

## **DELEGATE REPORT, September 8 – 9, 2008**

**Charles A. Baris**

The main theme of this two day Delegate's Meeting were the many problems that are occurring inside the Kennel Club being caused by the increasing decline in registrations. In order to abbreviate the huge amount of information, I would like to suggest that you look at this latest information which you will find on the AKC website - see the full minutes of the meeting and read the following letter to Delegates from Dennis Sprung:

Dear Delegate,

At last week's Delegate meeting we presented to you the fact that our competitors are working aggressively to the detriment of The American Kennel Club. In the future we will be equally aggressive towards our competitors. In a united stand, the Delegates reacted to our presentations very positively, and since then the feedback has shown a great degree of team spirit. In our efforts to be totally open with you in explaining the situation we are facing, we presented facts candidly and honestly, recognizing the information might find its way into the hands of competitors. Indeed, our documents have fallen into the hands of those outside of AKC's constituency. We are providing a link to what has been posted on one of the websites about the AKC. We will continue our communication with you and, once again, we thank you for your strong support at our Delegates meeting and all of the positive comments since.

Please see the "AKC in Trouble" thread located on the America's Pet Registry, Inc. (APRI) website in the breeders forum area. Click this link to see some of the troubling comments being made about AKC. <http://www.aprpets.org/forums/showthread.php?tid=1866>

Sincerely,

Dennis

Voted On: Chapter 11, Sec. 1, of the Rules Applying to Dog Shows and the comparable sections in all Performance Event Rules, were amended to require that dogs from AKC registered litters be individually registered in order to be eligible to enter a licensed or member AKC event.

There was an election for the Delegate Standing Committees. The committees are included on the AKC web site and will be published in the October 2008 AKC GAZETTE.

After the various Committee Meetings on Monday, the day before the official Delegate Meeting on Tuesday, many of the Delegates assemble for the "Caucus" which is an unofficial meeting wherein Delegates exchange ideas and opinions - some often to be discussed or voted on the next day at the official delegates meeting. However, at this Caucus, the Realignment Committee, headed by Tom Davies, reported to the assemblage. It should be noted that the Committee emphasizes that their report and suggestions, for the most part, honor the recommendations of the various Parent Clubs that may be involved in these group changes. It is felt that the Committee has done a very nice job

and has been exceptionally well "captained" by the Chair, Mr. Davies. We do have some comments which I will bring to your attention at the end of this report. Please note that nothing is written in stone yet but generally the suggestions of the Committee seem to have received good support. At this time, the main item is that the Groups will be expanded from the present 7 to 10. (Note: this will require approval by the Delegates; if AKC Board agrees with this proposal, it must be read at the next Delegate meeting and voted on at the following Delegate meeting.)

To accomplish the ten (10) Groups, the following is suggested:

**Sporting Group be divided into:** Sporting Pointers and Setters - **12 breeds**  
Sporting Retrievers and Spaniels - **18 breeds**

**Hound Group be divided into:** Scent **Hound - 16 breeds**  
Sight **Hound - 14 breeds**

**Working Group:** Dalmatians have been added. - **26 breeds**

**Terrier Group:** the Chesky Terrier has been added - **31 breeds**

**Toy Group:** Italian Greyhounds have been moved to Sight Hounds - **20 breeds**

**Companion Group (Non-Sporting):** some moves. Poodles remain - **14 breeds**

**Herding Group:** **21 breeds**

**Northern Group with the following:** Akita, Alaskan Malamute, American Eskimo Dog, Chinese Shar Pei, Chow Chow, Finish Spitz, Keeshond, Norwegian Elkhound, Samoyed, Siberian Husky, Schipperke, Shiba Inu, Swedish Valhund - **13 Breeds with 4 more to come in the near future.**

It is my understanding that certain Parent Clubs, like DCA, have voted on where/how they wish their breed to be located in the new group re-alignment; most recommendations were honored by the Committee but others were not. Question: Is a Dalmatian a working dog or does it belong and should it remain as a Companion Dog? Accompanying a fire engine and firefighters seems more to be a companion than a worker. Question: Is an Italian Greyhound a Sight Hound or is it a toy companion dog? If it becomes a Sight Hound, will it, in time, be changed in size and substance than it is today? Though we recognize the difference in historic pedigrees etc. - does this not appear that the appealing Toy Dog could become more like a mini Whippet? Let's hope not.

Breeds with Varieties: the general feeling, at this moment, seems to be that those breeds, such as dachshunds, should have all three varieties represented in the group. It is not the time for only the Best of Breed winner to represent us in the hound group. However, this matter is yet to be determined. Stay tuned.

This concludes the highlights of these two meetings.