



COMMITTEE REPORTS – August 2008

AKC Gazette Columnist – Jon Steele

The last column for the Gazette has been sent to R Lynne Shell for the BCOA web site. For those that do not get the Gazette the articles have been added to the BCOA website at the following address is <http://www.borzoiclubofamerica.org/gazette.htm>

The 4 columns that are published in the breed section of the Gazette are listed in the hound group section in February, May, August and November. The column that I just wrote in July will be in the November issue. I have been varying the columns between breed type and articles that related to the breed in behavioral or educational formats. In addition I have had one guest columnist and plan on asking other guest columnists to write in the future.

I am always open to input from the membership for column ideas. The columns have to be less than 550 words which really means only a specific topic can be covered in any one article. The column is written not just for Borzoi owners but for the whole fancy. Most people that subscribe to the Gazette read one or more of the breed columns and many read all the breed columns. When I write I have tried to write for a wide reader audience including people who own a borzoi, those that might be interested in getting a borzoi, judges and the fancy in general. It is important to make sure these columns are in good taste and positive.

Lydia expressed the thanks of the Board to Jon Steele for his great job with the Gazette Columns.

Annual Awards – Nancy Katsarelas

Nothing to report

Club Inventory & Medals – Chris Danker

As of June 2008, there have been a total of 82 Borzoi who have completed their Championships. 58 of these Borzoi are first-listed BCOA member owned. I am waiting for another shipment of medals to complete the mailings

Futurity – Barbara O'Neill

The 2009 Futurity currently has 34 new Bitch nominations with 26 new Litter Nominations. There are 75 puppies eligible to move forward to 2009 from the 2008 Futurity. A check for \$792.89 was sent to the Treasurer at closeout of the 2008 Futurity. To date, there is \$2,165.00 in the 2009 Futurity account.

National Show Committee and Guideline – Barbara O’Neill

The National Specialty Policies and Guidelines are up to date. Region 3 has been informed about putting together a proposal for 2011 for presentation next May in Michigan. The ballot for judges for the 2011 & 2012 National Specialty will be done this January.

2008 National Specialty – Sacramento, CA - April 2008 – Barbara O’Neill

The 2008 National was a major success in terms of both financial and exhibitor satisfaction. The only issue to still be resolved is the return of awards following AKC cancellation of Best of Winners and move up to Winners Dog of Reserve Winners Dog. A check for \$16,991.95 has been sent to the Treasurer as closeout of the Specialty. This represents a profit of \$16,538.11, which is the second highest Club profit, topped only by the Centennial Specialty. Full financial report has been sent to Board members, the 2008 Committee and future show committees. I can’t thank enough those on the show committee and all those who helped make it the success it was. It was a WOW!!!

Barbara gave special thanks to Carol Enz for her hard work on the ‘Garage Sale’ and the great income that produced.

2009 National Specialty–Frankenmuth, MI–May - 2009-Barbara O’Neill

Jon and Jenni Steele, Lynne Bennett and Mickey Nash continue making plans for 2009. Application has been sent to the AKC along with the Statement of Compliance that is necessary for AKC approval of the Specialty. The judging panels, Obedience Trial and Rally Trial have been approved. There are two conflicting all-breed shows within 200 mile radius and the AKC is waiting for letters from them for release of the Breed in order to approve the Specialty. We are still in the process of making arrangements for the field events. Jenni Steele has received a terrific response for the tee shirt fund raiser and is in the process of arranging for production and distribution. Our thanks to all who supported this project with their shirt order. There is currently \$5281.50 in the 2009 Specialty account.

Kudos to Jenni Steele for a wonderful job with the t-shirt fundraiser.

Shen Smith, among others, has a number of items from past specialties that can be offered again at the 2009 Specialty. Barbara O’Neill will assist in sorting these items.

2010 National Specialty–Ft. Mitchell, KY–May 16-22, 2010-B.J. O’Neill

A site visit to the Drawbridge Inn was held June 6 with a meeting of committee members Gale Snoddy, Chris Moyer, Kelly Brunarski, Tammy and Peggy Marshall, Steven Sims and Whitney and Blake Wright. A theme was established – “Run for the Roses” and plans began for making 2010 a great National. A contract has been signed and returned to the Drawbridge Inn. Names for judges have been submitted for Board approval.

Obedience/Rally: Linda MacDonald, David Haddock and Jeff Showman

Lure Coursing: Jeff Lipps, Karen Rockwell, Francis Abrams, Jeff Curry and Katie Kaltenborn

Junior Showmanship: Prudence Hlatky, Charlotte Anderson and Karan Aurelius

R.Lynn Shell moved, Cindi Gredys second to accept the list of judges. **Motion approved**

2011 National Specialty

Region 3 members are looking for a suitable site for the 2011 National Specialty. R. Lynn Shell-Whitlock reported that the Mesquite site is no longer accepting dogs.

Standardized Trophies – Barbara O’Neill

We will need to reorder the First Place bronze heads and will get enough for the next five years.

Constitution & By-Laws Revision – Barbara O’Neill

There has been significant movement in Board approval of revisions to the Constitution and By-Laws. Three Special Board meetings have been held on May 8, June 11 and July 7 to address revisions of Constitution Article I and By-Laws Article I through IV. The goal is to have Board approval, AKC approval and voting on the revisions by the membership before the end of the year, 2008.

Club Inventory & Medals – Barbara O’Neill

There are approximately 50 Title medals remaining in stock and we will probably need to be reorder before the end of the year. The sending out of TSE medallions is current. We will also need to replenish the stock of TSE medals soon; Barbara O’Neill will report on the inventory at the November Board meeting.

HEALTH – Virginia Jones

A. 2008 Sacramento, CA Nationals follow up:

• CLINICS & SEMINAR:

A thank you card was sent to Dr. Oberbauer for providing us with a seminar and donating her speaking fee to our CHF Donor Advised Fund. For the heart clinic, since the heart examination forms were given to each of the participants in this clinic, the participants did not receive the free CHF registration. I was unable to rectify this after the fact, so I will need to keep this in mind and plan something special for clinic participants the next time the nationals are in this region. Many thanks goes to Kay Henderson and her helpers for making sure everything came to fruition for both the clinics and the seminars!

B. Canine Health Foundation

I received the following info from the CHF since my last board report:

- Received information regarding an upcoming Inaugural Cardiovascular Disease Researc Symposium to be held October 6, 2008 in New Orleans, LA. The CHF is looking for clubs that would like to sponsor the symposium with contributions of \$2500 to \$5000. Please see attachment #1 at the end of this report. Sponsorship support is requested to be submitted by September 15th. Please advise if the board would like to support this symposium and select someone to attend. Although I would enjoy the symposium immensely, I would not be able to attend, but would like to recommend either Karen Mays or Howard Spey as possible attendees if the board decides to support the symposium.

- Received progress report for research grant#632 Micro RNAs and Canine Lymphoma, principal Investigator: William C Kisseberth, DVM, PhD. The study has made a request for a 1 year extension. A 6 month no cost extensions has been granted with the ability to request another no cost extension in 6 months as long as progress continues.
- Received 2008 Grants for Research book containing all current and pending grants. From this booklet, there were two heart research studies, one Active and one Pending both related to Dilated Cardiomyopathy, that I have sent an inquiry in to the CHF for. I would recommend that we support any of the following CHF grants:
 - 789 Identification of Candidate Genes Causative for Dilated Cardiomyopathy in the Dog, if this study is not already fully funded. This is being conducted by Keith E. Murphy, Phd – Texas A&M.
 - The other study, Grant # 1049-A Molecular Evaluation of the Alpha Tropomyosin Gene in Doberman Pinschers with Dilated Cardiomyopathy, is a Pending grant and will be conducted by Kathryn Meurs, DVM, PhD, DACVIM at Washington State University. Although this study is centered on the Doberman breed, the initiative is to identify a genetic marker linked to DCM and develop a screening blood test for the disease.
 - Also listed in the 2008 Grants booklet was a study on PRA that the board might consider supporting if the grant still requires funding: Active Grant # 642 Investigation of the Genetic Mutations Underlying Progressive Retinal Atrophy, Investigator Simon Petersen-Jones, MSU.

There were many other research projects listed in the 2008 Grants booklet, but these three seemed to be particularly relevant to our breed. Please advise if you would like a more complete listing of the projects and I will get them to you for your review.

- CHF has started a new pod cast series where grant researchers and other experts provide an on line seminar. The information regarding these has been posted to the borzoi newlist and the hotlinks to access them have been added by RLynn Shell to the health website. Of particular interest this coming pod cast is that this one will be given by Dr. Matthew Breen, the recipient of the Asa Mays, DVM, Excellence in Canine Health Research Award.

C. MORRIS ANIMAL FOUNDATION GRANT REQUESTS

- Received an extensive list of research studies from Morris requesting our interest to support any of their pending grants. The list does not provide an abstract, so I'm contacting them to receive more information about several of the studies that might be of interest to us to support. When I receive the additional information, I'll forward it to the Jan for inclusion in the next board meeting.

D. Frankenmuth, Michigan Nationals - 2009

- I've been working with the thyroid lab at the Michigan State University to arrange for discounted rates for the thyroid panel analysis to conduct a thyroid clinic for this particular year. This will result in a substantial cost savings to our membership for a thyroid clinic. Since the lab is so close to the location of the Nationals, it made good sense to try to take advantage of offering this clinic for this year. I am looking into the possibility of MSU vet students that work in the thyroid lab to come and help with the blood draw and centrifuge – possibly a great hands on opportunity for them and a discount for us! This will be the clinic that I will be really pushing for members to attend. I think in addition to this, I would like to get the thyroid expert from MSU,

Dr. Nachreiner, to be our guest speaker and make this the focus of next years Nationals health events.

- I've been contacted by Cindy Baker, the message therapist who provided messages and demonstrations at our Nationals in Rhode Island. She is again offering to provide this service for our Nationals in Michigan. I believe she was considering the evening after lure coursing and possible the next day after the coursing/racing events. So, it will be sort of a "treat your dog to a spa after the races" type of event. I need to review this with the facility coordinator to see what area at the hotel might be available to accommodate this.
- I have confirmation from Dr. Riepe, DACVIM, that he will be able to support our heart clinic. More info on what will be available and prices of the clinics to follow.
- I'm currently looking into finding an eye specialist. A possibility is Dr. Simon Peterson-Jones – especially if we might call upon him to provide a seminar related to PRA (see above research project) and anything of note he might want to share with us regarding borzoi eyes that he might have seen during his clinic.

E. St. Louis Parent Club Health Conference – follow up

I've received a CD that contains the entire seminar sessions provided at the conference. I'm hoping to find some way to be able to present some of the key seminars at an event at the 2009 Nationals. One option would be to offer this as our Health Committee seminar dinner. I would also be happy to provide a brief synopsis of health committee activities including our current and future proposed supported health research. This would be a costs savings to the health committee. The other option would be to offer this as an additional dinner and a movie? I'm not sure if there is another time available for something like this or if we are able to put on something like pizza/salad and the video? I've not yet locked in a seminar speaker or topic, but would need to do so no later than the September/October time frame. Possible speakers are Kathy Comstock from the University of Michigan – currently one of the principal investigators involved in the Osteosarcoma study we are supporting. The other could be Dr. Nachreiner – recently retired from Michigan State University as the head of the thyroid analysis program. Please advise which of the options the board would prefer or if the additional dinner/video is not feasible.

The Board decided to spend \$2500 on a specific grant rather than the symposium. We will ask Ginger Jones if there is any study relevant to thyroid that we should consider along with a suggested amount. This will be reconsidered at the November meeting.

As Ginger has suggested a number of worthy topics for the Health Seminar at the 2009 National, the Board will leave the choice of topic to her.

Legislative Issues – Bill Hemby

I am submitting a general statement on the problems facing dog owners in the U.S. While I have a copy of legislation affecting dogs in all fifty states, it is so lengthy as to be exhausting.

New government fees, rules and regulations designed to limit pet ownership, are bombarding dog and cat owners. If these regulations continue, pet ownership, as we know it will be a thing of the past. While affecting all dogs and cats, they are

exceedingly harsh for mixed breed owners, and intact dogs and cats. There is now at least one of these new laws in each of our 50 states.

Dog and Cat Limit Laws.

These establish arbitrary limits to the number of dogs and cats that can be owned by one family. This rule is pretty much universal. There is no research, rhyme or reason for the selection of limits. It's as if government officials take a number out of a hat and toss it into the equation. Pet limit laws hurt us because they do not allow those of us who might want to rescue a dog or cat from animal shelters or breed rescue, even if we can afford to care for more animals. It is also an incentive for insurance companies to limit coverage to a certain number of dogs.

Higher License and Permit Fees. New Taxes?

Local governments are looking at pet ownership as the new cash cow to cover budget shortfalls. There are fees for having an intact dog or cat - for microchipping and not microchipping your dog or cat, fees for multiple pets, fees to become a breeder, kennel fees, and fees to sell or give away puppies or kittens you have bred. Fees are per pet, per year. They range from \$50 to over \$150 per animal. What is interesting is, in California if the newly rewritten AB 1634 is passed into law, anyone who has signed up for one of these intact permits, now becomes a self confessed owner of an intact dog or cat, which of itself allows for a complaint.

Privacy Rights Taken Away

New permits require you to allow animal control officers entry into your home at any time for any reason. It's as if government already considers you to be violating one of their pet ordinances. You should never sign away your privacy rights.

Mandatory Surgical Sterilization (MSN).

All intact dogs and cats must be sterilized, regardless of breed. If you do not comply, you could face fines and forced sterilization of your pet. MSN is popping up all over the country. Pet sterilization has been the method of choice for animal shelters and animal rights organizations for many years. They believe by sterilizing dogs and cats, we decrease the numbers of animals that end up in shelters. Research has shown the opposite occurs. Many pet owners, faced with huge fines and spay/neuter costs disavow ownership of their pets, or relinquish them to the shelter. This adds more pets, and increases the killing rate. Another unintended consequence is the same owners will not license their animals, thus licensing rates plummet. Animal health also suffers because owners are afraid veterinarians will turn them in to shelter officers if they get shots or exams. PetPAC has been warning legislators for more than a year of these unintended consequences. It is interesting to note the California State Department of Finance has just sent out a report which agrees with our assessment, and opposes AB 1634. If you aren't already aware, the new AB 1634 now is a 3 strikes and you're out for dogs, 2 strikes for cats. Any complaint, written or verbal, unsubstantiated, unproven or untrue will count as one strike. If your pet is found to be intact, that is a new and separate complaint. Fines are 1st= \$50., 2nd=\$100, 3rd= MSN. Owner pays the surgery. No appeal. No due process.

Breed Specific Laws.

The outlawing of ownership of certain breeds is becoming very popular with local government. It usually starts with the German Shepherd Dog, the Akita, the Pit Bull, the Chow, the Rottweiler, the Doberman Pinscher and any variation thereof. The list expands as time goes on. This too is an invitation to insurance companies to withhold homeowners insurance due to the breed or perceived breed of dog you may own.

Rescue Report – Dee Jones

Microchipping at 2009 Nationals – *Per Board discussion, there is not enough interest based upon prior years, so there will NOT be microchipping available.*

In-Home Visit Volunteers – Regrettably, but not surprisingly, I have received no volunteers to be listed for assisting breeders with in-home inspections. R.Lynn Shell-Whitlock has sent me the old list and I will be contacting each one to find out if they are still willing to be listed and to ensure that their contact information is up-to-date. I will also post to the various Borzoi Lists asking for volunteers to contact me. Lynn has also suggested putting a link for people who wish to volunteer to contact me on the Rescue webpage.

“What To Do If Your Dog Is Lost” – R.Lynn Shell-Whitlock has republished the *What To Do If Your Dog Is Lost* document on the Rescue Site.

Web Page In General – Lynn and I are in the process of reviewing the current page in terms of future additional and updates for Rescue.

Owner Turn-In Concerns - I would also like to discuss a recent animal welfare problem that we may also begin to see with Borzoi. Our local (Baton Rouge) animal control has reported *double* the number of owner turn-ins this year over recent years. I understand that nationwide there has been a huge increase in owners turning over their pets to shelters, citing economic hardship and forced relocation due to housing problems. Also it is becoming more common for those who lose their homes to leave their pets behind. We in Rescue Organizations need to be aware of this trend and develop a pro-active stance to assist Borzoi owners who find themselves in such trouble. By pro-active stance, I would like to publicize Rescue’s willingness to help place a dog before it is turned over to a shelter. We do not want our Borzoi in a shelter, so in my opinion, it is preferable to have the dog turned over to one of our rescue groups. I would hope that BCOA and the Beverly Taylor Trust will be willing and able to assist the various independent Borzoi Rescue Groups, if needed, and will assist in this endeavor.

Borzoi Mentor - As another pro-active effort to prevent dogs from ending up in shelters, I am also still interested in creating a “mentor” or “buddy” type program. The idea would be for breeders to let local Borzoi owners know when they place a dog in their area, as well as providing the new owner with contact information for other willing local Borzoi owners in their area. The “buddy/mentor” would contact the new owner, make some effort to keep in touch, let them know when canine activities are taking place

nearby and encourage them to participate or at least come out and watch. I would hope that having a “friend” in close proximity as opposed to just the breeder who may be in another part of the country, might keep some dogs from being turned over to shelters. As a side benefit, this effort could lead new Borzoi owners to become active in activities with their dogs and perhaps gain new BCOA members.

Emergency Preparedness – I would also like to publish an on-line quick list of things to consider should you need to abandon your home, so that your dogs do not end up in an emergency shelter or worse, be left behind. I know that a committee is already working on a similar project, but when I contacted them, they indicated that they were in the “research phase.” I do not envision duplicating their project, simply creating a list similar to the one about lost dogs that would be easily available as a reminder. We do not want to see Borzoi lost during an emergency, because their owners did not have a plan to protect them. Not only am I reminded by hurricane season down here and the continual news of wildfires out west, but a large portion of a city nearby was evacuated a few months ago due to a wreck causing a chemical spill. It brought home to me our need to be ready to take our pets along with little notice

Individual Rescue Groups

Borzoi Rescue - Northern California (BR-NC) - Activity for April - July 2008,
Nancy Joeckel -Treasurer, Reporting

BR-NC placed one dog through our Adoption Program and three dogs through our Referral Program. At this time we have 26 BR-NC Rescues in permanent homes. We remain in contact with these dogs/adopters throughout the life of the dog. We also have 14 dogs currently alive that were placed through our Referral Program. Even though the Referral Program leaves the breeder responsible for the life-time welfare of these dogs, most owners do keep directly in touch with us.

We rely heavily on our Spring and Fall Straight Track race meets, the accompanying Raffles, and our occasional eBay auctions for our income. These activities typically account for about 80% of our income.

As might be expected, vet and foster costs (primarily food) account for about 80% of our expenses. Rapidly escalating vet costs are our most serious concern.

Thankfully, we continue to have a large pool of Potential Adopters, including excellent homes that will take our senior dogs. We are also fortunate in that other-breed groups heavily support our races, providing much-needed income.

Borzoi Rescue Southern California – Lorrie Scott reporting. Things have been quiet for the most part.

National Borzoi Rescue Foundation (NBRF), Carol Backers Reporting

So far this year, NBRF has handled 24 rescued Borzoi.

I would like to ask the Board to discuss various situations needing the intervention of a Rescue Group with the Beverly Taylor Trust Fund Committee to explore the possibility

of funding for these times when buying a Borzoi is the only way to keep it out of the auctions and mills.

Per Board discussion, we will not fund the purchase of any Borzoi from auction. Carol Backers should apply to the Bev Taylor Trust for financial assistance to pay these bills.

ROM APPLICATIONS – Barbara Ewing

Applications have been received for the following dogs, who qualify for the ROM with the designation shown:

Sires:

Ch. Phaedra Rafiki	ROM-C
Ch. Phaedra Aramis Pickfair	ROM-C
Ch. Entwood Ivan Grozny JC	ROM-C
DC Golightly BSA Victor, SC	ROM

Dams:

Ch. Leicro's Russian Zanza	ROM-C
Phoenixx Golden Nugget	ROMX

Barbara O'Neill moved to approve the ROM applications, Rebecca Peters Campbell second. **Motion passed**

LGRA report – Carol Enz

Top 10 LGRA Borzoi through July 2008

1	Sammy	Celeritas Byron at Teine GRC	Schemel
2	Charger	Zoiboyz Charger, GRC	Thompson/Golcher
3	Comet	Zoiboyz Comet	Golcher/Thompson
4	Novel	Mufasa's Stormy Monday, GRC	Johnson
5	Konchar	Svershin's Konchar, GRC	Doane
6	Jodi	Avalin Svershin Use Of Angels, GRC	Doane
7	Zephyr	CH Firebird Juls High Hopes, GRC	Hislop
7	Tango	Paradise Don't Let me Down	Bradshaw/Bear
7	Gossip	Mielikki Windhaven Petty Gossip, JC, SGRC	McCartin/Rodriguez
8	Indigo	Windnsatin Mo'Better Blues	Johnson
8	Dei	Mielikki's Prophet's Song	McCartin
9	Tornado	Zoiboyz Tornado v Rosehill, GRC	Thompson/Golcher
10	Sofia	FC C'Lestial High Society, SC, LCM, JOR, ORC, SGRC	Green
10	Micah	Firebird Juls Delicate Sound, JC, GRC	Egbert/Miller

New Borzoi Gazehound Racing Champions (GRC) Title Holders through July 2008

Betsy	CH Jedawn-Jubilee Heavens To Betsy, JC, GRC	Hall/Myers
Novel	Mufasa's Stormy Monday, GRC	Johnson
Charger	Zoiboyz Charger, GRC	Thompson/Golcher
Zephyr	CH Firebird Juls High Hopes, GRC	Hislop
Lana	Avalin Svershin Work Of Angels, GRC	Doane
Voodoo	C'lestial High Jinx, JC, GRC	Green
Riven	Avalon Time's Dark Traveler, GRC	Harmon
Sammy	Celeritas Byron at Teine, GRC	Schemel
Comet	Zoiboyz Comet, GRC	Golcher/Thompson

BCOA Disaster Planning - Veni Harlan & Robin Casey

We've made significant strides towards a BCOA Disaster Planning website. Currently, there are some 15 pages including-intro, types of disasters, disaster preparation, state disaster plans, every day emergencies, supplies, buddy system, training, tools & links, shelters, law, glossary, donating during disaster, and feedback. We also plan to create downloadable items like a quick facts brochure and are looking into emergency decals for home/kennel windows. The quick facts brochure could also be printed and made available for BCOA mail outs, specialty tables, puppy packets, or for those who do not have internet access. The decals could pay for themselves through purchase.

Mimicking FEMA and Red Cross, we came up with a quick and identifiable name for the website-ReadyBorzoi. The website www.readyborzoi.org is available for purchase. The site may be linked from the BCOA site and hosted/maintained by the chairs.

We are now in the process of editing, developing graphics, and improving content. The next step will be for the board to test the site and provide feedback/approve before it goes live. After the site is up, we plan to invite feedback from Borzoi owners to insure the site/materials are as user friendly as possible.

We are very enthusiastic about this project and hope the site will be a one-stop source of disaster information that is breed specific to Borzoi; a means of networking Borzoi owners in anticipation of disaster; a model plan for AKC orgs; and most importantly, a vehicle to encourage planning and preparation before disaster strikes.

The Board would like the Disaster Planning committee to submit plans and costs for the BCOA Board to approve. This is a program that can be linked to the current BCOA website and will be called 'BCOA.org/Ready Borzoi' eliminating the need for additional domain names. Shen Smith will contact Veni Harlan and Robin Casey to inform them of the space available on the current website.

*Barbara O'Neill moved, Cindi Gredys seconded to allocate the website space. **Motion approved.***

Junior Showmanship – Barbara Tyler Lord

Please be advised that I will have no junior showman report for this issue. I continue to wait to hear from the BCOA board of directors regarding just what, if anything, they want to do about setting up a junior showmanship scholarship program.

Cindi Gredys indicated that she had been in contact with Barbara Lord regarding the Junior's application for funds and that they were working on it. Lydia will appoint a chair for a 'Juniors Page' on the website.