



Newfoundland Club of America, Inc.
Board of Directors Teleconference Call
September 20, 2004
8:30 pm Eastern Time/ 7:30 pm Central Time

Agenda

Reading of the minutes of last meeting

- July 28, August 11, August 18 and August 23, 2004 teleconference minutes (under separate cover)

President's Report (Roger Frey)

1st Vice-President's Report (Aura Dean)

2nd Vice-President's Report (Sandee Lovett)

Recording Secretary's Report (Mary Lou Cuddy)

Corresponding Secretary's Report (Robin Seaman)

Treasurer's Report (Mary L. Price)

AKC Delegate's Report (Mary W. Price)

- Letter from Mary W. Price and Robin Seaman to AKC regarding Online Breeder Classified Ads (this letter was posted to the AKC Parent Club Conference list) (attachment pages 7-8)

Committee Reports

- Working Dog Committee - committee vacancy
- Judges Education Committee - *AKC Complete Dog Book* proposed text (attachment pages 9-10)

Executive Session

- Applicants for NCA Membership (attachment pages 57-78)

Unfinished Business

1. That a member donated fund be created, to raise money, that would be used to promote the goals of the Rescue Prevention Committee and that this fund would be listed on the NCA membership renewal form. (Roger Frey) (4/19-22, 2004 agenda)

2. To approve a set of election reform proposals (Jack Dean and Mary Lou Roberts) (attachments under separate cover) (4/19-22, 2004 agenda)
3. Propose the consideration of a set schedule of teleconferences (i.e. 3rd Tuesday or the 4th Wednesday of each month) (Roger Frey) (5/27/04 agenda)
4. To have the NCA consider taking a position on non-refundable deposits for puppies (Patti McDowell) (6/30/04 agenda)

Rationale: Aside from the question of legality, there is a question of whether it is a good practice to take "orders" for puppies not yet conceived. There is the potential that breeders will be breeding to "fill orders" rather than because it is the right time to breed a bitch or because it might be a good breeding to improve on a health issue or fault.
5. To consider stopping the practice of "rationales" after every vote (Patti McDowell) (6/30/04 agenda)

Rationale: Being used as political statements (one can almost tell who is running for election by reading the comments). The intent was probably to provide more "insight" to the membership but after bring on the Board it is quite apparent to me that this is not working at all and may, in fact, be giving totally opposite impressions on occasion.
6. To schedule Board meetings at the National for Sunday and Monday (Patti McDowell) (6/30/04 agenda)
7. To pay for Board members' hotel rooms for three nights at the National (if the Board is meeting prior to the show) (Patti McDowell) (6/30/04 agenda)

Rationale: The National Specialty is our premier event of the year. As meetings become longer due to huge number of agenda items, the Board members must decide between enjoying the events and taking care of their dogs and doing club business (unless they have "support staff").

I have been taking 5-7 dogs to the National, this year I brought 2. This was the maximum number I felt I could care for with the time restrictions. The Board met Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. On one night we finished after 1:00 a.m. People still had to walk and water their dogs, ring time was 7 a.m. the next morning, leaving about 2-3 hours for sleep.

This sort of difficulty is just one reason many people have said they do not want to run for the NCA Board.
8. That the Board review the renewal form which was sent out in a format different than the one developed and approved by the Board (Patti McDowell) (6/30/04 agenda)

Rationale: The President was supposed to have seen and approved the final copy. Did this happen and, if not, why not?

9. To determine a method so puppy buyers can verify NCA membership and health clearances (Patti McDowell) (6/30/04 agenda)

Rationale: There are “sellers” telling people they are NCA members when they are possibly not. We need to make it easier for buyers to verify this information either with the Membership Chair, or by some other mechanism.

We also need to teach/inform buyers about verification of health information. It's not sufficient to tell them about recommended tests, we need to inform them about how to verify that info. The buyer must bear the responsibility of making sure that what they are being told is the truth.

10. Senior memberships on dues renewal form (Patti McDowell) (6/30/04 agenda)

Rationale: We have already addressed this. The question was raised by a member, the President directed the Corresponding Secretary to communicate with Club Relations at the AKC, the AKC responded that we are in violation of our Constitution and By-Laws. Did we not communicate to our Membership Chair? If not, why not? This happened 6 months ago.

11. To develop policy for screening membership applicants via the AKC Stud Book's electronic records to ascertain if they are breeders (within 5 years of application) (Patti McDowell) (attachment pages 11-50 & attachment page 20 of the 6/30/04 agenda)

12. Establish an Ad Hoc Breeders Committee (Patti McDowell) (6/30/04 agenda)

Rationale: Purpose: 1) Ongoing education through Breeder Education Forums, 2) Outreach programs for existing non-NCA breeders, 3) Development program for novice breeders.

Ad Hoc committee would develop proposals and make recommendations on whether this type of program should be made a regular standing committee. Input from JEC, H&L, RPC and GE.

Possibly establish one day prior to National Specialty devoted to breeder education/breed education. Those interested could participate without interference with the normal activities of the National Specialty. On this day health testing, multiple educational speakers (AKC rep, veterinarian specialists, etc.), panel discussions with NCA breeders, workshops, etc. could take place.

Once program is better developed, similar events could be held in various regions so outreach and education of this type is not limited to one per year. We cannot complain about either NCA or non-NCA breeders way of doing “business” (for lack of a better term) unless we are actively providing a program for breeders.

Seminars could be put on disc for sale to members or interested persons.

Since the vast majority of dogs entering the Stud Book are not part of the NCA, critical to establish this type of program.

Potential seminar/workshop topics - AKC record-keeping and regulations, contracts, limited registration vs. spay/neuter contracts, reproduction (testing and timing, c-section, when it is time?), prenatal/postnatal care, AI vs. natural breedings and why, the Standard (can include hands on examination of dogs; what is “lay-back” of shoulder, what is “good angulation”, etc.), screening the puppy buyer, websites, health clearances - which, why and when, what separated the “puppy seller” from the “reputable breeder”, what is the NCA and why is it important.

13. To ask NCA Regional Clubs to develop a flier with club information (Patti McDowell) (6/30/04 agenda)

Rationale: Ask each Regional Club to develop a “flier” with information about club, contact people, rescue, event types and membership. These fliers could be available on NCA website so breeders could/should include info on the Regional Clubs with every puppy sold so people can find events, support and education in the area where they live.

Strong, active enthusiastic Regional Clubs only make the NCA a healthier organization.

14. To produce a flier for *Newf Tide* subscription for puppy buyer packets (Patti McDowell) (6/30/04 agenda)

Rationale: “Roll out” flier with inclusion in a *Newf Tide* issue and have it also available for download on the website.

15. Non-NCA awards (Patti McDowell) (6/30/04 agenda)

Rationale: Awards at the Specialty should be either NCA awards, AKC awards or awards donated for NCA or AKC Accomplishments (BIS, BBE, etc.). I do appreciate the thought behind giving something like the Ron Pemberton Award but having something done outside the NCA but awarded at our National opens the door for anyone to invent an award, decide who will get it and present it at the dinner or other NCA event.

16. Review the policy on making the membership list mailing labels available to members for non-commercial purposes. (Mary Lou Roberts) (7/28/04 agenda)

17. Concerns regarding membership list use (Bob Rogers) (attachment page 17 of the 6/30/04 agenda)

18. Discussion of the comments received from the Board and the membership on the proposed AKC Online Breeders Classified (Mary Lou Roberts) (attachment under separate cover) (7/28/04 agenda)

19. AKC Drafting Proposal (attachment page 18 of the 7/28/04 agenda)

20. To reevaluate the WRDX after this summer's experience rather than wait another year. (Jack Dean) (7/28/04 agenda)

Rationale:

I. Originally when the Board considered the WRDX some board members were in favor of a reevaluation of the tests after the first year's experience because of safety concerns and the appropriateness of some tests.

II. The Board decided to wait for the two year period as recommended by the WDC.

III. Since that time various experienced NCA members have expressed concerns that at least some members of the Board were not aware of when they voted for a 2 year review.

V. There can be serious harm to our Newfs if there are problems that require correction and nothing is done.

V. There is no harm to anyone, other than some work and time, to reevaluate the exercises after information is in this fall.

VI. The Board could easily make changes if required.

21. To require the Second Vice President, as Committee Liaison, within five days of a Board meeting to communicate with committee chairs the results of Board decisions and reflect this in the policy manual. (Jack Dean) (7/28/04 agenda)

Rationale: Committee Chairs need to be promptly informed of what action the board has taken long before they can read the published minutes in Newf Tide.

New Business

22. Consider the formation of an ad-hoc committee to investigate the formation and, if appropriate, write a job description for a new NCA position, NCA Chief Information Officer, to coordinate information gathering, storage, dissemination and protection of the NCA's electronic and information assets. (Mary Lou Roberts)
23. Discuss and coordinate the NCA's approach to puppy buyer education and breeder referral, considering all of the different committees that touch these issues with the goal of unifying their goals and, If appropriate, coordinating their efforts in a single area of responsibility. (Mary Lou Roberts)
24. Task the Steering Committee with working with the Board to produce and update on an annual basis a document that defines NCA Goals, Strategies for Meeting Those Goals, and Measurements. (Mary Lou Roberts)

The Document might be prepared and updated according to the following schedule:

No later than one month before the fall F2F: Steering Committee submits to the Board key goals and strategies for recommendation

Fall F2F: Board discusses and finalizes goals and strategies

No later than one month before the spring F2F: Steering Committee submits to the Board final document with goals and strategies and introduces measurements for meeting those goals.

Spring F2F: Board finalizes the Strategy document for the coming year.

25. To have all NCA board teleconferences and face to face meetings tape recorded.
(Jack Dean)

Rationale: Lately the board has spent large amounts of expensive teleconference time debating whether someone said something during a meeting and exactly what they said. We go round and round with no real method of resolving the problem. A tape recording would eliminate these problems. We would have a record of exactly what was said,

26. To have meetings conducted by email or regular mail and reduce the costs of telephone conferences and the time involved. (Jack Dean)

Rationale:

I. Our by laws permit regular mail meetings and I believe that we can also have email meetings. Some have raised the problem that they do not believe that email meetings are possible under Connecticut statutes but we can always waive the provisions of that statute, if we chose, just as we can waive the meeting notice time limits if we chose.

II. If no board member objects to an email meeting, then why should we not do it?

27. To require the Internet Committee and the General Education Committee to prepare and have ready within 30 days new NCA website entry pages that are specifically designed to handle visitors from the AKC website (Jack Dean)

Rationale:

I. The AKC is soon going to launch a program that it calls Online Breeder Classifieds which will permit most sellers of AKC registered litters to advertise on the AKC website.

II. There is nothing that we can do to prevent this program from going forward, but we have to mitigate possible harm by being ready for referrals to the NCA website from the AKC website for novice puppy buyers.

III. The web pages have to be carefully designed to handle the impetuous buyer because if we fail, they will leave and buy a dog from the internet or an irresponsible breeder

IV. Maybe we should not be so concerned with novice buyers getting healthy puppies. Maybe we should not care if "they get the dog they deserve," but we must care about young children who have a 2 year old dog drop dead or watch it slowly deteriorate from health problems the breeder did not even care about. We must care about the dog winding up in rescue (or worse) because the breeder never told the buyer that Newfs slobber, get hair in the butter and do not want to be tied up outside.

28. To restore the NCA website to show the breeders list in an easy format on line with website and email addresses for the breeders (Patti McDowell)

Rationale: to make it as easy as possible for the puppy buyers to find and make contact with NCA breeders List breeders; restore the list to the way it was when the breeders signed up for it; make the website breeders list ready to handle the referrals from the AKC Online Breeder Classified Program

Adjournment

FYI

- Report on recent purchases (by a non-NCA affiliated group) of Newfoundlands at auctions (attachment pages 51-54)
- AKC letter regarding airfare savings (Mary W. Price) (attachment pages 55-56)
- AKC August Chairman's Report (Mary W. Price) (attachment page 79-80)
- June 30, July 8 and July 15, 2004 minutes, approved draft
- Board Directory
- To Do List