

NCA Board of Directors Teleconference Meeting  
Minutes of October 16, 2008  
(Approved October 30, 2008)

Roger Frey, President, called the meeting to order at 8:07 p.m. Eastern time. The following directors were present: Jacqueline Brellochs (JB), Mary Lou Cuddy (MLC), Barbara Finch (BF), Roger Frey (RF), Kevin Gallagher (KG), Kathy Mclver (KM), Mary L. Price (MLP), Pat Randall (PKR), Mary Lou Roberts (MLR) and Pam Rubio (PSR). Sue Marino (SM) and Maredith Reggie (MR) were absent. Mary W. Price (MWP), AKC delegate, *ex-officio* was present. Sandee Lovett was present as a member guest.

### **Charitable Trust Meeting**

At 8:08 p.m., the Board recessed to go into a NCA Charitable Trust meeting.

At 8:10 p.m., the Board reconvened the meeting.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Kathy Mclver moved and Jacqueline Brellochs seconded to approve the August 21 & September 11, 2008 minutes as amended. The motion passed unanimously. 2 Absent (SM, MR)

Pam Rubio moved and Kathy Mclver seconded to approve the September 18, 2008 minutes as amended. The motion passed unanimously. 2 Absent (SM, MR)

### **Report of the President**

Roger Frey, President, stated that he had no report at this time.

### **Report of the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President**

Mary Lou Roberts, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President, reported on the Charitable Trust Management Board (CTMB) meeting held on October 1, 2008. Mary W. Price, AKC Delegate, reported that she had spoken with Dr. Terry Warren, Executive Director of the AKC Canine Health Foundation, at the September, 2008 AKC Delegates meeting about the NCA's Donor Advised Fund. Dr. Warren understands that the NCA has money in its Donor Advised Fund and that the club wishes to be considered for support for appropriate research projects. It was reported that the CTMB may reconsider its strategy in funding the Donor Advised Fund in order to maximize matching funds from the AKC Canine Health Foundation.

### **Report of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President**

## **Breeders Education Committee**

Kathy McIver, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President, reported that the Breeders Education Committee (BEC) would like to invite a representative from the Health & Longevity (H&L) Committee to attend a meeting to discuss the proposed kennel management of heart puppies survey. It was stated that the BEC did not need the Board's permission to issue invitations to another committee.

## **Working Achievement Committee**

There was some discussion about the Working Achievement Committee and whether it is a separate committee or if it was still considered to be part of the Versatile Newfoundland Committee. There was a recap of the past history of the committee, including the fact that a chair had been appointed for this committee at the April 28, 2008 face-to-face meeting.

## **Committee Reviews**

The Board discussed protocols for reviewing committee performance. There was a general agreement that the Board should pursue this idea. Committees need to be notified when their performance is not meeting expectations and committee chairs and members may be removed if there is no improvement. A performance review would give a committee an opportunity to improve their performance.

## **Report of the Recording Secretary**

Mary Lou Cuddy, Recording Secretary, reported that she had prepared the October 16, 2008 agenda and the August 21 & September 11, 2008 and September 18, 2008 minutes. It was agreed that a hard copy of the October 30 – November 2, 2008 face-to-face meeting agenda and supporting documents will be sent to each Board member instead of an electronic version due to the amount of material that will be included.

## **Report of the Corresponding Secretary**

Pat Randall, Corresponding Secretary, reported on an email complaint that he had received about an NCA breeder who advertised a litter on the AKC Online Breed Classifieds (OBC) whose parents had no reported health clearances. There was a discussion about monitoring the OBC for misrepresentation of clearances or club affiliations. The BEC is monitoring the list and sending their material to non-members who are listed. It was said that there have only been about five misrepresentations found since the inception of the OBC.

At 9:00 p.m., Meredith Reggie joined the meeting.

It was noted that non-NCA members seem to complain more than NCA members about issues. It was the consensus of the Board to take the email complaint under advisement.

At 9:05 p.m., Sandee Lovett joined the teleconference.

### **2010 National Specialty**

Roger Frey stated that he had asked that Sandee Lovett, 2010 National Specialty Chair, or Robin Seaman, Specialty Show Committee Chair, to call in at each Board meeting to give updates to the Board.

Sandee reported on the Specialty Show Committee's selection of judges for the 2010 National Specialty. The Intersex judge will be Charles Olvis, Theresa Hundt will judge the bitch classes, Jim Bricknell will judge the dog classes, Cindy Flowers will judge the puppy dog and veteran dog sweepstakes classes and Denise Castonguay will judge the puppy bitch and veteran bitch sweepstakes classes. Best Puppy and Best Veteran have not yet been assigned. Obedience and Rally judges have not yet been chosen.

At 9:07 p.m., Sue Marino joined the teleconference.

It was asked that the selection of judges by the Specialty Show Committee for this National Specialty was necessitated by the short time line, and it should not be considered as a precedent for the way in which judges will be selected for any future NCA-hosted National Specialties.

Sandee reported that she and Robin Seaman are meeting at least once a week to discuss details of the show. It was reported that the *Specialty Show Guide* is being given a final review by the Specialty Show Committee before it is presented to the Board. There was a request for the Board to see the revised *Specialty Show Guide* before it goes to the committee.

The Board thanked Sandee Lovett and Meredith Reggie for their hard work in formatting and proofing the *Specialty Show Guide*.

Sandee thanked the Board for the many offers to volunteer for different committees. She also reported that proposals had been received from show superintendents Roy Jones and MB-F, Inc.

At 9:27 p.m., Sandee Lovett left the teleconference.

### **Report of the Corresponding Secretary**

The Board returned to the discussion of the monitoring of the OBC. It was stated that there are two concerns to be addressed: the accuracy of the listings'

representations on the OBC and ensuring that the BEC letters are being sent to the non-NCA breeders. It was said that the Rescue Education and Awareness Committee (REACT) is to be monitoring the OBC also. There was some discussion about REACT either taking over or continuing to monitor the OBC.

The Board considered two letters from Steve Britton concerning the Connecticut statutes in regards to a question of non-Board members serving on committees and appointing a designee to dispense NCA funds for National Specialties in addition to the NCA Treasurer.

Pat Randall moved and Kathy McIver seconded that the Board refer to the *Constitution and Bylaws* Review Committee two letters from Steve Britton concerning the Connecticut statutes in regards to a question of non-Board members serving on committees and appointing a designee to dispense NCA funds for National Specialties in addition to the NCA Treasurer. The motion passed unanimously.

There was discussion of an email received from the Irish Water Spaniel Club inquiring about our use of the AKC Archives. It was the consensus of the Board to refer the Irish Water Spaniel Club to Mary Jane Spackman, NCA Historian, and Beverly Eichel.

### **Report of the Treasurer**

Mary L. Price, Treasurer, reported the following balances: checking account: \$9,377.73; savings account: \$51,244.55; invested in CDs: \$283,767.36; and the NCA operations balance total of \$344,389.64 with \$3,963.40 in reserve for "Distinguished Member" expenses. The Uniform Trophy Fund money market account balance is \$10,866.91 for a total of \$355,256.55.

Mary reported that NCA's funds are invested in Board-approved community banks and these banks have not participated in sub-prime mortgage markets. Currently NCA uses three banks and are insured by FDIC up to \$250,000.00 at each bank. NCA has the following balances at M & I Bank - \$143,678.01; at Anchor Bank - \$96,869.82; at Associated Bank - \$114,708.72.

The Board discussed a request from the H&L Committee and the New-Pen-Del Newfoundland Club for a grant for a DNA clinic. The grant form is in the process of being completed by the New-Pen-Del club. There was some discussion of these grants and verification of the expenses they are to cover.

### **Report of the AKC Delegate**

Mary W. Price, AKC Delegate, reported that she had attended the September 8-9, 2008 AKC Delegates meeting in Newark, New Jersey.

She updated the Board on the revived proposed AKC Draft Test title. An informal *ad hoc* committee was being formed and other breed clubs have requested that the NCA have a presence on that committee. The Board also felt there should be an NCA member on the committee to be a “voice of reason”. Mary reported that she had received a response from Curt Curtis, Vice-President of Companion Events, acknowledging the letter regarding the NCA’s involvement with the previous AKC Draft Test Committee sent by the NCA and the article NCA had submitted to *Perspectives*, the AKC Delegates magazine.

Mary also reported on the AKC Canine Health Foundation (CHF). The CHIC database has almost 6,000 DNA samples from 110 breeds. She informed the Board that the CHF approved ten research grant proposals: five were for cancer research, two were cardiac research, two were infectious disease research and one was cancer research for a terrier breed. She reported that OFA will publicize health clinics at no charge. A recent issue of *Dog News* carried a full page ad advertising health clinics.

Mary reported on the AKC committee report regarding the proposed re-alignment of the seven groups. Ten groups are being proposed and 20 parent clubs are being contacted and asked for their input as to which group their breed would like to be assigned. The AKC hopes to implement the new group structure in 2009.

At the Delegates meeting, Connie Vanacore (an NCA member) and Atty. Edward Sledzik (NCA’s tax return preparer) were recognized for their 25 years as AKC Delegates. Ron Menaker, AKC President, spoke about the serious decline in registration numbers, which combined with a financial crunch from the declining stock market and reduced support from companies such as Pedigree, could cause the AKC to be facing some serious financial trouble. Mary said that she feels it is likely that the AKC will link somehow with commercial breeders and that the mixed breed registration program proposal will be revived. She also reported on the slate of candidates for election to the AKC Board of Directors. They are Lee Arnold, Allan Kalter, John P. Nielson and Dr. Robert D. Smith. Others will be running by petition.

## **Committee Reports**

### **Health & Longevity Committee**

The H&L Committee brought to the Board’s attention a letter from OFA regarding clearances. The letter stated that some people, when the results of X-rays submitted to OFA were not to their liking, would submit X-rays to another institution, such as OVC, and then would request that those results be posted on the OFA website. OFA has proposed that all results be posted. There was some discussion that the original letter from OFA was not sent to the Board but to a committee chair despite repeated requests to the OFA to send all correspondence to the Corresponding Secretary. It was the consensus of the

Board that the Corresponding Secretary write a letter to OFA requesting again that all communications from OFA be sent to Corresponding Secretary.

Mary Lou Roberts moved and Sue Marino seconded that the NCA require all applications submitted to OFA be placed in the OFA open database for a Newfoundland to receive a CHIC number. The motion passed unanimously.

A question about the job description for H&L will be addressed later as information was not made available to the Board in a timely manner.

### ***Breeders List***

The Board agreed to table the discussion of the *Breeders List* until the October 30-November 2, 2008 face-to-face meeting.

### ***Newf Tide Policy Committee***

The *Newf Tide* Policy Committee (NTPC) requested that the Board approve their request to print 8 pages in color at the additional cost of \$911.86 to publish the photo contest winners in the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2008 *Newf Tide*. It was reported that *Newf Tide* is under budget for the year and the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter issue is usually the smallest issue of the year.

Mary Lou Roberts moved and Kathy McIver seconded that the Board approve the request of the *Newf Tide* Policy Committee to print 8 pages in color at the additional cost of \$911.86 to publish the photo contest winners in the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2008 *Newf Tide*. The motion passed unanimously.

At 10:28 p.m., Mary W. Price left the meeting.

Mareidith Reggie, *Newf Tide* editor, requested the Board's permission to place a small ad for the "Newfs Gone Bad" calendar if there is a small amount of spare space left in *Newf Tide*. All profits from this calendar are donated to the Health Challenge. The Board agreed to leave this decision to the editor's discretion.

### ***Annual of Titlists Editor***

The Board discussed the need for an editor for the *Annual of Titlists* and the Request for Proposal for Editor for the *Annual of Titlists* submitted by the NTPC. There was discussion about the position being a paid position since the Request did not specifically mention payment. The position is quite time-consuming and is a year-round job.

Sue Marino moved and Jacqueline Brellochs seconded that the Board direct the *Newf Tide* Policy Committee to add into the Request for Proposal for the Editor of the *Annual of Titlists* the editor's cost of producing the *Annual of Titlists*. The

motion passed. 11 Yes (JB, MLC, BF, RF, KG, PKR, SM, KM, MLP, MLR, PSR); 1 Abstention (MR)

### **Technical Resources Committee**

There was a discussion about the committee and the lack of communication. The discussion was tabled until executive session.

### ***NCA Website***

It was pointed out that the report on the *NCA Website* contained some good suggestions for the proposed Communications Policy Committee. It was the consensus of the Board to table this discussion until the October 30-November 2, 2008 face-to-face meeting.

### **Steering Committee**

Mary Lou Roberts, Steering Committee Chair, reported to the Board that the Steering Committee had informally reviewed the proposed *Code of Ethics*. The committee would be interested in commenting on the proposed changes if the Board desires. The committee felt that the *Code of Ethics* had many intertwined issues which may benefit from comments from other committees as well as the Steering Committee. It was said that the *Constitution and Bylaws Review Committee* (CBL) should be asked first if they would like the input. It was the consensus of the Board that the CBL be asked if they would be willing to submit the proposed *Code of Ethics* to other committees, such as H&L, BEC and Steering, for comments. It was pointed out that Board had not given their comments to CBL and perhaps the second draft of the *Code of Ethics* could be submitted to the committees.

At 11:05 p.m., Barbara Finch moved and Kathy McIver seconded that the Board go into executive session. The motion passed unanimously.

At 11:38 p.m., Kathy McIver moved and Jacqueline Brellocks moved that the Board come out of executive session. The motion passed unanimously.

While in executive session, the Board approved the applicant from the April 28, 2008 Applicants List.

While in executive session, the Board appointed Jenny Zabloutny, Chair and Joan Locker-Thuring and Peggy Pack to the TOD and TODD Committee.

While in executive session, the Board appointed Christopher Plum and Susan Wagner to the Steering Committee.

While in executive session, the Board appointed Brian Hodges as Chair of the Working Achievement Committee.

While in executive session, the Board discussed the Juniors Committee.

While in executive session, the Board discussed the progress of the NCA database.

While in executive session, Sue Marino agreed to represent the NCA on the informal *ad hoc* AKC Draft Title Committee.

At 11:38 p.m., Sue Marino left the meeting.

### **Proposed Code of Ethics Review**

There was a discussion concerning the report that Pat Randall had compiled of Board members' responses to the proposed *Code of Ethics*. Some Board members want to discuss "the big picture". It was stated that NCA members only produced 15 percent of the first-time litters registered last month. This document will not affect these breeders significantly. Some felt the proposals were too harsh and the NCA may lose the new or non-NCA breeder. NCA membership is static with about 96 percent of the membership renewing their membership this year, but our members are not producing the majority of Newfoundland puppies being sold. It was said that if the NCA becomes more inclusive, then we need a document to guide them.

It was agreed that there should not be a rush to approve this document. It was said that this document needs more thought and the "big picture" needs to be developed more fully.

It was the consensus of the Board to send Pat Randall's report, including later comments from Mary Lou Roberts, to the CBL for their consideration. It was also agreed that at the fall face-to-face meeting, some time would be devoted to discussing the *Code of Ethics* at the conceptual level with the CBL.

### **Election Ballot Counting**

Barbara Finch presented a proposal from Connections to Quality, LLC for the counting and tabulation of the election ballots for \$200.00. She had spoken to another company also but the fees for that company were much higher.

Kathy McIver moved and Jacqueline Brellochs seconded to accept the proposal from Connections to Quality, LLC to count and tabulate the election ballots for \$200.00. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Adjournment**

At 12:01 a.m., Pam Rubio moved and Kevin Gallagher seconded to adjourn to the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Submitted by  
Mary Lou Cuddy  
NCA Recording Secretary