

Summary of September 2021 Delegate Meeting and Delegate Committee Meetings:

Please Note: these were in person, and I attended.

Thank you,
Diane Reid
9.20.21

Forum: this was a video presentation developed by members of the Juniors Subcommittee on “Bringing Juniors to the Sport – What can your club do?”

I have reported on the work of this subcommittee in my past summaries, so I will simply mention a few key points:

- it is crucial that clubs appoint a Junior Coordinator: they are the future of the sport and we need them.
- plan special events for juniors, activities, social events
- have junior entries cost less than other classes, or waive them entirely
- teach juniors to steward
- include juniors at Meet the Breed events
- there is currently a pilot program to have Junior Clubs – to provide more opportunities for them and to give them needed skills
- make sure Juniors are aware of the AKC Junior Recognition Program

Meeting:

Dr. Thomas Davies, Chairman, expressed how great it was to be back in person – and that the AKC is back and better than ever. Based on the numbers, he said there is a huge desire to hold events and get sports back. All AKC events are increasing. May was the first month on par with 2019 – there was even a 3% increase. Victory has 1000 parents, defeat is an orphan (JFK). Government relations has been particularly busy with major victories in many states – these efforts allow us to breed and show dogs. AKC education has been very busy: there are lots of webinars on line, 600 courses in Canine College (54 breed courses currently available), and there is a program, Leader of the Pack, available to high school students to get them involved in the canine human bond in their communities.

Dennis Sprung, President and CEO said that 9/11 happened during a delegates meeting – 288 delegates were present. He shared an extraordinary new video to mark twenty years - Remembering 9/11. This will be available on the AKC website. He then gave a brief history of DOGNY: this initiative commissioned artists to paint 111 life-sized sculptures of German Shepherd Dogs to honor the search and rescue dogs and handlers at the World Trade Center. He got the idea only two days after 9/11 when the AKC delivered an X-ray machine to the site to help with the rescue dogs who might have been hurt searching through the rubble. Many of the sculptures were auctioned at Sotheby's, raising \$3.5 million. The video and report got a teary standing ovation. To mark the 20th anniversary, all delegates in attendance received a commemorative pin. Recently, the AKC has helped at the Miami condo collapse, evacuating dogs from Afghanistan and the museum is hosting a 9/11 tribute, which can be seen in person or online.

Ted Phillips, CFO, reported that once again, there is an increase in litter and dog registrations. These are higher than what was projected. Over 80% of these were done online. The pandemic impact in events

and entries is declining – these are 109% over 2020. This is moving faster than 2019, which was the AKC's best year ever. Expenses are again lower than budget due to lower staff costs, lower promotional costs and lower travel expenses. The investment portfolio is functioning well, showing good performance in a volatile market. The overall condition of the AKC is healthy.

A video was shown on the AKC Purebred Preservation Bank: as I reported on this in prior summaries, I will only mention a few highlights:

- of the 196 AKC breeds, one half are considered low entry: there is a correlation between low entry and low breeding. The gene pool becomes fragile. Any breed might face genetic bottleneck.

- 1000 breeding units are destroyed every month. Carefully maintaining and protecting something this valuable is critically important. To do this individually is difficult – there are legal, financial, political, and other barriers. So, AKC decided to see if they can create a bank to encompass all breeds.

- the parent club survey about this idea had only 4% saying it was a bad idea; 30% thought it was a great idea and the rest in-between.

- The parent clubs are the key to its success. They will have options and choices, but no mandates.

-