

REGIONAL SPECIALTIES 2002

Tara AHC 9/19/02
Betsy Hufnagel - Regular Classes
Linda Pitts - Sweepstakes
Jean Austin - Juniors

AHC Greater Milwaukee 10/5/02
Thomas Kirstein - Regular Classes
Sharon Pearce - Sweepstakes

Lehigh Valley AHA 10/6/02
Robert Godfrey - Regular Classes
Frank Vasquez - Sweepstakes

AHC Greater Chicago 10/6/02
Dan James - Bitches, Non-Regular
Lesley James - Dogs & Intersex
Barbara Wayne - Sweepstakes

Afghan Hound Club of America 10/7/02

Rosemarie Crandahl - Sweepstakes
Sharon Pearce - Triathlon Conf.
Kent Delaney - Obedience

10/8/02
Lure Coursing AFSA & AKC
10/9/02

Sandra Frei - Regular Dog Classes
Dog Field Trial Class
10/10/02

Lisa Haidle - Agility
Helen Stein - Regular Bitch Classes
Bitch Field Trial Class
10/11/02

Helen Stein - Junior Showmanship
Non-Regular Bitch Classes
Sandra Frei - Intersex Competition
Non-Regular Dog Classes
Best Puppy, Best BBE

N. California AHC 10/19/02
Marguerite Stanski - Classes
Jennifer Erickson - Sweepstakes

AHC Greater Houston 11/8/02
Donna Broucek - Regular Classes
Lynn Nelson - Sweepstakes

TOPKNOT NEWS

The Newsletter of the Afghan Hound Club of America

<http://clubs.akc.org/ahca>

Summer 2002

LAKESHORE CELEBRATION

2002 Lakeshore Celebration - The 66th National Specialty is well on its way and from the sounds of things, it's gonna be a big one! The host hotel has been sold out since January and rooms in the local area are becoming quite scarce. So if you're planning to attend and haven't made hotel accommodations, better contact your travel agent ASAP!

We are all hoping for the usual sunny mid-70's Chicago weather enhanced by an array of autumn colors, BUT, there is always a chance the weather gods will play a bad joke on us! You'll want to pack your dog booties, umbrellas and warm sweatshirts just in case! An indoor bathing/grooming facility will be available for all exhibitors as well. Please—no in-room grooming. There will be plenty of room for your EZ-ups ringside so bring those along too.

Exhibitors will receive a bright orange coupon with their judging schedule. Present it when you arrive to receive a free hospitality bag, courtesy of the AHCA & our 2002 sponsor, Laser Lites Canine Hair Products.

Novelty Sweatshirts, T's, Jackets, Polos, & Towels will go on sale Monday Morning, October 7th. And back by popular demand, Coverlets will again be offered for 2002. Sorry no pre-orders. So save your pennies for great shopping....

An early morning 2 hr. tour of Temple Farms, home of the infamous Lipizzan Stallions, is planned for Tuesday, October 8th. A few reservations remain open to watch these baroque beauties practice their routines and tour the farm and stables...Just contact Donna at MsKashara@aol.com.

All committees have worked extra hard to assure the success of this year's show! We look forward to bonfires on the beach, lots of lakeside laughter, great Midwestern food and of course, a beautiful entry of Afghan Hounds...all done up Chicago Style! See you soon.... Donna Broucek, 2002 Show Chair

REGIONAL SPECIALTIES

(CONTINUED)

AHC Greater Phoenix 11/14/02
Lorraine Gyenge - Regular Classes
Robert Brown - Sweepstakes

Southern Arizona AHA 11/15/02
Eric White - Regular Classes
Sandy Nagel - Sweepstakes

AHC Omaha 11/15/02
Karen Armistead - Regular Classes
Brenda Brody - Sweepstakes

AHC Memphis 11/30/02
Nancy Self - Regular Classes
Jennifer McLean Denton - Sweeps

Please send Regional club changes in Officers and Specialty announcements to Neva Johnson
MEAN_NJ@cuisp.com

AKC Specialty Breed Club Help Needed

Dear AKC Breed Club Member -
Your help is needed urgently....

As members of the Old English Sheepdog Club of America (AKC Specialty Club), we have been trying for several years to have Group Totals displayed for each show in the Awards book published by AKC in order to more easily accumulate group statistics for our breed winners. **We are soliciting your assistance in pursuing this with AKC, which they have rejected in past years.**

As you may know, recording statistics and particularly recording Group points for a dog is a very labor-intensive and time consuming effort since it is largely a manual effort of counting all dogs within a group each time one of our wonderful winners obtains a Group placement. We have sent the following email below to AKC asking them reconsider adding the Group Totals to the Awards manual.

What we are asking is that you and/or your Conformation Awards statistics committee (please forward this if you are not the correct person within your breed club) simply respond to us directly in email (or a quick letter) indicating your concurrence that this would be beneficial to your breed club. These responses will be accumulated and forwarded to AKC as further substantiation from the Breed Clubs on how they can further us in recording statistics. The sooner we receive a response, the better for us all. **Additionally, on October 25-27 a Parent Club Conference has been called by the AKC Delegate Committee on Parent Clubs, for which 139 Parent Clubs have signed up. We would appreciate it if your delegate would place this request on their agenda during this conference**

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us as indicated below for more detailed information.

.Letter sent to AKC Event Records/Special Services 8/22/02

I am once again contacting AKC on behalf of the Conformation and Show Reports Committee for the Old English Sheepdog Club of America to request one bit of additional information to be added to the Award books that are published each month.

We have been in contact with a number of other club statistics recorders in the past several years and they all share the same request.

In the Shows portion of the Awards books, is it at all possible to add the total group count to the statistics (possibly somewhere in the heading of the Group awards information)? You already have total dogs in show as well as total dogs by individual breed, so we are confident that the information already exists, but just needs to be accumulated and displayed.

In accumulating statistics for our group counts, we have to manually add together each breed within our individual groups in order to determine group points for a dog. If somewhere in the group header the total dog count could be added, this would save us literally "hours and hours" of recording time to determine our group counts for our breed clubs.

As a q/a specialist in software, I am more than willing to work with AKC to test and verify this data at no expense to AKC. In the past, this request was denied, but many of us feel very strongly that AKC should reconsider this request on behalf of each of the breed clubs that support AKC (and which AKC supports). We understand that subscriptions to the Awards book has diminished and AKC did not consider it a priority to honor this request in the past, but part of our contribution to internal recording of statistics for all AKC members is to provide them with as accurate information as possible. We feel AKC could easily assist us with this one addition in this day of high technology.

*Any response would be very favorably appreciated. You may contact me at:
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OES Club of America
Conformation and Show Reports Comm.
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Longwood, FL 32750
407.339.6844 oescastats@aol.com*



Our new member, Michele Trifiro, has offered to provide us with her cartoons. We are very pleased to accept. Thank you, Michele!

AHCA Rescue Committee Report

1 Apr 02 - 30 June 02

The second quarter of this year has been a challenge for many rescuers. Collectively, we started the quarter with 28 Af's held over from the first quarter, then we took in 27 more. That's a handful. The good news is that we placed 25 during this quarter. On the other hand, we had two returns from previous placements. Nevertheless, we had no Af's euthanized during this period.

This quarter, Mississippi, with eight rescues, almost equalled California where nine were reported.

A special note, Laura Murphy reported that the Greater Pittsburgh AHC finally had some good weather to put on a "Celebration of Rescues" at their June Specialty. Three recently placed rescues were the stars of the celebration, and were warmly recognized by the audience.

We continue to need experienced volunteers and foster homes. So if anyone doesn't quite have a full plate yet, please contact me.

Doug Vinson
First, The Hounds

Judge Nominations

The nomination form for judges for the 2004 National Specialty is included in this issue of Topknot News. The nominations are due back to the AHCA Recording Secretary by October 7, so please return them before you leave for the National in Chicago.

We would like to see more participation from the membership in this process. Last year fewer than 100 nominations were returned from a membership of nearly 400. That means that only 25% of the membership showed any interest in impacting the club's biggest annual event! In 2001 only 242 ballots were returned for the 2003 judges. Let's have more participation in 2002.

AHCA Rescue Committee Report

July 1 to August 31, 2002.

Members of the Rescue Committee started the quarter with 21 Afghan Hounds on hand from the previous quarter. Since July 1, we have taken in an additional 30 Afghan Hounds and placed 18. One Affie who was placed in a new home was returned to the rescuer. One was euthanized for medical reasons.

This is a blatant sales pitch, so plan to stop by the Silent Auction for Rescue at Nationals and make wonderfully high bids for everything on the table.

We will have some new items from the Yarn For Rescue program, knitted from genuine Afghan Hound hair. There will be a special "Affie Basket" being developed in Utah just for this National. We have promises of wonderful one of a kind figurines from some special artists, and a special offering of a set of six signed original prints, each different and each numbered #10 of 400, by Tom Lilly whose whimsical works have graced our events and publications for many years. All of that and some surprises too! Bring your checkbooks and your smiles!

**Board Highlights from the Board of Directors Meeting
July 13, 2002 Las Vegas, Nevada**

All Officers and Directors were present.

Minutes: The minutes were approved with one correction. The bank, not the AHCA Treasurer, charges for returned checks.

Corresponding Secretary: Barb Bornstein reported on correspondence sent and received. She has submitted the name of Judy Fellton to the AKC for a Lifetime Achievement Award.

Recording Secretary: Jan Lucree will send the Nominations for Judges form to be included with Topknot News along with an article asking for more responses from members.

The AHCA directory was mailed the first week in June. A motion was made and passed to include the names of committee chairs in the roster beginning in 2003.

Treasurer: Janet Lenobel reported:

ADOA subscription will be continued but sent to the Topknot News editor
Janet purchased Quick Books program for \$140 (with \$80 rebate) for accounting purposes.

The 2002 Breeders' Cup made a profit of \$282.52

The 2002 National showed a profit of \$5018.42

There were 369 paid members as of 6/30/02

The account balance was \$20,038.90 as of 6/30/02

The Rescue account balance was \$11,907.08 as of 6/30/02

Committee Reports:

Breeders' Cup: Leslee Greer will chair the 2003 Breeders' Cup in Seattle on Thursday, June 5, 2003. There will be a Specialty on Friday and all-breed shows on Saturday and Sunday. Harry has asked the 2002 chair to update the information on the website.

Budget and Finance: Gill will provide recommendations on committee budgets at the next meeting.

Topknot News: The Board agreed to pay \$143 toward the price of a fax/copy machine to facilitate publication.

Canine Health: Midge Martin - The DNA testing at the National will cost \$30. The Health Survey is on the website, included in this Topknot News, or may be obtained by contacting Midge by phone, email, or regular mail.

Delegate: The Board directed our delegate to inform AKC that the AHCA does not endorse commercial breeders. Also that the AHCA does support the possibility of points for Reserve at National Specialties.

Judges Education: Harry Bennett is working on a CD-ROM for private use by judges. He is standardizing material to be used for judges' education. He would like pictures of Afghan Hounds in whole or in part showing outstanding features they may have. Please send photos, or slides, not scans.

Breeder Education: Sandy Frei and Jan Reital have arranged a presentation by Michael Canalizo, "The Art of the Game" during the National.

IT Coordinator: Jim Coudriet continues to gather pedigrees. There is a CD with pedigrees for \$60.

Junior Showmanship: Reggie Nesbitt - More clubs are offering Jr Showmanship since AHCA is offering a prize at Regional specialties.

Library: The AHCA Library has received from Karen the two videos done by John Fish of two Nationals. No more conversion work will be done. The Robert Browns have donated the panel of past winners that was on display at the Tucson National to the club.

A copy of the inventory was received from Karen. The Board appointed Helen Stein to receive any overflow of materials to be archived. It was moved and passed that INTRO be reprinted with medical information updated.

Membership: Ed Gilbert reported that the costs of copying membership materials for the Board members was very expensive. He is now using email where possible. It was moved and seconded that the application fee be increased to \$20.

Obedience: Claudia Jakus presented a prototype of the Excellence in Versatility Award. There are probably five dogs qualified retroactively. The AKC has a similarly named award and this will be checked out before completing the plaques. It was moved and passed to purchase the awards, not to exceed \$125 each, to be presented in Chicago.

2002 National Specialty: Donna Broucek reported that \$5000 has been collected for artists' booth space and \$7000 for trophies. The tenting cost will be shared by the two regional clubs. It was moved and passed that Laser Lites be the official sponsor of the 2002 National. It was moved and passed that any official sponsor of any AHCA event be approved in advance by the Board on an event by event basis.

Policies & Procedures: Barb Bornstein has revised, updated, and reorganized the P & P. The Board spent a great deal of time reviewing these. Some of the items receiving the most discussion were:

152.1 Membership Applications: The Board considered adding the word "continuous" after the word "seven". This would need discussion at a membership meeting.

152.21 was changed to read: "A notice will be included annually in Topknot News outlining the responsibilities of the sponsor of a new member."

154.0 Guidelines for honorary membership need to be developed.

301.2 Breeders' Symposium - any fund-raising efforts to cover additional expenses will be matched up to \$500.

301.4 Add- "upon request a judges' education coordinator is available to arrange proper AHCA participation with judges' education groups." Handouts are at the expense of the presenter.

Many other changes and revisions were reviewed by the board. Each officer and Committee Chair were asked for input on their responsibilities.

The complete document will be available at the next Board meeting in Chicago

Publications: Selma Tenenbaum - the insert the AKC sends out with new registrations was submitted to the AKC on April 2.

Regional Clubs: Two new clubs in Florida - Sand 'N See and Sun Coast are both sanctioned to hold B matches.

Web Page: Chris Kaiser and Neva Johnson request that committee chairs should update their information.

Giving Back Mentor Program: Bobbi Keller has been very pro-active and the program is operating. Information is on the website.

Special reports: Voting was conducted to select a Nominating Committee to recommend candidates for the offices of 2nd vice-president, corresponding secretary, treasurer, and 2 board positions. Please contact these people with your suggestions:

Chair JoAnne Buehler

Lucia Brown

Sharon Pearce

Betty Stites

Board Liaison Abbe Shaw

Election of New Members: Two new members had a second reading and were voted into membership. Ten applications had a first reading. See Members insert.

New Business: Janet Lenobel announced that the AKC/Eukanuba Classic would again be held in Orlando in December. The Board agreed to a \$100 budget for the AHCA booth.

The next Board meeting will be Saturday October 12 at the host hotel at the National Specialty in Chicago.

AKC Delegate Report

June 9-11, 2002

San Antonio, TX

The June meetings are usually the smallest of the quarterly gatherings. This one was no an exception, with 219 delegates (less than half) reported in attendance; too bad, as the information content was both interesting and important.

We began on June 9, Sunday, with the High Volume Breeders' Committee report and discussion. AKC Field Inspector Eugene Brennan gave an overview of his functions. Having been with the AKC 15 years he was able to relate the history of inspections and the current activities. In brief – the AKC is highly proactive with approximately 4000 inspections conducted yearly. He noted that the 1996 policy regarding care and conditions expanded the inspection procedure and they no longer focus solely on records, registration and documentation issues.

Next Robert Gibbens, DVM, Western Regional director of Animal Care of the USDA gave his perspective on inspection issues and trends. He noted that approximately 94% of USDA inspections are "satisfactory". The USDA inspects dealers, brokers, exhibitors (meaning zoos, circuses, etc, not dog shows), research facilities, transporters. Please note that this does not include retail pet stores, which enjoy exemption from Federal inspections. He noted a higher degree of compliance in the past 10 years.

Steven Gladstone, AKC Board Member, then spoke of his unannounced visit to one of the Hunte Corporation intake sites. He observed nothing untoward.

Incidentally, a High Volume Breeder is defined as: "Any owner, commercial or otherwise, who has bred more than seven litters or had more than 25 transactions with the AKC in any calendar year. These are the breeders who fall under the AKC's inspection program. Breeders include both commercial interests and breed enthusiasts." (Source – AKC HVBC information sheet).

June 10 began with the Delegate Caucus. The main topic for discussion was the proposed requirement that breed standards must be printed in the catalogs of National Specialties. There was an intent voiced to expand this to all specialty shows both independent as well as those with all breed or group shows. Issues of cost, use of handouts and education were chewed over – and over — and over. (Vote scheduled for the meeting of June 11).

We went on to discuss the need to create an additional performance event committee to encompass herding, earth dog and coursing (vote also scheduled for June 11).

Ideas and proposals regarding puppy registration packages, DNA and the purpose of the Caucus consumed the balance of our time with the attendance of AKC Board members at the Caucus meetings seeming to be a source of concern. I fail to understand this as Board members are first of all delegates and this gathering is termed the "Delegates Caucus". (Incidentally at the March meeting, there was discussion about the delegates having to pay for the use of the caucus meeting room out of their own pockets. At the June meeting, the AKC paid for the room which then led to the concern about AKC control of the Caucus and then to the attendance of the AKC board members. Go figure!)

The next meeting was the Parent Club Committee. The agenda was full and as always this committee meeting was informative. In brief the content was:

ØAll parent clubs will receive a report yearly of all new titles earned – free – as it once was (letter to be sent to each club President and Corresponding Secretary).

ØReserve winners at National Specialty shows project under coordination of the Bulldog Club of America.

ØParent Club conference program Oct. 25-27, 2002 in Cincinnati, Ohio (AHCA representatives are Harry Bennett and Janet LeNobel)

ØGuidelines presented for either opening or closing the Stud Book. This emerged from the requests to the AKC Board from the Saluki Club (to open due to restricted gene pool) and the Greyhound Club (to close theirs to track dogs.)

ØThe proposed changes to the Registration Rules (presented in March) are now on hold due to input from the delegates. It was obvious to the AKC board that the proposed changes were too complex and raised more problems than they were intended to solve! (more to follow, I'm sure!)

ØAKC registered kennel names, the procedure to retire some, the inability to retrieve some old names (as they were not registered) and the question as to whether the names must be "breed specific" were reviewed. Consensus re breed specific kennel names was a resounding "NO".

Lastly on June 10 was the DNA Advisory committee meeting which ran well into the night. The purposes of this committee are to advise the AKC Board on new developments in DNA research and survey other scientific developments relevant to the AKC mission. We were given an update on the DNA program operations,

compliance audits, Parent Club involvement, "Frequently Used Sire" requirements, multiple-sired litters (36 to date were reported) parentage verification, cloning and surrogacy. It was stated that the AKC database has 188,000 canine profiles which is the world's largest. Times they are a-changing.

The entire proceedings of the June 11 meetings are published in the AKC Gazette. Thus I will give you only a synopsis.

The Delegates Forum focused on two topics. The scheduling of the quarterly meetings was first and followed by the question of reimbursement of delegates for their expenses.

The subject of changing the meetings from a Monday/Tuesday pattern to a Saturday/Sunday or Sunday/Monday sequence was presented. The advantages and disadvantages were enumerated with Jim Crowley and Paula Spector of the AKC staff fielding the comments and questions. An informal poll supported trying the Sunday/Monday option one or twice in 2003.

The reimbursement of delegates seemed quite muddy and some clubs reimburse their delegates either partially or fully. Most clubs it seemed do not from the tone of the discussion. The idea of reimbursing the member club directly for each meeting attended by their delegate was also presented. The bottom line will most likely dictate the result as the AKC continues to explore this. The question being the substantial expense to the AKC for the reimbursement to possibly over 500 delegates attending meetings – as I am sure the attendance will be vastly better than the 219 delegates gathered in the San Antonio sessions should expenses be reimbursed!

We were then treated to a Q and A period with Al Cheaure' (AKC President) and Ron Menaker (AKC Board Chair). The topics ranged from registration issues, forms, Delegate seating, a delegate pin and gender-based discrimination by some member clubs. As this forum was open and free-flowing it was mainly information sharing rather than declarations from the podium.

The highlights of the delegates meeting follow:

Ø The Gloucester Kennel Club(NJ) was elected as a member.

Ø Ron Menaker, AKC Board Chair, reported on the AKC Intern program, the DOGNY initiative, and the AKC/Eukanuba American Dog Classic. With regards to DOGNY, he indicated that Governor George Pataki, Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg, and former Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, along with the New York City's police and fire commissioners have agreed to serve as the honorary committee co-chairs. August 24, 2002 was declared DOGNY day at Yankee Stadium, where there was a pre-game ceremony. The DOGNY program was the idea of AHCA's own Dennis Sprung for which was given a well-deserved standing ovation by the delegate body. The DOGNY program came into being as a result of 9/11 and the proceeds will help fund the search and rescue side of disasters.

Ø Going on to the Classic, Ron stated that the superintendent for the 2002 show in Orlando is to be Onofrio Dog Show Organization. The site of the 2003 Classic was announced as Long Beach, California, in conjunction with the Long Beach Kennel Club Show in 2003. The AKC National Agility and Obedience Invitational will also be held with the Classic

Ø Al Cheaure' AKC President, announced the development of an IMAX film about dogs and the magic of the human-canine relationship. The film should be completed in two years. There were reports on the AKC's ongoing image campaign, registration decline, breeder demographics (75% women), and associated market research.

Ø Votes were taken after substantial discussion on:

o A rule which will make it mandatory for the breed standard to be published in the catalog for every independent national specialty show. The requirement is effective October 16, 2002 – Passed.

o Delegate Standing Rules expanding the role of the Field Trial Committee to include hunting tests and to create a new Standing Committee for herding, lure coursing and earthdog events – Passed. These items had also been discussed – at length- at the caucus the day before (see above).

Ø Daisy Okas, assistant V.P. of communication presented some of her plans for polishing the AKC image and introduced a sample video spot depicting the canine-human bond. The theme of the video was "People love dogs almost as much as dogs love people" (Get the Kleenex out folks – not a dry eye in the room). If the rest of her program is as dynamic as that video we are off to one great start.

Ø New business items presented by the delegates included concern for the number of litters/dogs needed to qualify for an AKC registered kennel name, the summer internship program, the new AKC banners (given to all the Superintendents) and mandatory DNA identification for inclusion in the Stud Book.

As we left the meeting we were given DOGNY information envelopes and a stuffed DOGNY mascot of the kind to be used in the DOGNY promotions.

Next meeting, NYC, Sept. 9 and 10.

Connie Butherus, AKC Delegate

The time has come once again that we are firming up our plans and getting ready to attend our National Specialty. This year the Afghan Hound has enjoyed success in different competitions throughout the country and it will be exciting to see them all come together in Chicagoland.

We have also seen a resurgence in Junior Showmanship and with our "Giving Back" Mentoring Program moving forward we hope to see new and solid interest in the Afghan Hound.

We have two young Regional Clubs which have gotten the nod from AKC to proceed and so hopefully we'll have those new specialty shows to attend in the near future and...Best Wishes go out to Lehigh Valley Afghan Hound Club on their FIRST Specialty Show upcoming soon.

See you all soon,
Harry Bennett

TOPKNOT NEWS

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