

## DELEGATE REPORT, December 2006

The AKC Committee meetings and the Delegate meeting was preceded by a most successful AKC Invitational Show which was broadcast live from Long Beach, California and showcased the best of AKC. All 165 AKC breeds and varieties from 50 states and 16 countries were represented in the three events. The Bred-By Exhibitor competition represented nearly 40 percent of the total entry making this show the breeder's national showcase. You can see the Bred-By group competition on streaming video on the AKC web site.

145 Parent Clubs participated in the AKC Meet the Breeds. Our Meet the Breeds booth was graciously hosted and staffed for two long days by ..... We are most grateful to those who gave so much to a very worthy effort for our breed.

Most important, the Parent Club Committee will once again host the ever popular Parent Club Conference. It will be held at the Wyndham Peachtree Conference Center – 30 miles from the Atlanta, GA Airport on July 20, 21 and 22, 2007. Announcements re. attendance, topics et al is in the mail to all Parent Clubs. The committee has moved from a Fall conference to the Summer as there will be far less conflicts with Specialty Shows at that time. Those who will attend from Parent Clubs, be sure to make your plans early – you will not want to miss this one.

Below are excerpts from an excellent Memorandum, sent by AKC Events Vice President, Robin Stansell to the Parent Club and All Breed Club Committee Delegates, entitled “Making Dog Shows More Attractive to New Exhibitors. This should be of interest and adopted by all of the show giving clubs as it will be a continuing positive influence on the financial health of the clubs and AKC. Amongst many suggestions which are too numerous and lengthy to print here, very important is the “Proposed Initiatives for Judges, Superintendents, Stewards, Handlers, and Clubs: Encourage the above to assist newcomers – The professional and semi-professionals who earn income or expenses frequently fail to give new exhibitors appropriate consideration. New exhibitors frequently lack knowledge about exhibiting and do not fit in to the orderly day. Professional handlers are frequently rude when the newcomer is in the grooming area or at ringside. Superintendents, judges and ring stewards are sometimes sharp or abrupt because of the exhibitors' inexperience. Judging, stewarding, and superintending organizations, as well as professional handlers organizations, should be encouraged to develop programs to welcome and assist the inexperienced exhibitor in order to encourage participation. Superintendents are in a unique position to recognize first-time exhibitors. These exhibitors could be identified to clubs and judges too.”

Regulations re. eligibility to hold dog shows is being amended and Specialty Club requirements also. We will prepare a complete report on this and also the wonderful program that is being fulfilled by the newly expanded Canine Legislation Department so that all breeders/exhibitors can be able to participate in their strategic programs. Sarah Sprouse of this Department gave a splendid talk at the Delegates Forum, prior to the regular Delegates' Meeting, that was met by long applause and cheers. We will also have a summary of this to you very soon.