dept. of Animal Sciences and Associate Dean of Agricultural Sciences at the University of California, as well as an OFA Board Member. Prior to her talk, delegates received four related articles, as part of the lead into her address. The link to these, along with Dr. Oberbauer's paper, is at the end of this section. Below is a brief summary of what she said:

Genetic testing has huge value, but it is critical to understand the test, implement the test in breeding programs wisely, know that all services are not equal and know the motivation of the service provider. Technology is advancing at a rapid rate. Early tests, monogenic, were easy to decipher – an easy yes or no, with an assumption that they were penetrant. However, factors complicated this testing: different mutations can cause same disease, risk susceptibility, multiple genes can affect the disease and pleiotropy (a single gene can affect seemingly unrelated traits). The interpretation of testing, either direct or indirect, can now be complicated. When doing a test, think about how it impacts the whole population, its accuracy and its reproducibility. Tests are exciting but need caution – some are straightforward, some are

nuanced, and some are hard to interpret, which can lead to confusion. In addition, there is currently no oversight of labs. A lot can be lost if strict selection is applied – you could be changing one disease for another. Be careful not to eliminate dogs from the breeding population. Use many in breeding programs and avoid overusing popular sires. The living document provides resources to understand the basics of genetic testing and what to consider in making informed decisions around testing.

<https://www.akcchf.org/educational-resources/library/articles/review-of-the-current-state.html>

Meeting:

Dr. Thomas Davies, Chairman, says that the AKC is carrying on in a world full of challenges. Shows are starting up with new protocols in place. Club Development is going above and beyond to help. Virtual events are strong with new ones being added. Marketplace use is up 85% since last year this time. Registration has grown, but so has designer dogs. Breeders must help one another – share litter knowledge, encourage people to breed.

Dennis Sprung, President and CEO gave out outstanding sportsmanship awards; National specialty winners of 2020 and 2021 will qualify for Crufts in 2022.

Financial Report: litter and registrations are up compared to same period last year; events are lower; Expenses are lower than budgeted and operating income is strong at \$6.8 million; Investments are positive – beat its benchmark in these uncertain and volatile markets. AKC financial position is healthy.

Voting:

3 committees elected delegates

Parent Clubs: Karen Burgess, Alan Kalter, Helen Prince, Richard Rohrbacher

All-Breed: Terri Breen, William Ellis, Nancy Fisk, Laurie Maulucci

Companion Events: Ruth Crumb, Stephen Hersey, Larry Wilson, Betty Winthers

A few amendments passed that modified text for clarity

Ch.16, section 6 passed (was in June summary)

Ch.3, section 8-A failed (was in June summary, to create a new class, Bred by Exhibitor Puppy)

Ch. 11, section 8-A failed – it would remove the requirement for an injury to have occurred for an Event Committee to disqualify a dog

