

## **MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 7, 2003 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PORTUGUESE WATER DOG CLUB OF AMERICA**

The 2003 annual meeting of the Portuguese Water Dog Club of America was held at 4:50 PM, October 7, 2003, at the Agricenter International, Memphis, TN.

### **DIRECTORS PRESENT**

President Stuart Freeman, Vice President Steven Bean, Recording Secretary Leslie Arner, Treasurer Barbara Niemann and Directors Sandra Overton, Kristen Cofiell, Caren Murray and Steven Dostie. Corresponding Secretary Catherine Kalb and Director Pat Qvigstad were absent.

A quorum of 105 full members was reached. The meeting was called to order at 4:50 PM CST.

**MINUTES** Previously approved and published.

### **REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT**

Stuart Freeman introduced the members of the board to the membership, including incoming board member Lisa Baird. He gave an update on changes that have been implemented this year, including:

- The new Health and Litter Registry status. Rita Hasel had CDs for sale at the Specialty.
- The Policy and Procedure Manual was reorganized and updated by Pat Qvigstad.
- The minutes of the Board meetings are now being posted on the PWDCA web site.
- A new Health Consultant position has been created, with Karen Kelly, M.D. appointed.
- Barb Niemann has been instrumental in forming the LLC for PWDCA Specialties.
- Topic of the Month program initiated to gain member input on subjects critical to the PWDCA.
- Rescue and Relocation program is expanding rapidly and could put new financial burdens on the club. Some breeders are not assuming responsibility for their get.
- Steven Bean is working with the AKC to get a new PWDCA breed tape produced.
- The Delmarva regional club has expressed interest in hosting the 2005 Specialty.
- Stuart Freeman has written to the AKC requesting a correction to the PWD stud book, resulting from parentage information uncovered using DNA testing.
- Due to increases in costs, the membership dues have been increased slightly, for the first time in over six years. There have also been modest increases in Courier advertising rates.
- The Courier magazine received the Dog Writers Association of America award for the best National Breed Club magazine for the year 2003.
- Gifts to the PWD Foundation are tax deductible. Brochures and additional information may be obtained from Maryanne Murray.

### **REPORT OF THE TREASURER**

Barb Niemann reported the PWDCA is in outstanding financial condition. There has been an 11% increase in new members.

### **PRESIDENTS AWARDS**

Health and Litter Registry ad Hoc committee was recognized "For accomplishing an awesome task, plowing through endless data and producing an immediately useful product

which will be the foundation for all future PWD health information. Health and Litter Registry (Ad Hoc) Committee  
Joe Schoenfelder (Chair), Virginia Santoli (Health), Rita Hasel (Litter), Karen Berggren, Stan Harding, Scott Marshall, Andy Robinson, Heather Shilo.

Dr. Betty Trainor was recognized for invigorating the Judge's Education Committee and stepping in to judge at the 2002 National Specialty, interrupting her vacation.

Roy and Barbara Cawley were recognized for distinguished service in coordinating a spectacular 2003 National Specialty, which was produced in less than one year.

## NEW BUSINESS

Members Questions and Comments:

Denise Dean recommended that National Specialty host committees provide participation gifts for all entrants, not just winners. Sandy Overton stated that was already a stated requirement in the Specialty Manual.

Karen Berggren asked how many members the PWDCA has. Terry Cardillino estimated 1500, based on the Courier mailing list.

Darby Stacey asked if breeders names could be published when they did not take responsibility for their dogs in rescue, so they would not be referred more puppy buyers from other members. Angela Harding felt it would be a good idea to at least publish names of breeders who acted responsibly in cases where rehoming was necessary. Stuart Freeman commented that many times rescued dogs required medical treatment which could cost thousands of dollars. These costs are often paid by the PWDCA.

Phyllis Zusman asked how many Portuguese Water Dogs there are in the U.S. No one had a definitive answer, or knew how to estimate the number of unregistered or deceased animals.

Bob Plucker asked why Rescue segregated funds were not broken out in the Profit and Loss statement. Stu Freeman explained.

Pat Schindler suggested separating the A and B obedience dogs for annual recognition placements. This would be more equitable for the novice handlers. Topic will be referred to the Obedience Committee for review.

Patty Johnson asked what the funding levels were for the various segregated funds- so members would know where the need for donations is. She also commented that the club has a lot of cash on hand, and asked is that typical? Stuart Freeman explained that this didn't used to be the case. It is a good idea to have money on hand incase of events that lose money, or increases in costs, for new research projects or Rescue, for example.

Karen Berggren reported on her pedigree database project. She has compiled information from five pedigree databases, and also uses the AKC web site for gathering pedigree information. This way she is able to make corrections. The PWD Pedigree Study Group has thus far confirmed over 5000 PWD registered names and numbers with the AKC web site. Of these confirmed names, 40% were new to their combined databases.

Gene Honeycutt suggested that breeders consider micro-chipping all their puppies, and leave themselves as primary contact for the dogs. He recommends this be added to the requirements to participate on the Breeder/Litter lists. (Applause)

Ginnie Santoli reminded owners that often micro-chips are overlooked by shelters, and sometimes they don't function properly. They are a good tool, but cannot be depended on as the only identification method.

Motion to adjourn at 5:30 PM. Approved, unanimous.

Respectfully submitted

Leslie Arner  
Recording Secretary  
Portuguese Water Dog Club of America Inc.