

30 Apr 2009

Greetings everyone!

I wanted to pass on some recent decisions and new information from the AKC. If you have any concerns or questions in regards to the AKC, please do not hesitate to contact me (Sandra Groeschel) (groeschel@earthlink.net or 937-836-7599). I, as your Dayton Kennel Club AKC Delegate, will do my best to get answers or responses for you.

Highlights from the April 09 Board Meeting:

The Board approved a listing service for mixed-breed dogs, effective October 1, 2009 and dogs enrolled in this listing service will be eligible to compete in separate classes at stand alone Obedience, Agility and Rally Events at the event-giving club's discretion, effective April 1, 2010 (not with an All-Breed, Group or Specialty Show).

* The Bluetick Coonhound is eligible for AKC registration on December 2, 2009 and eligible to compete in the Hound Group at all shows held on and after December 30, 2009. There will be an Open Registry for the breed until January 1, 2015.

* The American English Coonhound is eligible to compete in the Miscellaneous Class effective for all shows held on and after January 1, 2010.

* The Boykin Spaniel is eligible for AKC registration on December 2, 2009, and eligible to compete in the Sporting Group at all shows held on and after December 30, 2009. There will be an Open Registry for the breed until January 1, 2015.

* The Stud Book for the Black and Tan Coonhound will be opened for a three-year period from June 1, 2009 through May 31, 2012. All dogs that meet the requirements and are registered through this program, as well as all subsequent generations of their offspring will receive an HX registration prefix.

* The Board adopted a policy which recognizes that the unauthorized use of any AKC club's funds or assets is conduct prejudicial to the best interests of AKC, purebred dogs, and the Sport of Purebred Dogs. As part of the policy, criteria and discipline guidelines were included. This is covered in the minutes of the meeting.

* At the request of the English Cocker Spaniel Club of America, the kennel names "Soho" (Lynn P. and Harry Clark) and "Carry-On" (Louise Shattuck) were permanently retired for English Cocker Spaniels.

* There were two modifications to Board Policy regarding show-approvals as follows:

- o Clubs in isolated areas, with no AKC club within 75 miles (it was formerly 100 miles) may hold up to four shows in a calendar year.
 - o Clubs may hold events up to 125 miles (formerly 100 miles) from its territory, but are subject to host club approval if within another club's territory.
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ORLANDO TO HOST AKC/EUKANUBA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP IN 2011

-- Show to be Held in New Location at Orange County Convention Center in Florida --

NEW YORK, NY (April 1, 2009) - The American Kennel Club® is pleased to announce that the AKC/Eukanuba National Championship will be returning to Orlando, Florida following the 2010 AKC/Eukanuba National Championship in Long Beach, California. The 2011 show will take place December 17th and 18th in Orlando. The event has previously been hosted in Orlando, Tampa and Long Beach.

"In an effort to satisfy constituent requests for balanced geographical representation and to accommodate our continued growth, we have selected a new venue in Orlando, Florida to host the AKC/Eukanuba National Championship for the next several years," said AKC Chairman Ronald Menaker. "We appreciate the excellent service the city of Long Beach and its Convention Center have provided us and we know that our world-class event will share the same success in Orlando."

The 2011 show will be held at the new "state of the art" Orange County Convention Center, the second largest convention center in the nation. Situated in the heart of Orlando's tourism district and only 15 minutes away from the Orlando International Airport, the convention center is surrounded by more than 113,000 hotel rooms. Amenities on-site include three full-service restaurants, eight food courts and parking. Its prime location on International Drive will offer exhibitors hundreds of outstanding shopping, dining and entertainment options.

"We are excited about the opportunity to host the AKC/Eukanuba National Championship in this award-winning facility with over 600,000 square feet of space," said Michael Canalizo, Director of AKC Event Management. "We know it will provide all of our exhibitors and competitors a great platform in which to compete."

"We are so pleased that the American Kennel Club has once again selected Orlando to host their AKC/Eukanuba National Championship for 2011 through 2015. Families, often including their pets, enjoy visiting Orlando year round. We are thrilled to welcome the show's more than 25,000 attendees to our exciting destination during these upcoming prestigious international

events," said Gary Sain, president and CEO of the Orlando/Orange County Convention & Visitors Bureau, Inc.

As in the past, three days of shows held by local clubs will precede the AKC/Eukanuba National Championship. The Brevard Kennel Club, Central Florida Kennel Club and Space Coast Kennel Club of Palm Bay shows will take place at the same site December 14-16, 2011.

"The 'Orlando Cluster' of dog shows is excited about the return of the AKC/Eukanuba National Championship to the East Coast and look forward to hosting this event with the American Kennel Club and Eukanuba beginning in 2011," said Central Florida Kennel Club Cluster Liaison and Show Chairman Linda Rowell. "We are planning a dog show week like no other in the dog world!"

The 2011 event will continue to showcase the top American dogs as well as offer the popular Bred-by-Exhibitor competition, AKC Meet the Breeds® and the Eukanuba World Challenge. The AKC National Obedience Invitational and AKC Agility Invitational will be held in conjunction with the event.

-- AKC Canine Health Resource Center at www.akcdoghealth.com --

New York, NY - As I reported in my November 2008 Chairman's Report we know that canine health remains a top priority for AKC, its parent clubs, and all responsible breeders. In that report I outlined the resources available to the responsible breeder from a variety of sources such as the AKC Breeders' Department and the AKC Canine Health Foundation (AKC CHF). I also highlighted parent clubs' initiatives contributing to the continued good health of purebred dogs.

This month I'm pleased to announce that AKC has created a new online Canine Health Resource Center at: www.akcdoghealth.com. This comprehensive website pulls together the latest in canine health research news, access to major health registries, archives of educational podcasts, newsletters and articles, and links to find the latest information about genetic tests available to help eradicate diseases in dogs.

We have organized the site into several sections including one devoted to AKC CHF and one to the major canine health registries - the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA) and the Canine Eye Registration Foundation (CERF). Responsible breeders depend on these online research tools when selecting animals to include in breeding programs. Additionally, the Canine Health Information Center (CHIC), listing participating parent clubs, specific tests, and screening results for an even wider range of genetic tests, can be easily accessed from this new site.

In addition to information for breeders we have included a "Resources For Dog Lovers" section with links to materials on Responsible Breeding Practices, How to Find a Responsible Breeder, our Compliance Program, What Puppy Buyers

Need to Know About AKC Papers & Identification, AKC CHF Canine Health Fact Sheet, AKC Veterinary Network, and Puppy Buyer tips that help puppy buyers avoid scams.

We are proud of our continuing support of canine health and invite you, whether a longtime breeder or a first-time dog owner, to visit this new site for a roundup of information and initiatives that promotes happy, healthy dogs.

AKC Announces New Program for Mixed Breeds

[Print This Article](#)

[Tuesday, April 14, 2009]

New York, NY - For the past 125 years, the American Kennel Club® has been the nation's premier advocate for dogs and the people who love them. The AKC's Board of Directors has voted unanimously to proceed with a program for mixed breed dogs which will allow it to act even more broadly and effectively as the dog's champion. The creation of this program ushers in new opportunities for AKC's constituents and clubs and will allow the organization to grow and flourish.

"Our goal in creating a program specifically designed for mixed breeds is to share our passion for dogs and our sport," said AKC President and CEO Dennis Sprung. "AKC will broaden its legislative influence by representing more dog owners and achieve greater exposure for our responsible dog ownership messaging. But ultimately, the positive developments that this program creates will benefit dogs the most, and this is what we value above all."

The mixed breeds program will be implemented in three phases. As of October 1, 2009 owners can begin enrolling their pets and receive an AKC ID number. Then beginning April 1, 2010 enrolled dogs will be eligible to compete in mixed breed classes at stand-alone AKC Agility,

Obedience and Rally events. Soon after they will have access to benefits such as discounted AKC Companion Animal Recovery Lost and Found service, a free AKC Canine Good Citizen® certificate for dogs passing the CGC test, a free initial veterinary visit, a trial offer of pet health insurance and discounted coupons for dog supplies.

The third phase will offer a dedicated Web site where dog owners can interact via an online community with discussion forums and access dog care video downloads, advice from experts and the most up-to-date news on canine health and welfare. The site will be continually enhanced with new features and benefits in order to respond to the changing needs of pet owners.

This new AKC initiative is the first designed to specifically benefit mixed breed dogs and their dog owners, however the AKC has long included mixed breeds in programs such as AKC Canine Good Citizen®, AKC S.T.A.R. Puppysm, AKC Responsible Dog Ownership Day and the AKC CAR Canine Support and Relief Fund's disaster relief efforts. In addition, AKC has always actively advocated for the rights of all dog owners and the welfare of dogs through its Government Relations efforts and serves dog owners through its affiliate organizations such as the AKC Humane Fund, AKC Canine Health Foundation and AKC Companion Animal Recovery.

For more information about the AKC's mixed breeds program, visit www.akc.org/mixedbreeds.

Wed Mar 11, 2009 9:03 am (PDT)

Below is a letter that the Toledo Kennel Club sent to AKC regarding the proposed dog tax that AKC wants to implement. We have received a response from AKC President Dennis Sprung which is also quoted below. This dog tax

will be charged to everyone showing in any AKC event, conformation, agility, obedience, rally, etc. The dog tax is \$25 per year per dog.

Hardy has given his permission to re-post this letter to anyone you think would be interested in this dog tax. Please feel free to use any part of the letter if you want to send a letter to AKC. And please send a letter to AKC regarding your views on the proposed dog tax. This was discussed at the December 2008 Delegates meeting. You can go to the AKC web site to read the delegates meeting minutes.

Thank you for your time in this matter.
Jackie Oricko

--- On Mon, 2/16/09, Hardress J. Waller <hwaller@adelphia.net> wrote:

From: Hardress J. Waller <hwaller@adelphia.net>

Subject: AKC Dog Tax

Date: Monday, February 16, 2009, 11:46 AM

To all Dog Club members:

Below is the text of a letter that was sent by the Board of the Toledo Kennel Club to Mr. Sprung, President, and Mr. Menaker, Board Chairman and CEO of the American Kennel Club. This concerns the proposal that would require exhibitors to pay an annual fee of \$25 for each dog to be entered in any AKC event. This could have a devastating effect on dog clubs across the country that depend on income from event entry fees for their survival. Consider that many entries are made to provide experience and exposure for their young dogs, especially puppies, with little likelihood of winning. Many others are made for sentimental reasons for veteran dogs in both Breed and Obedience. A substantial reduction in numbers of entries could be expected at any time, but especially in this time of crisis and economic uncertainty.

'A telephone response from Mr. Sprung to Donna Anderson pointed out that he has received almost no opposition to the proposal, either by letter or email. A possible explanation for this is that so far few people are aware that this is a serious matter. The purpose of sending you the the text of our TKC letter is not to recycle the language of the letter but to point out some of the issues and that out that some response is appropriate and urgent.'

Hardress J. Waller

Conformation Director, Toledo Kennel Club

3 February 2009

Dennis B. Sprung

President and Chief Executive Officer

The American Kennel Club

260 Madison Ave.
New York, NY 10016

Dear Mr. Sprung:

This letter concerns the report published in the current Gazette (AKC Gazette 2009, 126 (1): 88-89) which makes general reference to a "Future Program", to be funded by a Dog Tax of approximately \$25 annually for each dog to be entered in an AKC event. We believe it is unfortunate that the officials of the American Kennel Club would make such a proposal at any time, but especially at this time of economic turmoil that affects everyone. Unemployment is expected to reach 10% during 2009, and many others face serious financial problems. The depressed economy obviously will have a severe impact on participation in dog shows and other dog events throughout the country and will threaten the survival of show-giving clubs. The proposed Dog Tax would reduce dog show entries even during normal times, but at this time could be catastrophic. That the President and Directors would propose such a Dog Tax suggests that the AKC may be out of touch with the real world of dog people, and that a re-examination of the role and purpose of the AKC is both appropriate and desirable.

AKC devotes a great amount of energy to promote mega-shows, including Westminster and the Eukanuba National. These are obviously intended to promote the image of the American Kennel Club. They attract much media attention, provide lucrative rewards for professional handlers, and provide wide recognition for some prominent dogs and their breeders. Objectively, however, this is a minute fraction of all of the dogs and handlers that participate in dog shows, obedience, agility, and performance events. The real world is the sum of the thousands of dogs and hundreds of dog organizations throughout the U.S., west of the Hudson River and east of Long Beach. Historically, the greatest contribution of the AKC have been to provide the essential administrative infrastructure for dog events and dog clubs, as well as to provide the necessary dog registry and breed definitions. The result has been that in the latter part of the 20th Century the number of AKC-sanctioned events progressively increased along with growth in participation in these events even though dogs no longer were the pastime primarily of the wealthy. We believe that it is essential that AKC not take actions and adopt policies that are likely to interfere with the interest and enthusiasm shown by dog owners, weaken the clubs, and jeopardize their future.

Recently the trend of increasing dog show entries has reversed. This was apparent during the period of high gasoline prices when entries for many events declined. The

change can be attributed to obvious factors: The direct effect was the cost of travel reducing the geographic area from which entries were made. The indirect effect was that the disposable income of all potential exhibitors was sharply decreased. The importance of this is that, throughout most of the country, potential exhibitors are not affluent and their dog activities are governed by the size of their disposable income. Even in favorable times, this amount often is small. Now that we are in a period of extreme economic difficulty severely affecting millions of ordinary people, it is difficult to justify your degree of support of programs designed primarily to expand the image, power, and influence of the AKC but which will have little real benefit beyond this. When it becomes a choice between dog show entries and dog food, most of those we know would choose dog food. This clearly is the worst possible time to propose a dog tax that will further suppress entries for dog events.

Another aspect of this problem relates to the alternate dog registry whose existence AKC never acknowledges, the United Kennel Club. In the real world, many members of our and other clubs enter UKC events. Their Conformation events are valuable because they provide relatively inexpensive and convenient show training experience for both dogs and handlers. UKC Obedience and Agility trials operate under somewhat different rules than AKC events, generally have lower entry fees, and are valuable in their own right. If the AKC dog tax is adopted, it is very likely to stimulate a large increase in UKC entries along with a corresponding decrease in AKC entries. This could further increase the serious economic problems faced by AKC clubs such as ours, which depend to a large extent on income from shows and trials to support the costs of our building. We have not seen evidence that UKC has planned a dog tax.

We believe that it is an appropriate time to seriously consider which of the programs described in the report to the Delegates genuinely advance the mission of both the AKC and the many AKC-sanctioned dog clubs, and which of those may be of little or no value. There is a danger of overstating the importance of the AKC role in some of these. For example, the support of AKC for opposition to anti-dog legislation is commendable, but in Ohio and recently in California, the most effective opposition came from local, intrastate organizations. This is because the local groups are also the constituents of the city, county, and state legislators directly involved with such legislation. We question whether it is necessary or even desirable for AKC to be involved in a frozen-semen program for future breeding

of a few dogs currently deemed highly desirable (the "Future Program"). Programs to promote responsible dog ownership are desirable, but they also are inherently local, probably best carried on by local organizations and groups including even our own Toledo Humane Society and Toledo Area Metroparks. AKC attempts to promote dog registration through advertising at pet stores and other means. However, the limited success of such efforts is probably because pet owners are not convinced that there is a tangible benefit. The potential benefits become much more apparent when new dog owners attend local dog club activities and are directly exposed at the local level to dog training classes, educational programs, and dog events.

In summary, the report to the Delegates' meeting briefly describes elaborate, obviously very costly advertising, promotional, and hopefully educational programs to be run from New York. However, the AKC Board should recognize that small-scale programs with similar objectives are regularly carried on at very low cost and often with greater success by dog clubs throughout the U.S.

This letter expresses views of the Board of Directors of the Toledo Kennel Club, Inc., as affirmed by the signatures below. The Toledo Kennel Club, Inc. is a member club of the American Kennel Club.

This letter is also sent to Mr. Ronald H. Menaker,

Claire White-Peterson
Eastern Time Zone Rep.
LRC, Inc.