



# Perspectives

The Delegates' Newsletter

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# Perspectives WRITERS' GUIDELINES

Thank you for your interest in contributing to *Perspectives*. Following are guidelines we ask our contributors to follow. They simplify our jobs as editors and yours as writers and help us produce a quality publication while enabling us to get *Perspectives* out on time.

- **Write for your audience.** *Perspectives* is prepared by and for AKC Delegates who represent a wide variety of member clubs through the country. Our readers are very knowledgeable dog people.
- **Be certain that any facts in your article are accurate.** Double-check them. Clearly state when a statement is your own opinion.
- Whenever possible and appropriate, **try to include input/quotes from others who are experts on your topic.** Always attribute any quote to its original source.
- **Articles should be submitted typewritten or electronically, via e-mail.** Solicited articles should be sent to the committee member who requested the article. Unsolicited articles should be submitted to the Issue Coordinator for the upcoming issue OR the Editor.
- **We suggest articles be approximately 500 to 1500 words in length.**
- Do not rely solely on spelling and grammar check, as they do not proof word usage. **After preparing your article, read it once more before submitting it.** Use a dictionary to check word meaning and spelling.
- **Send in your article electronically, as early as possible.** Submissions will be due by the 15th of the month following each Delegates Meeting. If your article arrives after the issue deadline, it may not be used in the current issue and may be returned to you or held until the next issue.
- **A submission to *Perspectives* may not be reproduced in other publications without the written permission of the author and the *Perspectives* Editor.**
- **Any product in the name of a committee** must be approved for release by the committee prior to publication in *Perspectives*.

Again — thank you for your interest. Without you, there would not be a *Perspectives*.

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The coordinator for the December 2015 issue of *Perspectives* will be Lynn Worth-Smith.

Please email articles directly to her at [lynhar@aol.com](mailto:lynhar@aol.com)

with a copy to Sherry Wallis at [sherry@sherob.com](mailto:sherry@sherob.com) by October 15, 2015.



## Perspectives

The Delegates' Newsletter

*Perspectives* is a publication for, and written by, the Delegates, with an occasional article solicited by Editorial Board members ONLY from acknowledged experts in their field. It is a forum for the exchange of ideas, for argument, for news. Through this medium, we hope to become better informed and, thereby, better equipped to fulfill our responsibilities as Delegates. Your contributions are welcome, and necessary, in making this publication a useful enterprise. Please assist the Editorial Board by submitting material via e-mail. We reserve the right to reasonably edit all copy submitted. Opinions expressed in *Perspectives* are not necessarily representative of the views of the Editor, the *Perspectives* Editorial Board, or of the American Kennel Club.

# FROM WHERE I SIT: MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

DANIEL J. SMYTH, ESQ., *Perspectives* Chair, Burlington County Kennel Club

Editorial

With September comes a new round of committee member selections as we look forward to another year of committee activity which has so enhanced the role of the Delegate body. We, on the *Perspectives* committee, will see a continuation of the same hard working individuals as we rarely have a contested election. The reason for this is obvious. It is a hard working committee with obligations to encourage and work with delegates to produce articles of substance and quality.

Additionally, *Perspectives* members take on the added responsibility of writing articles, proofing submitted articles, editing them, and doing everything necessary to bring an informative and interesting publication to the delegates four times a year. This is a collaborative effort with AKC staff who put the professional finishing touches on each issue. This attitude has prevailed in *Perspectives* since its inception, and hopefully will continue on for many years into the future.

You may notice that this edition is lighter than usual. That is because as our lives become more and more complex, as we are at the beck and call of the ever present cell phone, and as we need to constantly use our fingers to type emails, we get caught up in minutia and sometimes do not have enough time left in a day, to present a bigger picture to our community. Without articles from you, the information creators, we will not be successful in our mission.

We all see the comments that are so thought out on line, sometimes correct, sometimes askew, but none the less important to the writer. A lot of thought is put into some of these comments and concerns. These are worthy thoughts

and maybe next time you will take a minute to put them down on paper and share them with the entire Delegate body through a *Perspectives* article. We are an editorial publication which presents the opinions of the delegates. We often will obtain counter point articles when major discussions are being ensued. Your Delegate body needs to be as informed as it can be, and the thoughts and discussion begin with you.

Summertime is a challenge for all of us time wise as we seek to take that long well-earned break from our everyday lives. Outdoor and fresh air replace the stuffiness of our offices and keyboards. Fall is coming quickly, so why not get that nagging issue you have been thinking about, off your back and into the minds of your fellow delegates? Perhaps you have a positive story to tell about your club's individual success in some area of our extensive dog world or in your local community. We learn from each other.



This quarter, please consider writing an article for *Perspectives*. Our editorial committee members are hard working, however, we need you, the creative thinker, the questioner, the bragger, and the opinionated to enhance our publication, and add some thought to our ever expanding dog world. It is only through sharing of our knowledge, concerns and experience, will we be able to improve not only ourselves as delegates, but our member clubs as well. Think about it, are you doing your part in this regard? If you want to do more, if we want to move the needle in the right direction, this is one avenue that would welcome your expressive thoughts.

*See you in September!*

# THE CM RULE CHANGE...IT'S MORE THAN A TITLE!

CARL ASHBY\*, United States Kerry Blue Terrier Club, Inc.

## Rule Change

In September we will be asked to vote on a rule change to allow a puppy up to 12 months to earn a suffix title, a Certificate of Merit (CM). In order to earn this title the puppy must earn 15 Certificate of Merit points. Once the puppy does so the suffix title will be added to his/her pedigree.

One part of the proposal would grant a single championship point to a puppy who earns the CM leaving 14 points yet to be earned including both majors. Discussion among delegates and others has focused on this single championship point, which has prevented some from considering what is key to the proposal, namely, expanding the ability to earn the CM suffix title. The proposal was written in a way that allows this part of the proposal to be eliminated and, while I have no personal objection to the single point, the balance of this article will make the case for passage of the proposal with or without the “one championship point” option. Readers are asked to put that issue aside and consider why this change has merit and the potential to be beneficial to the sport and our Clubs.

The conformation sport is difficult for new people. If they don't have a friend or a breeder to mentor them, they do not become interested at all or drop out after only five shows. We continue to see a decline in conformation participation which is the bedrock of purebred dogs. Through June of this year, the average show had eighteen fewer dogs and the number of unique dogs shown continued to decline. In the first six months of this year we have had 2200 fewer dogs start the quest for their championship. Fortunately, we have a dedicated, but aging group of fanciers who continue to show their dogs more times mitigating the show entry decline.

The staff and Board of Directors are seeking ways to bring new people into the sport. We have used short-term band aids such as the Grand Champion and the National Owner-Handled Series to keep our experienced exhibitors in the ring and off the couch. It has helped, but the reality is new blood is needed.

The Beginning Puppy Competition (BPup) was a strategy intended to get new folks introduced to the

sport. Research shows that 26% of the participants in BPup are new to the sport and about 65% of those new exhibitors continue to show after their puppy is 6 months old (e.g. is there are 100 puppies entered we have seventeen new people showing a dog). The good news is the numbers suggest the strategy is working. This class is a good introduction to the

sport and it is attracting new people. What is critical is to build on the momentum and to continue to improve the percentage of new people participating as well as those who go beyond BPup. Making the CM achievable will help to

accomplish these goals. To date not one puppy has earned the CM making changes essential!

We are a traditional body and it's hard to grasp the notion of an easier competition. Think of your own children or grandchildren and the environment in which they participate as they grow. In sports everyone must play. In all aspects of a child's life today they are rewarded for achieving goals you and I had to work for. There are awards for simply participating! The result is a society of expectations. They, as young adults, enter a dog show, don't win, and quit. The data is clear that this is the case. We all know it takes years to learn our sport, but we also know we live in an instant gratification world. These facts don't mix well in a millennial world. If they don't get the success they seek, they quickly move on. Finding ways to engage these people and provide recognition as they hone their skills and their interest grows is essential. The very nature of the sport makes it hard to provide a path with “training” wheels. For example, there are fourteen prefix titles across all sports and only two of those are conformation. There are 104 suffix titles across all our sports and only one in conformation, the CM for BPup and Miscellaneous. This is a tough sport and the rewards are few and far between especially for people new to the sport. All of our other sports provide a path for early success with ever increasing difficulty. The extension of the CM suffix title will go a long way to give the newbies something to strive to achieve even if their dog is not championship material. Few of us started with a championship quality dog. We had two Kerry Blues before

*“Over the last ten years we have seen a 37% decline in entries in the puppy class”*

we finally found a person who believed in us and sold us Penny who ultimately became the foundation of Blujac. It's not likely that many of the people who are new and seek the CM will have a championship quality dog. However, by coming to shows frequently they will both see good dogs and have the opportunity to meet people in their breed who will ultimately take them under their wing just as people did for each of us when we were just starting out in dogs.

We also know that our existing base needs a purpose and reason to show a puppy. Only about 5% of the dogs finish their championship under twelve months and they are mostly Toys. Over the past ten years we have seen a 37% decline in entries in the puppy class. Giving our existing exhibitors a reason to show young dogs will have a positive impact on puppy entries and provide the needed incentive to bring younger dogs back to the shows. Just as the Ch and GCh titles are important before the dog's name, the CM will become important on the back of the dog's name.

There is one aspect of the CM Point Schedule that is controversial, but is essential to remain "as is" today *if* this change is to have the desired impact. The CM schedule allows a puppy to earn a single CM point without competition. It is analogous to getting an award for simply participating and seems counter intuitive to our culture and hard for many to accept.

We must keep our eye on the prize and remember what we are trying to accomplish. The reality of the size of the current puppy entry and the fact the CM is more of a "persistence" title than our Ch and GCh prefix titles which are truly breeding stock titles.

The fact is that over half our breeds are low entry breeds which suggests that rarely will there be competition for these breeds and there is only a random chance of a point on any but the most popular breeds. The exhibitor base, new or experienced, will quickly figure this out and not enter. When that happens all the potential benefits discussed above are lost and we are back to having little hope of rebuilding our base.

There is no way to accurately predict the increase in entry as a result of this change but, over time, I believe it can have a profound impact on puppy entries. Clubs will benefit greatly if this proposal is adopted. For low entry breeds, it will take fifteen entries with no competition to earn the CM. That is a lot of potential revenue to help pay the bills. Equally important, it is building a new generation of potential club members, workers, and who knows, many new delegates!

We are slow to change a rule and for good reason. We want to be sure we are not going down a path we will regret. In this case there is only upside. We entice and reward new exhibitors, we give our existing base a reason to enter their puppies, and we build show entries for our clubs.

Rarely do we get to approve a rule where everyone wins. I plan to vote to approve extending the CM opportunity to twelve months and I urge you to do so as well.

*\*This article represents only my views, and while consistent with those of the AKC Board of Directors, I am not speaking for them, but rather as the Delegate of the United States Kerry Blue Terrier Club, Inc. If you have any questions please contact me directly.*

*Thank you*

to the September, 2015 *Perspectives*  
Coordinator, Sylvia Arrowwood,  
and our contributing writers.

Their hard work made this issue possible.

# A HORSE OF A DIFFERENT COLOR

DON JAMES, Leonberger Club Of America

Delegates

New York City Mayor Bill DeBlasio has it completely wrong. Animal activists have convinced every inch of his 6' 5" frame that the nearly 150 year tradition of Central Park carriage horses needs to be dismantled.

I'm sure most of us have seen the CNN documentary called 'Blackfish' which casts a pretty poor light on Sea World's treatment of its population of Orcas (Killer Whales). While I don't have information to either confirm or deny this treatment, I try to reserve judgement on such accusations until I can see the situation firsthand. That's the way I felt about the carriage horse issue which prompted some information gathering.

Since the mid-1800s, Central Park has been home



to the carriage trade. It would be difficult to imagine the number of residents and visitors to New York City that have taken a ride in one of those handsome cabs. Today, the industry is under fire from animal activists. They are convinced that horses central to this industry are being mistreated and claim many are dying in the completion of their jobs. The problem is, they have managed to convince many top officials in the City, including Mayor DeBlasio, that they speak the truth.

In June, Hockamock KC Delegate Nancy Fisk arranged for a group of delegates to tour one of the stables where the carriage horses are housed. I was interested in going because, outside of a memorable episode from *Seinfeld*, I didn't know a lot about this industry and even less about the



problem involving the activists. In short, I was in the perfect position to, as I said, "see it for myself."

The bus dropped us off at the entrance to the stable just as a horse and carriage were pulling in at the end of a shift.

We were greeted by Christina Hansen, a carriage driver who would be our tour guide. Before we went upstairs to see where the horses were lodged, Christina, dressed appropriately in a top hat, took some time to present us with some fascinating facts about the carriage horses.

Despite what the activists claim about the treatment of the horses, each one has its own stall, amply supplied with hay. Even though the building is air conditioned, each stall also has a powerful fan just outside the door which can be activated during extremely hot days or if the air conditioning system malfunctions. Each horse is examined by a fully certified equine veterinarian once every 3 months. The results of those exams are posted on the door of each horse's stall. The entire building is protected by a sprinkler system. Contrary to what the activists would like us to believe, the horses are not worked from dawn to dusk every day seven days a

week. The fact is, the number of hours each horse is in the park is carefully monitored by the staff. Each horse is given 5 weeks of vacation per year. During the vacation period, the horses are transported to a rural farm in Pennsylvania where they do absolutely nothing, but rest, eat, and play.

When you think about it, how much sense would it make to mistreat these animals? Each horse is

owned by the person who drives the carriage in the park. That is their job. Without their horse in prime condition, they have no source of income.

Following this introduction, we were invited to climb the ramp used by the horses to move in and out of the building. This would be our chance to meet some of the horses who were not currently working. The horses who do this work are Percherons, draft horses originally bred in western France. It is an intelligent breed, well-muscled, possessing a tremendous working drive.

The place was a beehive of activity. Many stable employees were mucking out the stalls of horses that were on the job while others were getting their charges ready to hit the park. The horses were remarkably friendly. Most of us would have killed to reach in our pocket and somehow find an apple. I noted the size of the stalls. While the activists claim the horses are trapped in stalls not much bigger than the space of a starting gate stall at a horse race, they actually were huge with plenty of room for the occupants to turn around and lay down. We noted that each stall was equipped with a nose activated water fountain.

Of course, no trip to one of these barns would be complete without a trip into the manure room. Yes, we all went inside that room and, as they say, that's all the news that's fit to print.

Christina was a fount of information about the history of carriage horses in the City. She answered all of our questions and ended the tour with a nice little wine and cheese offering in the stable office.

We then reboarded our bus and took off for Central Park. Delegates broke into groups of four and waited for the next carriage to pull up. Although the ride was complimentary, we knew from our conversations with Christine that the folks who drive the carriages do so as a job. None of us would have felt comfortable taking this "free ride" without tipping our drivers in the amount they nor-

mally would expect to receive.

Our individual carriage was driven by Bill, a native of Ireland who was entering his 30th year driving his carriage through Central Park. He made it very clear to us that his horse, Valentine, was what allows him to do a job he truly loves and how important it was for him to take great care of Valentine.

We had a wonderful day. I would urge all of you to get involved if you get a chance to take one of these tours. I realize by the time you read this, the September tour will already be over,

but we are hoping that we can schedule these things periodically for delegates who might enjoy such a day as much as we did.

It's important to understand that all of us walked away that Saturday with the knowledge that these carriage horses could not possibly be cared for in a better fashion. As part of the bigger pic-

ture, we certainly learned that animal activists, for the most part, are completely uninformed of the facts surrounding the treatment of these horses. That or they choose to distort the truth for their own purposes. Sound familiar? Our sport has been the subject of this type of truth distortion and worse! My guess would be that this axiom most likely holds true for any cause that people like this choose to espouse. One thing Christina said stuck with me as I made my way back to the bus. She said carriage horse representatives have reached out to the activist leaders on numerous occasions and invited them to come to one of the stables and view the conditions that the horses live in for themselves. To date, not a single activist has taken them up on their offer.

Could it be they just don't want to know??

*"...these carriage horses could not possibly be cared for in a better fashion."*



## A NOT SO MODEST IDEA

MONICA STONER, *Saluki Club of America*

Our goal and mission as dedicated dog people as well as delegates is to keep our sport alive and healthy. To this end, the AKC has created a wealth of new competitions and titles, all with the goal of keeping exhibitors in the ring long after they have reached their initial goal, for example, finishing their dogs. This has been working! The specials entry at almost every show has grown exponentially. Unfortunately, the target audience for National Owner-Handled Series (NOHS) and the Select award is the group of people in the ring at the end of the competition: current champions and winners for that day.

What about the rest of the dogs in the ring? Yes, they can set a goal of ‘one day’ being able to qualify for the NOHS finals competition, or piling up Grand Champion points and earning a variety of medals, if they stay in the game long enough. Was that really the desired end result?

This is not a diatribe against judging, the power of money and egos, or handlers. This is about coming up with a way to honor those who invest their time and energy into their dogs, and who would do even more if their work was recognized, not just in conformation but in all AKC events.

Yes, AKC offers titles in all these events and we can add letters before and after our dog’s name. We can strive for titles at both ends of our dog’s name, or concentrate on only part of the available fun and accomplishments with our dogs. What if we could achieve recognition for all we do with our dogs? What if there was a very special award, achievable by entering both conformation and/or companion and/or performance events on the same day, at the same show?

Think about it. Think about picking up that premium list and looking at the selected judges. Hmm, not someone we want to travel that far to show to, but wait! This show weekend offers Obedience and Rally as well. Why not try for those special award points?

How would this work? Let’s take an arbitrary total, say 100 points. Every time you enter the show, pick up your armband and go into the ring, you can achieve one point. Bonus points for winning in conformation and qualifying in a companion event. More Bonus points (or a requirement) for Owner-Handled.

“*..all our dogs should have those three letters after their name.*”

Bonus points (or a requirement) for the same handler in more than one event.

Before the final title is awarded, the dog/handler team must finish conformation and companion titles. Plus, as an option, achieve their CGC titles. I feel very strongly that all our dogs should have those three letters after their names. And, again, it leads to more involvement, good will, and possibly the thought of doing it all over again with another dog!

What are some of the other pluses?

There would be entry fees for the show giving club, which means more AKC fees. A title that can be achieved by most of us, with hard work, not just money. Giving competitors an opportunity to expand their knowledge of the rest of the dog world. (Cleverly hidden in a new title) How many Companion dog competitors think there is nothing to trotting their dog around in a circle? How many Conformation people think ‘any dog’ can sit and stay? More dogs bred and raised to achieve in a variety of venues. Expanded business for local dog training centers, where we can learn new skills. More interest in matches where we can polish these skills and a richer life for dog and owner.

Is there a downside? Scheduling could be difficult, not impossible, but difficult. Some clubs don’t have room for all these events in the same venue at the same time. That is a problem, a possible solution would be to relax the requirement of ‘on the same day’ to ‘at the same set of shows.’ Some clubs don’t have enough members interested in Companion events to offer those events. Perhaps in that area there are licensed or member clubs solely for Companion events, to bring in as partners. Thinking outside the box will help all of us.

Please, take a minute or more to think about this idea. Help come up with a name for this award. Talk with your local dog friends, with the other Delegates. Heck, I’ll be at the September 2015 meeting, look me up and we can chat up a storm.

This program won’t interest everyone. That’s fine! We have a variety of breeds and a variety of competitions to give everyone the opportunity to find a home in AKC events. I think it will interest those who want to compete, but have lost heart with the all or nothing world of Conformation.

Remember, we are not just about champion dogs.



# RECOMMENDED BEST PRACTICES: MEMBERSHIP

MARGARET DICORLETO, Greater Murfreesboro Kennel Club

CATHY RUBENS, Fayetteville Kennel Club

## Best Practices

The All Breed Clubs Committee has set a goal to establish recommended best practices for all breed clubs. In Fall 2014, a subcommittee consisting of Margaret DiCorleto, Nancy Fisk, John Ronald, Ann Wallin, Peggy Wampold, and Cathy Rubens, chair, began work on the first phase of the project which dealt with club membership. Thanks to an excellent response to a survey sent to licensed and member clubs, the committee can now offer important information about why prospective club members join clubs, what clubs can do to attract and maintain membership, and how to encourage positive functioning within a club.

Complete survey results and the entire Best Practices: Membership document can be found at the All Breed Clubs Resource Library located on the AKC website, but the committee is pleased to share a short summary with *Perspectives'* readers. The document can be revised, updated and amended as needed in the future.

When considering changes within your club, remember to check your constitution and bylaws. Any changes to these documents requires a 2/3 vote of the membership and approval by AKC.

### GENERAL BEST PRACTICES:

All clubs should develop a Mission Statement which should be consistent with the club's objectives as stated in the club's constitution. Having the Mission Statement as a separated document allows for it to be readily reviewed and revised as needed.

All clubs should develop short term and long term goals which support the club's Mission Statement. Goals and objectives may be developed by

the club's board but should include active support and participation by the general membership.

### MEMBERSHIP:

Clubs should have a membership committee or a board appointed individual responsible for encouraging and supporting club membership. This should include a clear and concise membership application and membership criteria. Different types of membership can be offered and the AKC Club Relations Department can offer guidance and assistance re. acceptable types of membership.

Clubs should consider developing a Code of Conduct which can become part of the membership application and membership renewal process. The AKC Care and Conditions Policy and Code of Sportsmanship can be used as guidelines for the

club's Code of Conduct.

Clubs should consider establishing a Mentor Program to welcome new members and help them get involved in club activities.

Clubs should use social media in various forms. The club's board can appoint at least one person to be responsible for the use and

content of social media such as Facebook, Twitter, community calendars or the club's website.

Clubs should take advantage of any opportunity to publicize their activities and reach potential new members. Information tables can be set up at local fairs and community events, equestrian events, cat shows, or livestock exhibits. Make sure local boarding facilities, shelters, veterinarians, and pet supply stores are aware of your club and what it offers. Contact the local Chamber of Commerce to

“Top two reasons to join a club... “socialization” and “to learn about dogs””



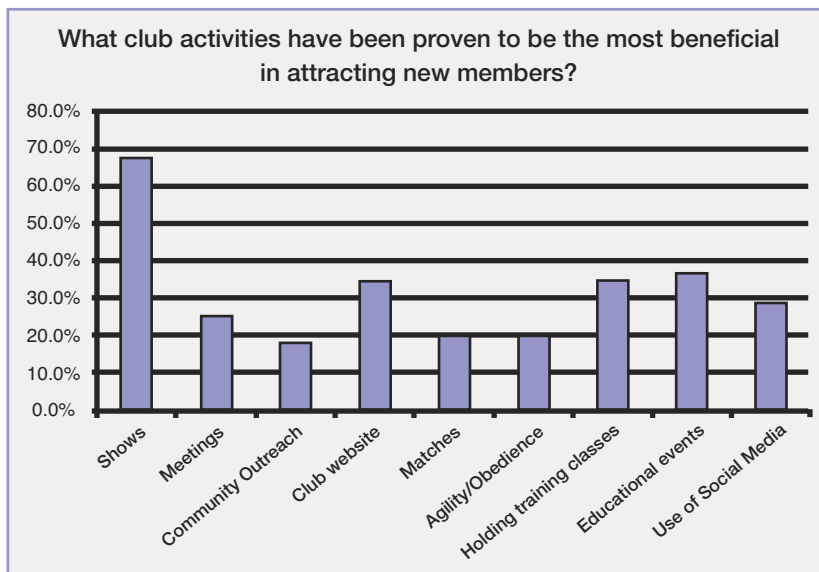
**Best Practices**

make them aware of your club and its activities.

Clubs should consider reaching out to all age groups for potential members. Young people in programs such as 4-H, Boy/Girl Scouts and Junior Showmanship may welcome becoming involved in dog related activities. Retired people may also welcome getting involved in the sport of purebred dogs and have the time and resources to devote to club activities.

Clubs should also consider reaching out to participants in the Canine Partners program since they are another source of potential members.

The top two reasons that people give for joining a dog club are “socialization” and “to learn about dogs.” Social events can be as simple as a club picnic or as special as a holiday party. Likewise, educational experiences can be as simple as a talk by a local trainer or expert, training classes, or a group trip.



Equally important to club membership is good communication with club members and recognition of members’ participation and achievements. Clubs should keep in touch with members through email, newsletters, or a website. Regular meetings help keep members in-

formed and involved. Members should be recognized for titles or awards earned and for their contributions to the club as volunteers at club events. Too often club members criticize other club members or take their efforts for granted. As one Facebook poster has written, “Being told you’re appreciated is one of the simplest and most uplifting things you can hear.”

The committee’s next topic is Events. Anyone with suggestions for questions on this topic should contact Cathy Rubens at [cathy.rubens@gmail.com](mailto:cathy.rubens@gmail.com)

**WORKING TOGETHER**

MICHAEL SOSNE, Oakland County Kennel Club

**Delegates**

Ever since I have been in our sport, I have heard the saying, “We have to work together”. This has applied to the local Breed/Obedience clubs, the All Breed Club, the Parent Club and especially to the clubs working together with others clubs. Now, it has a wider impact than ever before, on the Delegate body and all its committees.

It is easy to say we have to combine our efforts to accomplish A, B, C, and D. Too often though, these well intentioned words have lost their meaning and in some cases, been replaced with dialogue of why something cannot be

done. A psychologist once stated that too often it is like putting two TVs face-to-face. There is noise, but no one hears what the other has to say. What I would like to present to my fellow dog friends is an idea, a menu, or a recipe for a positive approach to “working together.” The following are thoughts to provoke this thinking, leading to resolutions of differences in thought, personal biases, points of reference, and past practices.

Too many times our thought processes are so far ahead of what the other person is saying, their meaning and position go unnoticed - the two TV

*Make a deliberate effort to LISTEN*

effect. One needs to make a deliberate effort to LISTEN to the words of the other person; a skill we all need to perfect. You might not agree with the other person's idea, but you can and should let them know you will make every effort to use some or all of their ideas/suggestions to mutually accomplish the task set before all parties. People need to know that they are PART of the solution and have some degree of ownership in the process. This is a MUST. Dialogue creates thought, even if it is contrary to one's own set of ideas. Stimulating one to think is a positive step toward expanding the creation of ideas in others. This can, and will, open up otherwise pre-existing boundaries.

We should be careful not to screen out others ideas, comments or suggestions. In so doing, the possibility exists of losing valuable input to resolve problems in building a final product. If one experiences acceptance of their contributions, they will be more apt to initiate further suggestions.

Too often, I have witnessed a great deal of well-

intentioned efforts to state the problem and why something cannot be done. This expenditure would be better served by spending time and energy in a positive approach, jointly building a resolution to the situation at hand. This creates a true concept of acceptance and respect for others. Enacting this process is the cornerstone to working together and has the potential to drastically reduce or hopefully eliminate, defensive mechanisms of the other person(s).

The aim is to elevate the other person's image of themselves as a valued contributor. The goal is not to curtail the development of ideas, but to enhance the delivery of these ideas to the group.

Some thought stimulating concepts have been presented here. Though it may be difficult it may be for some, we must put aside our own egos and pride for the sake of others, and the mission set before us. Lastly, success breeds success; failure breeds failure. I encourage my colleagues to give serious consideration to the benefits of "working together."

## AKC BRED WITH H.E.A.R.T. AN INTERVIEW WITH CLAUDIA WALLER ORLANDI, PH.D

PENNY LEIGH, AKC Registration And Development Staff

Bowser entered the Waller household as an adorable family pet and exited on his way to becoming a top-winning champion. His show dog career was the sole result of the Wallers' young daughter who recognized something special in the St. Bernard puppy. "At the time, I was in an excellent 4H horse program and studying a lot about equine conformation so I was very familiar with balance, angulation and movement. Bowser seemed quite beautiful to me," said Claudia Waller Orlandi Ph.D.

Claudia began reading everything she could find about St. Bernards and then asked her father if she could take Bowser to conformation handling classes. "Bowser was my introduction to the dog show world, and we learned that he was indeed an exceptional St. Bernard. I successfully competed with him in Junior Showmanship. When I went away to boarding school, we returned Bowser to his breeder (Betty

Roberts – Shagg Bark Kennels) where he ended up becoming a top special shown by Bob Forsyth. My love of dogs and showing began with these wonderful and fortuitous experiences."

*"Knowledge is power in all phases of our lives!"*

Her natural eye for structure and movement has served Orlandi well in the world of dogs. Her incredible career in purebred dogs includes breeding some of the top Basset Hounds in the country with her late

husband, Dom Orlandi, under the Topsfield kennel prefix. She has been honored as the AKC Breeder of the Year; she is a judge and former chairman of the Breeders/ Judges Education Committee for the Basset Hound Club of America.

But Orlandi's greatest gift to the Fancy has been her generosity in sharing her talents, experience and knowledge. She has written two books on breeding and anatomy, ABC's of Dog Breeding and Practical Canine Anatomy & Movement. She often speaks on the topics at seminars and symposiums.

LEIGH, cont'd

Most recently, she has joined forces with the American Kennel Club in an effort to educate breeders around the world. Orlandi's books soon will be available through a new program called AKC Bred with H.E.A.R.T. which stands for Health, Education, Accountability, Responsibility and Tradition.

All breeders can study the material in both books at no charge on the AKC Bred with H.E.A.R.T. website. They can opt to be tested on the materials and receive a course completion certificate upon passing the examinations. Preparing breeders to produce the healthy, excellent examples of their breeds is the goal of Bred with H.E.A.R.T.

"Knowledge is power in all phases of our lives!"

Orlandi said. "The more a breeder knows about the science of breeding healthy dogs the more they can control canine genetic diseases in their breeding programs."

The AKC Bred with H.E.A.R.T. website will include other educational material to help experienced breeders, including those just getting started. Courses include Breeding Basics and Care and Feeding of the Breeding Bitch.

The program strongly promotes responsible breeding through health testing. The site will include a list of all Parent Club recommendations for health testing for their given breeds.

"What I like about the Bred with H.E.A.R.T program is that it gives breeders a path to follow and motivates and helps them chart a course towards an improved breeding program with an emphasis on good health," Orlandi said. "I also feel it encourages breeders to share thoughts and talk more openly about health problems, which is absolutely critical to good breeding."

Breeders can choose to enroll and become an AKC Bred with H.E.A.R.T. breeder if they meet the requirements of having registered at least one litter with AKC within the past five years and being in good standing with AKC. They also must agree to the following:

- Certify that applicable health screens are performed on breeding stock as recommended by the respective AKC Parent Club and be prepared to supply proof of such compliance upon request
- Comply with the AKC Care and Conditions Policy,

including inspection(s) by the American Kennel Club or its duly authorized representative

- Comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations regarding the ownership and maintenance of dogs
- Complete AKC-approved and/or AKC-provided continuing breeder education courses annually
- Complete the online application process and pay an annual fee of \$25 per breed

The AKC rewards breeders who take the pledge with benefits including use of the Bred with H.E.A.R.T. program logo on AKC dog registration applications; breed-specific web banners; \$5 litter registration coupon; and \$35 in annual credit for online reports. But the best benefit is the access to the priceless information on breeding, anatomy and genetics found in Orlandi's books. The books break

down the complex topics into easy-to-understand language with illustrations and photographs.

Several years ago I had a conversation with the late great George Padgett, author of *Control of Canine Genetic Diseases*, in which we were discussing the importance of keeping things simple in terms of breeder education, and he said, "Claudia, if breeders only knew that by applying a few important, easy-to-understand genetic principles they could have a lot more

control over not only conformation, but also diseases in their breeding programs." "These simple, important genetic principles as well as key anatomy features for developing an eye for a dog are the points of departure in the ABC's of Dog Breeding and Practical Canine Anatomy & Movement education programs," she said. "By understanding and applying these straight forward scientific concepts, my hope is that breeders participating in the Bred with H.E.A.R.T. education program will be able to more consistently produce healthy and happier dogs."

Orlandi recently remarried a resident of Spain and now spends time in both Spain and the United States. In all her world travels and visits to foreign dog shows, Orlandi said she has not encountered a program that compares to AKC Bred with H.E.A.R.T.

"In my opinion, no other international kennel club





brings to dog breeders what the AKC Bred with H.E.A.R.T program does in terms of education, accountability and guidance on breeding healthy dogs as well as complying with Parent Club recommendations, good kennel practices and state requirements.”

For more information on  
**AKC Bred with H.E.A.R.T.**

please visit

<http://www.akc.org/dog-breeders/bred-with-heart/>

Invited by Bill Feeney, Sir Francis Drake KC

## GETTING TO KNOW YOU...WALTER O'BRIEN

SYLVIA THOMAS, *Kennel Club of Riverside*

I believe Patti Digh was absolutely on to something when she said, “The shortest distance between two people is a story.” (Four-Word Self Help: Simple Wisdom for Complex Lives). As for the complexity of our lives, as much as I hate to admit it, there is definitely truth to that notion. It might be the very reason I’m so drawn to the decorative vintage signs with the message SIMPLIFY. Despite the fast-paced, hurry up nature of our lives, I was pleased to have the opportunity to get to know Walter O’Brien, one of our newest delegates. We bridged the distance between us through email exchanges and a couple of stories!

Here’s Walter’s story...



*How did you become involved in dogs? How long ago was that?*

After watching Westminster in 1995, I thought it might be really fun to participate in dog shows and after a year and a half of research I got my first show dog in 1996. I have Pembroke Welsh Corgis and I really liked the concept of a “Big Dog in a Small Dog.” I spent many hours comparing the Pembroke and Cardigan Welsh Corgis before deciding on the Pembroke.

*Who has most influenced you either regarding your breed, breeding, showing, judging etc. and why?*

Patty Gailey, Triad Pembroke Welsh Corgis, was my main influence in what I like in a Pembroke. Patty taught me that both form and function mattered and today I believe that a dog should strive to earn titles on both ends of its name.

*Are you involved in conformation, obedience, or other performance events?*

I am primarily active now in Obedience and Rally, but I still participate in both Conformation and Herding. I show all of my own dogs in both Conformation and Companion Events, I have only had four litters and a majority of my Pembrokes have been bred by my friends.

*Do you judge? If so, what breeds or groups do you have?*

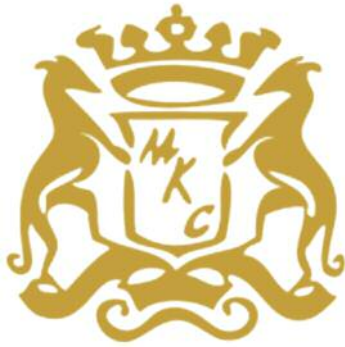
I am currently seeking to earn my Rally Obedience Judging License. My application has been submitted and I’m awaiting my test and interview with the AKC.

*What club do you represent?*

I represent the Macon Kennel Club of Macon, Georgia. I became a delegate in February 2015. I wanted to represent my club and become more involved at the AKC level in both the shaping of

THOMAS, cont'd

the sport and its direction.



Macon Kennel Club is a small club and it serves the Middle Georgia Area (within 1 hour of Macon, GA). The members are more performance-based and they are looking for ways to improve the human-dog bond. Overall, the club is a Pro-AKC club and there is a pride in

being an AKC Member Club.

*What do you think is the most pressing issue facing our sport? Why?*

I believe the biggest issue facing our sport is two-fold: retaining those people involved in the sport while trying to bring fresh and new faces into the sport. We need to be able to make this sport a lifetime sport and not just a short-term hobby. The world of dog shows is a journey and we need to be able to show the public the beauty of the journey.

*Given the many fronts and issues AKC is facing (anti-dog legislation, declining registrations, reduced revenue, competition with other registries), do you have any ideas about what the AKC should do?*

I believe there are three things AKC needs to continue to work on:

- 1) Anti-Dog legislation – This impacts everyone and not just those of us who are actively involved in the sport. By defending the right of the American people to own a dog, I believe that AKC can truly serve everyone's right to own dogs.
- 2) Declining Events – AKC has worked hard to present new programs for Conformation and Companion/Performance events, but that work is never over and AKC needs to continue to present new and exciting ways to keep the fancy energized. The continual changing paradigm is part of society today and AKC must always keep that in mind.

- 3) Registrations – AKC must continue to seek ways to capture more registrations and provide value for those registrations. Like events, AKC needs to continue to ask, how to remain the registry of choice.

*What are we “not doing” that we should be doing to interest more people in the sport we all cherish?*

The one thing that we are “not doing” is providing a more visible local presence in the Macon, GA community. I am sure that with some public relations on a local and national level, the interest in AKC events would increase. Secondly, there are events that AKC does not offer (Barn Hunt and Dock Diving as examples). If AKC would either develop a program or more closely tie to the existing programs, everyone would benefit.

*When it comes to dogs, what one thing is still on your “bucket list?”*

The two things on my dog bucket list are to finish a Grand Championship and a UDX (not necessarily on the same dog).

*What can you tell us about yourself that we wouldn't already know?*

I work for Lockheed Martin on the C-130J Program, and I was one of the engineers that designed the current Hurricane Hunters that the US Air Force Reserve flies. I have been an avid runner for 40 years having competed in multiple National Championships and I am now a USA Track & Field Coach.

After reading Walter's story, I hope you now share my feeling that he has noteworthy ideas and suggestions. Please take the opportunity to introduce yourself and continue the conversation with Walter at one of the next Delegate meetings!



# CURRENT BOARD & DELEGATE MEETINGS 2015

All meetings, except December, are in the NYC/NJ area. The December meeting is in Orlando, FL.

JANUARY 2015						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

## January

**NO MEETING**

## July

- 20 Board Meeting
- 21 Board Meeting

JULY 2015						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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FEBRUARY 2015						
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## February

- 12 Board Meeting
- 13 Board Meeting

## August

**NO MEETING**

AUGUST 2015						
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30	31					

MARCH 2015						
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29	30	31				

## March

- 9 Delegate Committee Meetings
- 10 Delegate/Board Meetings
- 11 Board Meeting

## September

- 10 Board Meeting
- 11 Delegate Committee Meetings
- 12 Delegate Meeting

SEPTEMBER 2015						
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APRIL 2015						
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## April

- 20 Board Meeting
- 21 Board Meeting

## October

- 19 Board Meeting
- 20 Board Meeting

OCTOBER 2015						
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MAY 2015						
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## May

**NO MEETING**

## November

**NO MEETING**

NOVEMBER 2015						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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JUNE 2015						
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## June

- 7 Delegate Committee Meetings
- 8 Delegate/Board Meetings
- 9 Board Meeting

## December

- 9 Board Meeting
- 10 Delegate Committee Meetings
- 11 Delegate Meeting

DECEMBER 2015						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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