

NCA Board of Directors
Teleconference Meeting
Special Meeting of the Board
Minutes of July 23, 2009
(Approved August 20, 2009)

Roger Frey, President, called the meeting to order at 8:20 p.m. Eastern time. The following directors were present: Lynne Anderson-Powell (LA), Jacqueline Brellochs (JB), Mary Lou Cuddy (MLC), Roger Frey (RF), Sue Marino (SM), Kathy McIver (KM), Mary L. Price (MLP), Pat Randall (PKR), Meredith Reggie (MR), Mary Lou Roberts (MLR), Pam Rubio (PSR) and Pam Saunders (PS). Mary W. Price (MWP), AKC delegate, *ex-officio* was absent.

Ethics Guide

Roger Frey reminded the Board that the special meeting of the Board had been called to review the proposed *Ethics Guide* as presented by the *Constitution and Bylaws* Review Committee. There was discussion as to how the Board wished to proceed with the review. It was agreed that each Board member would speak regarding their overall thoughts and impressions of the proposed document.

Each Board member spoke in turn and the same comments were consistently repeated. The tone and language of the document were too negative. The document was too long and needed to be edited to be more succinct. There were contradictions with the *Bylaws* and some of the technical issues, i.e. *prima facie*, were incorrect. There would be enforcement problems as the proposed document currently reads. Some sections were too detailed and in some sections there was not enough detail.

Several Board members proposed keeping the current approved *Ethics Guide* as is or modifying it. It was suggested that the Board could take what was good from the proposed document and include it in the current approved one. The Board discussed the pros and cons of whether to keep and/or modify the current approved document or take the proposed document and try to edit it to correct the issues that were mentioned previously.

Kathy McIver moved and Pam Rubio seconded that the Board update the current approved *Ethics Guide* incorporating components of the proposed *Ethics Guide* where relevant.

Some Board members expressed concern that there should be a record of why the Board did not use sections of the proposed document. The Board recognized the discussions being held on the Internet, commenting that the participants are more concerned about the health testing than with discipline. The health testing would be addressed with the *Best Breeding Practices*. It was suggested that the Board should accept a motion to accept the committee's report, thank the committee for their efforts and hard work and discharge the committee.

Lynne Anderson-Powell moved and Pam Rubio seconded to table the previous motion regarding the updating of the current approved *Ethics Guide*. The motion passed unanimously.

Lynne Anderson-Powell moved and Kathy McIver seconded that the Board review the proposed *Ethics Guide* dated May 26, 2009 from the *Constitution and Bylaws Review Committee*. The Board thanks the committee for its hard work and discharges the committee from further work on the *Ethics Guide*. The motion passed unanimously.

The motion that had been tabled was voted on.

The motion that the Board update the current approved *Ethics Guide* incorporating components of the proposed *Ethics Guide* where relevant passed. 10 Yes (LA, JB, MLC, RF, KM, MLP, PKR, MR, PSR, PS); 2 No (SM, MLR)

The Board started to review the current approved *Ethics Guide*. It was agreed that the document was too short to require a Table of Contents. It was agreed not to change the sections referring to breeders, stud owners and sellers to any great degree other than to combine them into one section. Members would be directed to the *Best Breeding Practices* which will go into more detail. Reference was made to the *Ethics Guide* used by the Golden Retriever Club of America. It was suggested that some of the points in that document be paraphrased in the NCA's document.

The sections addressing advertising and contracts were not changed.

There was an extended discussion about discipline. Several sections from the proposed document were added into the current one. The Board discussed the Working Dog Committee's (WDC) grievance procedure and if and how it should fit into the document. It was decided that the gap between the WDC and the NCA grievance procedure would be better addressed in another way.

There was an extended discussion regarding the article dealing with the Conduct of Officers, Directors and Committee members. Including the AKC Code of Sportsmanship was debated. It was then decided not to include it but rather to refer to it as the AKC could change their Code and then the *Ethics Guide* would have to be opened again to address that change.

The Board considered the approval of the revised document. The changes and suggestions will be incorporated and a draft will be sent to each Board member for an anticipated approval at the next meeting. The Board was pleased with the cooperation shown by all Board members during discussion and development of this document. The Board also recognized the "spade work" done by the *Constitution and Bylaws Review Committee*. Their hard work and concerted efforts on behalf of the NCA prompted much discussion and brought different viewpoints forward for consideration.

The Board then briefly considered the discussions on the Internet as they related to the *Ethics Guide* and the other documents. By consensus, the Board agreed that no response was warranted.

At 12:10 p.m., Pam Rubio moved and Kathy McIver seconded that the meeting be adjourned. The motion passed unanimously.

Submitted by,
Mary Lou Cuddy
NCA Recording Secretary