

**QUARTERLY MEETING OF THE DELEGATES
OF
THE AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB
JUNE 9, 2008**

Dennis B. Sprung, President
PRESENT 291

Abilene Kennel Club—*Neil A. Bates*

Afghan Hound Club of America, Inc.—*Ms. Constance Butherus*

Airedale Terrier Club of America—*Aletta L. Moore*

Alaskan Malamute Club of America, Inc.—*Mrs. Virginia P. Grefe*

Albany Kennel Club, Inc.—*Dennis J. Gallant*

American Boxer Club, Inc.—*Mrs. Stephanie Abraham*

American Bullmastiff Association, Inc.—*Alan Kalter*

American Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Club, Inc.—*John D. Gammon*

American Chesapeake Club, Inc.—*Dyane Baldwin*

American Lhasa Apso Club, Inc.—*Mr. Edmund R. Sledzik*

American Maltese Association, Inc.—*Mr. Richard W. Glenn*

American Manchester Terrier Club—*Roberta Berman*

American Miniature Schnauzer Club, Inc.—*Don Farley, II*

American Pointer Club, Inc.—*Mrs. Karen R. Spey*

American Rottweiler Club—*Mr. Peter G. Piusz*

American Sealyham Terrier Club—*Kenneth W. Mader*

American Shetland Sheepdog Association—*Marjorie Tuff*

American Shih Tzu Club, Inc.—*Mrs. Sally L. Vilas*

American Spaniel Club, Inc.—*Julie Virosteck*

American Tibetan Mastiff Association—*Martha Feltenstein*

American Whippet Club, Inc.—*Ms. Donna D. Lynch*

Anderson Kennel Club—*Phillip D. Sample*

Anderson Obedience Training Club, Inc.—*Ms. Patricia A. Sample*

Antelope Valley Kennel Club, Inc.—*William Daniels*

Arkansas Kennel Club, Inc.—*Barbara A. Finch*

Atlanta Kennel Club, Inc.—*Ann Wallin*

Atlanta Obedience Club, Inc.—*Ms. Virginia M. Mayhall*

Augusta Kennel Club, Inc.—*Ms. Sara Martin*

Australian Cattle Dog Club of America—*Kathryn A. Hamilton*

Australian Terrier Club of America, Inc.—*Kim Occhiuti*

Back Mountain Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mrs. Nina Schaefer*

Basenji Club of America, Inc.—*Mr. Jon Curby*

Basset Hound Club of America, Inc.—*Mrs. Barbara Wicklund*

Battle Creek Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mr. John A. Studebaker*

Bearded Collie Club of America, Inc.—*Susan F. Glatzer*

Belgian Sheepdog Club of America, Inc.—*Barbara Swisher*

Bernese Mountain Dog Club of America, Inc.—*Denise Dean*

Bexar County Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mr. Gerald H. Yarbrough*

Bichon Frise Club of America, Inc.—*George Sikes*

Border Collie Society of America—*Claudia Frank*

Border Terrier Club of America, Inc.—*Mrs. Ruth A. Naun*

Borzoi Club of America, Inc.—*Jon T. Steele*

Brookhaven Kennel Club, Inc.—*Marie A. Fiore*

Bull Terrier Club of America—*Dr. Dale R. Schuur*

Bulldog Club of New England, Inc.—*Francesca J. Castaneda*

Burlington County Kennel Club, Inc.—*Daniel J. Smyth, Esq.*

Butler County Kennel Club—*John W. Towns, Jr.*

Capital Dog Training Club of Washington, D.C., Inc.—*Dr. Joyce A. Dandridge*

Carolina Kennel Club, Inc.—*Jaimie Ashby*

Catoctin Kennel Club—*Whitney Coombs*

Catonsville Kennel Club—*Gary Sarvinas*

Cedar Rapids Kennel Association, Inc.—*J. Richard Seelbach*

Central Beagle Club—*David S. Bagaley*

Central Florida Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mrs. Diane J. Albers*

Central New York Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mrs. Diane D. Almy*

Chaparral Kennel Club, Inc.—*Pam Goldman*

Charleston Kennel Club—*Sylvia Arrowwood*

Cheshire Kennel Club, Inc.—*Paul W. Ziesmer*

Chihuahua Club of America, Inc.—*Rey Burgos*

Chinese Shar-Pei Club of America, Inc.—*Marge B. Calltharp*

Chintimini Kennel Club, Inc.—*Nick Pistas*

Chow Chow Club, Inc.—*Mrs. Ginny Atkinson*

Cincinnati Kennel Club, Inc.—*Dr. Patricia H. Haines*

Clarksville Kennel Club—*Robert A. Schroll*

Classic Toy Dog Club of Western Massachusetts—*Dr. Stephen Lawrence*

Clearwater Kennel Club—*Daniel T. Stolz*

Cleveland All-Breed Training Club, Inc.—*Mrs. Maureen R. Setter*

Clumber Spaniel Club of America, Inc.—*Ricky Blackman*

Collie Club of America, Inc.—*Mr. Harold W. Sundstrom*

Colorado Kennel Club—*Louise Leone*

Columbia Terrier Association of Maryland—*Norma J. Ryan*

Concord Dog Training Club, Inc.—*Mary Casella*

Conyers Kennel Club of Georgia—*Michael Houchard*

Cudahy Kennel Club—*Don H. Adams*

Dachshund Club of America, Inc.—*Mr. Charles A. Baris*

Dalmatian Club of America, Inc.—*James W. Smith*

Del Monte Kennel Club, Inc.—*Merlyn A. Green, D.C.*

Del Sur Kennel Club, Inc.—*Andrew G. Mills*

Des Moines Kennel Club, Inc.—*John D. Hughes*

Detroit Kennel Club—*Mr. Erik Bergishagen*

Doberman Pinscher Club of America—*Jeffrey P. Helsdon*

Dog Fanciers Association of Oregon, Inc.—*Mrs. Patti L. Strand*

Dog Owners' Training Club of Maryland—*Kathrynann Sarvinas*

Duluth Kennel Club—*Hon. David C. Merriam*

Durham Kennel Club Inc—*Linda C. Wozniak*

East Tennessee Retriever Club—*Catherine Bell*

Eastern Dog Club—*Charles J. Foley*

Eastern German Shorthaired Pointer Club, Inc.—*Mrs. Joan Tabor*

Elm City Kennel Club—*Joan Caspersen*

English Setter Association of America, Inc.—*Mr. John P. Nielsen*

English Springer Spaniel Field Trial Association, Inc.—*Mrs. Alice E. Berd*

English Springer Spaniel Field Trial Club of Illinois—*David H. Hopkins*

English Toy Spaniel Club of America—*Vanesa N. Weber*

Farmington Valley Kennel Club, Inc.—*Terrie Breen*

- Field Spaniel Society of America—*Katherine Sullivan*
- Finger Lakes Kennel Club, Inc.—*Ms. Margaret B. Pough*
- First Company Governor's Foot Guard Athletic Association—*Lt. Col. John L. O'Connell*
- Flat-Coated Retriever Society of America, Inc.—*Kurt Anderson*
- Forsyth Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mrs. Almira B. Dallas*
- Fort Worth Kennel Club—*Mr. Harry G. Ottmann*
- Genesee County Kennel Club, Inc.—*Connie S. Clapp*
- Genesee Valley Kennel Club, Inc.—*Ann Barbash*
- German Shepherd Dog Club of America—*Dr. Carmen L. Battaglia*
- German Shorthaired Pointer Club of America—*Mr. Kenneth A. Marden*
- German Wirehaired Pointer Club of America, Inc.—*Ms. Patricia W. Laurans*
- Giant Schnauzer Club of America, Inc.—*Robin Greenslade*
- Glens Falls Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mrs. Bonnie Lapham*
- Gordon Setter Club of America, Inc.—*Nance O. Skoglund*
- Great Dane Club of America, Inc.—*Thomas Sandenaw*
- Great Western Terrier Association of Southern California—*Jack Smith*
- Greater Clark County Kennel Club Inc.—*Ms. Karen J. Burgess*
- Greater Collin Kennel Club, Inc.—*Barbara Shaw*
- Greater Hickory Kennel Club, Inc.—*Dr. John L. Hyatt*
- Greater Kingsport Kennel Club—*Georgia Warren*
- Greater Lowell Kennel Club, Inc.—*Virginia M. O'Connell*
- Greater Miami Dog Club—*Pedro Cofino*
- Greater Naples Dog Club—*John D. French*
- Greater Ocala Dog Club, Inc.—*Chari Magnan*
- Greater Philadelphia Dog Fanciers Association—*Marlene Steinberg*
- Green Mountain Dog Club, Inc.—*Deborah Mulvey*
- Greenwich Kennel Club—*Dr. Stephen Blau*
- Harrisburg Kennel Club, Inc.—*Ms. Cynthia A. Miller*
- Hatboro Dog Club, Inc.—*Mr. Robert D. Black*
- Havanese Club of America—*Jane F. Ruthford*
- Hockamock Kennel Club, Inc.—*Nancy Fisk*
- Hollywood Dog Obedience Club, Inc.—*Jan Wolf*
- Holyoke Kennel Club, Inc.—*Leonard Abraham*
- Houston Kennel Club, Inc.—*Ms. Carol A. Williamson*
- Huntingdon Valley Kennel Club, Inc.—*Dick Blair*
- Huntington Kennel Club, Inc.—*Gwen McCullagh*
- Hutchinson Kennel Club, Inc.—*David A. Helming*
- Illinois Valley Kennel Club of Peoria, Inc.—*Dr. John F. Davidson*
- Ingham County Kennel Club, Inc.—*Rita J. Biddle*
- Irish Setter Club of America, Inc.—*Mrs. Constance B. Vanacore*
- Irish Terrier Club of America—*Peggy E. Gill*
- Irish Wolfhound Club of America—*Martha V. Dean*
- Italian Greyhound Club of America, Inc.—*Carole Wilson*
- James River Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mallory C. Driskill*
- Japanese Chin Club of America—*Vincent Adams*
- K-9 Obedience Training Club of Essex County, NJ, Inc.—*Dave Morgan*
- Kachina Kennel Club—*Mrs. Marilyn R. Vinson*
- Kanadasaga Kennel Club—*Mrs. Beverly M. Nosiglia*
- Keeshond Club of America, Inc.—*Mr. John D. Sawicki*
- Kenilworth Kennel Club of Connecticut, Inc.—*Mrs. Gwen Wexler*
- Kennel Club of Buffalo, Inc.—*Carole Plesur*
- Kennel Club of Niagara Falls—*Mrs. Florence L. Prawel*
- Kennel Club of Northern New Jersey, Inc.—*Dr. Suzanne H. Hampton*
- Kennel Club of Pasadena—*Jarratt Brunson*
- Kennel Club of Philadelphia, Inc.—*Charles H. Schaefer*
- Kennel Club of Riverside—*Sylvia Thomas*
- Key City Kennel Club, Inc.—*Dr. Fred C. Bock, II*
- Komondor Club of America, Inc.—*Michael Harman*
- Labrador Retriever Club, Inc.—*Mr. A. N. Sills*
- Lackawanna Kennel Club, Inc.—*Ms. Virginia Van Doren*
- Ladies' Dog Club, Inc.—*Mrs. Kathi Brown*
- Ladies' Kennel Association of America—*Ruth Winston*
- Lakes Region Kennel Club, Inc.—*Ms. Crecia C. Closson*
- Lancaster Kennel Club, Inc.—*Ms. Cynthia L. Garman*
- Land O' Lakes Kennel Club, Inc.—*Jan Croft*
- Langley Kennel Club—*Ms. Dianne E. Franck*
- Lawrenceville Kennel Club, Inc.—*Robert LaBerge*
- Lexington Kennel Club Inc—*Anne Kemp*
- Louisville Kennel Club, Inc.—*Judy R. Melear*
- Macon Kennel Club—*Nell Stumpf*
- Mad River Valley Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mrs. Betty J. Miller*
- Magic Valley Kennel Club, Inc.—*Dr. Sandra B. Barker*
- Manatee Kennel Club—*Pat Edgington*
- Marion Ohio Kennel Club, Inc.—*Dr. J. C. Garvin*
- Mastiff Club of America, Inc.—*Dr. William R. Newman*
- Medina Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mrs. Pat Dresser*
- Mensona Kennel Club, Inc.—*John S. Fitzpatrick, D.V.M.*
- Merrimack Valley Kennel Club, Inc.—*Jeanette Nieder*
- Middle Tennessee Amateur Retriever Club—*John Russell*
- Middleburg Kennel Club—*Shelley C. Roos*
- Middlesex County Kennel Club—*Robert A. Procter, Jr.*
- Mispyllion Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mrs. Blackie H. Nygood*
- Mississippi Valley Kennel Club—*Mrs. Gretchen Bernardi*
- Mississippi Valley Retriever Club—*Robert H. McKowen*
- Mohawk Valley Kennel Club—*Mrs. Sandra Haber*
- Mount Vernon Dog Training Club—*Mrs. Ruth W. Crumb*
- Mountain States Dog Training Club, Inc.—*John D. Landis*
- Mt. Baker Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mrs. Judith V. Daniels*
- Myrtle Beach Kennel Club—*Linda D. Witouski*
- Nashville Kennel Club—*James Efron*
- National Capital Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mrs. Catherine B. Nelson*
- National Shiba Club of America—*Maggi Strouse*
- Naugatuck Valley Kennel Club—*Mrs. Viola Burgos*
- New England Dog Training Club, Inc.—*Liz Sullivan*

- New England Old English Sheepdog Club—*Mrs. Jane C. Ogg*
- Newfoundland Club of America, Inc.—*Mrs. Mary W. Price*
- Newnan Kennel Club—*Willie Crawford*
- Newtown Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mrs. Diane F. Taylor*
- Nisqually Kennel Club—*R. H. Hachtel*
- North Shore Dog Training Club, Inc.—*Mary Anne Fowler*
- North Shore Kennel Club—*Richard F. Coletti*
- Northwestern Connecticut Dog Club, Inc.—*Billie Ponton*
- Norwich and Norfolk Terrier Club—*Marjorie McTernan*
- Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever Club (USA)—*Marile A. Waterstraat*
- Obedience Training Club of Hawaii, Inc.—*Ms. Patricia C. Scully*
- Obedience Training Club of Rhode Island—*James M. Ashton*
- Old Dominion Kennel Club of Northern Virginia, Inc.—*Robert Nazak*
- Olympic Kennel Club, Inc.—*Harvey A. Mueller*
- Orange Empire Dog Club, Inc.—*Burton J. Yamada*
- Orlando Dog Training Club—*Rodney L. Russell*
- Otterhound Club of America—*Mark J. Hawley*
- Ox Ridge Kennel Club—*Jack P. De Witt*
- Panhandle Kennel Club of Texas, Inc.—*Mrs. Geraldine M. Shastid*
- Papillon Club of America, Inc.—*Ms. Arlene A. Czech*
- Pasco Florida Kennel Club—*Patricia J. Lombardi*
- Pembroke Welsh Corgi Club of America, Inc.—*Judy A. Hart*
- Penn Ridge Kennel Club, Inc.—*Marieann Gladstone*
- Petit Basset Griffon Vendeen Club of America—*Anne Gallant, Ph.D.*
- Piedmont Kennel Club, Inc.—*Joachim Blutreich*
- Pioneer Valley Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mrs. Margaret Vohr*
- Plainfield Kennel Club—*John McCullagh*
- Plum Creek Kennel Club of Colorado—*Charles McWilliams*
- Port Chester Obedience Training Club, Inc.—*Robert A. Amen*
- Portland Dog Obedience Club, Inc.—*James Primmer*
- Portland Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mrs. Joan Savage*
- Portuguese Water Dog Club of America, Inc.—*Karen Arends*
- Progressive Dog Club—*William H. Blair*
- Providence County Kennel Club, Inc.—*Kerstin T. Ottmar*
- Putnam Kennel Club, Inc.—*Florence R. Laicher*
- Ramapo Kennel Club—*Mrs. Rose J. Radel*
- Reno Kennel Club—*Mr. Steven D. Gladstone*
- Rhode Island Kennel Club, Inc.—*Gerard Baudet*
- Richland County Kennel Club, Inc.—*Ms. Shirley L. Boyer*
- Richland Kennel Club, Inc.—*Donald B. Harris*
- Richmond Dog Fanciers Club, Inc.—*Jan M. Ritchie*
- Rio Grande Kennel Club—*Mr. William H. Green*
- Rockford-Freeport Illinois Kennel Club—*Ronald H. Menaker*
- Rockingham County Kennel Club, Inc.—*Janice S. Gardner*
- Saluki Club of America—*Monica H. Stoner*
- Sammamish Kennel Club—*Robert Gloster*
- Samoyed Club of America, Inc.—*Mr. John L. Ronald*
- Santa Barbara Kennel Club, Inc.—*Abbe R. Shaw*
- Santa Clara Valley Kennel Club, INC.—*James R. Dok*
- Saratoga New York Kennel Club—*Sarah Stebbins*
- Sawnee Mountain Kennel Club of Georgia—*Kay Allred*
- Schipperke Club of America, Inc.—*Betty J. Patrick*
- Scottish Deerhound Club of America, Inc.—*Sally Poole*
- Scottish Terrier Club of America—*John McNabney*
- Scottsdale Dog Fanciers Association, Inc.—*Nancy Perrell*
- Seattle Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mrs. Lynne M. Myall*
- Shoreline Dog Fanciers Association of Orange County—*Susan L. Hamil*
- Siberian Husky Club of America, Inc.—*Ms. Donna Beckman*
- Silky Terrier Club of America, Inc.—*Mrs. Kriss Griffin*
- Sir Francis Drake Kennel Club, Inc.—*William J. Feeney*
- Skokie Valley Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mrs. Corinne J. Kehoe*
- Skye Terrier Club of America—*Mr. Walter F. Goodman*
- Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club of America—*Cindy Vogels*
- South Hills Kennel Club—*Mrs. Kathleen R. Parks*
- South Shore Kennel Club, Inc.—*Linda C. Flynn*
- South Windsor Kennel Club—*Margarette (Peggy) Wampold*
- Southern Adirondack Dog Club, Inc.—*Dr. John V. Ioia*
- Southern Colorado Kennel Club, Inc.—*Lee Arnold*
- Spokane Kennel Club—*Tina Truesdale*
- Springfield Kennel Club, Inc.—*Dr. Thomas M. Davies*
- St. Bernard Club of America, Inc.—*Linda Baker*
- St. Louis Collie Club, Inc.—*Barbara L. Schwartz*
- Staffordshire Bull Terrier Club of America—*Ms. Ann Lettis*
- Standard Schnauzer Club of America—*Dr. Harvey Mohrenweiser*
- Susque-Nango Kennel Club, Inc.—*Thomas D. Parrotti*
- Sussex Hills Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mrs. Florence Duggan*
- Tampa Bay Kennel Club—*Mary Manning*
- Terry-All Kennel Club, Inc.—*Thomson P. Stanfield*
- Tibetan Spaniel Club of America—*Mr. Herbert H. Rosen*
- Tibetan Terrier Club of America, Inc.—*Stacey La Forge*
- Town and Country Kennel Club, Inc.—*Toni Doake*
- Trenton Kennel Club, Inc.—*Joseph Martyn*
- Troy Kennel Club, Inc.—*John J. Cadalso, Jr.*
- Tualatin Kennel Club, Inc.—*James S. Corbett*
- Union County Kennel Club, Inc.—*Carlotta Dennie*
- United States Kerry Blue Terrier Club, Inc.—*Mr. Carl C. Ashby, III*
- United States Lakeland Terrier Club—*Alfred J. Ferruggiaro*
- Upper Potomac Valley Kennel Club—*J. M. Haderer*
- Upper Snake River Valley Dog Training Club, Inc.—*Alan King*
- Vizsla Club of America, Inc.—*Ms. Lynn Worth*
- Wachusett Kennel Club, Inc.—*Suzanne Gray*
- Wampanoag Kennel Club, Inc.—*Ms. Naida L. Parker*

Washington State Obedience Training Club, Inc.—*Mr. Donald Rennick*

Waukesha Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mrs. Mary A. Eschweiler*

Weimaraner Club of America—*Ms. Judy Colan*

Welsh Terrier Club of America, Inc.—*Peter J. See*

West Volusia Kennel Club—*Ferdinand Reinlieb*

Western Reserve Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mr. William A. Russett*

Wichita Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mildred L. Dold*
Windham County Kennel Club, Inc.—*Fredrick R. Vogel*

Windward Hawaiian Dog Fanciers Association—*Mrs. Karen Mays*

Worcester County Kennel Club—*Debra A. Hokkanen*

Yorkshire Terrier Club of America, Inc.—*Patricia D. Reynolds*

**AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB
DELEGATES MEETING
JUNE 9, 2008**

Dennis B. Sprung, President in the Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

The Chair introduced the persons seated with him on the dais: Chairman, Ron Menaker; Vice Chairman, David Merriam; Doris Abbate, Professional Registered Parliamentarian; Jim Crowley, the Executive Secretary; and Jill Shepherd, the court reporter.

Mr. Sprung spoke about the passing of Dr. James S. Holt as follows: It's my sad duty to report that Dr. James S. Holt, AKC Government Relations Consultant and former AKC Board member, died suddenly of an apparent heart attack on April 27th, while on AKC business in Raleigh. Jim spent more than 40 years in the sport and was a breeder exhibitor of Irish Setters and English Cocker Spaniels. He was a member of the National Capital Kennel Club and English Cocker Spaniel Club of America, and was their Delegate from 1976 through 1991. Beginning in 1987, Jim served a four year term on our Board of Directors and began his consulting work for the AKC immediately after the completion of that term. Jim will be missed both as a friend and as a dedicated member of the fancy. On Saturday, May 24th, I had

the privilege of delivering a eulogy at St. Paul's Parish in Washington, D.C., during which I extended the appreciation of the entire Board, Delegate body and staff to Jim's family and friends. I have also requested our Legislation Department to begin work on an AKC/Dr. James S. Holt Annual Legislative Award. The intent of this award is to honor, on an annual basis, those legislators who work for the well being of dogs and whose actions enhance the mission of AKC. I invite any Delegate who wishes to participate in the criteria development of the award to contact Walter Bebout.

The Executive Secretary read the names of the Delegates seated since the last meeting: Dennis E. Daigle, Milton, FL, Pensacola Dog Fanciers Association

Dr. John F. Davidson, Dunlap, IL, Illinois Valley Kennel Club of Peoria
Martha Feltenstein, New York, NY, American Tibetan Mastiff Association
Pam Goldman, Somerset, NJ, Chaparral Kennel Club

Alan R. King, Wakefield, NH, Upper Snake River Valley Dog Training Club
Stacey LaForge, New Providence, NJ, Tibetan Terrier Club of America

Carol A. Meyer, Indianapolis, IN, Central Indiana Kennel Club

Deborah D. Mulvey, Waterbury Center, VT, Green Mountain Dog Club
Shelley C. Roos, Broad Run, VA, Middleburg Kennel Club

Glenda Stephenson, Palm Bay, FL, Space Coast Kennel Club of Palm Bay
Maggi Strouse, Virginia Beach, VA, National Shiba Club of America

Paul W. Ziesmer, Swanzey, NH, Cheshire Kennel Club

The following Delegates, who were attending their first meeting since approval, were introduced from the floor:

Dr. John F. Davidson, New Providence, NJ, Illinois Valley Kennel Club of Peoria
Martha Feltenstein, New York, NY, American Tibetan Mastiff Association
Pam Goldman, Somerset, NJ, Chaparral Kennel Club

Alan R. King, Wakefield, NH, Upper Snake River Valley DTC
Stacy LaForge, New Providence, NJ, Tibetan Terrier Club of America

Dr. Harvey Morhenweiser, Turner, OR Standard Schnauzer Club of America
Deborah D. Mulvey, Waterbury Center, VT, Green Mountain Dog Club

Shelley C. Roos, Broad Run, VA, Middleburg Kennel Club

Sarah Stebbins, Saratoga Springs, NY Saratoga New York Kennel Club

Maggi Strouse, Virginia Beach, VA, National Shiba Club

Paul W. Ziesmer, Swanzey, NH, Cheshire Kennel Club

The Chair introduced Cindy Vogels, President of the Canine Health Foundation, who spoke as follows: Thank you, Dennis. It's my pleasure to introduce Dr. Terry Warren, the newly appointed Executive Director and Chief Counsel for the AKC Canine Health Foundation. Dr. Warren comes to the Canine Health Foundation not only with an impressive academic background, but also over 20 years experience in nonprofit management and fund raising. I think you'll find Terry to be extremely affable and open. I encourage you to go introduce yourself to her today, if you can. If not, she can always be reached at our toll free number, which is (888) 682 9696 or by e-mail ttw@akcchf.org. Or we would love to have you visit our new offices in Raleigh, and if you are lucky, you might be able to meet, Maddy, Terry's Havanese there too. Please give her a warm welcome. We have great plans. She's already dug her heels in at the office, and I think CHF is on a real upward trend. I think you will all be thrilled with what's happening with our organization. Thanks very much.

As no corrections were heard, the minutes of the March 11, 2008 Delegates meeting were approved as published.

The following clubs were approved by the Board of Directors and approved by the Delegates as member clubs: Columbia Missouri Kennel Club; Connecticut River Working Group Association; Garden State All Terrier Club.

The Chair addressed the Delegates on Staff's mixed-breed proposal as follows: As you will recall, I presented a blank page at the December 2006 Delegates Meeting concerning the possibility of creating a listing service

for mixed spayed and neutered dogs and, further, to explore the possibility of their being eligible to compete in separate classes at Companion Events. After a great deal of input from the Delegate body and many others, that page became partially full. Staff has addressed this issue with the Delegates on six previous occasions prior to today and we are appreciative of your input. The reasons to offer this voluntary participation program are:

1. Enhance AKC's ability to influence legislation;
2. Promote responsible dog ownership to a larger audience;
3. Advocate on behalf of more dog owners;
4. Educate more people to become involved in AKC events, and share the joys and passion of participating in Companion Events, potentially motivating them to add a purebred to their family;
5. Improve AKC's image with the public, veterinary schools, veterinarians, elected officials and shelters;
6. Increase opportunities for sponsorships with endemic and non-endemic corporations;
7. Allow AKC to attract a growing market that is already being served by competitive registries;
8. Reach out to the more than 50,000 4-H participants who own and train mixed dogs;
9. Create an additional revenue source, which is the least of our concerns.

In my opinion, a program of this nature should serve to advance our overall objectives and not take us off course. Staff and Board worked to have a program for your consideration today which embodied agreement on all issues. In terms of a final decision by the Board, they have not yet attained concurrence in a few areas nor decided on moving forward, but continue their effort to do so.

Your feedback on today's questions will be incorporated into a tentative plan to be presented to the Board. If the tentative plan is adopted, it will be brought back to the Delegate body for final input before the Board's decision.

By communicating with you today on the open questions, I am asking that, over the course of the coming weeks, you provide your club's feedback on the areas which still

present challenges to us. I will zero in on exactly what the issues are. You need not take notes as we have this entire presentation prepared for you to bring to your club:

- It is proposed that an affiliate administer a listing service and Companion Events competition for mixed dogs. "Should 'AKC' appear in the name of the affiliate organization that administers the mixed dog listing service and competition program?"

- Mixed dogs could compete in separate classes at stand-alone Companion Events. This would include Agility, Obedience, Rally and Tracking trials that are NOT held in conjunction with All-Breed, Group or Specialty Conformation shows. Titles earned at those events would clearly indicate they come from the mixed class. Purebred classes would remain as they are. "The question is whether the two Group Exercises in Obedience, specifically long sits and downs, at stand-alone Companion Events would be conducted as completely separate classes for purebreds and mixed, or whether these two group exercises should be combined because of time issues?"

- Staff reviewed numerous individual Club Bylaws and found nothing that would prohibit any AKC Club from conducting an event with mixed dog classes if AKC regulations provided for them. All Sample Bylaws provided by AKC recommend that the Club is to further the advancement of purebred dogs and to hold events under AKC Rules and Regulations. This has not stopped any Club from opening training classes to mixed-breeds, from holding CGC for all dogs, or from supporting and making contributions to local shelters, which benefit all dogs. It has also not stopped specialty Clubs, with the required object of advancing the interest of one specific breed from holding all breed companion events, which is permissible under AKC Regulations. "Do individual Club Bylaws and/or Charters prevent clubs from holding optional mixed classes?"

- In a recent survey of mixed dog owners, 88 percent of the over 10,000 respondents said they would pay a \$35 fee to list their dog with AKC. "Do you have a different opinion on a \$35 listing fee?" We welcome your Club's input on these four questions. We have them written out for you to take home. They will be distributed

when you return your badges. Please respond to Penny Leigh @ pxl@akc.org by July 14, 2008.

Just to reiterate the facts. This is a work in progress, certainly not a done deal as evidenced by our coming to you once again for advice. Ronald Menaker, Board Chairman, gave the following report: Good morning. This September we will celebrate the sixth annual AKC Responsible Dog Ownership Day. As always we invite delegates and their member clubs to join AKC by hosting an event in their local communities. AKC offices will hold their events on September 20th in New York and September 27th in Raleigh.

The RDO Day program is getting bigger each year, with nearly 400 AKC RDO Day events held nationwide last year. We encourage our nearly 5,000 clubs to plan some sort of participation no matter how small or large. While it does well as a stand alone event, it can be easily combined with any existing club events held in September, such as a show, trial, or match. I encourage clubs to be creative and perhaps join other venues such as a state fair or pet expo by hosting a table at the larger event or even turning a Canine Ambassador visit into an RDO event.

AKC RDO Day adds an educational element to any event - and your club can benefit from the added publicity that surrounds the occasion - by attracting more positive media coverage of your club which ultimately gives AKC clubs a stronger voice in their communities. A survey sent to past event coordinators revealed that nearly 88 percent of AKC RDO Day events received positive media coverage. This is a great topic to engage the media because it provides valuable information to consumers in a way that makes it fun.

For each club that holds an event in September, AKC will distribute a free packet of educational materials and fun giveaways to the first 500 organizations that register an event on akc.org, as well as publicize all events with a listing on our web site where potential attendees can search by state for a local event in their community. Once your club registers its event using our web site, the AKC Public Relations department, will e-mail you tips and publicity materials such as media templates, sample letters to the editor

and proclamations.

To further encourage AKC club involvement, the fourth quarter AKC Community Achievement Awards will be dedicated to AKC-affiliated clubs and state federations that hold AKC RDO Day events in September. To qualify, clubs must hold an AKC RDO Day event in September and meet the October 31st award submission deadline. Winners will be announced at the Delegates Meeting in December. Up to three winners will be chosen and each will receive a \$1,000 award to further their club's public education efforts.

As you can see RDO Day is not only an educational experience for those attending but fun for club members hosting such events. A majority of clubs held Agility demonstrations, coordinated Meet the Breeds or gave Canine Good Citizen tests as their way to connect with the community. I urge all of you to join us to help make 2008 the best celebration yet!

Dennis Sprung gave the President's Report: We always share statistics and actions with you regarding the serious decline over the last decade of litter and dog registrations. The decline in 2008 has been steeper than average, which is cause for alarm. Today, I am going to share with you one of the biggest contributing factors to this ongoing decline.

There are many tactics employed by some competing All Breed, Multiple Breed, and Single Breed registries with respect to commercial breeding activities. Listed are just the All Breed competitors.

The world of commercial breeding and sales is very much a vertical model, whereby each step up the model is handled by independent entities.

Some competitors are employing an economic incentive at each step to make their registry more appealing than AKC to these independent operators.

This chart will help explain the incentives provided by competitors at each step along the way from commercial kennel to new puppy owner.

Step 1: The Commercial Kennel
2007 Breeding Activity Data shows that fewer than 4% of AKC breeders registered more than seven litters. Even this relatively

small number of breeders has a significant impact on AKC's overall litter registrations, accounting for 105,525 total litters. Comparatively, in 2000, breeders registering more than seven litters per year registered 63,000 more than in 2007.

As you know, last year our Compliance department did an excellent job, completing more than 5,650 Inspections. AKC can only inspect kennels that register litters with us. Whenever AKC loses registration, its opportunity through inspections to influence the quality and care of dogs produced is also lost.

Staff research found that competing registries tout low-cost and low-hassle services to breeders who are current or former (by their choice or ours) AKC registrants.

Incentives for commercial kennels include:

- Free registration of breeding stock
- Free or deeply discounted litter registrations

When one adds up the potential savings to a breeder year after year, you can easily see why many breeders wanting to significantly reduce their annual overhead will turn to these incentives.

You may be wondering then - How do these competing registries make a profit? The answer: Through individual dog registration fees, and by not bearing the costs of supporting inspections, events, legislation or responsible dog ownership programs, or contributing to organizations such as the Canine Health Foundation.

Next is Step 2: The Distributor or Broker. Commercial breeding kennels as well as some individual breeders often sell their puppies to a distributor/broker. Larger competing registries offer financial incentives to the distributors to send their "papers" along with the puppies to the pet stores. In many cases, the dogs are eligible for AKC registration. When a puppy is prepared for shipment to a pet store, it travels with a packet that includes its history of veterinarian exams, shots, worming, microchipping and usually its papers.

Even if AKC papers are included from the breeder, competing registries pay the distributors \$2 or \$3 per puppy to include *their registration papers* with or instead of AKC papers in the packet. Imagine the total payments to

different companies, each distributing between 40 or 100,000 puppies annually? You saw in Step 1 that dogs are more likely to be sold to distributors with non-AKC papers because breeders are rewarded financially for registering litters elsewhere. Then, in the next Step, those puppies with AKC papers are accompanied with additional non-AKC papers.

Effectively, competitors have now ensured that the vast majority of available puppies in the retail sector do not have AKC papers. This leads us to Step 3, the pet store.

The competing registries' papers are now available in the pet store. To ensure the new buyer registers the puppy with them, some competing registries provide financial incentives to the store to "sell" these registrations. Imagine the impact when each registration fee is shared between the pet store and the competing registry.

The final step of the model is the new puppy buyer and their future breeding activities. The buyer is in the store, sees a cute puppy, and decides to purchase it. The cost of the registration from the competing registry is included in the purchase price - a typical point of purchase sale.

We receive more than 400 inquiries per week from dog owners with "papers" from other organizations wanting to know how they can register with AKC.

Another important point to keep in mind is that a percentage of those purchasing from pet stores have historically gone on to become the "one litter in a lifetime" breeder. This is why we believe AKC has experienced steep declines in the number of breeders who breed one litter in a lifetime or one every few years. The decline in this type of breeding activity can also be attributed to stricter legislation and a societal anti-breeding sentiment but, most importantly, to the fact that when an owner decides to breed a litter, it is not being registered with AKC because the bitch was registered elsewhere. Remember: these litters are still being bred; the bitch that produced was AKC registrable. The difference today is the litters are being registered elsewhere. The fact is not only are we losing the initial registration, but that bitch's future litter as well - and all generations beyond. The highly prevalent "one-time breeders" still exist but increasingly

they are registering with other organizations. For example, in terms of breeding activity, in 2000 we registered 162,702 litters owned by one-time breeders. In 2007, that number has fallen by over 31,000.

Another very important point is that when the new puppy buyer registers with any competitor, AKC's loss is far greater than financial. It represents a loss to our overall constituency. Losses are not only future registrations; we risk losing influence over legislation and we forfeit opportunities in education, publicity and marketing. Numbers keep us strong in influence and prestige. If numbers decline to a certain point, we could be considered a fringe organization.

As you all know, the larger our constituency, naturally the greater our impact on anti-dog bills. When we meet with political officials, one of their initial questions is usually about AKC demographics and in particular about our growth. We do not have the numbers that they want to hear and we are guided by the principle that telling the truth serves us best. From a public relations point of view, the greater breadth we demonstrate to the media the better chance that our press releases, pitches to appear on television, and media kits are accepted.

Also in jeopardy is our ability to educate the new puppy owner about all aspects of responsible dog ownership, the sport, and opportunities available to AKC registered dogs. In terms of brand marketability, again, it is the aggregate of our constituent base that often determines our ability to succeed when we seek those quickly drying up sponsorships, licensing, or other alternative revenue opportunities.

Our Business Development's Marketing staff is often asked to justify AKC's reach to individual dog owners in comparison to other animal-related organizations.

In terms of new puppy buyers – AKC's future registrants – as always, some continue to become the "one-time breeder." This too will be negatively impacted.

Last, but not least, the financial impact of declining registrations speaks for itself. This revenue enables our ability to continue all the good work AKC does to support events, serve our core constituency, donate to our affiliates, including CHF and the Museum, step up in times of disaster such as DOGNY

following 9/11 and Katrina, educate the public, implement policies on care and conditions and so forth.

I share this information because you are entitled to know more than statistics and actions we have taken, but also what we have learned about the barriers that exist in this arena. In our opinion, registration of pure-bred dogs is increasing, AKC's registration is not, and that is unfortunate knowing we are the very best.

I trust that by sharing the staff's research with you of competitors' financial incentives given to breeders, distributors, pet stores, there is more of an understanding of the challenges we are facing daily.

In collecting this data, we analyzed the breeding activities of many groups. Since this is a Delegate presentation, I will also share the Delegate breeding activity data. In 2007, a total of 454 litters where one or more Delegates were listed as the Breeder or Co-Breeder of Record registered with AKC. From those 454 litters registered by Delegate Breeders, came 1,898 registrable puppies.

From those 1,898 – 1,255 became individually registered puppies, which will continue to increase.

The Delegates have a much higher than average blue slip conversion rate – 66%. It represents .15 % of total registered dogs in 2007.

We further analyzed the data by Delegate Household with each household having one or more Delegates that registered a litter in 2007.

The Data is as follows:

- 0 litters – 348 Households or 65 % of the Delegate Body
- 1 litter – 37 Households or 7% of the Delegate Body
- 2 thru 6 litters – 71 Households or 13% of the Delegate Body
- 7 thru 24 litters – 65 Households or 12% of the Delegate Body
- 25 or more litters – 18 Households or 3% of the Delegate Body

Thank you.

James Stevens, Chief Financial Officer gave the financial report: Total revenues for the first four months of 2008 were \$23.7 million, which was 2% higher than the prior year.

Total operating expenses of \$20.8 million during the period were 1% below 2007. This produced a four month operating surplus of \$2.8 million, which was approximately \$500,000 higher than last year.

Our investments produced an unrealized loss of \$2.4 million for the four month period. This was due to an extremely difficult stock market environment. In contrast, the markets performed favorably last year during this same period which resulted in an investment gain of \$2.6 million.

The net surplus for the first four months of 2008 was \$485,000 vs. approximately \$5 million in 2007.

There was a vote on the proposed to amend to Chapter 11, Section 6 of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows*. The amendment was presented by a licensed dog show superintendent and agreed upon by the Dog Show Superintendents Association and approved by the AKC Board of Directors. The amendment benefits exhibitors by permitting incorrectly entered dogs to be moved into the open class. This will also benefit all those entered by providing the opportunity to maintain the number of dogs eligible to compete and thereby the number of dogs counted in the computation of championship points.

The proposal was adopted as follows: Chapter 11, Section 6. No entry may be changed or canceled unless notice of the change or cancellation is received in writing or by telegram by the Superintendent or Show Secretary named in the premium list to receive entries, prior to the closing date and hour for entries, except that a correction may be made in the sex of a dog, or a dog may be transferred from one division of the Puppy Class to another or between the Puppy and Twelve-to-Eighteen Month Class at a show prior to the judging. A dog determined to be ineligible, by its owner/agent, for the class in which it has been entered may be transferred to an eligible open class at a show prior to the judging of any regular conformation class within the sex of that breed or variety, and that dogs which according to their owners' records have completed the requirements for a championship after the closing of entries for a show but whose championships are unconfirmed,

may be transferred from one of the regular classes to the Best of Breed or Variety competition, provided this transfer is made by the Superintendent or Show Secretary at least one half-hour prior to the scheduled start of any regular conformation judging at the show. No dog may otherwise be transferred to another class. Owners are responsible for errors in the entry forms, regardless of who may make such errors.

The above amendment will apply to shows held on and after January 1, 2009.

There was a vote on the following amendments to four sections of the Rules Applying to Dog Shows all having the identical effect of bringing the Rules in line with the Bylaws in enabling the Board to set fees. Therefore, one vote was taken for all four amendments. The proposed amendments are to Chapter 17, Section 2; Chapter 2, Section 1; Chapter 2, Section 13 and Chapter 11, Section 2, of the Rules Applying to Dog Shows.

These amendments were requested by the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee and approved by the Board of Directors. The amendment would make the Rules consistent with the Bylaws which charge the Board with setting the fees.

The proposals were not adopted.

The Executive Secretary read the proposed amendment to Chapter 11, Section 1 of the Rules Applying to Dog Shows, and Chapter 7, Section 1, 2 and 3 of Beagle Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedures for Brace; Small Pack and Small Pack Option Field Trials and Two Couple Pack Hunting Tests; Beagle Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedures for Large Pack Field Trials; Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedures for Basset Hounds; Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedures for Dachshunds; Field Rules and Standard Procedures for Pointing Breeds; Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedures for Retrievers; and Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedure for Spaniels. These amendments would eliminate the problem of ineligible dogs shown on litter numbers. It would also encourage individual registration. Lower priced whole litter registration supports this change. The litter number provision was necessary when it took weeks to obtain an individual registration. This is no longer the case.

The amendment was submitted by Dog Show Rules Committee and approved by the AKC Board of Directors. It will be published in two issues of the *AKC GAZETTE*, and you will be asked to vote on it at the September 2008 meeting.

The Executive Secretary read the proposed amendment to Chapter 7, Section 13 of the Rules Applying to Dog Shows. These amendments would clarify the limit of entries and eliminate longer days that can result from multiple entries of the same dog, and would also permit judges to complete their provisionally approved breeds and advance to approved judging status without an unavoidable delay.

The amendment was submitted by the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee and approved by the AKC Board of Directors. It will be published in two issues of the *AKC GAZETTE* and you will be asked to vote on it at the September of 2008 meeting.

The Executive Secretary read the proposed amendments to Chapter 5, Sections 1, 2 and 3 of the Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedure for Retrievers, which would add wording to make these sections consistent with Chapter 14, Section 3, providing that only amateurs may judge; and Chapter 5, New Section 5 and Chapter 14, Section 23 of the Field Trial Rules Standard Procedures for Retrievers, which would improve the quality of judging by increasing the experience required for approval of a person to judge his or her first stake at which championship points are awarded.

The amendment was submitted by the 2007 Retriever Advisory Committee and approved by the AKC Board of Directors. It will be published in two issues of the *AKC GAZETTE*, and you will be asked to vote on it at the September 2008 meeting.

The Executive Secretary read the proposed amendment to Chapter 14, Section 8 of the Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedures for Retrievers. This amendment would provide clarification of retired gun tests without intruding on the reasonable discretion of the judges in setting tests.

This proposal was submitted by the 2007 Retriever Advisory Committee and

approved by the Board of Directors. It will be published in two issues in the *AKC GAZETTE*, and you will be asked to vote on it at the September 2008 meeting.

The Executive Secretary read the proposed amendment is to Chapter 14, Section 20, of the Field Trial Rules of Standard Procedures for Retrievers. This amendment would clarify the use of poisoned birds as diversion in blind retrieves.

The amendment was submitted by the 2007 Retriever Advisory Committee and approved by the Board of Directors. It will be published in two issues of the *AKC GAZETTE*, and you will be asked to vote on it at the September 2008 meeting.

The Executive Secretary read the proposed amendment is to Chapter 14, Section 10, new paragraph, of the Retriever Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedures. This change would allow for Canadian Kennel Club Field Champions to meet the eligibility requirements to participate in the same level AKC events subject to AKC registration requirements.

The amendment was requested by the 2007 Retriever Advisory Committee and approved by the Board of Directors. It will be published in two issues of the *AKC GAZETTE*, and you will be asked to vote on it at the September 2008 meeting.

The Executive Secretary read the proposed amendment to Chapter 14, Section 25, of the Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedures for Retrievers. This amendment would eliminate all references to walk ups from the Rules and clarify rules for handler/dog at the line.

The request was made by the 2007 Retriever Advisory Committee and approved by the Board of Directors. It will be published in two issues of the *AKC GAZETTE*, and you will be asked to vote on it at the September 2008 meeting.

The Chair announced that In accordance with the Standing Rule approved at the June 8, 1993 Delegate meeting, there will be an election for the Delegate committees at the September 2008 meeting.

Delegates now filling expired terms are eligible to be candidates. Any Delegate appoint-

ed to fill a vacancy on a committee from last September's election would have to self nominate to be a candidate. All Delegates not currently serving on one of the committees are eligible to self nominate for one committee. No Delegate can run for or serve on more than one of the committees created by the standing Rule. The only exception is that they may serve on the Coordinating Committee and on one standing committee. They may also serve on the Perspectives editorial staff and on one other standing committee as the former was established under a different standing Rule.

The Executive Secretary read the vacancies that are to be filled at the September Delegate meeting:

All Breed Clubs Committee: three three year terms; Bylaws Committee: four three year terms; Canine Health Committee: four three year terms; Delegate Advocacy and Advancement Committee: three three year terms and one two year term; Dog Show Rules Committee: three three year terms; Field Trial and Hunting Test Events Committee: four three year terms; Herding, Earthdog and Coursing Events Committee: four three year terms; Obedience, Tracking and Agility Committee: three three year terms; Parent Clubs Committee: three three year terms; Perspectives Editorial Staff: six two year terms and two one year terms.

The Chair announced that all Delegates would be sent the self nomination form by the end of June. The self nomination form must be returned to the Executive Secretary by Friday, July 25, 2008. Questions on the procedures to be followed should also be addressed to the Executive Secretary. Delegates may only self nominate for one committee, except that a member of the Perspectives Editorial Staff may also serve on another standing committee.

In August, the Delegates will be sent a list of nominees for each committee, their qualification statements and a sample ballot. At the September meeting, following the election of committees, meeting space will be provided for each committee to elect their Chair s and secretaries.

Dr. Tom Davies, Chair of the committee to reassess group alignment, gave the following

update: I apologize to those of you who may have already heard this statement and I am really sorry if you've heard it twice.

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

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

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

There is consideration for moving a small number of breeds to totally different groups. In each of these cases, the Parent Clubs will be offered the opportunity to poll their membership prior to a final recommendation. The final report with full details containing the recommendations of the committee will be presented to the Board of Directors who will subsequently release the information to the fancy.

Two other comments I'd like to make: Number one, because we are contacting a limited number of breed clubs, this does not preclude any breed club or anyone individually providing input to us. And number two, it has been pointed out to me that the final recommendation will be brought to the floor of the Delegates for a vote as a result of the fact that we are recommending additional groups.

So have no fear, you will have the opportunity to weigh in on this topic. This has been going on for four years now and we've continually asked for information but have received very little. So please, if you have any comments or would like to provide any

input, please feel free to do so.

Walter Bebout, Director of AKC Government Relations, gave the following report on the AKC Canine Experience: Good morning. I want to share with you an exciting new program. The American Kennel Club initiated in 2007: The American Kennel Club Canine Experience. All AKC affiliated clubs face several challenges: the need to identify and recruit new participants to the sport to sustain and increase event entries, and the need to engage in generational replacement to attract new members.

Last year we developed the AKC Educational Match, which has been renamed this year as the AKC Canine Experience. The goals of the Canine Experience are to attract new participants into the sport of purebred dogs, recruit potential members to local all breed and specialty clubs and foster stronger relationships between area clubs.

The AKC Canine Experience provides a unique setting wherein recent registrants of AKC dogs are invited to a day long event exposing them to the array of AKC activities. Local AKC club mentors provide a positive exposure to the world of AKC events. The AKC Canine Experience provides a relaxed, informal atmosphere to introduce AKC events facilitated by the availability of seasoned exhibitors willing to share their expertise with new AKC dog registrants. The day-long curriculum includes Dog Shows 101, wherein the dog show entry process is introduced and class divisions are explained, information is provided on obtaining premium lists and how to correctly complete an entry form. Basic show grooming requirements are demonstrated, followed by conformation and junior showmanship handling classes. Across the day, obedience, rally and agility demonstrations are provided to introduce AKC companion events. The AKC Canine Experience culminates with a conformation "B" match where new AKC registrants utilize their newly acquired skills in their first AKC competition setting.

At the AKC Canine Experience, new registrants are met at the door and greeted by club members who provide a new participant ribbon worn across the day to identify those individuals requiring instruction. Handling classes are conducted by area professional handlers and experienced club mem-

bers. The junior showmanship handling clinics are staffed by professional handlers and frequently includes judges approved to judge junior showmanship.

The grooming seminar segment provides an exposure to properly presenting coated breeds in the conformation rings. The obedience and rally demonstrations run throughout the day and include a "C" match with experienced rally and obedience exhibitors available for ringside mentoring.

Agility demonstrations and run throughs are provided across the day and the Canine Good Citizenship Program components are explained and CGC evaluations are conducted. The morning schedule includes coverage of dog show basics, handling classes for adults and juniors and grooming demonstrations. The afternoon session is the actual "B" match wherein new participants have their exposure to competition in AKC events.

The inaugural AKC Canine Experience was held in Raleigh, North Carolina in February 2007 and was followed by events in Portland, Oregon; Clinton, New Jersey, a second event in Raleigh earlier this year, and an event in Kansas City, Missouri this past month.

For the remainder of 2008, events are scheduled for Bay Shore, New York; Stillwater, Oklahoma; Lancaster, California; Scottsdale, Arizona; Long Island, New York, and St. Louis, Missouri. AKC Canine Experience's schedule to date for 2009 include Denver, Colorado; San Raphael, California, and Minneapolis, Minnesota.

I want to highlight the Kansas City, Missouri AKC Canine Experience held on May 10th of this year. 51 clubs, including all-breed clubs, participated in the Canine Experience. These 51 clubs provided 254 members as mentors for new exhibitors. The total entry for the event was 417 entries. 40 percent of the competitors were attending their first exposure to any AKC activity and 70 percent of the competing junior showmanship entries were first time participants. The 51 clubs conducting the Kansas City Experience rented the American Royal facility, provided more than 250 club members to mentor new exhibitors and charged no entry fee for participation in the event or the sanctioned match.

These Missouri and Kansas clubs determined to expend monies from their treasuries and donate the time and expertise of

their members to recruit new participants to AKC events. It is our hope that other clubs will join with the American Kennel Club in the Canine Experience effort.

The participation of multiple clubs guarantees the success of the Canine Experience. All breed, group clubs, individual breed specialty clubs and obedience and agility clubs provide the desired mix of mentors to assist new exhibitors. AKC supports the Canine Experience by inviting new dog registrants in the area who have registered a dog with the American Kennel Club in the past 18 months. AKC Public Education Department provides AKC signage and banners to display the day of the event and facilitates contact with local media outlets to promote the event. Two local television stations taped and aired segments of the Kansas City Canine Experience providing positive exposure for purebred dogs in AKC events in a media market of more than two million individuals.

All of you here today can recall the time when we were new to the sport of purebred dogs and can readily identify a mentor or a series of mentors who provided the necessary guidance to introduce us to AKC events. Our success as breeders and exhibitors can be traced to experienced individuals willing to share their expertise with someone new to the world of purebred dogs. The AKC Canine Experience brings together new AKC dog owners and experienced mentors to introduce the range of AKC activities available to dog owners. If you would like to have additional information about the AKC Canine Experience, please contact the Public Education Department. Additional information regarding the AKC Canine Experience is available today at the AKC booth located in the hallway. We invite your clubs to join us in providing a great day at the dog show for new AKC dog owners. Thank you.

Daisy Okas, Assistant Vice President of Communications gave the following update on public relations: Good morning. I send you periodic updates via e-mail with highlights of our media coverage but since the national coverage we have obtained during the first six months of this year has been unprecedented, I thought you'd enjoy a brief live presentation. To put it in perspective, the total audience reach since January 1 has been over 2 billion, compared with 650 mil-

lion for all of 2007, so we are on target to more than quadruple or quintuple our reach in 2008. These stellar numbers are due mainly to a few successful campaigns which I will highlight for you today.

Each January, we announce our annual registration statistics. Our goal is to proactively inspire media coverage about our organization in a way that a very broad audience can relate to, thus enhancing the relevance of our brand and public education messages. As you know, the media is often focused on lighthearted stories about dogs – whether it's Puggles or Paris Hilton's latest pet store acquisition. To ensure that well-bred purebred dogs are just as much a part of the popular culture, we focus on our registration trends and create eye catching photo opportunities.

We debuted the news by booking spokesperson Gina Lash for an exclusive appearance on the *Today Show*. Following that we held a press conference with puppies and adults from all top 10 breeds in attendance, It was covered by every major news organization in NYC and many national outlets as well. One of the reasons that our impressions continue to rise so markedly is due to the power of the Internet. Nearly every TV segment we do has corresponding web coverage that goes more in depth than the original news story. After our registration stats segment, *Today Show* producers told us that this story generated some of the highest traffic they have seen recently on their site-- over 30 million hits to the pages.

National publicity in addition to *Today* included CNN, *Regis & Kelly* and *People* magazine. Some of the coverage directed people to a web page that is a wonderful educational resource

<http://www.akc.org/puppybuyerinfo/> and we aimed to remind the public of many aspects of being a responsible dog owner throughout the campaign.

Again online coverage is critical today in getting the word out. The registration statistics made the home pages of both Yahoo and AOL. The audience reach for this 'prime online real estate' is massive at 110 million and 60 million respectively.

Our campaign was also tailored to attract local coverage such as this Arizona Republic clip– we issued a customized press release with the top 10 breeds in the 50 largest cities in the U.S. We have been able to increase the reach of this effort year after year – this

year totaling over 410 million impressions for this campaign alone.

We have also been very successful with some of our cautionary educational messages such- Buyer Beware and Pet Theft. We want potential dog lovers to be educated about the responsible way to acquire a dog and to keep their pets safe once they have them. We appeared on the Today show about both these stories.

We made yet another *Today Show* appearance on St. Patrick's Day when we had a 6 minute segment that allowed Gina Lash to talk about the characteristics of all the Irish breeds. Speaking of the Irish, Lisa Peterson on was brave enough to take on *Bill O'Reilly* and try to educate him about bull breeds. BTW, AKC spokespersons have made appearances on *Today Show* 4 times in the last six months and- each appearance reaches 9 million viewers.

But while we love the Today show, Matt Lauer has nothing on two of the biggest divas in the media biz: Martha and Oprah. Bill Secord made an appearance on Martha to promote one of our licensees, Meisner Gallery, which makes reproductions of AKC artwork. We received prominent coverage of the topic on Martha's web site as well.

As you probably know we made a statement during Oprah Winfrey's recent show about puppy mills. While the show was originally taped without our knowledge, the producers did later agree to incorporate a message from us into the show. We are continuing to work with Oprah and it is our hope that her interest in animal welfare will enable us to demonstrate our commitment to high standards and, that the dog fancy will continue to be engaged in the discussion.

We also do well with newspaper coverage and have recently worked with national newspapers including the *Wall Street Journal* and *NYTimes*. The *WSJ* highlighted our pet insurance and the *NYTimes* covered the dedication of fanciers who travel with their dogs to shows.

Syndication is a concept Dennis has asked us to pursue. At his urging, we have developed two programs resulting in AKC content being provided and published in dozens of daily newspapers and news web sites around the country. For over 2 years we have offered all journalists access to pre-packaged AKC information via our web-based syndicate. We use our syndicate to publish articles that are of specific interest to the fancy

as well as pet owners, and we encourage you to use the content in your own newsletters, breed publications and web sites. The logo and password are shown on the screen, so make sure to check it out if you haven't already.

Also, we have recently forged a relationship with McClatchy Syndicate which reaches over 1,000 outlets. They are using two AKC articles per month- one example is this clip about "Doing More With Your Dog" which was picked up by the *Wichita Eagle* last week And FINALLY, contrary to the popular belief, not all awards are bestowed in the show ring! The Communications Department is proud to receive recognition from within the public relations industry. Just this year we have been recognized by four organizations for multiple campaigns. We received 3 honorable mentions at the Public Relations Society of America Big Apple Awards for our registration stats, buyer beware and PSA campaigns; and 3 platinum Hermes awards for the same 3 campaigns. We are finalists in The American Business Awards; aka the "Stevie's" for our Buyer Beware efforts and we won two Bronze anvil awards from Public Relations Society of America for specific tactics- our registration statistics press conference and our TV PSAs. I hope you enjoyed the presentation. I'm going to email you all this PPT to you so you can share it with your clubs. While we have received a great deal of recognition from national media recently, it's still very crucial that all our clubs - ESPECIALLY MEMBERS clubs -AHEM -be continually reaching out to their local communities. Our club communications resource page on the web site offers dozens of ideas and templates for all of you to conduct your own media outreach in your hometowns. And with AKC RDO Day coming up, you have plenty of opportunities to reach out and remind lovers everywhere of what the AKC and purebred dogs have to offer.

P.S. Look closely, that's not Uncle Sam.

John Lyons, Chief Operating Officer, announced the second quarter AKC Community Achievement Awards: I'm pleased to announce the Second Quarter AKC Community Achievement Awards. This award is given to AKC clubs or federations and their members who have made outstanding contributions to public education or canine legislation activities. Each honoree receives an

AKC certificate of recognition and the AKC donates \$1,000 to each honoree's club or federation. Details about the honoree's accomplishments are published in the *AKC GAZETTE* and featured on the AKC web site.

The second quarter honorees are: Suzanne E. Benchhoff of the Chambersburg Area Kennel Club; Ann McGlooin of the Sussex Spaniel Club of America, Delegate John R. Lewis, Jr.; and Elaine Shoe Ezell, Garden State Golden Retriever Club. Please join me in congratulating the honorees.

The Chair reported the September 2008 will be held at the Sheraton Newark Airport Hotel on Tuesday, September 9th. Delegates were also advised that the December meeting will be held at the Hyatt Regency Long Beach (California) Hotel on Tuesday, December 16th.

During New Business, the following Delegates spoke:

Thompson Stanfield, Delegate for the Terry-All Kennel Club, expressed appreciation to the staff of AKC for their prompt response in the wake of the Windsor tornados.

Judith Daniels, Delegate for the Mt. Baker Kennel Club, speaking as Chairman of the Bylaws Committee, presented the following resolution, which was overwhelmingly adopted: "It is the consensus of the AKC Delegates in attendance at the June 9, 2008 meeting, that the Board of Directors take no final action regarding the listing, enrolling or registering of mixed-breed dogs and the sponsoring of competition events for mixed-breed dogs without the approval of the AKC Delegates."

Dr. Carmen Battaglia, Delegate for the German Shepherd Dog Club of America, stressed the urgency of the Delegates addressing the issue of declining registrations.

Dr. Thomas Davies, Delegate for the Springfield Kennel Club, introduced members of the Group Realignment Committee, who were present.

Cindy Vogels, Delegate for the Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club of America, announced the AKC AKC/CHF podcasts available on both the AKC/CHF website and on iTunes. The podcasts consist of presentations from the AKC/CHF Breeder Symposia.

Susan Glatzer, Delegate for the Bearded Collie Club of America expressed the hope that the AKC Humane Fund should not just be used to financially support AKC Events.

Sylvia Arrowwood, Delegate for the Charleston Kennel Club, requested articles for Perspectives.

Joachim Blutreich, Delegate for the Piedmont Kennel Club, had questions on bringing dogs back into the registry, which were addressed by David Roberts and Mari-Beth O'Neill, AKC staff.

Marge Caltharp, Delegate for the Chinese Shar-Pei Club of America, presented information on a highly successful match held by the Kenilworth Kennel Club.

Barbara Schwartz, Delegate for the St. Louis Kennel Club, expressed concerns over the bringing of dogs back into the registry, which was addressed by Mari-Beth O'Neill.

Patricia Laurans, Delegate for the German Wirehaired Pointer Club, requested that Delegates again be advised of how to use the Delegate Portal, and that they be advised when any important information was posted there.

Judy Hart, Delegate for the Pembroke Welsh Corgi Club of America, requested that a tracking number be included in the registration number of dogs registered under the conditional program.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:08 P.M.)

The opinions expressed by the speakers may not necessarily reflect those of The American Kennel Club.