

## **MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 20, 2005 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PORTUGUESE WATER DOG CLUB OF AMERICA**

The Annual Meeting of the Portuguese Water Dog Club of America for the year 2005 was held September 20, 2005 at Rocky Gap Resort in Flintstone, MD. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 PM EST. A quorum of over 91 Active Members was reached. In attendance were 171 Active members.

Members of the Board present: President Barbara Niemann, Vice President Janet Boyd-Kristensen, Corresponding Secretary Catherine Kalb, Treasurer Pat Qvigstad, Directors Lisa Baird, Kris Cofiell, Steven Dostie, Barbara Paul, and Chuck Teasley.

Absent: Recording Secretary Leslie Arner.

President Barbara Niemann welcomed everyone to the 14th Annual PWDCA National Specialty, and thanked them for coming to the meeting. She recognized Maryanne Murray and her crew for their support and success of the K9 Health Tent. Barbara Paul asked that everyone continue to police the grounds of the show site and resort and avoid driving over electrical cables near the grooming tent.

### **MINUTES**

The minutes from the October 6, 2004 Annual Meeting were approved as published in the 2004 November-December issue of the Courier.

### **REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT**

President Barbara Niemann recognized members who had attended all 14 PWDCA National Specialties, those who had attended one-half of the National Specialties, and those who were attending their first National Specialty.

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 a few of these which are not mentioned in my message in the 2005 PWDCA Annual Report.

### **Judges Selection Process**

Last month Active Members received information and a ballot from the National Specialty Judges Selection Ad Hoc Committee regarding important changes to the Judges Selection process. The important changes include:

- A one member, one vote system that allows each member to select only one judge during the initial phase.
- An increased period between judging assignments to 5 years from 3 years currently.
- Short bios of each judge sent along with the final vote.

With 187 ballots received the proposal was approved by an 8 to 1 margin—165 in favor, 22 opposed. This means changes to the Judges Selection Process will go into effect for the 2008 National Specialty.

### **2007 National Specialty**

I am pleased to announce that a bid by the Southern California and the Rio Salgado Portuguese Water Dog Clubs to co-host the 2007 PWDCA National Specialty has been approved by the Board.

The site for the Specialty is in Long Beach, California with the Coast Hotel Long Beach serving as the host hotel. The Coast Hotel has 195 rooms and the nearby Westin has 165 rooms for a total of 355 dog-friendly rooms. The Queen Mary Events Park, a flat 5-acre park that is a short 3-5 minute walk from the Coast Hotel, will host all conformation, agility, obedience, and rally trials and has plenty of room for a grooming tent, participants' sets ups, the vendors, and RV parking. The

water site will be at Castaic Lake, a 65-mile drive from the Host Hotel, and the site for the Southern California club's water trials for the last 8 years. This site can easily accommodate three water trial test sites, if necessary.

Mark your calendars now for the 2007 Specialty to be held September 29- October 5, 2007. These dates coincide with the Burbank Kennel Club Dog Show that is held the first weekend in October.

### **2006-2007 Board Elections**

Last month you were mailed information about the Nominating Committee's Slate for the 2006 Board of Directors. Each of these candidates completed a comprehensive questionnaire, including their occupation and business background, participation in PWDCA committees and clubs, experience and skills, and their goals as a Board member. Please stand as I call your name.

The PWDCA Nominating Committee nominees are:

Susan Becker  
Suzanne Bohan  
Kathryn Monroe  
Cynthia O'Connor, DVM  
Phyllis Zusman

The PWDCA By-Laws provides for up to five additional candidates to run for the Board through a write-in nominations form. This year there were five active members who met the minimum requirement of receiving 10 signatures from Active Members and therefore a ballot will be mailed to the membership. The write-in nominees are:

Jean Hassebroek  
Brytt Hasslinger  
Andy Kalmanash  
Barbara Lachney  
Julie Parker

Thank you, you may be seated.

The elections ballot will be mailed to Active Members on October 1, 2005. I encourage all of you here today to get to know these candidates. If you would like to stay a few minutes after the Annual Meeting, I'm sure the candidates will be happy to answer your questions about their backgrounds and goals for the Club.

### **PWDCA logo**

How many of you know the history behind the PWDCA logo? Almost 25 years ago a contest was held and the art work from three contestants were placed in the Courier and voted on by the membership. At a meeting held at the World Trade Center - New York City - in conjunction with our acceptance into AKC Miscellaneous Class in May 1981, the new logo was introduced for first time.

Over the years this logo has become a strong brand identity for Club communications. To protect our brand from use by others in non-Club business, we recently received the Assignment of Copyright from the artist, Elisa Ferracane, which simply formalizes what was intended from the beginning—that the PWDCA owns the copyright for this logo. We are currently filing trademark status for the PWDCA logo and The Courier magazine. When these trademarks are secured the PWDCA will monitor and take action on infringements.

### **Health and Litter Database**

As of September, 2005 the Health and Litter Database was officially launched for ALL owners of Portuguese Water Dogs. What a tremendous achievement this is! Four years in the making, breeders and owners now have a dynamic tool for entering and researching health information for our breed. If you haven't logged on to the site yet, please do when you get home. You'll be

amazed at how user-friendly it is. Although they're not here today to receive our appreciation and thanks, please join me in recognizing Joe Schoenfelder and Stan Harding, for their exceptional ability and dedication to this project. And it is also my pleasure to recognize the task Force Members here today who contributed to this launch: Would you please stand as I introduce you: Rita Hasel (litter), Karen Berggren, Ginnie Santoli (health), Heather Shilo.

I would also like to thank to the DelMarVa Portuguese Water Dog Club and the many volunteers throughout the country who have worked for well over twelve months to put on this great event.

Finally, I want to thank all those who assisted the Club, the Board, and me during my two years as President. Much remains to be done; however, I believe that the Club has made great progress during this period. Although arduous and challenging, the job of President has been immensely rewarding. My greatest satisfaction has been interacting with so many members who have the sincere desire to improve the Breed and Club. If we continue to pull together, I foresee a bright future for the PWDCA and our dogs. Thank you."

**REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT** – no report.

**REPORT OF RECORDING SECRETARY**— no report.

**REPORT OF CORRESPONDING SECRETARY** – no report.

**REPORT OF TREASURER** – see Annual Report.

#### **REPORT OF THE AKC DELEGATE**

PAWS legislation - Report of AKC Delegate (Karen Arends) was presented by Chuck Teasley as printed in the August 29, 2005 Board Minutes. "I would suggest that the PWDCA not take a formal stand on either side until after a "Red Line Session" following an August Senate recess. This session is scheduled to smooth out rough points in the legislation, including mentioning Rescue organizations as exempt from being defined as "commercial." Once we see how the next draft of PAWS is presented, the PWDCA will be better able to decide whether or not to become involved politically." The Board decided to print a copy of the PAWS legislation and include it with a survey form for member feedback. It will be mailed with the 2007 Specialty Judges mailing to save postage costs.

#### **REPORT OF THE COMMITTEES**

**Membership** - Pat Qvigstad outlined the proposed change to the approval process for Active membership. This proposal will be placed on a ballot for membership vote in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2005 after elections.

Changes are as follows:

- Change the name of "Active" Member to "Full" Member. The reason is to more accurately define the membership category.
- Change the name of "Foreign" Member to "International" Member. The reason is to update the terminology.
- Henceforth, only Full Members will be eligible to participate in the PWDCA's Breeder Referral Service. This is to provide exclusive benefits to Full Members.
- The procedures for becoming a Full Member are being changed to the following:
  - a. After being an Associate Member for 2 years, an individual can apply for Full Membership.
  - b. The Applicant's name(s) shall be published in the PWDCA Courier following initial Board approval for pro and con comments.
  - c. Any comments received by the Membership Chairman within 30 days after the last month of publication shall be forwarded to the Recording Secretary.
  - d. The Recording Secretary shall then distribute the comments to Board Members prior to final consideration by the Board. Example: The applicant's name(s) shall be

published in the March/April Courier; the Membership Chairman would accept comments until 30 days after April 31, or May 30 per this example.

- e. The Board may deny Full Membership for any reason and is not required to give reasons for denial of said membership.
- f. The reason for this change is to allow for more input from the PWDCA membership.

Stephanie Staszak of New Jersey expressed her concerns over the timing of the arrival of The Courier to those who don't receive 1<sup>st</sup> Class mailing, allowing them an opportunity to consider Active membership applicants. Pat responded that adjustments would be made if time frame was not sufficient.

### **National Specialty Advisory Committee (SAC)**

Janet Boyd-Kristensen responded to several questions/concerns posed by the membership in recent months.

A. In an effort to improve timeliness of key specialty printed material, host committees are being asked to make the following adjustments in past procedures:

1. Use first class mail. The savings realized with bulk process are not worth the risk of not getting this information to the membership.
2. Re-evaluate mailing campaigns and group to best accommodate deadlines. Example - include catalog ads with trophy campaign.
3. Adjust current timelines - All mailed pieces should be printed and in the mail 2 months prior to the earliest deadline in that particular piece.
4. Consider Condensed Premium list format to expedite premium list printing. This would also allow individual class trophies to be accepted for a longer period of time.

B. Ours is a versatile breed and no competition venue should be limited if at all possible. Specialty host committees will be encouraged to offer unlimited entries to water, obedience, and agility competitions. When evaluating show/trial sites consideration every effort should be taken to accommodate unlimited entries and contingency plans should be in place. This may include adding another ring/judge/day of judging. Both the 2006 and 2007 host committees are planning with this directive in mind.

### **C. Specialty Rotation-**

In June of this year the Specialty Advisory Committee reviewed the current rotation of the national specialty location as a follow-up of a tabled motion at the 2004 Annual. Upon review of the minutes of the annual meeting and the discussion from the attending membership, the majority of members in wanted the specialties to continue to move on the rotation dictated in the Specialty Manual. Additionally an online discussion via the PWD-L that took place last Fall and the National Specialty Survey conducted via the PWDCA.ORG site in 2004 were considered.

Members expressed some of the following reasons for a rotation:

- Moving to different areas allows a variety of members to attend who may not be willing/able to travel across country.
- Don't want to fly dogs.
- Like the charm of new locations and seeing different parts of the country
- Rotation allows regional clubs to easily host and show a pride in their part of the country.
- Great place to meet new members from different parts of the country and expose regional members to club workings via Annual Meeting, etc.

It was agreed the National Specialty is for the PWDCA membership in total. It is a special and somewhat magical event that showcases the versatility of our dogs. No one event (conformation vs. water vs. obedience, etc.) is more important than the other. The rotation is vital to allow us to best serve the membership by making attending this event an option for all members even if only every 3 years. It keeps them connected to the parent club and allows them to see dogs/meet

people from other areas of the country/world. It allows a variety of dogs to compete each year drawing from the members in the various regions of the country and expose the entire membership to a variety of dogs.

In looking at various parent clubs and talking with their representatives, it seems the norm that specialty sites always have their pros/cons. The Specialty Advisory Committee is committed to continue to refine/define the workings of hosting the national specialty in the Specialty Manual. The goal of this effort will help guide host clubs in the site selection process and in the end improve that process and the sites selected. As we move forward and new sites are utilized, you bet those sites worth a repeat engagement will be noted.

Our goal would be to respect the wishes of the majority of the membership who support the specialty year after year by filling the host hotel, donating to the trophy fund, advertising in the catalog, and providing the bulk of the show/performance entries and continue with the current rotation – East, Mid, West. Evaluating the process and working towards improving the consistency and ease of hosting the national specialty is an ongoing process and each members input is appreciated.

Martha Schneider from Maryland asked that the Club decide on specialty locations further in advance as our specialty gets larger it is harder to book.

Jan Mosher from Virginia wants the Club to consider engaging a professional event planner and allow them to plan regular events while our “dog” members concentrate on dog events.

#### **Health Survey Ad Hoc**

Heather Shilo (chair) reported funding for the survey was approved early in 2005. Candidates were interviewed and Dr. Margaret Slater and her research assistants at Texas A&M were chosen as the group to work with the PWDCA to achieve this goal.

The survey will be four pages long and will capture information on dogs owned back to 1999 and may possibly be available as an online survey. This survey will provide a “snapshot” of dogs in our households at the specific point in time of the survey. The data submitted is confidential. In contrast, the Health & Litter Database is an ongoing and public source of health information. It will help us identify important diseases and their relative incidence and help prioritize research efforts. We will be able to better understand the health status of the breed compared to years past. It will include all owners both in the U.S. and internationally.

#### **Deyanne Miller Scholarship Fund Committee**

Kris Cofiell (chair) reported the committee is please to announce the awarding of \$1000 to Miss Kaitlynn Candies. Kaitlynn is a PWDCA member, as former Jr. Handler, as recipient of an AKC scholarship and a freshman pre-veterinary student at Louisiana State University. We understand Kaitlynn has been diligently caring for pets displaced by hurricane Katrina. The Deyanne Miller scholarship fund was developed in memory of Mrs. Miller and her commitment to Portuguese Water Dogs to support our members pursuing higher education. The committee is proud to have had such a quality applicant in Kaitlynn.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

##### **Ethics Committee**

Cathy Kalb reported the Board approved the formation of a new ethics committee and will initiate the application and interview process.

Mission: The mission of the Ethics Committee is to promote, encourage, and maintain quality in the breeding, health, care, and the well being of the purebred PWD by increasing awareness and compliance with the PWDCA Code of Ethics (COE), and to preserve and protect the standard of the breed as approved by the AKC as the only standard of excellence by which PWDs shall be judged

Scope: The Ethics Committee’s scope is as follows:

- a) to reevaluate the existing PWDCA Code of Ethics (COE) and based on in-depth research of relevant scientific materials and widely accepted practices, recommend changes as necessary to ensure that, to the extent possible, the standards are specific, objective, and measurable, including but not limited to the breeding, health screening, and general welfare of the PWD;
- b) to research and recommend to the PWDCA Board the establishment of procedures for reporting, investigating and resolving complaints and violations of the COE;
- c) to provide a forum for hearings related to complaints concerning alleged violations of the COE;
- d) to develop an incentive and/or reward program in accordance with compliance of the COE, and conversely, sanctions for violations of the COE;
- e) to assist with taking necessary action to protect and ensure the integrity of the breed, the breed standard, and compliance with the Code of Ethics by PWDCA members.

Method of selecting members and positions:

- a) Committee volunteers shall submit a volunteer form for the PWDCA.
- b) Candidates shall submit a resume and summary of relevant skills and knowledge that they can bring to the committee.
- c) Candidates shall also submit a statement outlining why they want to be on the committee.
- d) PWDCA board shall select members from pool of candidates and appoint a chair.
- e) Other positions will be decided upon by committee members.

### **Top Ten Program**

Steve Dostie reported in January of 2005 the Board voted to suspend the publication of Top Breeder, Sire, and Dam. The Board apologizes to the membership for not doing a better job of getting the word out of this change. This does not effect the publication of Top Ten in breed, group, obedience and agility.

The reason these awards were eliminated was their emphasis on the breed ring and conformation titles. For the past few months the Board has been researching how the Club can best acknowledge our top breeders and producers. The Board is looking toward developing a program that recognizes the diverse aspects of our breed; champions as well as working titles. The Board is working hard to make sure the new program is something members can be proud of.

Julie Asbed of Florida asked if the Board is looking at health issues as a part of this new program. She asked that a requirement that entries in Stud Dog/Brood Bitch comply with health guidelines be considered. Steve acknowledged her suggestion and noted we would need to look into AKC rules regarding that entry requirement.

Shannon Stagg of Maryland asked why the old plan has not been replaced. Without a new plan in place how are breeders to know what they are working towards? Steve acknowledged replacing with the new plan in taking longer than anticipated and to expect a report back from the Board very soon.

Elaine Suter of Michigan said she had been in the Top Ten and she feels this change is a great idea. Top Ten ranking should mean more than show wins. With more professional handlers showing our breed, the numbers of champions are growing at a faster pace than in the past. She has enjoyed doing more that conformation showing with her dogs of late. It is important to look at breeders who produce an all-round dog.

Lou Guthrie of North Carolina stated she believes in the new program, but believes the Top Ten should be reinstated until the new plan is in place or the Board should suspend all Top Ten programs.

Lorraine Carver of Utah asked should the membership have voted on this change? Why eliminate one and not just add a new one? Barb Niemann responded that the reason for the elimination was the Board felt it was rewarding quantity rather than quality.

Joyce Vanek from Colorado said she had also been a recipient of the Top Ten awards and she feels some people are using the Top Ten as a marketing device. We need to move away from that as the breed gains popularity and is in support of elimination of the old plan. Where are we going with the creation of this new plan?

The following motion was made by Lou Guthrie and seconded by Shannon Stagg: To reinstate all Top Ten programs until new programs are approved by the PWDCA Board.

Discussion on the motion as follows:

Opposition - Julie Asbed understands the reasoning behind the change and agrees to the comments regarding professional handlers and the number of dogs finishing their championships. Breeders are not adhering to health clearances and practicing good/safe ethics in dog households where there are multiple intact animals.

In Favor - Jean Hassebroek believes the Board pulled too quickly and the old program needs to be continued until a replacement is in place.

Opposition - Elaine Suter feels too many dogs lacking in merit are being finished with handlers.

Point of information - Andy Kalmanash cautions the Chair of allegations of libelous comments regarding professional handlers that may be a part of Club records.

Closing statement- Lou Guthrie feels the program should remain in place until a replacement is found to encourage the Board to get to work on a new program as a replacement.

Motion was read and vote was taken by rising with voting cards. The motion was defeated by a vote of 51 In Favor to 73 Opposed.

### **Futurity Program**

Steve Dostie reported there apparently had been some confusion pertaining to futurity and what litters are eligible. The Board is looking into this and the membership will be hearing from the board within the next few months.

Andy Kalmanash of Connecticut asked about the procedures for rejection of litters. Steve reported the current rules don't allow for refunds of any kind. The Board is considering changes for litter nominations that don't meet the criteria.

Jane Harding of Connecticut asked why it takes 2 months to correct the rules posted on the internet. Steve's response - The new rules will be posted to the web, but because this year both the old and new rules were in force some litters may still be eligible for next year under the old rules. He indicated he will be reviewing the rules and will make recommendation to the Board.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Kennel Registry**

Kris Cofiell reported that the Board is looking into forming an Ad Hoc committee to evaluate the issue of same or similar kennel names in the breed. WE welcome volunteers who wish to potentially serve on this committee.

#### **Hurricane Katrina**

Barbara Cawley asked that the membership acknowledge the efforts from members of the PWD community towards the Katrina rescue effort. Barbara Niemann recognized C J Favre, Connie Millard and Spider, and Barbara Lachney for their work in the Katrina Disaster relief efforts.

#### **Breeders Share**

Martha Stern of Texas said she attended the Breeders Share program and had heard many positive comments regarding the concept. She asked that the Board consider adding this type

program to the National Specialty agenda. Barbara Niemann reported the program was formulated after the 2005 Specialty schedule was set. The 2006 host committee has been asked to consider such a program for their schedule and agreed it is a good concept.

#### **PAWS**

Jody Van Loan asked would the Board/membership consider taking a straw vote on the PAWS bill at this Annual Meeting. Barbara Niemann said the Board considered voting on this measure at the Specialty, but felt doing so might not reflect a geographic cross-section of our membership. The membership will be receiving a PAWS survey in the mail before the end of the year. Jody Van Loan was concerned about the timeline of the passing of the bill. Barbara Niemann reported that the bill was still in committee and according to Karen (AKC Delegate) the vote will be delayed until 2006.

#### **Term Limits**

Martha Schneider of Maryland asked that the Board consider term limits for committee chairs.

#### **PWDCA.org Links**

Norm Mosher of Virginia voiced his concern over links from outside websites to the PWDCA.org pages. He does not appreciate finding his name linked from a website he is not in agreement with. Barbara Niemann acknowledged his concern and noted this topic is on the Board's agenda.

#### **2007 Crufts Dog Show**

Myrna Gowman of Oklahoma made the following point of information announcement. The 2007 Crufts show will offer for the first time Challenge Certificates towards an English championship. Carla Molinari will be the breed judge for this show.

Motion to adjourn the meeting from Martha Schneider and was seconded by Karen Ash.

The meeting adjourned at 6:30PM EDT

Respectfully submitted,  
Janet Boyd-Kristensen  
Recording Secretary Pro Tem