

25th ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PWDCA, INC.

The 25th Annual Meeting of the Portuguese Water Dog Club of America, Inc. was called to order by President Cheryl Smith at 7:50 p.m., Wednesday, September 24, 1997.

Present: Cheryl Smith, Christi Overton (outgoing vice president), Jody VanLoan, Robin Zaremba, Ginny Brown, Deb Zorn, Janis Watts, and Carol Mattingley (incoming vice president).

Absent: John Karlsson and David Haddock.

Guests who signed in: Ann Whaley, Liz Weidner, Beryl Nord, Lora Laine, Katelyn Romeo, and Carl Friedrich.

Quorum: Robin informed the Board that a quorum of 109 active members was needed to hold the meeting, and that 116 active members had signed in for the meeting. Thus, the meeting proceeded. Cheryl Smith introduced the Board to the membership and welcomed incoming vice president, Carol Mattingley, to the Board.

Standing Rules: The first order of business was the reading of the standing rules for the meeting, which were read to the membership by President Smith. Upon a motion made by Sue D'Augusta and seconded by Steven Bean, the standing rules for the meeting were unanimously passed.

24th Annual Meeting Minutes: President Smith next informed the membership that the 24th Annual Meeting Minutes were approved and were printed in the November-December 1996 Courier.

Board/Committee Reports: President Smith also informed the membership that all committee and board reports were contained in the Annual Report package that each member received when signing in for the meeting.

Cardiomyopathy: Ginny Brown then took the floor to give the membership a report on cardiomyopathy. Ginny reported that there is a particular heart problem in the young PWD which is known as "juvenile dilated cardiomyopathy." It is similar to the disease that exists in human beings and may exist in other dog breeds although it has not yet been extensively studied in other dog breeds. In the past year, this health problem has become of greater concern because of increased numbers of reports of sudden puppy deaths. Ginny stressed that neither she nor the committee wanted to panic or alarm breeders about this health concern, but that the committee did want an overview presented to the membership regarding the issue. In most cases, puppy deaths occur between 7-18 weeks of age, with most deaths

occurring between 10-14 weeks of age, the age when puppies generally have already gone into a new home with a new family.

Ginny reported that it is clear that this form of cardiomyopathy is NOT confined to any one kennel nor to any one pedigree line, but rather has shown up in some recent imports as well as older and new American lines. It may well go back to the foundation stock. Enough breeding of affected puppies has already occurred this year that two researchers (Dr. Joseph Alroy, of Tufts University, and Dr. Meg Sleeper, of the U. of Pennsylvania) became very interested in studying this disease. They have been hard at work and have made significant progress in being able to make a definitive diagnosis of the disease and thus start to quantify its nature.

Some breeders in the club have already been cooperating with the Cardiac Committee over the past year in helping the researchers determine the mode of inheritance. However, the researchers need more information. If any breeder has had an instance of a puppy over two weeks of age which died suddenly and has not reported it to the Cardiac Committee, any information relating to the death (e.g., autopsy report, pedigree, etc.) should be submitted to the committee so that the researchers may progress more rapidly. It is important to understand that even if an autopsy has been performed, that it may be ambiguous in terms of the diagnosis that is listed on the autopsy report. Some reports may say things like "maybe pneumonia" or "maybe heart problem" or "enlarged heart" or "we don't know". Thus, any sudden puppy deaths in the above age range need to be reported immediately to the committee for the researchers to sort out.

Anyone who is planning to breed a litter in the future should make sure that their veterinarian has on file a copy of the protocol that should be followed and a list of the symptoms of the disease so that if you should happen to have a case where a puppy has died suddenly, you will know the specifics in terms of how an autopsy needs to be posted and where tissue samples should be sent. Information is included in the cardiac report which is in the annual report package which attending members just received.

The committee is also in the process of having the data it has received so far submitted to several geneticists to confirm the mode of inheritance, and the committee is optimistic that the mode of inheritance will be determined by the end of 1997. The committee is NOT recommending that dogs and bitches who have produced cardiomyopathy be neutered or spayed. The breed cannot afford to narrow its gene pool any further nor do we want to repeat the mistakes made in the past such as that which happened with GM-1 carriers. It may well turn out to be a simple recessive gene similar to that of the GM-1 problem, and a test will be developed which can then be used as a tool to aid in managing the disease so that no more affected puppies will be produced. A good PWD brood bitch or stud should not be eliminated from

breeding stock just because he or she is a carrier of cardiomyopathy.

There will be a series of articles in the future issues of the Courier. Please read them, educate yourself on the topic, and keep them for future reference and pass them on to puppy people.

Finally, a quilt (created by Lorraine Brown) will be auctioned off at the annual awards dinner with the proceeds donated for cardiomyopathy research.

Old Business: Virginia Santoli took the floor and questioned Treasurer Haddock's annual report regarding that the Board decides what monies go into sequestered accounts. Ms. Santoli stated that all funds given to the club need to remain in sequestered accounts and be used for the specific item for which the funds were given. Lou Guthrie stated that in 1996 funds donated for a designated cause (e.g., cancer research) were sent directly to the research program. Jody Van Loan stated that there is a difference in that operating funds that come into the club are different from those monies being donated for a specific cause (e.g., rescue) and do not need to be in a sequestered account. Mary Harkins stated that when a rescue dog is placed, a donation is made to the club by the person obtaining the dog because the club is not in the business of selling dogs so a fee is not charged for a rescued dog but a donation to the club is suggested. Jody stated that the club is responsible for rescue and that if no funds were donated towards rescue, the club would still maintain the program. Thus, the club utilizes monetary donations that it receives to oversee its many responsibilities.

New Business/Member Motions: Virginia Santoli brought before the Board the following motion: "I [Virginia Santoli] move that the PWDCA from its treasury make a donation equal to \$5.00 for each household membership in 1995-96 member year to Dr. G. Aguirre for continuing PRA gene test research. Seconded by Maralee J. Johnson." Discussion ensued, with Cheryl Smith commenting that the motion would take over \$5,000 from the treasury. Sherry Hanen disagreed with the motion inasmuch as a PRA eye committee exists and the committee should advise where monies should be spent, plus she would like to see a proposal to see what work would be done with such donated funds. Ginnie Santoli stated that Dr. Aguirre is a leader in PRA research, and most other researchers are working with Dr. Aguirre. Steven Bean asked that Ginny Brown give a Homestretch Drive report. Dr. Brown stated that the Homestretch Drive was initiated by some members and nearly \$16,000 was raised and donated by both club members and non-members alike, and it was not a club-initiated program. Elaine Lyons stated that only the marker test would be completed soon, but not the final DNA test, and that as much monies as possible are needed to work towards that final test, and that the club should be backing the test. Janis Watts expressed concern that such a donation from the treasury could possibly strap the club financially although she wholeheartedly supports the health concerns in the breed.

Rachel Marshall asked about a past club donation of \$5/member from when dues were last raised and if \$5/member was still being donated annually by the club towards health issues. Cheryl Smith explained that past board minutes were unclear as to if the \$5/member was to be a one time donation, or an ongoing annual donation, and that the then current board members when that donation was approved were in conflict over the matter. Based on research by the current board, this Board felt that the donation was for one time only. There being no further discussion on the motion, a vote was called for. Voting "yes," 36 members, voting "no," 54 members, with 3 abstentions. The motion failed.

Next, Virginia Santoli brought the following motion before the Board: "I [Virginia Santoli] move that the PWDCA from its treasury make a donation equal to \$5.00 for each household membership in 1996-1997 member year to research on Cardiomyopathy and other Cardiac conditions (if identified) in the PWD. Seconded by Linda Campbell." Discussion took place, with Jane Harding stating that such sum should not be taken from the treasury but rather through fundraising efforts, using upcoming Info Updates to solicit same, and letting the appropriate committees come up with a proposal to raise the funds. There being no further discussion on the motion, a vote was called for. Voting "yes," 29 members, voting "no," 60 members, with 4 abstentions. The motion failed.

Marilyn Rimmer stated that since there was no parliamentarian present at the meeting and that she felt that the Board was clearly against the motions being brought by the membership, that someone other than a Board members should count the votes. Other club members commented that it was very clear to them which way the votes were going and that there doesn't appear to be any miscounting done by the Board in regards to the votes.

Thirdly, Virginia Santoli brought the following motion before the Board: "I [Virginia Santoli] move that the PWDCA Treasurer report in each Treasurer's report but no less than quarterly on the balance in, income to, expenses paid from and interest posted to each restricted (designated) fund of the PWDCA, including but not limited to; Rescue & Relocation, Deyanne Miller Memorial Fund and Health Funds. Seconded by Christine K. Barker." With no member coming forth to discuss the motion, a vote was called for. Voting "yes," 83 members, voting "no," 0 members, with 7 abstentions. The motion passed.

Fourth, Virginia Santoli brought the following motion before the Board: "I [Virginia Santoli] move that the membership of the PWDCA Water Trial Committee be comprised of one member from each PWDCA Regional Club Water Trial Committee, who is also a member in good standing with the PWDCA, to be designated by each respective Regional Club and a Committee Chair appointed by the PWDCA Board. Seconded by Deborah Gressle." Discussion took place,

with Phyllis Zusman against it because some regional clubs are not sanctioned and the national club has not determined what makes a regional club a club in good standing, so until that policy is in place, she doesn't feel that the committee should have members on it from regional clubs which may not be run properly. Jane Harding supported the motion because she felt that her local club (Nutmeg) is not kept apprised of issues developed within the water committee and if regional clubs had members on the water committee, then the regional clubs hosting water trials would have a better grip on developments pertaining to water trials. Phyllis Zusman stated that with the problems within her local club, she'd be horrified to have a club member on the committee and a regional representative would be more effective. Ginnie Santoli stated that there is a sanctioning procedure within the national club. Lou Guthrie asked that the water trial chair explain how the committee was chosen. Mary-Kay Schroeder (water committee chair) explained that the current committee consists of three past committee members, that no past committee members would accept the chair position and she was then asked to chair the committee, and that in a survey of the past committee, 90% of them felt that there were too many committee members and that the committee should be downsized to become more effective. Thus, the current committee of seven members is effective in size with a good cross-section from the country of well-versed water trial participant members. Mary-Kay also stated that there was a liaison from each regional club to the committee. Lisa Wiley took the floor and stated that she was the Nutmeg Club's committee liaison, but that she had never been contacted by the water committee with any committee information until this month [9/97]. Janis Watts stated that she liked the motion, but one should bear in mind that some regional clubs do not host water trials, but that an appointment to the committee could be an educational tool for them. Janis felt that a negative point to the motion, however, was in looking at the future of the club, when more regional clubs are formed, the committee could be quite cumbersome if each regional club had a committee member. Pat Stuart-Volz made a motion to table Ms. Santoli's motion until January 31, 1998, in order that the Board could review specific problems with the water committee and issue a report to the membership regarding its findings. Cindy McCullough seconded Pat Stuart-Volz's motion. A vote was called, and upon 55 "yes" votes to 25 "no" votes, with 5 abstentions, the motion to table the original motion until 1/31/98 was passed.

The next new business to come before the meeting was Pat Stuart-Volz giving a report on hemophilia. Ms. Stuart-Volz reported that hemophilia had only been found in her personal dogs to date and does not appear to be a problem within the breed as it is only in one piece of her Robel pedigrees. Pat asked that people not jump to conclusions about hemophilia.

Then, Pat Stuart-Volz brought before the membership the fact that the water committee would be issuing some changes and clarifications to the Water

Trial Manual within the next couple of months. To that end, Pat Stuart-Volz made a motion that the water trial revisions not be acted upon by the Board until the Board resolves the current problems between the regional clubs and the water trial committee. Seconded by Robert Marshall. Discussion was brought by Susan D'Augusta who asked that the "problems" be defined before this motion would go forward. Ginnie Santoli stated that based upon the prior motion, the Board had until 1/31/98 to address the problems with the water trial committee and issue a report to the membership. Lou Guthrie took the floor and made a motion to commit the water trial issues, including the membership and makeup of the water trial committee, the problems with communication with regional clubs, the clarifications to the Manual, etc., to the Water Trial Committee to submit to the membership and Board before any changes are made. Seconded by Cindy McCullough. (A motion to commit takes precedence over a motion on the floor.) Jane Harding made a friendly amendment to Lou's motion that the motion to commit go back to the Board. Seconded by Virginia Santoli. The friendly amendment motion passed by a clear majority vote. There was one "no" vote, and two abstentions.

Next, Elaine Lyons presented a motion to the Board, which stated: "I [Elaine Lyons] make a motion to raise the annual dues by \$5 to be designated annually for PRA research and given to Dr. Aguirre and the Baker Institute until a PRA "DNA" test is developed. Seconded by Rebecca Molinaro." Discussion took place that the wording of the motion was unclear and appeared to raise the club dues by \$5 "each" year that a test is not developed. Some of the members asked that the motion be reworded so that it was clear that only a one time charge/raise of the dues would take place until the development of the test. After further discussion, and upon several members leaving the meeting, a call for a member count for a quorum was called.

There being only 75 voting members remaining at the meeting, with 109 members needed for a quorum, the meeting was closed at 9:09 p.m. with no further action being taken on the motion presented.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: October 4, 1997

Robin Zaremba, Recording Secretary

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