

Delegates Report April 2008

In the last quarter in Arizona I held an informal delegate forum after the BCOA TSE with about 20 people in attendance. The folks in AZ are great group of members. I gave updates on some of the changes at AKC including updates to the AKC website.

At the last AKC delegates meeting Ron Meneker talked about the workings of the Eukanba show and explained that Animal Planet and the other sponsors have invested a considerable amount to get the facility in California up to broad cast standards and with that, a multi year commitment to that site is a necessity. The show had really out grown the site in Florida. In 2010 the show will be a point show and they are looking for an entry of 6000.

The BCOA board has continued to direct my vote on issues before the delegate body including limiting fee increases and making shows more exhibitor friendly. The AKC has started their own Humane Fund as a 501C3 to raise money to give to breed rescue, education and health programs. Check the AKC site for further details.

Dog registrations continue to decline as well as litter registrations and offsetting the lower revenues the AKC is implementing other income sources such as licensing the AKC brand. This has added almost half a million dollars in fees for 2007.

The information that was presented at the very successful Parent Club Conference is available on the AKC website for download.

Legislative issues continue to be a huge focus for AKC and anything that can help at the local level is key. As an example, I took the opportunity to speak before my community's Rotary Club about dog shows and explained the economic benefits that dog shows bring to the host town. Seeing that we had local legislators in attendance I concluded that local breed specific and unrealistic spay neuter legislation will cost communities revenues when those shows move to a more dog friendly county.

Respectfully submitted,
Jon T Steele