



## AKC/BCOA DECEMBER 2001 DELEGATE MEETING

Since this December meeting was being held in conjunction with the AKC/Eukanuba Classical Dog Show, I decided to drive down to Orlando, rather than fly, attend the meetings, and show my eligible Top Ten Borzoi, "Michael." He was Best Bred By.

From the breeder's viewpoint, I felt the Classical event was a disappointment. It has been promoted as the "Breeder's Event" but ended up being quite similar to Westminster as far as recognizing the handlers and owners in the finals. The breeders were only acknowledged if they were also the owner/handlers. Although the Delegates were not overwhelmingly in favor of the event, we learned that the officials had signed a five-year contract, so that it is to be a yearly event, in conjunction with the AKC Delegates meetings, for at least that long. The most popular part of the show, aside from the Agility events, were the "Meet The Breeder" booths. Ours manned by the Gold Coast Borzoi Club members. Thousands of people visited, asked questions and petted the dogs.

The meetings themselves continue to expand. With all of the attention and accompanying problems connected with the HVBs, ("High Volume Breeder" is the new term for "Puppy Mill.") the Delegates now meet with the HVB Committee which is held Sunday evening.

AKC plans to monitor and meet with the HVB, accepting those who are compliant with AKC rules and care of their dogs and puppies, in order for them to keep their AKC

Registrations. I will be writing an article on this subject in the near future, since it is an interesting concept, and is radically opposite to all that we believe in as breeders!

On Monday I looked at the newly instated agenda for the Committee meetings, lure coursing was to be discussed at the Field Trial Events. (This had formally been for sporting dogs) I attended the meeting and learned that the discussion was as to whether the other sports, sight hound field events, earth dogs, etc, should have their own committee, or continue as part of the sporting dog Field Trial Events. I entered the discussion to ask that they have their own representation, (it was voted that they will apply for their own club representation.) I also spoke out about the problem, which Borzoi seem to be just encountering. That which so many other breeds have already fallen victim to; separation of show and field dogs. I expressed interest in being included as part of the Committee when formed.

I then moved on to the Parent Club Committee meeting already in progress. The topics of interest to us I believe are the acceptance of the Desert Bred Salukis into the stud book for breeding, (after 20 years of controversy) and the request by the Greyhound Parent Club Board to close the stud books to the registering of NGA Greyhounds. My given opinion is that the Salukis should be accepted, while closing the studbooks to the NGA Greyhounds could create a genetic bottleneck in the future in a breed that has so limited a gene pool.

Just before the December meeting I was nominated by the AKC Nominating Committee to run for the AKC Board of Directors. I was told that it was felt that some balance was needed by the Corporation from someone, like myself who could speak for the breeder. Also nominated for the class of 2002 were the incumbents Asa Mays, and Ken Marden. Asa and I joked about how nice it would be to have two Borzoi representatives on the Board! Although I felt I ran a good race, for a first-time nominee, I was not elected.

Elected at the March meeting, from nine candidates were Asa Mays, Ken Marden, and Nina Shaefer.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Staudt-Cartabona AKC/BCOA Delegate