

Highlights for AKC in 2008

This year saw the launch of Online Record Keeping which enables breeders to compile and check their records on akc.org. The AKC Breeder's department facilitated an increased number of Breeders' Symposia held in conjunction with the AKC/Canine Health Foundation and brought distribution of the AKC Breeder newsletter to nearly 120,000 readers per issue.

A new Inspection protocol was approved by the Board in November 2006. This department has already conducted more than 5,000 inspections this year. They are on track to having the most productive year ever in regard to inspections

Agility events have grown by 9 percent and Performance by 2 percent. Strong growth was experienced by Lure Coursing events with a nearly 26 percent increase. It's noteworthy to mention that this sport held a successful National Lure Coursing Championship – the first in five years.

AKC has established a new AKC Political Action Committee and also created a Canine Legislation Support Fund. For the first time ever at the state level, AKC hired a lobbyist. Two Lobby Days were held in California and other legislative training seminars across the country. AKC has also launched the AKC Humane Fund, a new and distinct not-for-profit organization, separate from AKC, to present educational programs and give to charitable causes. They are now able to accept tax-deductible donations from the fancy and the larger pet-owning public. Fund's mission is "to unite a broad spectrum of animal lovers in promoting the joy and value of responsible and productive pet ownership through education, outreach and grant-making."

One area in which AKC consistently demonstrates its dedication to all dogs is canine health. The AKC anticipates providing significant support to the AKC/CHF endowment fund above the more than \$1.2 million annual donation the AKC normally contributes to this worthy cause.

With these many accomplishments, AKC demonstrated its commitment to its mission of promoting the Sport of Purebred Dogs, advancing canine health, protecting the rights of all dog owners, and promoting responsible dog ownership.

The AKC mission statement's first sentence wraps up with "breeding for type and function." The AKC Board's Breeders Committee continues to assist the backbone of the sport by providing educational resources for both first-time and experienced breeders. Initiatives include the AKC Breeder newsletter, which now boasts more than 120,000 subscribers. Also, nine Breeders' Symposia were held this year by AKC and AKC CHF

A change in Chapter 3, Sections 3 and 6 of the AKC Rules Applying to Dog Shows where the amendment is the result of a strategic action item. The Amateur-Owner-Handler class would appeal to a larger number of exhibitors who want to compete against their peers rather than more experienced professional handlers. The change approved by the delegate body reads as follows;

Section 7. The Amateur-Owner-Handler class shall be for dogs that are at least six months of age that are not champions. Dogs must be handled in the class by the registered owner of the dog.

This class is restricted to exhibitors who have not, at any point in time, been a professional dog handler, AKC approved conformation judge, or employed as an assistant to a professional handler. Additionally, members of the immediate family or household of a current professional handler are ineligible for this class (as defined in Chapter 11, Section 13).

Professional handlers are defined as any person who belongs or has belonged to a professional handlers' organization, distributed rate cards, or otherwise advertised or represented themselves as handling dogs for pay.

The next Delegates meeting will be the second Monday and Tuesday in New York.

Submitted by Jon Titus Steele AKC Delegate