

MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 6, 2004 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PORTUGUESE WATER DOG CLUB OF AMERICA

The annual meeting of the Portuguese Water Dog Club of America for the year 2004 was held October 6, 2004 at the Salishan Lodge, Gleneden Beach, Oregon. The meeting was called to order at 4:15 PM PST. A quorum of over ninety-five members was reached.

Members of the Board present: President Barbara Niemann, Vice President Steven Bean, Recording Secretary Leslie Arner, Directors Steven Dostie, Sandra Overton, and Kris Cofiehl. Absent: Corresponding Secretary Catherine Kalb, Treasurer Pat Qvigstad, and Director Lisa Baird.

MINUTES The minutes from the 2003 annual meeting were approved as published in the November-December Courier.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT.

President Barbara Niemann welcomed everyone to the 13th Annual PWDCA National Specialty, and thanked them for coming to the meeting. She then introduced the current members of the Board, as well as the newly-elected Board members who will begin serving their two-year terms beginning in January, Janet Boyd-Kristensen, Barbara Paul and Charles Teasley.

Excerpts of the President's message follow:

"The Club has achieved many accomplishments and faced many issues during the past year. I would like to focus on several topics:

- Health Research, particularly Addisons and Cardio
- The Health and Litter Database
- International Sanctioning and Regional Club Development
- Rescue and Relocation

On the topic of Health Research

The PWDCA joined forces with the PWD Foundation to support the AKC Canine Health Foundation Grant, Establishing a Genetic Linkage between Addison's disease and DNA Markers. Dr. Anita Oberbauer PhD is conducting this research at the University of California Davis. We will be contributing at total of \$7,600 over two years. As a member of the Addison's committee, Jane Harding is the Club's coordinator. Jane would you please stand up! Jane has made sure that we have swab kits available this week so that people can participate in this important program. While everyone is encouraged to participate in this important research, we're especially interested in getting DNA swabs from dogs diagnosed with Addison's and their full sibs. Pedigrees available through Karen Berggren, our pedigree guru.

Research continues at Univ. of PA to develop a DNA test for the gene which produces Juvenile Dilated Cardiomyopathy. Last month, two members of the Heart Committee and one Board member met with Dr. Meg Sleeper to discuss the research and care of related puppies. The PWDCA has agreed to assume responsibility of the puppies produced for the research. We recovered ten, fourteen week old puppies with low risk factors for JDCM. They were fostered by Carol Mattingley, Carolyn Iraggi, Mary Harkins and Steve Dostie; all pups have been placed in permanent homes. The Committee is now working on the procedures for the socializing, fostering and placement of future pups release from Penn. [Carol, Carolyn and Steve, would you please stand]

Prior to the Heart Committee taking over, club members Susan and John McMahon were instrumental in placing over 47 puppies released from the Penn research. The PWDCA owes them our gratitude and recognition for their commitment to Cardio research.

On the topic of the Health and Litter Database

By now, many of you have attended one of the demonstrations for the new On Line Health and Litter Database which should be up and running by the end of the year. Under the leadership of Joe Schoenfelder and the Task Force, and especially Stan Harding, a programmer of exceptional ability and dedication, we now have a dynamic tool for researching health information for our breed. I'd like to recognize the task Force Members who are here today: Stan Harding, Rita Hasel, Karen Berggren, Ginnie Santoli, and Heather Shilo.

On the topic of International Sanctioning and Regional Club Development

Under the leadership of Janis Watts, and the perseverance of the Canadian Club, the guidelines for International Affiliation were approve in the Spring of 2004 leading the way for the first-ever PWDCA Water

Trials held outside the US. Congratulations to everyone for taking part in this historic event. We hope to continue strengthening ties between our two Clubs.

One of the important objectives of the PWDCA is to encourage the organization of independent local PWD regional clubs. In 2004 the Colorado Portuguese Water Dog Club and the United Sunshine State Portuguese Water Dog Club received temporary sanctioning. The Colorado Club has already hosted a successful supported entry and Water Trial. And the Florida Club is finalizing plans for a Supported Entry in January.

I would also like to say thank you to the Pacific Northwest Club, the Northern California Club and the many volunteers throughout the country who have worked for well over twelve months to put on this fantastic event. It has been a First Class experience in every respect.

On the topic of Rescue and Relocation

When Carol Allen resigned in January after working fervently for two years to rescue and re-home numerous PWDs, Mary Harkins came forward and resumed the position as the Rescue Coordinator, a position she had prior to Carole. What a difference two years made--Unfortunately the news isn't positive. More first-time breeders are calling Rescue for help with placing their litters, and more people who own dogs with temperament issues are asking Rescue to take them. With so many litters now being produced, breeders may not be as picky about the homes they go to, simply because there aren't as many people looking for pups. There are no easy answers.

One solution might be with the help of the newly formed Rescue Advisory Committee who has been asked to work with the Breeder Referral Coordinator to recommend ways to improve our Breeder Referral Program.

In conclusion, I would like to express my appreciation to the Board of Directors for their commitment and service to the Club. It's been good year...our accomplishments have been in the areas of research, club sanctioning, and rescue. With the support of our membership, we hope to continue serving you effectively in 2005."

REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT Steven Bean thanked over 110 volunteers who made the Oregon Specialty possible. He then thanked all the volunteers who had worked towards the success of previous Specialties, and asked for new volunteers to step forward to help with future Specialties.

REPORT OF RECORDING SECRETARY Leslie Arner informed the membership that Full Member application forms are now available on the PWDCA web site. Anyone who has been an Associate Member for two years or more may upgrade their membership to include voting rights by applying for Full Membership. Completed applications with two Full Member sponsors should be sent to the Membership Chair, Pat Qvigstad.

Anyone not attending the Annual Meeting may obtain an Annual Report by contacting Leslie Arner.

HEALTH AND LITTER DATABASE Kristin Cofield, liaison with the committee, reported that the Health and Litter Database is scheduled to go live in November. Members who participate in the database will have full access to it.

NEW BUSINESS

A written motion was submitted by Morgin Powell, requesting the national Specialty is held in one location for two to three years, then rotating among a few known locations. The Specialties could be hosted by different clubs. The motion was seconded by Jean Hassebroek. Discussion took place as follows:

Jane Harding likes the Specialty to move around.

Ginnie Santoli felt having it in one location repeatedly would put a lot of pressure on the same local clubs.

Jane Freeman asked Morgin to explain her reasoning for the proposal.

Morgin Powell said she wanted to concentrate on the dogs, find a host hotel that was accustomed to hosting Specialties, and had all venues on site, including the water trial. Having the show on the same dates every year would guarantee a location and a host hotel that knew what to do.

Joyce Taylor stated she did not fly her dogs. She also suggested using event organizers to run the Specialties.

Sandy Overton noted that event organizers add extra costs to the event, and that we currently use all volunteer labor. She supported reusing previous locations, but wanted to change the site every year.

Karen Berggren said this was her vacation and she liked going to new places.

Diane Gill won't fly her dogs, and likes to drive to the locations when possible.

Jean Hassebroek noted that the Salishan is a great site but the RV parking is far away.

Roy Cawley stated that he would like these issues to be brought up at the Specialty Advisory Committee meetings. (RV parking, hotel accommodations, etc.)

Julie Rust supported Morgin's motion, but also liked Sandy's suggestion of reusing venues. She would like the water trial site close to the show grounds.

Lyle Harding suggested the motion be tabled.

Janis Watts wants everything in one place, won't fly her dogs and wants to be able to attend some of the Specialties with her dogs, so she prefers to move the location around the country.

Barbara Paul was against the motion for two reasons: 1. The charm of the Specialty is the moving venue, meeting different people and seeing different dogs every year. 2. This is too important an issue to decide quickly at this meeting.

Sherry Hanen opposes the motion and feels the regional clubs take pride in hosting the Specialties in their area of the country.

Patty Johnson liked the idea of the clubs working together, but opposed the motion.

It was noted that Marge Jackson did an awesome job on the 2004 Specialty web site- which drew a round of applause.

Kathy Monroe said she thought the Specialty was a great place to meet new members and a building ground for future Board members.

Brytt Hasslinger would like to make travel easier with dogs, have show site close to a major airport, good RV accommodations.

Morgin Powell asked to make a friendly amendment to her motion to refer the issue to the Specialty Advisory Committee for consideration. The original motion and second were withdrawn.

Elaine Suter asked who was serving on the SAC. Janet Boyd-Kristensen, Roy Cawley, Nigel Clark, Sandy Overton and Becky Molinaro will serve through the end of 2004. Becky will be replaced by Barbara Paul and Shannon Stagg, co-chairs of the 2005 Specialty beginning in January.

Diane Gill asked if there was a timeline for the Specialty Advisory Committee to develop a plan for future Specialties.

Sandy Overton mentioned that there had been over fifty responses to the request for member input on Specialties on the PWDCA web site in September, the results of which would be published in the Specialty issue of the Courier.

Barb Niemann spoke about the LLC being the financial arm of the Specialty, which covered banking relationships, insurance, financial reporting and procedures. This should remove some of the burden from regional clubs who host a Specialty.

Judy Gilpin asked if the membership would be required to vote on and changes in the Specialty procedures.

Barbara Niemann explained that the way sites were selected for the Specialty was through an application process. Regional Clubs interested in hosting a Specialty submit their proposals to the Board for approval.

Ginnie Santoli noted that anything the general membership votes on originally, they vote to change. Anything the Board or committees decide, the Board can change, that way the club can make changes in a timely manner.

Barbara Niemann stated that our collective goal is to improve the Specialties and we need membership input.

The meeting adjourned at 5:15 PM PST.

Respectfully submitted,

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