

Standing Committee Reports February 2015

BCOA Annual Versatility Award (Kay Novotny)

There were two submissions for 2014:

1. CH CT Romanoc Gerhard's Gaze of Coburn GRC CDX BN GN RAE JC RATI, Owner Linda Beisswenger
2. DC Mielikki Dir Shepard at SilkenSwift SC, CGC, FCH, SGRCIV, BN, RN Owner: Renee McCartin and Bonnie Dalzel

Dog number 1 earned a total of 85.65 points in the year 2014.

Dog number 2 earned a total of 60.30 points in the year 2014.

Dog number 1 is the high point total, and wins the 2014 award. BCOA sends congratulations to both owners and their dogs for their singular achievements.

Championship Medals (Chris Danker)

For 2014: 156 Borzoi that completed their championships, of which 109 were member owned and are eligible for a BCOA medals. The December medals will be mailed out on 26 January, completing all mailings for 2014.

Gazette Column (Jon Steele)

There now is a Facebook page for the AKC Gazette. The last issue is available on the AKC site for download. I also have sent R Lynn the last few columns for the the Gazette to be published on the the BCOA website and will put out a notice on the lists as soon as possible.

Health (Ginger Jones)

2015 BCOA National Clinics:

I have scheduled a cardiologist to provide both auscultation and echo cardiograms.

I've arranged with Michigan State University for them to do our thyroid analysis and they will provide a 10% discount on the lab fee.

Prices for the clinics are:

\$175 for echo

\$30 for auscultation

\$60 thyroid

DNA blood collection for OFA repository bank - free for anyone whose dog has an "other than normal" cardiac exam result. The intent here is to build up our repository with blood samples for cardiac research use. The previous DNA swabs clinic collections we did are now beginning to degrade and most researchers want only blood samples now to work with. We will also be collecting blood samples from affected dogs & dogs with 1st generation affected bloat/GDV for the following Bloat research grant study that we are contributing to:

01937-B: Evaluating the Complex Genetic Basis of Bloat

Grant Amount: \$251,097

Dr. Claire Rebecca Sharp, BVMS, Tufts University

There is no fee for participation in this sample submission.

I've spoken with Dr. Sharp and she will be sending me all the supplies and forms required for this clinic. She's very enthusiastic about us supporting her project with borzoi samples.

I still need to order all supplies for the thyroid clinic and confirm who the helpers are that can draw blood during the clinics. I plan to lock this down within the next month.

I will be submitting forms to RLynn Shell this week to load on the national's website for all of the clinics so participants can download and fill them out ahead of time. This information will be broadcast on the BCOA Facebook account and also on the BCOA members group list.

Updates from OFA/CHF:

I've received the 4th quarter reports from OFA and CHIC borzoi. I'll forward the new CHIC dogs to Helen to include in the next issue of the Aristocrat.

Fundraising:

Renee McCartin's calendar fundraising project for borzoi heart research has again been very successful. A personal thank you note was sent to her & her helpers thanking them for the great work they do.

Research:

In the fall, I contacted Samantha Wright, grants administrator CHF, regarding the outcome of Dr. Meurs original grants submission request for the borzoi heart study. She recommended that we request Dr. Meurs to revise and resubmit her original grant request by narrowing the focus of the study. She felt that the initial request was too broad. I will follow up with Dr. Meurs again and see how we might revise and narrow the focus of the study for re-submission. Samantha seemed to believe that a more specific narrow focus on a specific heart disease within the breed might be more likely to receive approval from the grants review committee. I'll also follow up with Howard Spey, since he is on the grants review board and also has borzoi, to see what his recommendations are to assure we obtain approval to move forward with our grant request. I believe that the initial grants review phase is in March.

With the sample submission to Dr. Clair's Bloat research project, once the study is completed, we should be able to have Dr. Clair provide us with a seminar at an upcoming national's event on her research as a gratuity for our support and participation. This is a pretty typical offering throughout the research community.

Once the grant submission process is complete, I should begin receiving the total list of CHF grants and requests for financial support around the June timeframe.

In closing, I would like to say that it has been a great privilege and a phenomenal learning experience for me to have been the BCOA Health Chairman for so many years. It's provided me with the opportunity to personally meet almost our entire membership and work with some very dedicated fanciers and some outstanding professionals in the veterinary research fields. I have thoroughly enjoyed my tenure as your dedicated servant to borzoi health. There is so much more that needs to be accomplished on this front than what my time allows while employed full time. I

feel I'm shortchanging our membership and that they deserve more and better. We have some very enthusiastic young fanciers now in our organization that I believe can carry this torch forward with the energy it requires. So, after the clinics at the 2015 Nationals, I am retiring from this position. If the president will have me, I would very much like to remain as the liaison to the Canine Health Foundation, the OFA and the Morris Animal Foundation and continue with the pursuit of borzoi health research. I would very much like to see that borzoi heart research comes to fruition!

Keeping In Touch (Edna Ogata)

October 15, 2014 - Birthday card to W. Brumlow
October 28, 2014 - Get well card to Jan McGivney
November 3, 2014 - Get well card to H. Brettall
November 3, 2014 - Birthday card to G. Pinette
November 5, 2014 - Get well card to R. Silguero
November 5, 2014 - Sympathy card to L. Connolly
November 6, 2014 - Sympathy card to M. Zobel
December 7, 2014 - Birthday card to E. Thompson
December 20, 2014 - Holiday Greetings to all KIT members

Legislative Liaison (Rita Rice)

What a difference a year makes!

Last year at this time, the new interpretation of the AWA by USDA/APHIS was the primary focus of 2014. A year later, the regulations are still in limbo. After a Congressional mandate to revisit and clarify various aspects of the new rules, APHIS has been remarkable silent. There are no new updates on the USDA website, and no information on any fancier organization that I can find. It appears, for the moment, that enforcement of the new rule is DOA.

Even as APHIS appears to be floundering as regards the Animal Welfare Act rule change, they are pushing for increased regulations on importation:

<http://www.naiaonline.org/uploads/WhitePapers/regulationImportationOfLiveDogs.pdf>

The import regulations have been long supported by the AKC. As US breeders fall under increased restrictions and public pressure, breeders on other continents are filling the gap, by shipping puppies to fuel the US market. Unlike US breeders, there is little support available for these pups once they leave their first home – and US rescues (including NBRF) are stepping in to keep them safe. Direct information and updates can be found here:

<http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail:D=APHIS-2009-0053>

The Cavalry Group (a legislative lobbying group and advocate for breeder's rights, as well as a legal defense organization) has posted their alert for 2015, including the HUSU mission statement for the coming year:

<http://thecavalrygroup.blogspot.com/2015/01/2015-will-be-no-different.html>

They have also posted their protest against this year's "Lions, Tigers and Bears" symposium hosted by APHIS in July 2014:

<http://thecavalrygroup.blogspot.com/2014/10/the-cavalry-group-calls-out-usda-for.html>

The Cavalry Group keeps an interactive map of pending legislation by state:

<http://www.thecavalrygroup.com/mapPending.php>

There are two papers that could be useful for all of us in fighting "mandatory spay/neuter" laws – and useful in helping us make decisions regarding our animals at home:

<http://www.naiaonline.org/uploads/WhitePapers/gpmcfHealthierRespectForOvaries.pdf>

and an older policy statement from the AVMA: <http://www.naiaonline.org/uploads/WhitePapers/avmaMandatorySpayNeuterABadIdea.pdf>

A recent Chicago case demonstrates a new, successful strategy in defeating unnecessarily stringent regulations:

<http://www.redeyechicago.com/news/local/chi-judge-delays-cook-county-puppy-mill-ban-20140911-story.html>

In Texas, the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (which also regulates dog and cat breeders) suffered a critical defeat in Federal Court under the same premise: existing regulations for barbershops and full service salons was applied to an African Hair Braiding school and shop. The business was shut down due to lack of sinks – apparently, African Hair Braiding doesn't involve hair washing. In short, the Federal Court ruled that regulations that interfere with the logical and safe operation of a business are in direct violation of Federal laws granting all citizens the right to pursue free commerce without undue government interference. The ramifications of this are still being determined, but may have direct impact on our ability to continue to sell puppies to companion homes.

Finally! The AKC has set up a list of purebred dog federations by state!

<https://www.akc.org/governmentrelations/federations.cfm>

In addition, the AKC has set up a Pet Owner's Resource Center, with information on insurance, legislation, and bite prevention:

https://www.akc.org/breeders/government_relations/ins_ctr/index.cfm

I continue to gather information so that I can better understand the legislative process and do a more comprehensive job reporting to BCOA. I hesitate to flood the lists with information; if anyone has suggestions on the best way to keep our membership informed, please let me know!

As always, if the Board would like me to address specific issues, or more complete information on a bill or legislative process, please let me know, and I'll do my best to oblige!

2015 NYC Meet the Breeds Event Report (Ron Williams)

I guess you can say there wasn't a 2014 NYC MTB event. It has been moved to 2/14/15 and will be at a new location. It's being held in conjunction with the Master Agility Trial Competition at Pier 92 and not the Jacobs Javitz Center. This is also the weekend prior to the Westminster Garden Show. In addition it went from a two day event to one day.

With all the changes thrown at us, my Borzoi booth committee remained the same as last year; Linda Deutsch, Joy Windle, Lorene Connolly and Guy Tarsitano. However, so far we've added two new members; Elisabeth Szymanski (possibly Jim too!) and Sheila Gomez.

I've sent out inquires to my Region and attended two local Borzoi club meetings to promote MTB participation.

I'm taking the committee from last year out to lunch at Rat's Restaurant to thank them for participating last year and to have a sit down to further plan this year's booth.

I'm anticipating a few new additions to our booth. I'll refrain from mentioning the additions until confirmation.

On Valentine's Day, AKC held their annual Meet The Breeds event at Pier 92 in New York City. In previous years it was held at the Jacob Javitz Center. I'm not sure why it was change, however, I'm praying to the canine gods to move it back next year!! The event was held in conjunction with the AKC Master's Agility competition, which was held in an adjacent pier.

My committee this year consisted of Linda Deutsch, Joy Windle, Lorene Connolly, Jim and Elisabeth Szymanski, Sheila Gomez and Guy Tarsitano. The scheduled dogs to meet and greet the public were Eddy / Ch. Aruzia Ridgeside Champagne Moon at Joyous Gard, Royal / GCh.

Raynbo's Run For The Roses, Jamie / Ch. Maskova's Mascha Morning After of The Wild Hunt and Jelly /Ch. Kasharra of Bibikov Maskova. Lorene's friend LorenTino Rowyn also helped with the Meet and Greet during the afternoon. Due to last minute personal issues Joy, Sheila and Eddy had to cancel. They were sorely missed and I look forward to their return next year.

We've planned some additions to last year's booth. Linda completed the drawing of an outside Borzoi scene for the window in our backdrop. Next year we'll have the window frame to make it look more like a window. We also distributed Borzoi Valentine coloring pages with crayons for the young visitors. We use drawings by Chanel and Rachele Scott, Margie Milne and Deb Vidaver-Cohen. Ladies, excellent job! My partner Guy retired the Czar costume from last year. We both dressed as what was listed to be White and Black Russians. No comments!!

Once again our booth was a hit. We didn't win a placement this year. Even though I heard several people comment about looking forward to seeing the Borzoi booth. They've said, we put such an effort in presenting our booth! That was my award. I haven't heard of the number of visitors. However, I think easily over 20,000. I even had the pleasure of meeting Region 1 member, Dave Picking from Pa. He emailed me to say he couldn't join the committee, however, wanted to bring his fiancée to the event.

I want to thank my committee for their hard work in making the Borzoi booth a booth we as Borzoi enthusiast can be proud of. A special thanks to Linda. Her talent and her ability to find items for sale prove each year to be invaluable. Plus she takes the bus to and from NYC! Another special / special thanks goes to Royal, Jelly and Jamie. It was a long day for the three of them and was pretty worn out for the last hour. We should be very proud of the way they greeted our fans and represented our breed throughout the day.

INVENTORY

- * 1000 4-pack Crayons - \$127.00 (includes shipping)
 - o Used 130 (870 remain)
- * 2000 Coloring pages (500 of each page) copied from Staples - \$
 - o Distributed approx. 130 of each page (approx. 370 remain)
- * So You Want to Own a Borzoi - 219
 - o Distributed 45 (174 remain)
- * BCOA magnets - 135
 - o Distributed 30 (105 remain)
- * 3 Steps That Could Save Your Dog's Life - 3
- * The two BCOA banners have broken or bent rods

Prudence Hlatky moved, seconded by Joyce Katona, to reimburse Ron Williams for these expenses.

BCOA Ready Borzoi Committee Report (Veni Harlan & Robin Casey)

In 2014, there were 84 U.S. disasters and emergencies declared in every state and territory. Fortunately, most natural disaster situations are predictable, allowing communities and individuals the opportunity to prepare prior to the event.

Never has the phrase “Be Prepared” been more relevant than it is today, not just for Scouts, but for us all. Hurricane Katrina became the rallying cry for acknowledging, “Yes, something can happen in my backyard.” Preparedness is essential for your life and the lives of your pets. Your pets depend entirely on you, so PREPARE.

PLAN – all aspects of your own emergency response for both you and your pets. Ideally, design for two scenarios, one if you are confined to your home for several days and another if you and your pet have to evacuate. Elements for both of these plans include, but are not limited to, supplies (including food and medications), finding the safest parts of your home and escape routes if you are ordered to evacuate or your home becomes unsafe.

Research: various destinations as well as escape routes. Investigate routes in several directions, in the event that one or more may be blocked and impassible. Practice a “dry run” for each route so that if you have to improvise, you will be able to do it quickly and without jeopardy.

Equip: your home and your vehicle with emergency supplies and provisions. Include an easily readable map with routes highlighted, waterproof containers for food and medications; water; bowls; leashes; and collapsible carriers or crates. Don’t forget permanent identification such as a microchip for pets, medical and/or insurance records for you and your pets, and a photo and description of your pet, as well as proof of ownership. A First Aid kit is also a necessity; most of the contents can be used for both humans and pets.

Practice: emergency situations and include your pets. Try to do a drill for each type of emergency that may hit your area. Over a period of time, practice until you can get the start-to-finish time

down to a minimum. Experiment with pretending to be confined to your home. Make it a game for your pets whether “in home “or on the road,” and your pets will be more at ease if the real thing strikes.

Update: subtract and change supplies periodically. Medications that are out-of-date become ineffective at best and toxic at worst. Food can become stale or worse. Even water stored long-term can take on the taste of its container. Consider changing bedding for crates, and check to see that leads and collars still fit and are in good repair.

Review: all plans and preparations regularly. “Safe havens” may change or cease to exist. Roads may be closed or new ones built. Landmarks may be torn down or names changed. If friends have volunteered to help, make sure those offers are still viable. Your plans as well as your vehicle preparation should be appropriate for various temperatures and seasons.

Chain of Command: Establish an ongoing relationship with local authorities, such as offices of emergency management (OEMs) and dog clubs in a given area. FEMA dictates that in times of emergency, jurisdiction will be ceded to local authorities where the disaster occurs. Planning and Communication with dog clubs in your area will create a team effect that can avoid duplication of resources and efforts, as well as produce strength and a more efficient result. This does not mean that concerned local individuals cannot help in a generalized effort.

What it *does* mean is that everyone will have to establish an ongoing relationship with the local authorities considerably in advance of any specific disaster, as well as fulfill any requirements the local authorities may establish, as many areas are making lists of those people eligible to help. This is often in addition to the requirements set by FEMA. This has been established post-Katrina, because it has been generally agreed by all emergency workers that many of the so-called “spontaneous” people in these situations have not had a positive affect on relief efforts. The BCOA Ready Borzoi has a wealth of tips and resources to help members prepare, prevent, and deal with disasters. Consider including a link on your kennel web site to ReadyBorzoi: http://www.borzoiclubofamerica.org/readyborzoi/BCOA_ReadyBorzoi.html

Wishing all a safe and prosperous 2015!

SPECIALTIES (Barbara O'Neill)

Futurity

The 2015 Futurity closed November 12, 2014 with a total of 47 litters. The 2016 opened are there are 2 new bitch and litter nomination. Currently, there is \$3,380.00 in the 2015 Futurity account and \$225 in the 2016 account. The breeders have selected Rhanda Glenn as their 2015 judge.

2015 Yearbook

The early bird discount deadline closed January 15 with the majority of entries using the online order form. The 2015 Yearbook Committee has reduced the ad rates from the original advertised rates. The final Yearbook deadline is March 1, at which time the raffle for a Yearbook page from trophy donors will take place. The cost of individual books will be determined following printing and will be available at the 2015 National Specialty in Huron, Ohio. 256 B/W 80 color

National Specialty Guidelines

Guidelines are currently up-to-date. Region 5 will be next up for 2018 with a bid/proposal due April 2016.

2015 National Specialty – Huron, Ohio

Joyce Katona, the Facility/Specialty Coordinator, continues to organize the Specialty. The premium list is at the printer and should be mailed by February 1. Entries close April 15. Pet oxygen mask kits will be presented to the Sandusky Fire Department at the annual awards banquet. Joyce is checking on how many will be needed and inviting them to send a representative to the Sawmill Creek Resort.

2016 National Specialty – Lawrence, Kansas

Kay Cassella and Prudence Hlatky, the Facility/Specialty Coordinators, continue with event plans. Kay is currently working on soliciting artist for the 2016 logo. A presentation to the membership on the site will be given in Ohio. Pet oxygen mask kits will be replaced with some other donation to the community because another national breed club has donated them to the fire department in 2014.

2017 National Specialty – Region 2

The proposal for the 2017 National Specialty will be presented to the Board for approval at the May meeting. Roy Silguero and Curtis Judd will act as Facility Coordinators.

Club Inventory & Medals

The sending of TSE medallions is up-to-date. Championship medals were requested and sent to Kasey Parks.

Statistics

1. BCOA purchase AKC digital quarterly report which could be shared
2. Canine Quarterly reports monthly top dogs by breed
3. Revert to Standing Rule of Top Ten in each venue

Breed Welfare (Dee Jones)

I am pleased that the Board of Directors has approved our assistance program. I hope to have details ready to roll out the program at Nationals. I am looking for someone who would like to assist with that program.

Don't forget Breed Welfare will again sponsor the Costume Contest and Companion Parade. All Borzoi are eligible for the Costume Contest – Rock 'N Roll is Here to Stay. Any Borzoi NOT ENTERED in the dog show at Nationals is eligible for Companion. All dogs get a toy. Prizes for the top costumes.

BR-NC (Nancy Joeckel)

Annual Summary

Dogs in Rescue: 6 Dogs in Referral Program: 4

Fourth Quarter Dogs in Rescue

All Borzoi placed through BR-NC Adoption are spayed/neutered, microchipped, heartworm/lyme tested, and current on all vet care before placement. Adoption Applications are required, references are checked, and home inspection visits are done.

Shanti 2014: Patient, consistent, and positive (success-based) training has paid off for Shanti. He has made remarkable progress, and the new year will find us posting a new bio to find this lovely Borzoi his forever home.

Cayenne 2014: Cayenne was surrendered to BR-NC due to changes in the owner's family circumstances. Cayenne will be going home with a wonderful new family in early January.

Fourth Quarter Dogs in BR-NC's Referral Program

BR-NC's Referral Program gives owners/breeders access to excellent pet homes while retaining full control over all aspects of placing their dogs. In return, BR-NC receives a \$100 donation to help cover the expenses of the Borzoi we take into Rescue.

The following Borzoi were in the Referral Program this quarter:

Handsome 2014: adult male – available

Sam 2014: young adult male – placed

Mac 2014: young adult male - placed

Other 2014 Activities

BR-NC cooperated with NBRF to transport and place several Southern California Borzoi that were surrendered by their owners. We provided home checks, veterinary referrals, transportation help, and owner support for four other Borzoi that changed hands without coming into Rescue. Our role in these cases is to help insuring each dog's lifetime success in its new home.

Due to very high veterinary costs this year, we launched Sorelle's Ride for Royce and assisted a Rescue supporter in a large ebay auction of collectibles, with 30% of the proceeds going directly to BR-NC. Additional funds came from donations by individuals, adoption fees, the Pedigree Foundation, the Beverly Taylor Trust, and BCOA. While our 2014 expenses heavily exceeded our income, we had sufficient funds left from 2013 to cover all our bills and end 2014 with a small positive balance in the bank.

We thank all our donors and supporters for helping us through this very costly year.

NBRF (Liz Duncan-Burge)

The National Borzoi Rescue Foundation (NBRF) is dedicated to the rescue and permanent placement of all displaced borzoi across the United States. All borzoi are spayed/neutered and fully vetted prior to placement. Adoption applications, references checked and home visits are required prior to placement with emphasis placed on the quality of life, and special needs, of each individual borzoi.

For the year 2014, NBRF had 39 borzoi come into rescue and has successfully placed 37 of those borzoi in loving forever homes, one is a permanent foster due to a chronic medical issue that does not affect the quality of life for the dog and the other will be going to its forever home in mid-January 2015.

Since NBRF's last report to BCOA in October 2014, NBRF has; worked with Saluki Tree of Life Rescue (STOLA) to locate breeder of a borzoi x saluki cross, performed a home check for a breeder, assisted a breeder in search of a wet nurse and volunteer nannies for her motherless

litter of 11 puppies, worked with a breeder on placement of a borzoi returned to the breeder, assisted Animal Care & Control Team of Philadelphia in locating the owner of a borzoi that had been turned in to them, worked with various all breed shelters to determine if dogs that they had were actually borzoi and ensured shelters had our contact information for future assistance, gave advice and solicited search volunteers and shared information on five lost borzoi for breeders/owners in various parts of the United States, established NBRF fundraiser with walking application for smartphones from wooftrax.com and have over 20 walkers walking to raise money for NBRF, obtained award contact information for Jennie Viles of Australia who obtained the RSPCA Animal Achievement Award for her borzoi Lara, answered inquiries and provided information on borzoi for 3 persons interested in borzoi in the future, provided information to 3 persons overseas on who they may contact for a borzoi in need in their respective areas, shared over 50 informative health related articles on NBRF Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/nationalborzoirescuefoundation> , established NBRF memorial pendant/bookmark fundraiser, received multiple volunteer applications, established donation program in memory of Borzoi at the Bridge where recipients receives a letter of condolence indicating donation made to NBRF in the name of their beloved, requested and located a volunteer to compose NBRF “Happy” video posted on the home page of our website at www.nbrf.org , shared information on sighthounds in need from other sighthound rescue groups on our facebook page, and mailed out approximately 245 newsletters to our adopters, foster people and BCOA BoD.

NBRF also covered extensive vet expenses for a young female borzoi named Alice that was placed in a forever home by NBRF. Rescue Alice’s antibiotic resistant bacteria lung infection was missed by NBRF’s initial treating veterinarian and at the time of her adoption she was ill but showing no clinical signs of illness or infection. It soon became apparent in her new home that Rescue Alice was ill and after exhaustive veterinarian care and incredible love, care, and affection given to Rescue Alice by her new family, she was quickly became deathly ill and succumbed to the infection.

NBRF’s 4th Quarter Income Statement is attached. Our 2014 Income Statement will be posted on our website by this month’s end.

NBRF encourages ALL breeders to permanently identify their borzoi and puppies with microchips or tattoos.