

**ATTENTION:
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP
MEETING**

Friday, April 20, 2001

8:00a.m.

**at the Lenox Hotel
Columbus, Ohio
before the Breeders' Cup**

I-70 East at Route 256

1-800-821-0007

Topknot News

The Newsletter of the Afghan Hound Club of America

<http://www.trims.com/ahca>

SPRING 2001

POPULATION GENETICS AND ITS RELEVANCE TO DOG BREEDING

Mike McIntyre is a Border Terrier breeder who has been in dogs all his life.

<http://www.dogbreedersguild.org>

Population genetics has a strong theoretical basis. Indeed, a great deal of its theoretical foundation was laid in the 1920s and 1930s, by the famous triumvirate of Ronald A. Fisher, J.B.S. Haldane and Sewall Wright. Richard Lewontin wryly observed in 1963 that they "had said everything of truly fundamental importance about the theory of genetic change in populations and it is due mainly to man's infinite capacity to make more and more out of less and less, that the rest of us are not currently among the unemployed."

This "death" pronouncement for population genetics proved to be premature, of course. Subsequent technical innovation enabled the collection of data at a molecular level, and this development reinvigorated population genetics. This sort of progression — where theories precede the experimental data needed to prove or disprove them — is hardly unusual in science. In physics, for example, some of the theories proposed by Einstein required decades of technical advancement before they could be demonstrated experimentally.

Before the molecular epoch in population genetics, test breedings were generally required to infer genotypes — a painstaking process. For reasons of practicality, a tremendous amount of such research was, and still is, conducted on a single species: *Drosophila melanogaster* (fruit fly). Despite the molecular techniques that now provide a way to study genetic variation in populations outside the laboratory, the data only give us a snapshot of things as they are now. Much of what we know, or think we know, is still based on theory.

But as the famous Spanish philosopher José Ortega y Gasset once wrote:

"Life cannot wait until the sciences have explained the universe. We cannot put off living until we are ready. The most salient characteristic of life is its coerciveness; it is always urgent, here and now, without any possible postponement. Life is fired at us point blank."

A case in point is the branch of conservation biology concerned with the captive breeding of rare and endangered species, whose management requires that decisions be made now — not next week, or whenever science gets around to providing definitive answers. Although the goals of captive breeding are different from purebred dog breeding, a brief historical overview of captive breeding should be of interest to dog breeders, because there are parallels between the two activities. For example, both deal with small (or relatively small), genetically isolated populations that persist through time.

First, it may be helpful to mention the perceived importance of population genetics within conservation biology. In the past, some conservation biologists may have overemphasized the importance of population genetics. It had been thought that the loss of genetic variation might be a primary factor in the extinction of species. More recent thinking suggests that demographic factors (habitat destruction, etc.) are primary, and that a reduction in genetic diversity is more of a symptom than a cause of species decline. In nature, it seems, bad demographics kill you off sooner than bad genes. Or so goes the

SPECIALTIES 2001

Afghan Hound Breeders' Cup 4/20/01
Columbus, Ohio
Leslie Stoffels Judge

AHC of Greater Columbus 4/21/01
Terry Chacon - Regular Classes
Brenda Brody - Sweeps

AHC of Northern New Jersey 5/4/01
Betty Stites - Regular Classes
Leslie Stoffels - Sweeps

West Michigan AHA 5/2/01
Bonita Visser - Regular Classes
Anthony Saia - Sweeps

Colonial AHC 6/1/01
Avery Gaudin - Regular Classes
Floyd Gale - Sweeps

AHC of St. Louis 6/1/01
Rita Figg - Regular Classes
Vicki Robison - Sweeps

Evergreen AHC 6/8/01
Jim Hickie - Regular Classes
Kara Purcell - Junior Showmanship
Mary Ann Giordano - Sweeps

AHC of Greater Chicago 6/10/01
Shelley Hennessy - Regular Classes
Linda Johnson - Sweeps

Greater Pittsburgh AHC 6/22/01
Ray Kelly II - Regular Classes
Lorie Starinsky - Sweeps
Tina Turley - Junior Showmanship

AHC of California 6/28/01
Michelle Billings - Regular Classes
Pam McQueen - Sweeps

Continued on page 2

Finger Lakes AHC 7/6/01
 June Boone - Regular Classes & Juniors
 Chris West - Sweeps
 George Malloy - Obedience

AHC of Greater Portland 7/13/01
 Kent Delaney - Regular Classes & Jrs.
 Pamela Weaver- Obedience
 Bob Brown - Sweeps

AHC of Greater Houston 7/19/01
 Lee Canalizo - Regular Classes
 Helen Dukes - Sweeps.

AHC of Greater Milwaukee 7/27/01
 J Bill Bastin - Regular Classes
 Denise Ross - Sweeps

AHC of Greater Denver 8/17/01
 Shelley Hennessy - Regular Classes
 Sharon Lewis - Sweeps

Tara AHC 9/20/01
 Gill Ullom - Regular Classes & Juniors
 Kathy Aure - Sweeps

AHC of Dallas 11/10/01
 Hobart Brown - Regular Classes
 Philippe Gallardo - Sweeps

AHC of Greater Houston 11/11/01
 Jane Jantos-Sheppaard - Regular Classes
 Stephanie Hunt-Crowley - Sweeps

AHCA NATIONAL NOV 12-16
 see Page 3 for details.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chief Ring Steward Norma Cozzoni will need stewards. Contact her if interested: 630 365-2050 .

Don't forget to send your trophy donation to :

Cindy Chandler
 Trophy Chairman
 717 W Superior,
 Osceola, IN 46561-2659.

current thinking. Nevertheless, population genetics continues to play a vital role in conservation biology.

Surprisingly, the widespread application of population genetic concepts to captive breeding is of fairly recent origin. In 1965, for example, only a handful of zoological parks were using these concepts to manage species; by 1996, over 250 were. The old idea, borrowed from agriculture, of selectively breeding only the "best" animals has largely been abandoned. What caused this sea change in thinking? The seminal event was a study in 1979 by Ralls et al., which was the first to quantitatively document a lower survival rate for inbred (versus noninbred) captive endangered species.

Most zoos now avoid inbreeding as much as possible. Stated more positively, their goal is to maximize the retention of genetic variation in captive populations. To this end, the following strategy is typical: start with as many founder animals as possible, maximize the number of breeding animals per generation, grow the population as rapidly as possible to carrying capacity, equalize the number of male and female breeders, equalize the genetic contributions of founding animals and families in subsequent generations, and minimize fluctuations in population size once carrying capacity has been reached.

This is all very well, you say, but what has this to do with dogs? More than you might think. Although it is certainly true that the dog, as a species, is wildly successful in terms of demographics, due to its symbiotic relationship with mankind, it is also true that there are now more than 400 separate breeds of dogs. Furthermore, under the purebred registry system that has prevailed now for over a century, there is no provision for gene flow between breeds. In effect, we have artificially created a whole lot of endangered (sub)species of dogs. But unlike zoos, our goal is to maximize physical uniformity, as measured by a breed standard. Far from conserving genetic variation, we usually try as far as possible to eliminate it.

To this end, the following strategy is typical: start with as few founder animals as possible (admittedly this is not usually done by design, but it is typical of many breeds nonetheless), minimize the number of breeding animals per generation (Ubbink documents that only 3 to 5 percent of purebred dogs registered in the Netherlands during the past 30 years have contributed to the current populations), keep the population as small as possible for as long as possible (common dog wisdom says popularity is always a bad thing), skew the sex ratio of breeding animals as much as possible (neuter all but the very best males, but be much more lenient with females), and skew the genetic contributions of founding animals and families by overusing some dogs and completely neglecting others. Dog breeders rate a pass on minimizing fluctuations in population size, since the dominant strategy is to keep populations small at all times.

Does this strike anyone else as a recipe for potential disaster? There is no doubt that inbreeding is what enabled dog breeders to fix breed type. Indeed, dog breeds probably could not have been created in the first place without some inbreeding. But dog breeders need outbreeding too. And in most breeds, outbreeding is no longer possible due to the effects of remote inbreeding. I'd like to close with a quote from Stephen Budiansky who, in his recent book *The Truth About Dogs*, had this to say:

"From a scientific point of view, inbreeding is merely one tool, to be used to achieve a desired end: it is not an end in itself. But the establishment of closed breeding populations and registries of breeds by their very nature sets inbreeding up as something to be cultivated for its own sake. It is, as far as modern genetics is concerned, a slight absurdity... It is very hard to dispute that in the single-minded pursuit of a fairly narrow set of mostly visual criteria, many dog breeders have tipped way too far toward uniformity on the uniformity-diversity continuum. There is no inherent reason one cannot breed for looks and healthiness or looks and good temperament simultaneously. But it requires striking a better balance between inbreeding and outbreeding than has been pursued by many to date."

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CHANGES FOR OUR RESCUE COMMITTEE

Dear All,

I am writing to share my resignation as AHCA Rescue's chairperson. My commitment to rescue has not lessened, but the time I now have available to devote to rescue has, and it is therefore time for a change.

The AHCA board met this past weekend, and voted Doug Vinson as the new AHCA rescue chair. Doug has served as the rescue chairperson for Tara Afghan Hound Club for many years, and was editor of AHCA Rescue's book, "The Road I Took to You," a collection of stories of rescued Afghan Hounds.

I would like to thank Sue Mackler, Sherre Christiansen, Pat Marinaccio, and Claudia Mills for the many, many hours they devoted to national rescue over the last several months. They stepped in at a point when my hours at work abruptly increased, and they worked tirelessly on a number of issues and crises that arose. Many Afghan Hounds owe their safety and rescue to them.

I would also like to thank the Afghan Hound Club of America for giving me the opportunity to chair rescue over the last four years. I feel honored to have worked together with so many dedicated volunteers around the country, and look forward to continuing those relationships. I will remain active with rescue in New England, and will be available as needed to assist Doug during this transition.

Please join me in welcoming Doug to this position, and giving him your support.

My best,
Amy,

Hi All,

Now you have read Amy's announcement of her resignation from the AHCA Rescue Chairperson position. I was surprised to hear of her decision and even more surprised when Duane and the Board asked me to assume her duties.

I hate to see Amy step down, however, life and work force us to make hard decisions. All of us wish her well in the future. None of us can thank her enough for her accomplishments in the last four years! Amy's vision and foresight have brought Afghan Hound Rescue into the 21st century as a more cohesive community, linked by new technology and continuing dedication to the breed. I look forward to continuing her efforts.

The Afghan Hound Rescue community is a remarkable association of responsible breeders, individual rescuers, club rescue committees, members of the committees that Amy established, and supporters throughout the entire Afghan Hound fancy. Regardless of who leads, this community needs to stay together. I would like to thank every member of the Afghan Hound Rescue community for your dedication, hard work and contributions to rescue over the past years, and ask each one of you to stay on.

With your continued involvement and support, Afghan Hound Rescue will continue to make a significant positive impact on the well-being of the most unfortunate members of the breed we love.

Best Regards,
Doug

THE HOUSTON BLOWOUT!

Mon., Nov. 12th a.m. Obed. Trial
Judge - Linda Bryan
p.m. Triathlon Conformation
& Sweepstakes
Judge - Bill Pearce
Tues., Nov. 13th all day ASFA
& AKC Lure Coursing
Judges - Renee Franklin
& Tom Golson
p.m. Dinner & Educational
Seminar
Wed., Nov. 14th a.m. General
Membership Meeting
p.m. Regular. Dog Classes
Judge - Sandy Weinraub
Thurs., Nov. 15th a.m. Agility
Judge - Penny Winegartner
p.m. Regular. Bitch Classes
Judge Betsy Hufnagel
Fri. Nov 16th a.m. Parades of
Rescue & Veterans
Junior Showmanship
Judge - Sandy Weinraub
Intersex
Judge - Betsy Hufnagel
Non-Regular Classes
Judges Weinraub &
Hufnagel
p.m. Awards Dinner

Sheraton Brookhollow Houston
Hotel
3000 North Loop West
Houston, TX 77092
800-688-3000
(direct to hotel reservations)
713-688-0100
\$79 @ night + tax
(single or double)

THERE IS LOTS OF GRASS
AT THIS HOTEL!!!

There will be 2 specialties preceding the National on the 10th & 11th at the same hotel plus 2 all breed shows the 17th & 18th in the area that offer conformation., obedience., lure coursing & agility.

For information contact:
Brenda Brody, Show Chair
281-367-5323
brendab@mymailstation.com

**AFGHAN HOUND CLUB
OF AMERICA**

OFFICERS

President:

Duane Butherus 908 735-9673

First Vice-President

Harry Bennett 904 720-0691

Second Vice-President

Gill Ullom 419 864-3016

Recording Secretary

Janet Lucree 770 461-3124

Corresponding Secretary

Barb Bornstein 480 994-0150

Treasurer

Janret Lenobel 352 591-3020

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Brenda Brody (2002) 281 367 -5323

Ed Gilbert (2003) 530 877-6235

Betsy Hufnagel (2001) 707 894-4007

Claudia Jakus (2003) 248 625-9569

Reggie Nesbitt (2001) 313 838-6642

Helen Stein (2002) 702 450-6012

AKC Delegate

Connie Butherus 908 735-9673

COMMITTEE HEADS

Budget & Finance - Gill Ullom

Topknot News - Sharon Watson

AKC Delegate - Connie Butherus

Judges Education - Harry Bennett
Regional Clubs - " "

Breeder Education - Sandy Frei &
Janis Reital

IT Coordinator - Jim Coudriet

Jr. Showmanship - Reggie Nesbitt

Legislative Affairs - Jo Ann Alft

Lure Coursing - Ruth Reynolds

Membership - Ed Gilbert

2001 National - Brenda Brody
Ways & Means - "
Constitution/By Laws - "

**HIGHLIGHTS OF THE BOARD MEETING
February 24, 2001 Phoenix, Arizona**

The book K9 Structure and Movement written by AHCA Board Member Ed Gilbert, Jr. and Thelma Brown has been added to the Afghan Hound Recommended Reading list.

A letter is being sent to the AKC Museum of the Dog about their display last year on the Miniature Afghan Hound. Both Barb and Ed are working on this letter and investigating the display. This letter will be sent sometime in late March.

New Committee Heads:

Doug Vinson, AHCA Rescue

Complaints, Betsy Hufnagel

Pins & Awards, Donna Amos

Membership, Ed Gilbert

Canine Health, Midge Martin, & Eileen Lauder milch

Inventory, Lynn Mercer

The board decided to reinstate the Garry Newton Bronze Sculpture to Best Brace at the National Specialty Show regardless of the number of entries in this class.

Lee Bornstein & Sandy Nelson are establishing an addition to the AHCA Web Site for Regional Clubs. Clubs who submit their Premium Lists "electronically" to Sandy at KARIZMAAFGHANS@aol.com can now place their Premium List on line for downloading. Lee and Barb will link to the Club Premium List Site directly from each Regional Club section of the AHCA site once Sandy notifies her that she has received a Premium List from a club and has it online on the linked site.

All copies of Correspondence concerning the AKC will now be copied to AKC delegate, Connie Butherus.

The Board of Directors accepted the proposal from Lila Wadsworth to place Connie Miller's unfinished manuscript, SHINING DOG, SHADOWING WOLF on a CD and made available to the public. Profits from the sale of this book will be donated in Connie Miller's name by the AHCA to a fund selected by Lila and Gordon Miller. The Houston National is the target date for publication of this CD.

The Board of Directors, with the help of the new committee heads are drafting new guidelines for AHCA Rescue and AHCA Complaints. Sharon Watson is up-dating and clarifying the AHCA Policies and Procedures based on Minutes from previous board meetings.

"The Board of Directors determined that the AHCA will offer a Medallion for "Best Junior Handler" at all Regional Club Specialty Shows holding Junior Handling competition. A "Certificate of Award" will be sent to the Regional Club at the time their Specialty Show is approved. The winning junior handler will be awarded this certificate for submission to the Pins & Awards Chair to obtain their Medallion."

Constitution Revision Committee Report from Brenda Brody

The Board of Directors has unanimously approved proposed changes to the Constitution in the hopes of creating a more uniform and transitional approach for preparing one for the role of President. The office of President Elect is being created to replace that of 1st Vice President and the person in the position of President Elect will automatically become President after a two year term as President Elect. They will then become President for a two year term. In the event the President was unable to continue in the position, the President Elect would automatically become President. The real change is that the position of President would be determined two years in advance of the person taking office. They would serve as President Elect much in the capacity of the 1st Vice President except that they would automatically become President following the two year President Elect's term. This would allow for a transition into that position that would flow smoothly and the mentoring process would be in place for the future people who are elected to the office of President Elect and eventually become President. The same process as now exists would apply for a nominating committee to nominate and an alternate slate to be offered by the gen. membership. Then the general membership would vote as it does now.

Also a section for resignation from office or removal from an elected office will be incorporated so that replacement of those positions where necessary can be accomplished. In addition the immediate Past President will have a one year position as a board member to enhance the idea of transition which is the main purpose of these proposed changes.

It is proposed that those people nominated for office by the nominating committee & alternate slate will have to sign an agreement to run & an understanding the duties of office & the rules for termination of office. The nominees know something of what they're expected to do & that attendance & performance are expected. Previously they only signed an agreement to be nominated & run for office. This way they also acknowledge being aware of what constitutes grounds for termination.

There are also proposed housekeeping changes so that business may be conducted by electronic means. These are of little consequence.

There will be further explanation and discussion at the April general membership meeting. The vote will be mailed following that meeting.

The Board is hoping this will make the decision to run for the office of President an easier one where those considered would have experience before jumping into the position and the confidence that they could easily take over the role

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS from Jo Ann Alft

The AKC is asking for help to get this bill passed. PETA is fighting to have anyone selling any dog to be licensed.

USDA is asking that only those who sell wholesale be licensed.

Docket No. 99-087-1

Regulatory Analysis and Development

PPD, APHIS, Suite 3C03

4700 River Road, Unit 118

Riverdale, MD 20737-1238

Ladies and Gentlemen:

[brief personalized introductory sentence such as the following] I am a breeder of [name of breed] dogs. I breed on a limited basis, primarily for show purposes. Occasionally, I sell puppies or adult dogs at retail directly to members of the public for their own use and enjoyment.

I am writing to SUPPORT the proposal of the U.S. Department of Agriculture in the above-referenced docket to amend the Animal Care regulations to conform the regulations to the Department's policy of requiring wholesale sellers of dogs for hunting, breeding and security purposes to obtain a license and comply with the Department's Animal Care regulations. This policy and regulatory amendment are a reasonable interpretation of the Animal Welfare Act's requirement to regulate sellers of dogs for hunting, breeding and security purposes, and the exemption of retail pet stores from coverage under the Act.

Any other interpretation of the Act would require the Department, in effect, to regulate all sellers of dogs, because all intact male or female dogs are potential breeding animals, and there are no generally accepted definitions of "security" or "hunting" dog. To require persons who sell dogs at retail to be licensed if the dog could be classified as a "hunting, breeding or security dog" would potentially require hundreds of thousands of persons annually to obtain licenses, and would create chaos in the administration of the Animal Welfare Act. This would undermine the purposes of the Act, and was clearly not intended by Congress.
Sincerely yours,

COMMITTEE HEADS CONT

2002 National - Donna Broucek

Obedience/Agility- Claudia Jakus

Pins & Awards - Donna Amos

Breeders Cup 2002- Chris Pinkston

Complaints - Betsy Hufnagel

AKC Gazette - Georgie Guthrie

Librarian - Karen Armistead

Rescue - Doug Vinson

Inventory - Lynn Mercer

Canine Health - Midge Martin &
Eileen Laudermeier

FROM THE TREASURER:

These are the names of those who have not paid their dues.

It has come to my attention that some dues notices were never received in the mail although none were returned to me. Janet Lenobel,
Treasurer

Judy Bloom
Everett Bollen, Jr.
Jeff Bracken
Terry Chacon
Annette Constantine
Janine Denardo
Robert & Anita Dickie
Charlotte Eldridge
Rafael Fontela
Ann & Rich Glenn
Sheila Grant
Joe Inguaggiato
Dr. Jerry Klein
Karen Larsen
Kathy Lehman
Annette Lena
Sue Mackler
Roberta Madison
Gail Mofford
Laura Murphy
Phil & Amy Peake
Fran Reisman
Anita Richards
Jim & Sharon Roseland
Nancy Self
Luis Sosa
Jan Swayze
Louis & Peggy Swayze

Please pay by April 10, 2001
to avoid having to reapply.

Canine Health Report

Since I am unable to attend the April 20, 2001 meeting, I have sent this report.

I plan to attend the Canine Health Conference in October in St. Louis. With your help, I will put together a Canine Health Survey for distribution and discussion at the Annual Meeting in conjunction with the Nationals. We will hopefully be able to discuss the results at the next Breeders' Cup or Nationals, whichever I can get to, depending also on how long it takes for the data to come in and then, to analyze and write it up. Please think of the 5-10 health concerns that plague Afghan Hounds. We will get a consensus and hone in on those.

I would also like you to think about and I will propose it, if there is interest, in AHCA establishing its own Foundation under the aegis of the Canine Health Foundation to fund research on those 3-5 top genetic problems...or the one top, if we find there is one (other than the dreaded Trimming disease. (Ooop s! That's an owners' affliction) .

We will have other ongoing projects as time goes on. This one is long overdue. I am counting on you to join with me in this most important endeavor. The health of our Hounds is of primary importance. Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns..and, if you have some IDEAS!

Respectfully submitted,

Midge Martin
kaihorn@att.net

**HISTORIC MEETING:
for the first time the AHCA is
holding a second General
Membership meeting. Please
make every effort to attend.**

**APRIL 20, 2001 8:00 a.m.
COLUMBUS, OHIO
Lenox Hotel
I-70 East at Route 256**

Highlights of the March AKC Delegates Meeting

The quarterly delegates meetings were held on March 12 in New York City. This was the Annual meeting and 360 delegates were present. The election of four individuals to the Board of Directors was the main item of business.

Monday (3/12) the Delegates' Caucus featured the six individuals running for the four available positions. Each gave a 5-minute speech which focused on their accomplishments, goals and views (this was also repeated the next day at the delegates meeting, but each was given only 3 minutes the second time around). Once that formality was completed, things started to heat up as the delegates began to pose questions to the six candidates.

The delegates' concerns of the past year were repeatedly stated. These issues were:

- The handlers program
- Multiple Sire litters
- Directors' receiving a monthly stipend above actual expenses
- Quarterly meetings outside NYC
- Board and Delegate communications (or lack thereof)
- Revenue needs
- However, the hottest issue to emerge was the new FSS program, which is reviewed in the following section.

The Foundation Stock Service (FSS) Program was approved by the existing board upon recommendation of the AKC Staff. The program concept dates back to 1995 and has now resulted in 42 non-AKC breeds being admitted for competition at AKC events such as obedience, Junior Showmanship, Agility, Matches, field Trials, etc. However effective August 1, 2001 these breeds will be admitted to conformation competition (It was noted that some of these "rare breeds" do not even have accepted standards!). After much discussion which generated noise, heat and light, the Chairman of the Board (also a candidate) stated the Board needed to "revisit" the FSS Program at its April meeting. One candidate - a sitting Board member - stated he had no idea how the program evolved into 42 breeds as 6 had been first proposed. He added the Board was "confused". However, even if "confused" the Board voted to approve the program! (not the best decision the Board has made!) Let us hope the "revisiting" of the program at the April Board meeting results in this "confused" and unwise action being overturned.

The Parent Club Committee was my next adventure. Two of the proposals to be discussed involved the Dog Show Rules Committee, and the two committees met jointly (we were also graced by the presence of three Board members and heard their words of wisdom). Item one was a proposal that specialty clubs must print the Breed Standard in their catalogs (some of us were surprised to learn that this was not an accepted practice). Five motions later the two committees agreed to recommend to the Board that the Breed Standard must be printed in the catalog for National (independent) Specialties. It was hard to understand the reasons for not including all Specialty Shows - National, Regional, and Local in the requirement; however the majority would not bend - so be it.

The second item presented was one the entire Parent Club Committee strongly supported. In brief, that at annual National Specialties where the class entries in each sex are at least TWICE the required number for a 5-point major, the reserve winner be awarded 3 points. The Dog Show Rules Committee did not support this. The three Board members present all spoke against this proposal and were viewed by some to be closed-minded on the issue. Thus the proposal was defeated! Too bad, as many believed this to have merit and to be a positive change. It seemed they believed virtue to be its own reward..

We were then asked to go back to our respective clubs and determine the level of support regarding this issue (I will ask the AHCA Board to advise me).

Next we were visited by Bob Slay of AKC Compliance Operations. He spoke about the problems associated with dog auctions and AKC actions taken to insure positive identification of the dogs. He also addressed breed rescue groups paying large amounts of money (one club recently reported over \$40,000) for these animals and thus the puppy mills are funded, encouraged and rewarded for their disgusting practices. The committee asked that a letter be sent to ALL clubs (all-breed, parent and performance) explaining this problem. Many of us felt conflicted about this as there are two sides to the issue. More to follow, I am sure.

The multiple Sire Program continues to bubble to the top at nearly every meeting. At the June meeting we have asked the Canine Health Committee to meet with us and discuss the many concerns that we have (It has been widely reported that the Canine Health Committee recommended this program to the Board). We were told only one or possibly two multiple sired litters have been registered since this has been permitted.

The Delegate's meeting was the next day, March 13. After the usual agenda items, reports and speeches, we got to the annual election. With 360 votes cast, 181 were needed to win a seat on the Board. I voted as instructed by the AHCA Board and was pleased that only one ballot was needed to do the trick. The results were:

Garvin	282
Gladstone	203
Hritz	148
McKowen	93
Merriam	253
Scully	291

During the balance of the meeting we voted to postpone the Dual Championships changes and passed the amendment to allow all pointing breed clubs to hold field trials (currently only a specialty club for one of the breeds is permitted to do this). We also voted to allow only Specialty Shows to offer awards such as Best Puppy, Best Bred By etc. (Currently these awards are limited to independent and specialty shows and not at specialty shows held with all-breed, group or cluster shows)

Near the end of the meeting, the Dog Show Rules Committee requested the Board to bring the FSS program and the status of the Miscellaneous class to the delegate body for a vote. The FSS program has become the new "hot button" and joins the multiple sire program, ownership, DNA and the actions taken by the Board without any input from the Delegate body as very real issues. I will continue to keep you informed.

The June meeting has been the meeting held outside of NYC. Thus on June 11 and 12, the Delegate body will hold its quarterly meeting at the Sheraton Hotel at Newark Airport - well it is outside of NYC..

Respectfully submitted,
Connie Butherus, AKC Delegate

Just in case you haven't been reading the Delegate reports, let us suggest you start now! Not the same old, same old, not the Gazette - this is current and important. Join the Read Every Word Club and receive a prize to be named later!

Topknot News: How to

201.23 The newsletter of the AHCA shall be entitled "Topknot News" and shall be published three times a year, each publication date falling as close as practical following board meetings so to include all news from that meeting.

201.24 "Topknot News" shall be available to non-members by mail subscription for a fee of \$15 per year. (2/98) It will also be made available free of charge via download from the AHCA Web page. Unlike the printed edition, however, the Web page edition will not include Board meeting minutes. (3/99)

252.9 Following each board meeting mail newsletter out to each member, clubs and breed magazines as soon as possible after each board meeting. Include judges nomination notice on colored paper with the second newsletter of the year.

152.12 Each applicant's name will appear on a membership page in the first AHCA bulletin published after the first reading.

The purpose is to notify the general membership of the application so that they may make appropriate response. This mailing must be done no later than 21 days before the next scheduled board meeting to allow for adequate time for response by the general membership.

201.8 Paid advertisements will not be accepted in the bulletin. (11/81)

The recipe above is from the AHCA family cookbook, known as "Policies & Procedures" or "P & P" There is a further instruction still in the minute stage (in the minutes but not in the document) that Topknot News will appear within 6 weeks of the relevant Board meeting. We also publish the names and addresses of new members and changes in the information of old members. At this time, quite a few people have new email addresses.

The first instruction says "all the news". That has meant highlights of the meeting - Board actions taken, Membership applications and new members, Regional Specialties approved, Officer and Chairman directory, Committee news, publicity for upcoming AHCA events and reports afterward. In addition, editors have tried to get interesting, educational, and entertaining material (we think).

For the most part, all of the above is enjoyable and results in a readable bulletin (We hope) Enjoy ...

Your Editor.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Contributors to our breed come and go over the years. The coming is driven by a love of the breed and a desire to support organizations committed to Afghan Hounds. Going is so often pushed by significantly increased personal and family requirements and crises. We so seldom consider these personal, financial and time costs that contributors in all areas pay in order to support our breed and its organizations, and we thank you all.

The AHCA takes time now to thank our departing Afghan Hound Rescue Chair, Amy Peake, for her service to the the breed and its most needy members over the years. Hundreds of Afghan Hounds are living in contentment with loving families because of AHCA rescue under Amy's direction, and with the help and financial aid of AHCA members. This is the shining outcome of Amy's years of hard work and the legacy that she leaves to her successor, Doug Vinson, who brings his own significant record of aiding Afghan Hounds in need. Personally and organizationally, we make this tribute of thanks.

Duane Butherus

TOPKNOT NEWS

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Somehow when Reigh Abram left us last September her memorial did not reach these pages.. So now we must take time to remember a great lady.

Reigh's Remembrance

*The road we traveled with you was never dull.
We won, we lost, we laughed, we fought..
for things that mattered and some forgot.*

*Life, Dogs, dress and art..
Both you and Dewey shared a part
of yourself that let us reach and grow..
to carry an appreciation of the past
into the future.
Your unique ability with people
created several families
from unlikely parts..
what a passionate teacher.*

*We're left with memories to carry on.
Our wish for you as you move into the afterlife
is to be reunited with loved family and friends,
continue with your indomitable determination and passion,
and impact as much as you did in life.
And remember Reigh...we listened.*

Anita Richards