

**AKC Delegate's Report
March 8, 2022**

Parent Club Committee:

Sheila Goffe, AKC Government Relations, reported that the Norwegian Supreme Court has upheld a ban on breeding Bulldogs and Cavalier King Charles Spaniels. Australia has followed suit. This is about Animal Rights and Legislation. The European Union has determined that a breed must pass certain health tests. The Norwegian Animal Welfare Act encourages breeding for good health and function, and prohibits breeding if it passes on negative traits that influence health in a negative way. The Norwegian Kennel Club, six breeders, the Bulldog Club and the CKCS Club filed a lawsuit. The lower court ruled that breeding Bulldogs and CKCS is contrary to the law. An appeal has been filed, but the ruling is binding. Norwegians can own or import these breeds, but cannot breed them. The bottom line is it's about Animal Rights and we are in the crosshairs. The AKC has already seen these types of laws introduced at the state level.

Sheila Goffe suggests five things to head off this type of legislation:

1. Educate the public on the value of our Standards
2. Educate judges so they are not awarding extremes
3. Make sure the public understands a breed's functionality and preserving historic breeds
4. Create a demand for healthy dogs
5. Get out in front of this and educate the public

Parent Club Health Statements; the date the health statement was submitted is now included. Let Peter Piusz know if and when it needs to be updated. The health statement appears in two places on the AKC website; on the breed page and in the Market Place.

Trailer Update: To date, 95 trailers have been donated; there are 13 in the pipeline and 433 clubs are currently fund raising; \$2,361,015 has been raised, and an additional \$879,218 has been donated by AKC Reunite.

The Lunch and Learn Program for Veterinary students is going well. There have been multiple zoom presentations at Veterinary Schools. At a recent show, Veterinary Students attended an all-breed show and crop/dock was included in the program. The students were given the opportunity to speak to a Bouvier breeder and examine one of her dogs. The breeder explained the purpose for her breed's crop/dock. The presentation was well received by the students.

All AKC Clubs were asked to appoint a Junior Coordinator. Send the information to Jrs@akc.org.

Canine Partners – 55% of clubs have opted out of allowing Canine Partners in Jr. Showmanship. There have only been 2 entries to date. The AKC will be eliminating the ownership requirement for Junior Showmanship.

Parent Club Best Practices Sub-Committee – The Sub-Committee has been working on 11 topics for Parent Club Best Practices. They will be hosting webinars and Zoom Pro programs, and all are invited. The Delegate will be provided with the links. The programs will last 20 to 50 minutes and 10 minutes will be allotted at the end for Q & A. The programs will begin in the next six to eight weeks. The AKC has a new Archivist, Janie Kritz. She can be reached at 212-969-8216 or library@akc.org.

Parent Clubs are asked to review their breed flyer and update if necessary.

The AKC Preservation Bank is in the early stages of development. A Mission Statement has been approved:

“The mission of the AKC Purebred Preservation Bank is to ensure the viability of purebred dogs. This valuable service is necessary to salvage or restore endangered dog breeds now and in the future by coordinating efforts with nonprofit breed specific clubs. The preservation bank will educate breeders, clubs and the public about the importance of safeguarding frozen semen and protecting purebred dog breeds for future decades.”

The AKC Legal Department is working on this, and applying for IRC 509(A)(9) status. The AKC is also working with storage facilities across the country. In the development stages are a sample contract, data base, website, and disagreement resolution mechanism. The AKC needs to know if Parent Clubs are interested in this project. If so, they are asked to designate a point person for the project. Decisions will need to be made; ie criteria for acceptance, date on sire, what criteria for usage, etc. Guidance will be available if needed.

The AKC’s Pupupdate Newsletter goes to all new owners with puppies 8 weeks to 18 months. So far, 725,000 newsletters have been sent. Parent Clubs are encouraged to participate. This offers a great opportunity to promote Parent Clubs free of charge. The newsletter includes photos and a link to the Parent Club webpage.

The Meet the Breeds 2022 Tour has been finalized.

Tampa, FL	April 23 & 24
Dallas, TX	June 25 & 26
San Diego, CA	September 10 & 11
Columbus, OH	October 15 & 16
New York City	November 12 & 13

The AKC is asking all Parent Clubs to participate in Meet the Breeds. If the Parent Club cannot provide members and dogs to man the booths, the AKC will contact regional and local clubs; then Breeders of Merit, Breeders of Heart, and lastly, local breeders, to man the booths.

Crop & Dock Meeting

The Doberman Pinscher Club of America now has a Grant Program: **The DPCA offers a grant in support of a sabbatical (for licensed vets) or a clinical externship (for 3rd and 4th year veterinary students) to work with veterinarians who perform show quality and breed standard ear crops. Grant recipients will be exposed to the surgical, anesthetic, and analgesic considerations required for this procedure.**

Peter Piusz will send out more information on this program for Parent Clubs of other Dock/Crop breeds.

Discussion was held on a recent article in [Taking Command](#), the AKC’s Government Relations Newsletter. Discussion was held on including dock & crop in the Veterinary Student Lunch & Learn Program.

Dr. Collins, Canine Health Fund, presented a short program on Dock & Crop. Discussion was held on doing a health study to gather data to back up the health reasons for docking and cropping.

Delegates' Meeting

The meeting began with acknowledging the Delegates that had passed away since the last meeting.

Elections were held – as there were no other nominations, the slate as presented by the Nominating Committee were elected:

Class of 2026

Christopher Sweetwood, Trap Falls Kennel Club
Harold "Red" Tatro III, Forth Worth Kennel Club
Ann Wallin, Atlanta Kennel Club

New Delegates were introduced.

The Portuguese Podengo Pequenos of America Club was approved for membership.

Chairman's Report: Dr. Tom Davies gave a tribute to the late Ron Menacker.

President's Report: Dennis Sprung reported the statistics for AKC clubs between 2017 and 2021:

236 New Clubs were admitted

39 Club dissolved

There are currently 4,992 AKC Clubs (645 Member clubs, 4,166 Licensed Clubs, 99 A clubs and 96 B clubs)

The three most common reasons for club dissolution are: members aging out; lack of new members and loss of show venues.

The AKC is planning a release of a "NFT" (non-fungible token) – initial offering will be to friends and family.

Standing Rules Committee proposed a revision to Section III to add "Scent Work Events" to the list of AKC Sports. Revision was adopted.

First reading on changes to Chapter 11, Section 6 of the Rules Applying to Dog Shows: Inserts verbiage to allow transfer between the divisions of the Bred-by-Exhibitor Class (puppy/adult) if offered. Adds verbiage to specify transfer between the divisions of the Twelve-to-Eighteen Month Class, and age divisions of the Veterans Class is permitted. Inserts language to recognize transfer between Puppy and Twelve-to-Eighteen Month Classes may involve divisions of either. Adds language for clarity as to when a transfer between classes must be completed at multi-day events.