Although there are certain routine mailings such as new member packets, life member certificates, thank-you and sympathy cards, and communications to and from AKC, this year has shown a continuation of the trend I have seen the past few years in the type of correspondence I receive. For many years most requests were for information on the breed and for membership applications. Since these are readily available through the BCOA web site, a majority of the requests I get are from people looking for breeders in their respective areas. Because I have no way of knowing who currently has puppies available, I utilize the BCOA membership list as a reference point advising potential owners to visit or speak to as many breeders as possible to help ensure that they find the right dog for them. I also include a disclaimer and emphasize that, though each of our members have signed our Code of Ethics, we do not make recommendations on specific breeders and that it is up to them to determine if the people they contact are breeders they sense they can work with and feel comfortable buying from.

Since I do not, in many cases, know who is actively breeding, I have proposed that a box be included on the dues notice for members to indicate if they wish, or do not wish, to be contacted by someone seeking a breeder. It is my hope that this will facilitate the search process and eliminate needless calls that might inconvenience the person who is no longer breeding.

While there are many regional clubs that responded to my appeal for yearly updated officer and membership lists, there are still clubs that have not complied with my plea. It is important that each of the regional clubs is aware that they are to send requests for their specialties to me for Board approval. Trophy Supported Entries (TSE’s) are to be sent to the Recording Secretary, Lydia Pruett, for Board approval so that we can check to ensure there are no date conflicts and that we have each club’s information so that it can be included in the Events Calendar.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Mays
Corresponding Secretary