

NCA Board of Directors
Special Meeting of the Board
Teleconference Meeting
February 26, 2009
(Approved March 19, 2009)

Roger Frey, President, called the meeting to order at 8:05 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), Sue Marino (SM), Kathy McIver (KM), Mary L. Price (MLP), Pat Randall (PKR), Mary Lou Roberts (MLR) and Pam Rubio (PSR). Meredith Reggie (MR) was absent. Mary W. Price (MWP), AKC delegate, *ex-officio* was absent. Board-elect members Lynne Anderson-Powell and Pam Saunders were present.

Ethics Guide

Roger Frey stated that at the time this special meeting was called, the Board anticipated reviewing the proposed *Ethics Guide* with the goal of getting the document closer to Board approval. The day before the meeting, Beverly Eichel, Constitution and Bylaws Review Committee Chair, contacted Roger and informed him that the committee had recently become aware of some material that they thought would improve the proposed *Ethics Guide*. This material comes from another breed club and has a ten-point breeder guideline that was separate from their Ethics Guide. The *Constitution and Bylaws* Review Committee liked this idea and would like to present it to the Board at a later date. The committee requested that Mary Lou Roberts attend their next meeting to help with editing and formatting.

The Board discussed whether to continue this meeting in light of this recent development. Some Board members did not want to spend a lot of time on something that the committee would probably be changing at its next meeting. Other Board members felt that a general discussion about the *Ethics Guide* in general would be helpful.

It was noted that if the *Ethics Guide* and the *Constitution and Bylaws* were placed in the same document as the *Certificate of Incorporation* as recommended previously by the committee, then neither the *Ethics Guide* or the *Constitution and Bylaws* could be modified without opening up the whole approval process again. Some Board members felt that a list of “actionable items” could be included in this one document with a “statement of best practices” being a separate document.

The Board returned to the discussion of whether to continue this meeting. There was a brief discussion about the timing of this new material and why it had not been brought up earlier.

The Board took an informal poll as to whether to continue the meeting and hold a general discussion. Five members (JB, MLC, BF, SM, MLP) wished to continue the discussion, five members (RF, KG, PKR, MLR, PSR) wished to adjourn the meeting, one member abstained (KM) and one member (MR) was absent. The Board continued the meeting.

The Board went around to each Board member and each member gave their input on the *Ethics Guide*. Points that were raised included:

- approve of raising the bar for breeders but do not put the breeders in a “straitjacket” with extremely stringent rules,
- disagreement with the minimum ages that Newfoundlands could be bred,
- use “should” instead of “must”,
- disagreement with stud owners being responsible for rescue dogs sired by their dogs, others felt that stud owners should share responsibility,
- many of the same items were stated better and were less wordy in the current Ethics Guide,
- the current *Ethics Guide* was fine so why go through all the work to produce something that is not any better,
- concern about putting the *Constitution and Bylaws* and the *Ethics Guide* in same document as the *Certificate of Incorporation*,
- there are technical problems with the wording of the disciplinary proceedings such as no \$100 deposit, concerns about *prima facie*, there needs to be a lot technical work done on the document,
- use a statement of best practice instead of requirements for breeders and have it separate from the *Ethics Guide*,
- too strict of requirements on breeders may lead to breeders being less open about problems and may have a negative effect on potential members and breeders,
- should non-members be able to press charges,
- document should also address buyers not living up to a contract,
- a statement of best practices positively worded would be helpful to novice breeders and potential members,
- NCA members are not producing the majority of puppies whelped, we need to show the ideal best practices,
- need more choices for discipline, right now it is either suspension or expulsion, need to explore fines and reprimands,
- standing committees that automatically receive business should be listed in the *Constitution and Bylaws*, Arbitration Committee, for example, should be listed in the *Constitution and Bylaws*,
- reference to the success of anti-smoking and anti-drinking ads, peer pressure works but it does take time,
- the Breeder Education Committee should draw up the statement of best practice.

The Board summarized the above mentioned points and discussions for the committee’s review. By consensus, the Board asked 1st Vice President Mary Lou

Roberts to convey the discussion points to the committee. The Constitution and Bylaws Review Committee will be meeting on Monday, March 9, 2009.

At 9:29 p.m., Pam Rubio moved and Kathy McIver seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. 1 Absent (MR)

Submitted by,
Mary Lou Cuddy
NCA Recording Secretary