

FROM THE PRESIDENT

1981 continued for the Borzoi Club of America, what has been a trend of nationalization and growth. Just twenty years ago our membership stood at less than 100; today we are approaching 400! Inquiries regarding membership, questions about the breed, and requests for names of breeders are also greatly increased over previous years and it appears that interest in the breed is at an all-time high.

However, let us not permit quantity to supplant quality. Not only is it important that we maintain the quality of the breed at the highest level possible, but we also must be concerned with the quality of the breeders and owners. Expend that extra little effort when you sell a pup to insure that it will go a good home, and don't be so lacking of objectivity to insist that your bitch puppies be bred. Already, there are too many Borzois appearing in animal shelters, or even subjected to worse fates.

At the same time we have seen an apparent increase in the activity of foreign agents in their efforts to acquire Borzois for export. While in and of itself that may not necessarily be bad, any sale (in the U.S., or abroad) to an intermediate agent, or any wholesale transactions are to be discouraged and I would suggest that anyone contemplating same should review their "Guidelines for Breeders" booklet.

On a more constructive note, 1981 also saw other international Borzoi activity. Several of our members attended the international Borzoi conference held in Sweden. Being the first such conference, the proceedings mainly dealt with general topics, but it was significant that Borzoi breeders from around the world were able to meet and discuss their common interest. The next international conference is scheduled during the Summer of 1983 in England. Wouldn't it be nice if the Borzoi Club of America could host the 1985 conference?? Perhaps in conjunction with our national specialty??

The effort to make the B.C.O.A. a truly national club was continued in 1981, and, as well, a commitment to insure that that nationalization would continue was made. We now have seen the national specialty in Atlanta (1980), Kansas City (1981), with 1982's specialty being held in Cincinnati, 1983 is scheduled for the Dallas area, and the 1984 specialty has been approved for the Los Angeles area. It is important that as many of our members as possible be given the opportunity to attend a specialty, but understand that approval to hold a specialty in any area must take into consideration the number of members in that area, the likelihood of attracting a good entry, facilities available, etc., etc.

Having a rotating national specialty as we surely now have, should be sufficient impetus to set up a geographic plan, with the specialty being held in each of the geographic areas in successive years. Bearing in mind the considerations mentioned above, it would seem logical to establish six geographic areas: 1) Northeast, encompassing the New England states, New York, New Jersey, and Eastern Pennsylvania; show sites logically would be in the metropolitan New York or Philadelphia areas; 2) Southeast, encompassing a larger area, including

the seaboard from Maryland to Florida, the eastern Gulf states, Kentucky and Tennessee; a correspondingly larger number of potential show sites would be available, such as Atlanta, Miami, North Carolina, Virginia, Washington, D.C., for example; 3) Great Lakes, encompassing Michigan, Western Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin and Minnesota; numerous show sites are available in this area; 4) Midwest, encompassing the vast heartland area, including Missouri, Louisiana, Texas, Kansas, Colorado, etc.; potential locations would include St. Louis, New Orleans, Houston, Dallas, Kansas City and Denver; 5) Northwest, encompassing Washington and Oregon; distribution of members in the area and access to the area would limit the number of acceptable show sites (probably the Seattle and Portland areas); and 6) Southwest, encompassing California and Arizona; various show sites in the Bay area, or the Los Angeles area would be adequate.

Such a division is only supposition, and states not mentioned was not a reflection of my personal likes or dislikes, but was either not necessary to define the area, or would not logically be considered as a likely location for a specialty based on the reasons given above. If such a plan were to be adopted, with the specialty being held in each of the respective areas once each six years, it would permit less hectic planning, not to mention an increased likelihood of securing our first choice judge (at a financial advantage too, if that judge can be placed on the judging panel of an all-breed show held during the specialty weekend).

Lastly, I would like to thank those of you who have contributed to the club in so many ways. I cannot mention everyone here, but your efforts in conducting the day-to-day affairs of the club, serving on committees, especially our specialty show committees, and to everyone who supported the specialties with entries, or participating in the auctions, deserves credit for making the club what it is today.



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President