



September 12 & 13, 2005 AKC Delegates Meeting

This Delegate meeting held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in New York City was well attended with three hundred seventy one present to vote on the candidates for the Delegates' Committees and to hear an outstandingly informative talk given by Dr Elaine Ostrander, AKC's consultant on DNA matters. The main reason there was such a large attendance for this meeting was, Delegates were there to attend the Monday evening forum at which AKC's Legislative Representative Dr James Holt presented the latest information on the highly controversial PAWS issue.

Tuesday morning's forum was the above mentioned genetics talk given by Dr Ostrander at which she discussed matters pertaining to canine genetics. She touched on subjects which a few years ago would have sounded like science fiction! We were told about her ongoing projects with genetic mapping and canine genome projects. While explaining the canine genome and its relationship to disease genes, we learned that to date the first two genes implicated in causing hip dysplasia have been located. This from a study of hip dysplasia in the Portuguese Water Dog working with DNA samples collected by the Parent Club from a large population.

Dr Ostrander is working with Tom Sharp, also of the AKC DNA program, to develop a White Paper with recommendations to the AKC Board about AKC's various policies connected with the use of DNA. The DNA compliance program seems to be working, as 45% of all AKC litters are sired by dogs in the Frequently Used Sires program. While voluntary DNA testing is growing, and Dr Ostrander recommended that present policies be kept in effect, she also thought that DNA registration for all puppies is not needed as most are never bred. Her other recommendation was that bitches not be DNAd at their first litter, since most are bred once, which has little impact on their breed. She believes that all future litters should then have mandatory DNA testing..

She spoke on cloning, her and Tom's advice to AKC is to not take a position on this issue at this time. I understood this to mean that cloned dogs, if or when they appear, would not be admitted to AKC records or events at this time. Another recommendation was that DNA samples be available for health research, and not just identification as at present. This to be done only with the owner's consent.

She explained that her laboratory at NIH would store DNA for specific projects, if Parent Clubs had an organized system of collecting DNA for research from individual owners. Her e-mail address is eostrand@mail.NIH.gov for those interested. Would this be something for BCOA's highly efficient Health Committee to investigate?

This is a very brief summery of a very informative talk. I would recommend to those interested in DNA and the future of breeding dogs, to read Dr Ostrander's articles and essays when available.

Dr James Holt returned to the floor to speak further on the PAWS issue and answer our questions.

The business meeting began after lunch. The meeting began on a sad note with Chairman Ron Menaker giving condolences for Board member; our friend Asa Mays. He went on to report that AKC/CAR Katrina Hurricane Relief Fund had collected \$250,000.00 to date. AKC has donated to the Take the Lead Katrina Relief Fund. Delegates were asked to review the Conflict of Interest Report on the AKC website.

We then listened to a financial report given by Financial Officer Jim Stephens. He explained that AKC's operating profit is down due to a continued decline in registrations. While the investment portfolio is good at this point, the future holds many uncertainties, with registration decline being of primary concern. Then there is the future impact of disasters such as Katrina's on the economy and gasoline prices, this has already begun to negatively affect events.

President Dennis Sprung then spoke. He returned to PAWS which was described by him as an emotional issue on which we seem to agree to disagree. He also gave a positive report on the activities of staff, fanciers, and clubs in regards to the Katrina disaster. AKC is providing aid in ways such as trucks delivering supplies, to staff members who are going from shelter to shelter to assist pets in need. The total is already over \$100,000 in aid having been sent.

A form was distributed, which is also available on the web site, to take to one's veterinarians to encourage them to participate in CAR rather than switch to another microchip database.

When the Nominating Committee selection names were read, included was BCOA member, Borzoi and Pointer breeder Karen Spey.

Elections and results of those elected to the various Committees were included. Your Delegate is pleased to remain on the HEC Committee. I was one of the founders of this Committee the purpose of which is to combine show dogs with their respective performance event.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Staudt-Cartabona BCOA/AKC Delegate