

AKC Delegate Report

The last delegates meeting was in Boston on June 8th.

I requested input from the Board on several questions Dennis Sprung had asked for input on the Mixed Breed agenda. I sent a post to the Board Members of BCOA stating that once I had a majority of input from the Board I would relate the input to Mr Sprung. I only received a response from 4 members, so I have not submitted the input.

The 2009 AKC/Eukanuba National Championship will be the platform for AKC's 125th anniversary celebration. In recognition of this milestone, the AKC will waive the current invitational format. As was the case for AKC's centennial show in 1984, classes will be offered at the breed level and championship points will be awarded.

The event will take place in Long Beach, CA on Saturday, December 12 and Sunday, December 13, 2009 and will continue to showcase the top American dogs as well as offer the popular Bred-by-Exhibitor competition and Eukanuba World Challenge . AKC anticipates a very significant entry and therefore an entry limit may be necessary. The judging panel for this show will consist of almost 90 judges.

An amendment to allow a class change from the bred by class to open was approved by the delegate body. The amendment will benefit exhibitors by permitting incorrectly entered dogs to be moved into the open class. This will also benefit all those entered by providing the opportunity to maintain the number of dogs eligible to compete and thereby the number of dogs counted in the computation of championship points.

Dr Tom Davies addressed the delegate body on the Board appointed committee to investigate the group realignment. The following is an excerpt:

In October of 2007, the Board of Directors appointed a committee to consider and reassess the alignment of breeds within the groups. The committee consisted of myself as Chair, Karen Burgess, Robert Fisher, Marieann Gladstone, Tim James, Dr. Alvin Krause, Dr. William Newman, John P. Nielson, Dr. Robert D. Smith, Robin Stansell and R. William Taylor.

The committee held their second meeting on May 14th of this year. Although we have not yet finalized their recommendations and presented our report to the Board of Directors, we feel comfortable releasing some of the information that forms the basis for our ongoing research and consideration.

Because of the number of newly-recognized breeds and those that we anticipate being accepted in the near future, we are considering recommending an increase in the number of groups from seven to ten. Two of the additional groups are based on dividing existing groups that have both high numbers and a logical split by type or function. The third additional group is the Northern Breeds.

There is consideration for moving a small number of breeds to totally different groups. In each of these cases, the Parent Clubs will be offered the opportunity to poll their membership prior to a final recommendation.

The next delegates meeting will be in New Jersey in September. Unfortunately I have already made another commitment. As the agenda for this meeting does not have any pressing vote by the delegates that would affect our club, I will not attend since I have made a prior commitment..

*Respectfully Submitted,
Jon Steele*