

Delegates Report 9/12/2007

Submitted by Jon Titus Stele BCOA AKC Delegate

In an effort to bring some of the important changes and issues that affect the members of BCOA I have conducted two open forums so far this year. One in August in Wisconsin in conjunction with the BCOA supported show and the other in September in Colorado at the Rocky Mountain Borzoi Club Specialty a third will be held with the MBC Specialty in Ohio in November. Both were well attended by both BCOA members and guests. Hopefully as opportunity provides I can have other forums in other parts of the country that will help bring both news and ideas that impact our club and also gather input from the members on their concerns involving AKC.

If you have not thought about disaster preparedness and what would happen if a disaster occurred in your area please look at what FEMA has on their website for Pet Owners the link to information for Pet Owners is <http://www.fema.gov/plan/prepare/animals.shtm>

AKC is looking at allowing mixed breeds to compete in performance events and has conducted a survey with over 21,000 respondents responding to AKC.

Attached is a summary result of those surveys. At this stage AKC is only getting a feeling to see what the general census is and how to proceed to best benefit the fancy and sport. The survey concluded on March 31<sup>st</sup>. At this point AKC is reviewing the idea along with member clubs input and it will be some time before a proposal is sent back to the board and the delegate body.

AKC also had set up a Legislative fund for non taxable contributions to help defeat canine legislation. At the September meeting the Delegate body had a chance to listen to Patti Strand talk about the Radical Animal Rights Agenda. In a 90 minute presentation she opened the eyes of many delegates about just how organized, smart, focused and diligent these groups are and that we need to be focused and united to help defeat their tactics and be prepared to stop bad legislation before it begins. You can go to the website of the National Animal Alliance <http://www.naiaonline.org/> for ideas on how you can impact your legislatures. On this site they have a guide to constructing pet friendly ordinances and how to have an effective impact on your legislatures. One idea that I have mentioned at the forums is that you can invite local politicians to be special award presenters at your local shows( e.g. Have a state legislature had out the trophy for BIS and make sure the local paper gets a photo of them with the dogs in the next days' paper). Get the politicians to the shows to see how important our sport is for responsible pet ownership and the economy. Another idea is to have printed on the back of every arm band a space for exhibitors to sign with the information about where they are from and how much money they have spent while at the show and collect all the arm bands and send them to the legislative body. Several clubs are already doing this with great success including one of our Board Members Karen Mays who has actually had a meeting with the Governor of Georgia (Bravo Karen for your effort).

The AKC also has to consider ways to adapt to the declining revenues from registrations and has increased recording fees to help offset the subsidy of show events. The member

clubs have had an impact on just how the AKC is doing this and have a very positive effect on not making the expense overly taxing on small clubs and local specialties. Juniors entries may also see some form of relief from fees before the final changes are made.

One last thing I would like to mention is that if you have not set up an account with AKC on their website, please do so. There is no cost and you can take advantage of the free record keeping service on line with AKC. I tried it and it is really cool. While you are there check out some of the other features on the AKC web site. It is all new and full of ideas, articles and information and soon they will have achieves available too. There are brochures for puppy buyers that you can print and give to new owners including "A puppy is for life".

Please let me know if there are issues concerning the AKC that I can help you resolve or elevate to the appropriate people for consideration.

See you ringside,

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### **AKC PRESENTS RESULTS OF MIXED BREED SURVEY**

**New York, NY** – In February and March of 2007, the American Kennel Club conducted a survey of purebred dog fanciers on the topic of possibly creating a mixed breed listing service and allowing them to compete in certain AKC events. The purpose of the survey was to gather input from the core constituency regarding this concept and to pinpoint areas requiring additional research. AKC presented the results of the survey at the quarterly Delegate meeting on June 11, 2007. Following is a summary of key results.

#### **Respondent Demographic Information**

AKC sought survey feedback from AKC Delegates, AKC Club Presidents and Secretaries, and other fanciers who were notified by their Club President, Secretary or via [www.akc.org](http://www.akc.org). In total over 21,000 people completed the survey.

#### *General Demographics:*

- 84% Purebred Dog Owners
- 70% Exhibitors
- 50% Club Member
- 76% now own, or have owned, a mixed breed dog

#### *Sport Participation:*

- Over 50% have been involved in the sport for 16 or more years
- Over 60% currently compete in Conformation or have in the past
- Over 50% currently compete in Agility or have in the past
- Nearly 70% currently compete in Obedience or have in the past
- Approximately 63% have competed in events sponsored by other organizations (reasons included enjoyment of atmosphere, obtaining additional titles, convenient location and competing with mixed breeds)

### *Club Affiliation:*

- 51% belong to Specialty Clubs
- 34% belong to All-Breed Clubs
- 33% belong to Obedience Clubs
- 31% belonged to Agility Clubs
- 64% belonged to clubs already offering at least some training classes for mixed breed dogs

### AKC Mixed Breed Survey /2

#### Likely Program Parameters

Based on survey results and general comments that we have received, we have developed a list of likely parameters that an AKC Mixed Breed program would have:

#### Listing Service:

- Mixed breed dogs would be listed or enrolled, not registered
- Within AKC systems, mixed breed dogs would be identified as “mixed breed,” not a specific hybrid combination
- Mixed breed dogs would only be eligible for Agility, Obedience, Rally and Tracking

#### Competition:

- Clubs would have the option to offer mixed breed classes. They would not be required to offer mixed breed classes
- Mixed breed dogs must be spayed or neutered to compete
- Mixed breed dogs would not be eligible to compete at the Agility/Obedience National Championships or at the Agility/Obedience Invitational
- Mixed breed dogs must compete in separate classes\*

\*When introducing the concept of this program, AKC staff assumed there would only be support for mixed breed dogs competing in separate classes, however survey results show that a majority support combined classes. Therefore, we are continuing to consider both options.

#### Interest in Offering Mixed Breed Program

Percent agreeing with the statement: “AKC clubs should have the option to offer classes for mixed breeds at their Obedience, Rally, Tracking and Agility trials.”

- 65% of current AKC constituents (including 65% of Delegates, 67% of exhibitors, 58% of judges, 65% of club members and 60% of officers).
- Over 50% of those currently or formerly participating in all event categories (including participants in non-mixed-breed-eligible events such as Conformation, Coonhound and Field Trials).

#### Overall Opinions About Potential Mixed Breed Program

Following are the percent agreeing with the subsequent opinion statements about a mixed breed program:

- 84%: clubs may gain revenue by adding mixed breed classes to their events
- 78%: mixed breed dog owners would be a potential source of new members
- 75%: mixed breed competition increases opportunities for fanciers who now own mixed and purebred dogs

- 74%: mixed breed competition would not negatively impact public opinion of purebred vs. mixed breed dogs
- 69%: a mixed breed listing service would help AKC expand its message to a larger audience
- 69%: kennel clubs should serve all dog owners
- 69%: representing all dogs would improve AKC's legislative influence
- 63%: mixed breed program will lead to people without breeding/exhibiting experience joining clubs and influencing policy making
- 61%: education/competition may encourage mixed breed owners to make their next dog a purebred
- 60%: program would improve AKC's overall image
- 52% felt that initiating a mixed breed program would be a change in AKC tradition
- 47% mixed breed program will lead to animal rights activists joining clubs and influencing policy making

#### AKC Mixed Breed Survey /3

#### Opinions About Mixed Breed Program Specifics

##### Title Eligibility:

Of those agreeing clubs should have the option to offer mixed breed classes, which titles should AKC allow mixed breeds to earn in Companion Events?

- 35%: mixed breeds should earn title equivalents but with different (mixed breed) designations (such as M-CD vs. CD)
- 31%: titles should be exactly the same
- 17%: mixed breeds should have equivalent titles with different (mixed breed) designations, excluding OTCH, MACH and CT.
- 14%: same titles as purebreds, excluding OTCH, MACH and CT

##### Held in Conjunction with What Events:

Of those agreeing clubs should have the option to offer mixed breed classes, the classes should be offered with Companion Events held in conjunction with:

- 92%: standalone obedience and/or rally trials
- 92%: standalone agility trials
- 86%: standalone tracking tests
- 39%: all-breed conformation shows\*
- 31%: regional and local specialties
- 23%: national specialties (when All-Breed Companion Events are held)

\*Approximately 20% of agility events and 70% of Obedience/Rally events are held in conjunction with a conformation event. Excluding mixed breed events from conformation events would significantly limit possible venues.

##### Class Eligibility:

Of those agreeing that clubs should have the option to offer mixed breed classes:

- 70%: mixed breeds and purebreds should compete in the same classes
- 55%: mixed breeds and purebreds should compete separately

Note that total exceeds 100% due to the fact that each of these statements was presented separately.

The AKC will continue to keep Delegates and the fancy apprised on the progress of this program. Questions and additional feedback can be submitted at any time to [mixedbreed\\_survey@akc.org](mailto:mixedbreed_survey@akc.org).

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The American Kennel Club, founded in 1884, is a not-for-profit organization which maintains the largest registry of purebred dogs in the world and oversees the sport of purebred dogs in the United States. The AKC is dedicated to upholding the integrity of its registry, promoting the sport of purebred dogs and breeding for type and function. Along with its nearly 5,000 licensed and member clubs and its affiliated organizations, the AKC advocates for the purebred dog as a family companion, advances canine health and well-being, works to protect the rights of all dog owners and promotes responsible dog ownership. More than 20,000 competitions for AKC-registered purebred dogs are held under AKC rules and regulations each year including conformation, agility, obedience, rally, tracking, herding, lure coursing, coonhound events, hunt tests, field trials and earthdog tests. Affiliate AKC organizations include the AKC Canine Health Foundation, AKC Companion Animal Recovery and the AKC Museum of the Dog. For more information, visit [www.akc.org](http://www.akc.org).

