

Summary of March 2020 Delegate Meeting and Delegate Committee Meetings:

The following candidates were elected to fill delegate vacancies on the Board of Directors:

- Class of 2021 Dr. Thomas M. Davies, Brimfield, MA, Springfield Kennel Club
- Class of 2024 -Dr. Carmen L. Battaglia, Roswell, GA, German Shepherd Dog Club of America
 -Dr. Michael Knight, Cresson, TX, Texas Kennel Club
 -Karolynne M. McAteer, Pinehurst, NC, Irish Setter Club of America

In addition, the AKC Board of Directors met to elect:

- Dr. Thomas M. Davies as Chairman of the Board
- Dominic P. Carota as Vice Chairman of the Board, Pharaoh Hound Club of America

The AKC 2019 financial report:

- Registration, litters and entry growth all increased
- Sports events increased: rally, Fast Cat and scent; no increase in agility and obedience
- Digital media increased

A presentation was given on a new branding campaign, most to be aimed at younger consumers; therefore, it will appear on numerous digital platforms. Key objective is that the AKC has it all - knowledge, advice, resources, support. The new slogan: If it Barks, it's AKC. We were shown a few of the new campaign ideas and they were overwhelmingly applauded by the delegates. The AKC homepage has already been redone; the rest will follow.

Meet the Breeds: the parent clubs were all thanked for their support

Votes on amendments:

- Ch. 9, Sec. 2 passed – superintendents and show secretaries can now be approved by an all-breed club, as well as any additional events held the same day
- Ch. 14, Sec. 5 passed – some language was changed for clarity in terms of when dogs can be measured

There was much discussion on the proposed amendment (Ch. 11, Sec. 8A) which removes the requirement for an injury to have occurred for an Event Committee to disqualify a dog. There will be further discussion.

There was also discussion on the proposal (Ch 3, various sections) to create a new Bred-by-Exhibitor Puppy class. This will be voted on in June. Though everyone is generally in favor, a few things still need to be worked out.

Committee Meetings:

Dog Show Rules: see above on amendment votes

Parent Clubs: -Health clearances crucial; microchip, and need to get diseases under control for dogs coming in to our country
-the top bills being seen in legislative are cruelty bills, working dog issues, vet health issues, retail sale of pets. Participation in legislation is crucial.

Crop & Dock: unfortunately, the Chair was not there. As a result, delegates rambled on; the take-away is to get involved and stay involved on your local level

Advocacy: -There are 86 pet disaster trailers in 29 states
-Requests for JR. scholarships – they are now being received
-There is an AKC Dog Breeders Education Network page on FB
-Become an AKC Breed Mentor. Parent clubs distribute pins and this can be advertised (similar to Breeder of Merit)
-a new program is getting started to get older people on film to discuss their wealth of knowledge
-lots of discussion on regional clubs becoming AKC clubs; seems the majority feel that this should not happen

Canine Health: -human information is being used to help with study of osteosarcoma
-discussed the use of Marketplace – should be used for education (in addition to selling puppies)
-DNA – there is no regulatory body to oversee labs that offer commercial services (there is no AKC corporate level endorsements in place for DNA labs). More and more tests are being done and many labs are not legit. Committee formed to work on this.
-there are going to be some changes to the CHIC requirements: an echo will now be required
-a template will be going out to parent clubs to start a semen bank

In addition:

The AKC will host the second annual Agility Premier Cup on April 30, 2020 in Minneapolis, MN

AKC.TV has announced its live dog sports coverage for 2020. There will be 30 live events in addition to the National Championship on Dec. 12 and 13 in Orland, FL. These events will include conformation, agility, flyball, rally, diving and obedience.

If we plan on sending in a recommendation for the AKC Outstanding Sportsmanship Award, now is the time to do so.

Here's hoping we all stay healthy.

Best,
Diane