

AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB
Delegates Meeting
September 12, 2015

Mr. Sprung, President in the Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM:
(The Delegates stood for the National Anthem.)

The first order of business was the vote for the Delegate Standing Committees.
(There was a recess for voting.)

The Chair introduced the people on the dais: Ron Menaker, Chairman; Carl Ashby, III, Vice Chairman; Doris Abate, Professional Registered Parliamentarian; Jim Crowley, Executive Secretary; and Maria Acocella, the Court Reporter.

The Chair reported the passing of Joan Urban on August the 6th. She was the Delegate for the Corpus Christi Kennel Club from April 2001 until October 2011. Joan became their Delegate once again in March of 2014.

The Executive Secretary to read the names of the Delegates seated since the last meeting.

Harry Booker, to represent Kennel Club of Philadelphia
Karen J. Clausing, to represent Miniature Pinscher Club of America
Josephine De Menna, to represent Progressive Toy Dog Club
Mark A. Essary, to represent Oklahoma City Kennel Club
Mary E. Gauthier-Teeling, to represent Tonawanda Valley Kennel Club
Gale Golden, to represent Framingham District Kennel Club
Kathleen Gregory, to represent Port Chester Obedience Training Club
Cathy Hawkins, to represent Ozark Kennel Club
Julie M. Lux, to represent Heart of America Kennel Club
Richard Nosiglia, to represent St. Bernard Club of America
Richard Su, to represent Keeshond Club of America

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

Harry Booker, to represent Kennel Club of Philadelphia
Karen J. Clausing, to represent Miniature Pinscher Club of America
Catherine Cooper, to represent Greater Swiss Mountain Dog Club of America
Kathleen Gregory, to represent Port Chester Obedience Training Club
Cathy Hawkins, to represent Ozark Kennel Club
Julie M. Lux, to represent Heart of America Kennel Club
Janet Vining Mitchell, to represent Channel City Kennel Club
Richard Nosiglia, to represent St. Bernard Club of America
Richard Su, to represent Keeshond Club of America

The minutes of the June 8, 2015 Delegates meeting were approved as published.

[The Chairman's Report follows these minutes.]

Mr. Sprung gave the President's Report as follows:

Yesterday was 9/11 and a great deal has changed in each of our lives as a result of that day. Many delegates are new so let's once again share some of what occurred and AKC's accomplishments in this area.

First, please stand for a moment of silence in memory of the tragedy which occurred during this meeting 14 years ago.

(A moment of silence was observed.)

That morning, Ron and I were in the lobby of this very hotel when Blackie approached us to say that a plane hit the World Trade Center. We walked over to the deserted bar area, where an elderly gentleman was watching the news. As we approached, he said to us, my son is in the armed forces. He called last night. One of our planes is missing, and they are coming to get us. Then the second plane hit. We turned around, the man was gone. That day, we were all together. There were 288 Delegates in attendance. 101 of you are still serving. Naturally the meeting bordered on chaotic. We hugged and reassured each other outwardly; inside, many of us felt fear and anger. There were valid but opposing thoughts of what to do. After an agenda discussion and a vote for the standing committees, we adjourned, helping one another begin going home or finding safe haven for the night. In reflecting upon on the 9/11 anniversary, the thought that always resonates with me is the type of special people that make up our community. I recall how the DOGNY project came about, allowing the American Kennel Club to honor search and rescue dogs that helped in New York City, Pennsylvania and Washington and will provide some behind-the-scenes facts. It was very much a shared success. Delegate Dr. Tom Davies and the Springfield Kennel Club stepped up as the very first sponsor, and many clubs followed. FedEx, Iams, JP Morgan and Hartz became major corporate sponsors. Before long, other businesses heeded our call for support and we received help from many household names. It took until the following evening for me to arrive home. The Ladies Kennel Association was holding a meeting in my house, so one could find me in the basement. CBS Radio began broadcasting a plea for the donation of a portable X-ray machine for rescue dogs that were hurt searching through the rubble. I knew dog people could provide that so I went up the stairs and asked the ladies to post an online request to purchase an X-ray machine. About 9:00 p.m. that evening, a call came in from a salesman in West Virginia, and we were on our way.

Our next challenge was transporting the X-ray machine and many cartons of film, aprons, and gloves, so another request went out to relay those materials to Ground Zero. Dozens of dog people called throughout the evening, and by early morning the race was on. From West Virginia to Maryland to Pennsylvania, ending up in New Jersey with Afghan Hound breeders Bob and Angela DeNicola, who passed it off for the final delivery. Luckily, AKC had presented one of our first "ACE" awards to a member of the K-9 unit at the Queensboro Kennel Club through the courtesy of Linda Lacchia and Ray and Viola Burgos. A call was made to Lieutenant Donadio; he instructed us to have the equipment brought through the Lincoln Tunnel and to proceed on 11th Avenue until we were stopped. Well, indeed, we were stopped but allowed one phone call. Within minutes we were surrounded by unmarked and marked police cars, sirens blasting and escorted to the very street corner of Ground Zero. Just as the car was coming to a stop, veterinarians from Suffolk County SPCA came running and started to assemble the X-ray machine. We weren't there long enough to see it in use; with the smoke still rising we were escorted out of Ground Zero. But I knew then and there the American Kennel Club did the right thing. It was really the most emotional moment of my life. The streets lining our departure had tens of thousands of people waving flags and cheering us. But I knew a lot better -- they weren't cheering us, they were cheering you, the AKC family.

I had another thought: We could do more. So my idea for DOGNY actually evolved just two days after 9/11, eventually raising over \$3,500,000 for search and rescue organizations throughout our

nation as we worked with fanciers, corporations and the public. In fact, it was with these funds that the AKC Canine Support Relief Fund was begun. Since that time, AKC CAR (now Reunite) serves as the fiduciary custodian of that money for the sole purpose of donating to volunteer and professional search and rescue organizations in America and has made numerous grants in compliance with the DOGNY mission.

Interestingly, the government chose to keep secret which search and rescue organizations came to the three cities but staff researched and identified over 90 amateur and professional organizations. Each organization was sent several thousand dollars as a thank-you and a way of defraying their costs. After all, this could occur again – where you live.

Looking back, the project almost never happened. Daphna Straus was hired as a consultant. Today, she is our vice president of business development and she, along with our legal team, began working through the maze of red tape for the City to give us contractual permission to display statues to commemorate the very first anniversary of 9/11. For some unknown reason, the newly- elected Bloomberg administration, taking over from everybody's hero, Mayor Rudy Giuliani, seemed to concentrate on things other than the AKC. Can you imagine? Almost two months into the project, it was time to call Co-Chair Karen LeFrak and tell her about my frustration. Actually, I bitched a lot, saying this project may not go anywhere. Surprisingly, early the next morning I received a phone call from the first deputy mayor stating the City was ready to sign. After patting myself on the back a hundred times – I mean this was like going “Best” -- I called Karen to tell her about this coincidentally good news, and there was absolute silence. So I repeated myself, and there was more silence. “Okay, what’s going on?” She said, “Well, you were so upset, I went over to Mayor Bloomberg's townhouse, and I left him a note on the kitchen table.” We had to figure out how to transport 111 raw sculptures from the foundry to different artists’ studios throughout the city, then have each one individually packaged, picked up and brought to another company for cement bases to be applied. We reached out to fancier Honi Reisman who arranged a phone call with Ken May, Senior Vice President of FedEx. Again, AKC was lucky, perhaps because we were doing the right thing. He said, “We can do this.” But I misunderstood his meaning as my response was “I know you can do it, but can we pay for it?” Ken's answer was astounding. He said, “Your company is a hero. You are not paying for anything. We are just going to help; and they did, providing tens of thousands of dollars in free shipments and logistics. I will also tell you about what was a guarded secret for a while with another member of our family. The police department called us because some of the approximately 300 teams of dogs that came to New York were being treated at an animal hospital, and their owners were being billed so I called a member of their Board to ask who I could speak with. The response was, “Dennis, I’ll make you a deal. I will pay for the care of every single dog, if you keep it a secret between the two of us.” Well, that deal is long over and that angel is Tony Sosnoff, another example of the quality people with whom you and I are blessed to share our passion.

The cooperation amongst clubs, fanciers, corporate America and media was extraordinary, growing into our largest public outreach up until that time. However, without passionate dog people like you, it simply would have been another Dennis idea. I am going to stop my speech for a moment because I want you to take a good look at this statute. This is a handsome German Shepherd in good coat, just what it should look like. But there is a lot of emotion behind this statute. The coat is made up of the name, age, city and state of every person in America who perished on that day. I am very proud to tell you that AKC's board of directors instantly supported this public art exhibition and fund-raiser. Rubenstein Associates, America's premier PR firm, required a presentation before agreeing to work on the project. Midway through, they proclaimed, “We're in.” With their efforts we benefited by a wide variety of media appearances. Sculptures bearing AKC's name that were displayed for the first anniversary still remain in many places: Pace University (here's a photo from two weeks ago showing the statue still on display at Pace, facing City Hall), the Fire Department Museum, the Veterans Administration Hospital, Purina Farms, Station One of Portland Fire Department and at AKC headquarters. Statues were painted live on

the Today Show during numerous segments and the NASDAQ screen in Times Square repeatedly featured our program, day after day.

In Georgia, Governor Sunny Perdue unveiled a bronze statute at the state capitol building in Atlanta with Delegates Ann Wallin, Karen and Asa Mays and Carmen Battaglia representing 32 clubs and associations. In Oklahoma, Onofrio and four of our all-breed clubs dedicated a statue near the site of the bombing of the Federal building. A bronze version marks the entrance to the world headquarters of Hartz in New Jersey, and one welcomes visitors to our operations center in North Carolina.

AKC was made appealing and relevant to the public from a canine perspective as well as a human one. For shoppers and tourists, when Saks Fifth Avenue blackened out all but two of their 34 windows for a number of weeks to commemorate the first anniversary, both windows that remained open only displayed DOGNY dogs. Broadway buffs saw a pair of sculptures over a three-month period guarding the way in and out of Shubert Alley, where two-and-a-half million people visit every single week. In the sports arena, we were fortunate that the three-year wait for a special event at Yankee Stadium was handled in one week and their organization offered a DOGNY day at which they gave out 25,000 special edition pinstripe "Help A Hero" toys donated by Hartz. A statute purchased by breeder/exhibitor Amy Kiehl Green bears the signatures of the entire Yankees team. Major League Baseball contributed, as well as the New York Mets organization and their owners, obedience exhibitors, Judy and Fred Wilpon. Plush mementos carrying AKC's logo and messaging appeared in over 12,000 stores across the country. Some of you will recall that the president of Hartz, Robert Devine, attended our meeting in September 2002 as a guest of this body when he presented a check to Ron Menaker for \$775,000. Soon after, Hartz donated an additional \$500,000. Ron did a great amount of work as Co-Chair throughout the entire project.

TFH published a commemorative book and after the public art display Sotheby's Auction House donated their main gallery along with the services of Vice Chairman, Benjamin Doller, as auctioneer, and famed columnist and dachshund fancier Liz Smith served as guest auctioneer and graced us with yet more publicity.

This gives you a bit of history about DOGNY and its accomplishments during a time of crisis in our nation and the numerous reasons for you to be proud of AKC, yourselves, your clubs and the many special people in our community. I am very proud of you. Thank you.

(Standing Ovation)

The Chair called on Joseph Baffuto, the CFO, who gave the Financial Report as follows:

Good morning Everyone! Thank you very much for joining us here today on this Saturday morning! I am here to provide you with a financial performance report of The American Kennel Club through August 31, 2015. Let's begin with an examination of our core registration volumes year-to-date. Through August 31, we have registered grand totals of 141,348 litters and 330,721 dogs. Our

litter volume has decreased by three-tenths of one percent from the same eight month period in 2014, while our dogs volume has increased by 1.2% during the same period. Our breeder initiatives and heightened customer-service focus have helped us in these core categories. We hope to continue to improve in both areas and aspire to report to you increased volumes in BOTH items by the end of 2015. As we compare our total revenues this August 2015 year to date, to those of 2014, we have analyzed an overall favorable increase of \$1,829,000 or 4.8%. Let's drill down in our revenues to assess the increase. First, Electronic Advertising has increased year over year by \$532,000. Our digital team has increased their efforts and forged new relationships which have garnered us great success this year. Interest and dividend income has also increased by \$460,000 through August 2015 as a result of our portfolio allocation adjustments. Sponsorships have increased by \$386,000 which was mostly attributable to our Meet The Breeds event held earlier this year. Finally, Total Registration items have increased

by just over \$300,000 during the eight month period ended August 31, 2015 as compared to the similar period ended August 31, 2014. Next, we will compare our total expenses this August year to date, to those of 2014. We have a minimal overall increase of just \$249,000 or seven-tenths of one percent. Let's now further examine these items. Some major line items for which we have had reasonable year to date decreases as compared to the previous year include: Payroll and benefits of \$270,000, Consultant costs of \$130,000 and Service fees of \$117,000. Offsetting these decreases year to date, we have also had a number of line items which have increased. Increased expenses include a series of new project development costs amounting to \$669,000 for which we hope to achieve revenues from in the upcoming year of 2016 and beyond. Also, Marketing expenses of \$123,000, equipment maintenance charges of \$109,000 and depreciation expenses of \$68,000. We have assessed both our revenues and expenses in some concise detail, so let's note here that our year-to-date summary reflects an overall operating income of \$5.6 million as contrasted to \$4.0 million as of August 31, 2014, which represents a 39% increase. Although we are not unlike any other organization that faces both internal and external challenges, as we can see here there are definitely good things happening that are positively effecting our bottom line! We should all be proud of our achievements and continue to strive further! Aside from our actual operating results, I would briefly like to focus on our investment performance through August 31, 2015. After an extremely difficult month of August in the financial markets, our investment portfolio has returned a slight loss of \$240,000 year to date. We hope to improve this rate of return through the rest of 2015, even though we are outperforming our current benchmark of -1.2% during the eight month period. Now additionally looking at the Balance Sheet of the AKC, we review that our Total Assets of \$135.3 million at August 31, 2015 has increased by \$4.3 million since this time last year. This can be mostly attributed to our positive cash flow from operations. Also, our Total Liabilities of \$69.9 million has increased by \$21.6 million since August 31, 2014. This includes our pension benefits obligations of \$33.5 million. We have recently undertaken action to reduce these obligations and are expecting improvements to be reflected in our financials as we move forward. At this point finally reflecting on our balance sheet, our total unrestricted net assets are valued at \$117.6 million as of August 31, 2015, which is a \$5.4 million increase year over year. This includes both an operating reserve of \$29.2 million (which represents 50% of our operating budget) and a board designated reserve for long term purposes of \$88.4 million. Thank you very much for your attention and the opportunity to discuss our report this morning. After the meeting, I will be available in the front of the room here for a short period, if anyone would like to discuss any information in our report. Next destination: Orlando! See you in December!

There was a vote on a proposed amendment to Chapter 16, Section 1, of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows*, in which a new Section 1 would allow for the awarding of CM points in the regular puppy classes. All other sections to be renumbered accordingly. Dogs that earn a CM title would be awarded one point toward its CH title.

The Chair proposed that without objection, the portion of the proposal on the one championship point be withdrawn.

(There was no objection)

Patricia Laurans, Delegate for the German Wirehaired Pointer Club of America and Chair of the Parent Clubs Committee, stated that her committee requested that the proposal be sent back to the Board for revision and that three areas be addressed: The name of the award as there was an objection to the word "merit"; that a dog should have to defeat others entries in its own breed; and that the title should not be made part of the dog's name as either a prefix or a suffix.

There was a motion made and seconded and it was voted to return the amendment back to Board.

The Chair called on the Executive Secretary who read the proposed amendments ARTICLE VII, SECTION 1, of the *Charter and Bylaws of the American Kennel Club* as follows:
The proposed amendment is to ARTICLE VII, SECTION 1, of the *Charter and Bylaws of the American Kennel Club*. The adoption of this amendment would give the Delegates the ability to make what they consider to be the best choices for the organization and the sport when they elect Board members by eliminating term limits. The decision on whether or not to re-elect an incumbent would rest strictly with the Delegate. The amendment was proposed by the Clarksville Kennel Club and supported by the Delegate Bylaws Committee, and the AKC Board voted to support the decision of the Bylaws Committee. It will be published in two issues of the online AKC Gazette, and you will be asked to vote on it at the December 2015 meeting. The full text is on the worksheet previously e-mailed to you.

The Chair called on the Executive Secretary who read the proposed amendment to Chapter 4, Section 2, of the *Rules Applying to Dogs Shows*, as follows.
The proposed amendment is to Chapter 4, Section 2, of the *Rules Applying to Dogs Shows*, which would allow clubs to utilize electronic documents for premium lists. It was submitted by the Dogs Shows Rules Committee, and will be published in two issues of the online AKC Gazette. You will be asked to vote on it at the December 2015 meeting. The full text is on the worksheet previously e-mailed to you.

The Chair called on the Executive Secretary who read the proposed amendment to Chapter 7, Section 12, of the *Rules Applying to Dogs Shows* as follows:
The proposed amendment to Chapter 7, Section 12, of the *Rules Applying to Dogs Shows*, would allow clubs to utilize electronic documents for judging programs. This change allows clubs to utilize electronic documents unless the exhibitors specifically request a hard copy. It will be published in two issues of the online AKC Gazette, and you will be asked to vote on it at the December 2015 meeting. The full text is on the worksheet previously e-mailed to you.

The Chair called on the Executive Secretary who read the proposed amendment to Chapter 12, Sections 1, 3, 4 and 6, of the *Rules Applying to Dogs Shows* as follows.
The proposed amendment to Chapter 12, Sections 1, 3, 4 and 6 of the *Rules Applying to Dogs Shows*, would allow clubs to publish their catalogue electronically if they wish to do so. It will be published in two issues of the online AKC Gazette, and you will be asked to vote on it at the December 2015 meeting. The full text is on the worksheet previously e-mailed to you.

The Chair called on the Executive Secretary who read the proposed amendment to Chapter 16, Section 7, of the *Rules Applying to Dogs Shows* as follows:
Mr. Crowley: The proposed amendment to Chapter 16, Section 7, of the *Rules Applying to Dogs Shows* would recognize multiple levels of grand championship titles. It will be published in two issues of the online AKC Gazette, and you will be asked to vote on it at the December 2015 meeting. The full text is on the worksheet previously e-mailed to you.

The Chair called on Jim Crowley to recognize AKC Delegates who have served for 25 years, as well as a member club celebrating its centennial. Mr. Crowley spoke as follows:
We will now honor Delegates who have served for 25 years. This is the 17th time that AKC has had the privilege to present Delegate medallions. The medallion is in recognition of meritorious and long-term contributions to the sport. This program enables us to recognize our core constituency and allows a grateful American Kennel Club the opportunity to honor our own. The following six individuals have served the body for 25 years and join 99 previously so honored Delegates. Will the following Delegates please come forward: Ricky Adams, Southeast Arkansas

Kennel Club; Carl C. Ashby III, United States Kerry Blue Terrier Club; Dr. Carmen L. Battaglia, German Shepherd Dog Club of America; Dr. J. Charles Garvin, Dalmatian Club of America; Sandra Haber, Mohawk Valley Kennel Club; and Nina Schaefer, Back Mountain Kennel Club. The Chairman will present the medallions.

I would now like to take the opportunity to congratulate the Ladies' Dog Club, which is celebrating 100 years of membership in the American Kennel Club. If their Delegate, Kathi Brown, is present, please come to the front of the room to receive a plaque commemorating their century of AKC membership.

The Executive Secretary read the report on the nominating committee as follows:

At the July 2015 meeting, the Board of Directors selected the following Delegates to the nominating committee to select candidates for the class of 2020. Johnny Shoemaker, Chairman, Redwood Empire Kennel Club; Mary Manning-Stolz, Tampa Bay Kennel Club; Mary Lou Olszewski, American Bloodhound Club; Larry Sorenson, Dachshund Club of America; and Peggy Wampold, South Windsor Kennel Club. Alternates: Ann Gallant, Petit Basset Griffon Vendéen Club of America and Kenneth Saenz, Chihuahua Club of America.

I now call on Johnny Shoemaker, who would like to address the Delegates as Chair of committee.

Mr. Shoemaker spoke as follows:

I am Johnny Shoemaker, Redwood Empire Kennel Club, Chairman of the nominating committee. I think we have a wonderful selection of people on the nominating committee. We have been trying very hard. We have had eight interviews, and we have one more to do after this by teleconference. We will have our nominations to you as soon as possible. We will be doing a lot of deliberation. So what we are doing is very important, and we want to take the time to make sure we do a good job. Thank you very much.

I would like to thank all the members of the committee, because we are really working very well together, which is not always the case. I think we should be a permanent nominating committee, because we are doing such a good job. I would like every one of the members of the committee to stand up and get a big round of applause.

(Applause)

The Chair informed the Delegates that the December Delegates meeting will be held in Orlando, Florida at the Rosen Centre Hotel on Friday, December 11, 2015.

The Executive Secretary read the names of Delegates who will serve on the two Delegate committees that did not require a vote.

Mr. Crowley: These Delegates who self-nominated and will serve on the Delegate Advocacy and Advancement committee are, Dick Blair; Ellen Hardin; John McCullagh; Mary Lou Olszewski and Carole Plesur.

Delegates who self-nominated and will serve on the *Perspectives* editorial committee are Sylvia Arrowwood; Crecia Closson; Deirdre E. Gannon; Don James; Daniel Smyth and Sherry Wallis. An additional member may be appointed for a one year term as a seat remains open.

The following Delegates spoke during New Business:

Gretchen Bernardi, Delegate for the Mississippi Valley Kennel Club, spoke about the experience of Delegates at the meeting on 9/11. She praised Paula Spector who worked so diligently for all of the Delegates who were stranded in the hotel. Paula was asked to stand.

(Standing ovation)

Sherry Wallis, Delegate for the Akita Club of America, spoke as the editor for *Perspectives*. She asked if anyone in the Delegate body had something to share to please get in touch with the

coordinator for the next issue, Lynn Worth-Smith or herself via email. The deadline for the next issue is October 15th.

Mr. Sprung: Thank you.

Mary Lou Olszewski, Delegate for the American Bloodhound Club, spoke about improvement to our web site. She thanked all the Delegates and the Board for their support on trying to fix what has been a difficult issue for most Delegates. She complimented the IT Department for making great strides in resolving issues.

Ms. Laurans gave an update regarding the AKC Reunite pet disaster trailer relief project which was introduced two years ago. As of the week before the Delegates meeting, total funds raised were \$1,031,591. 30 trailers have been delivered in various parts of the country. Eight trailers are about to be delivered, making the total 38. 21 additional trailers are in the works. Ms. Laurans had just heard that AKC Reunite was told by Sacramento Animal Control that they had been sent a trailer to care for pets displaced by a large fire in nearby Amador County. For pictures of the trailer and information about the work that is being done go to WWWFacebook.com/AKCReunite. This trailer was donated by the AKC Humane Fund.

Marjorie Tuff, Delegate for the American Shetland Sheepdog Club, stressed the importance of Junior Showmanship. She urged clubs to push for lower or no entry fees for Juniors.

Nancy Perrell, Delegate for the Scottsdale Dog Fanciers Association, also thanked Paula Spector for assisting the Delegates after 9/11. She also spoke about AKC Reunite. Her club now has their first trailer in Arizona and they are working on another one. The Arizona Humane Society is housing a trailer and their technicians were excited about all the things that were in it, and how much they will be able to do. She encouraged the Delegates to get more than one trailer for their state.

Jacquelyn Fogel, Delegate for the Kettle Moraine Kennel Club, thanked AKC in general and Stacy Mason in particular for helping to relocate dogs when a breeder became ill.

Dr. Sophia Kaluzniacki, Delegate from Canada Del Oro Kennel Club, relayed that her club and its sister cluster have, for the past several years, never charged an entry fee for juniors.

Michael Houchard, Delegate from Conyers Kennel Club of Georgia, reported in June his club had purchased a trailer. AKC worked with them, especially Tessa Johnson, to get the trailer to his club in time so that it could be displayed at their cluster and that it was an eye catcher for a lot of people.

Don James, Delegate for the Leonberger Club of America, reported that the Clark County Kennel Club got its trailer two weeks ago. It has allowed the club to forge a partnership with Clark County Animal Control.

Kathy Coxwell, Delegate for the Bearded Collie Club of America, told a story about the experiences of a Junior in her area. She encouraged all clubs to try to build up Junior Showmanship again and to make sure that it is of the highest priority.

Ann Wallin, Delegate for the Atlanta Kennel Club, spoke as Chair of the All-Breed Clubs Committee. She expressed appreciation to Stephen Smith for his work on improving the website.

She outlined the job being done by the hard-working subcommittee that has been working on best practices for All-Breed Clubs, chaired by Cathy Rubens, with members Nancy Fisk, Peggy Wampold, John Ronald, Margaret DiCorleto and herself.

She then addressed the territory issue that was sent back to the Dog Show Rules Committee and that she had talked with Cindy Miller concerning this.

Cindy Miller, Delegate for the Harrisburg Kennel Club, spoke as Chair of the Dog Show Rules Committee, regarding the amendment to Chapter 2, Section 3 territory rule. She outlined three suggestions that she is going to send by email to the Board and staff for them to consider. Number one was that there be a list published with the current open venues. Second was that there be a mechanism established where a club be notified when another club is using their venue and going to be coming into their area. And third, that modifications are made to the show application process.

Susan Sholar, Delegate for the Black Russian Terrier Club of America, also expressed support for Junior Showmanship and suggested that perhaps judges participate in assisting the juniors, by judging Juniors when there is no fee for Junior entries.

The Chair advised that Standing Committee results would be announced during lunch. As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:54 AM.

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

Chairman's Report

Every September, we take to our local communities with the rallying cry of responsible dog ownership and host over 600 RDO Day events across the country. Together with our participating clubs, we educate the public about everything we can offer them to put them on the path to being the best dog owners they can be:

- AKC Canine Good Citizen Training.
- Pet Insurance from our sponsor, PPI.
- Micro chipping and enrollment in AKC Reunite.

But sometimes, even responsible owners have trouble meeting the needs of their pets. The plight of domestic violence not only threatens the lives of women and children, but places many pets at risk too. Nationwide studies have revealed that between 71 and 85% of women entering domestic violence shelters reported that their partner had threatened, injured or killed the family pet. In a landmark study by the University of Denver, more than 70 percent of battered women reported that their abusers had harmed, killed or threatened animals. Evidence has since shown that as many as fifty percent of battered women have delayed their decision to leave their abuser, or have even returned to that abuser, out of fear for the welfare of their pets. It is a tragedy to see a woman's health and dignity sacrificed in the face of the powerful human-canine bond. No one should be forced to choose between one's safety and one's pet. As one survivor told one of our grant recipients: *"Leaving my dogs was never an option. Family is family."*

Over the past several years, the AKC and the AKC Humane Fund have sought to chip away at the barriers that prevent victims of domestic abuse from seeking and finding shelter with their pets. It has been said that only about three percent of domestic violence shelters permit pets, primarily due to a lack of resources to care for and house them. In response to this generally unmet need, the AKC Humane Fund provides financial awards to not-for-profit shelters that can

demonstrate a need for funding for the care of residents' pets, or the intention to build infrastructure for pets. Even shelters that can't house pets on site are eligible to seek support if they have fostering arrangements with local not-for-profit organizations.

To date, we have awarded 187 multi-year grants to domestic violence shelters in 33 states, totaling over \$190,000. As our grant recipients have reported again and again, keeping survivors with their pets is the first step toward healing for so many victims of domestic abuse. In a twenty-four hour survey, the National Network to End Domestic Violence found that U.S. domestic violence programs served more than sixty five thousand victims and answered more than twenty three thousand crisis hotline calls in one day alone. We don't know the number of victims who *didn't* come forward because their pet was their primary concern.

But if one in four women will be the victim of domestic violence at some point in her lifetime and 54.4 million households own dogs in this country we can all do the math: *there is a great need to pay attention to pets in the context of domestic violence.*

Around this time of year, we all start to see our mailboxes fill up with requests. Occasionally we get something that makes us reflect on the power of a small good deed. A handwritten letter came recently to AKC which said, *"I would love to thank you from the bottom of my heart for saving my dog. The Crisis Center in New Braunfels, Texas provided me with shelter out of a sixteen-year domestic-violence relationship. I didn't want to leave my dog. But I was able to take him with me. Now he is healthy and happy, and I am too. I am so blessed for this act of kindness and I will pay it forward."* To all the friends of the AKC Humane Fund, know that your support *has* made a difference.

Responsible Dog Ownership Days don't end in September. Next month, America observes Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

You can play a role by talking about this issue with your club membership. Remind them about the prevalence of domestic abuse and the sobering fact that many women can't escape violence at home when they own pets.

Your club can reach out to local women's shelters and tell them about the AKC Humane Fund grant. Encourage them to apply for funding so that they can open their doors to pet owners in need. Tell them about your club's rescue services, to forge fostering relationships if they are needed.

The best thing we can do as dog lovers is to shine a light on this important issue, and create a dialogue within our communities. It is said that domestic violence thrives in silence, so let's speak out for those who cannot speak for themselves.

Thank you.