

NCA Board of Directors
Teleconference Meeting
Minutes of March 17, 2011
(Approved May 1, 2011)

Roger Frey, President, called the meeting to order at 8:03 p.m. Eastern time. The following directors were present: Lynne Anderson-Powell (LA), John Cornell (JC), Mary Lou Cuddy (MLC), Roger Frey (RF), Sue Marino (SM), Kathy McIver (KM), Mary L. Price (MLP), Meredith Reggie (MR), Pam Rubio (PR), Pam Saunders (PS) and Donna Thibault (DT). Jacqueline Brellochs (JB) was absent. Mary W. Price (MWP), AKC delegate, *ex-officio* was present. Board-elect members Steve Britton and Pat Randall were present.

Approval of Minutes

The Board considered the minutes of February 17, 2011.

At 8:09 p.m., Jacqueline Brellochs joined the meeting.

Pam Rubio moved and Kathy McIver seconded that the Board approve the February 17, 2011 minutes as amended. The motion passed. 1 Abstain (JB)

At 8:13 p.m., Nancy Aliff joined the meeting.

Report of the President

Roger Frey, President, informed the Board that Nancy Aliff agreed to chair the two grievances the Board will be hearing at its May 1-3, 2011 meeting. He asked her to call into the meeting to update the Board on those grievances.

Nancy reported that she had reviewed the charges filed in each grievance and the hearing procedures as outlined in the *NCA Policy Manual*. She asked for the Board's direction on several issues; first, since one side in each grievance has retained counsel, does the Board wish to allow counsel to participate in the hearings. Other issues that need to be addressed are the parties' participation via teleconference, the hiring of a court reporter and a pre-hearing conference call with the Board and the parties involved to review procedure and the submission of evidence. Nancy highly recommended hiring a court reporter to record the hearings and establishing timed opening statements and closing remarks.

After discussion, the Board agreed to the following: parties may participate by teleconference; representation by counsel will be allowed; a court reporter will be hired; rules of evidence will allow direct hearsay to the weight of evidence; a maximum of two character witnesses; opening and closing statements will be limited to ten minutes each and a general procedure letter will be sent to all parties in lieu of a conference call.

The Board thanked Nancy for agreeing to chair the hearings and her work on the preparations for the hearings.

At 8:34 p.m., Nancy Aliff left the meeting.

Report of the 1st Vice President

Jacqueline Brellochs, 1st Vice President, reported that the Charitable Trust Management Board (CTMB) met on March 16, 2011. The CTMB approved the Newfoundland Health Challenge's grant for the DNA clinic at the 2011 National Specialty. The grant will cover the \$20.00 fee to submit each DNA blood sample to OFA.

She informed the Board that two research proposals approved by the Research Advisory Committee were tabled until the CTMB receives additional research proposals. Discussion and planning for the scientific Newfoundland health survey continues and Clyde Dunphy, CTMB Chair, will give a report to the Trustee/NCA Board of Directors at its meeting at the 2011 National Specialty.

The next CTMB teleconference is scheduled for April 11, 2011.

Report of the 2nd Vice President

Kathy McIver, 2nd Vice President, requested the Board's input on the plaques that are presented to outgoing Board members. A suggestion had been made to vary the type of plaques or memorabilia presented. After discussion, the Board agreed to continue with the plaques.

Kathy McIver reported that the response from committee chairs and members desiring reappointments has been slow. There was a brief discussion whether committee members should go through their committee chair or contact Kathy directly.

Report of the Recording Secretary

Mary Lou Cuddy, Recording Secretary, reported that she had prepared the February 17, 2011 minutes and the March 17, 2011 agenda packet.

Report of the Corresponding Secretary

Lynne Anderson-Powell, Corresponding Secretary, reported on several items of correspondence. An author of a series of children's book on big dogs requested a reviewer/consultant to assist on the development of a book on Newfoundlands. Sue Marino, Meredith Reggie, Pam Rubio and Jacqueline Brellochs all volunteered to offer their assistance.

Another author requested that his book with a Newfoundland as a central character be added to the NCA Newfoundland library on the *NCA Website*. The Board agreed to ask the author for some sample copies for the Board to review and then donate the books to the Newfoundland Rescue and Health Challenge raffles at the 2011 National Specialty.

Lynne presented information about the Crufts certificates which invite the top winners at the National Specialty to participate in the Crufts show in England. The NCA would present up to 12 certificates to the Best of Breed, Best of Opposite Sex and the Select winners.

Lynne reported on two letters. A letter from a non-affiliated Newfoundland club requested information on obtaining NCA recognition. The Board directed Lynne to forward the request to Pam Rubio, NCA Regional Club Liaison. The other letter requested that the Board consider developing an electronic version of *Newf Tide* to be available to members, along with other cost-cutting suggestions. The Board directed Lynne to respond thanking the member for the input.

Report of the Treasurer

Mary L. Price, Treasurer, reported the following balances: checking account: \$17,352.41; checking account for 2011 National Specialty: \$35,975.32; savings account: \$65,281.85; invested in CDs: \$103,421.69; and the NCA operations balance total of \$222,031.27 with \$4,550.22 in reserve for "Distinguished Member" expenses. The Uniform Trophy Fund account balance is \$866.50 for a total of \$222,897.77.

Report of the AKC Delegate

Mary W. Price, AKC Delegate, reported that she had attended the March 8, 2011 AKC Delegates meeting in Newark, New Jersey. Robert Amen, Carmen Battaglia and Steven Gladstone were elected to the AKC Board of Directors, Class of 2015, on the second ballot. Mary reported that she had attended the Parent Club Committee meeting where the committee discussed health testing requirements for the Breeder of Merit program and the possible creation of a Parent Clubs of Excellence category.

She informed the Board that the AKC Board had elected Ron Menaker as Chair with Tom Davies as Vice Chair. Both men will go off the AKC Board next year due to term limits. Two amendments to the Rules Applying to Dog Shows were approved. A proposed amendment to the Charter and Bylaws of the AKC was sent back to the Board for modification. The proposed amendment to the Charter and Bylaws of the AKC concerning term limits will be voted on at the June 2011 Delegates meeting.

Mary reported that three long term AKC employees were honored as well as two Delegates with 40 years of service. The June 2011 Delegates meeting will be held in Raleigh, North Carolina.

Electronic Publications Policy Committee

The Board considered the Electronic Publications Policy Committee's (EPPC) proposed Commercial Advertising Policy. The Board discussed whether ads submitted by NCA members would have preference over non-affiliated ads. Also discussed were the lengths of the ad reservations.

Hearing no objection, the Commercial Advertising Policy was sent back to committee for clarification.

The Board then considered the committee's proposed Content Management Policy.

Sue Marino moved and Pam Rubio seconded that the Board approve the Content Management Policy as presented by the Electronic Publications Policy Committee. The policy is as follows: Content Management Policy for NCA Electronic Publications; Effective date: 11-6-09; under Procedure, Paragraph 4: All contributing groups should designate one (or more) person(s) to review their online content regularly for quality, accuracy and timeliness. Valid link checking is also the responsibility of the contributing group. When revisions are indicated the article should first be submitted to the original author. If the original author is unavailable, responsibility would pass next to the submitting committee.

The motion passed unanimously.

General Education Committee

The Board reviewed the suggested changes from the General Education Committee (Gen Ed) for the information listed on the Purina Dog Library. Suggestions in wording and information were made for the committee to review and incorporate. The General Education Committee will submit the revised document for final approval.

The Board reviewed information developed by Gen Ed regarding the listings on free puppy Internet sites. Many of those free sites are now charging for ads. The committee is requesting the Board's input as to whether to continue this program.

The Board discussed ideas for reaching the Internet puppy buyer and directing them to the *NCA Website* for information. It was stated that keeping an ad fresh with appropriate wording and replying to inquiries would be time-consuming. The current ad has not been displayed long enough to assess its merits.

By unanimous consent, the Board agreed to have the General Education Committee maintain a presence on the site for three months and then reassess this program.

It was reported that Gen Ed and Meredith Reggie reviewed three bids for the printing of the newly-revised *Newf and You*.

Donna Thibault moved and Jacqueline Brellochs seconded that the Board approve the bid of \$1,570.00 submitted by Sutherland Publications for 2500 color copies of the revised *Newf and You*. The motion passed unanimously.

Legislation Liaison Committee

The Board reviewed information concerning a South Dakota law that would require all dogs being exhibited at any event in South Dakota to have a current health certificate. It was agreed that this proposed legislation should be watched carefully.

Membership Committee

Mary Lou Cuddy, Membership Chair, presented the proposed dues renewal form for review. There was some discussion whether the Charitable Trust Management Board's new Endowment Fund should be included on the form. It was reported that the CTMB probably will not solicit donations for the Endowment Fund in this way.

Hearing no objection, the dues renewal form was approved.

***Newf Tide* Policy Committee**

As requested by the NCA Board, the *Newf Tide* Policy Committee (NTPC) presented its report on suggestions made by an NCA member concerning the policy on Letters to the Editor in *Newf Tide*. The NTPC reported that the committee felt that current policy was sufficient and did not need any changes at this time. The Board developed a response to be sent to the NCA member.

Specialty Show Coordinating Committee

The Board considered a request from the New-Pen-Del Newfoundland Club for a \$10,000 loan which would be paid back before the 2012 National Specialty. The loan would help to cover the upfront expenses that the club will incur. Due to the request being received the day of this meeting, the Board agreed that the request would be added to the next meeting agenda. There was discussion that there should be some input from the Specialty Show Coordinating Committee on the criteria for loans to host clubs and that New-Pen-Del might be invited to that Board meeting to present their request.

The Board considered a request from a regional club for a vendor booth refund at the 2010 National Specialty as the booth benefited rescue. The Board regretfully declined as the current policy on rescue booths was not in effect at the show. The current policy became effective in October 2010.

The Specialty Show Coordinating Committee requested that the Board consider appointing Amy Lane to the committee. The Board reminded the committee that there

are new committee appointment procedures. Once the new procedures have been followed, the Board will then consider their request.

Regional Club Committee

The Regional Club Committee presented a report for the Board's information. The committee is working on a project for regional club banners to be displayed at the 2011 National Specialty.

Working Dog Committee

The Working Dog Committee (WDC) requested permission to recycle or dispose of the out-of-date working test regulations. The committee stated that most people are getting the regulations from the *NCA Website*. The committee will print new hard copies as soon as the WRDX changes are finalized. It was suggested that several copies of the regulations be sent to the NCA Historian and that the committee chair retain several copies.

Meredith Reggie moved and Pam Saunders seconded that the Board allow the Working Dog Committee to dispose of the outdated working test regulations. The motion passed unanimously.

Sue Marino, Working Dog Committee Chair, reported on several requests from regional clubs to host WRD requalification tests. However, the current regulations state that untitled dogs take precedence over titled dogs. The Board would need to give permission to waive that provision only in the case of a requalification test. It was stated that there was a sizeable demand for the WRD requalification test from members working on a Working Achievement title.

Meredith Reggie moved and Jacqueline Brellochs seconded that the Working Dog Committee may try a pilot program for the 2011 water test season, which would allow clubs to offer a separate test only for WRD requalifying dogs. It must be so stated on the cover of the premium list for this test. The motion passed. 11 Yes (LA, JB, JC, MLC, RF, SM, KM, MLP, MR, PR, DT); 1 No (PS)

Technical Resources Committee

Mary L. Price reported that she had contacted the NCA member who had requested the use of the AKC Stud Book electronic files that the NCA receives. Mary shared a copy of the contract that includes requirements that the material may not be published. The member asked the Board to reconsider as the member would not charge a fee for the information. The Board agreed that it could not jeopardize its use of AKC Stud Book by allowing the member to use the file. The Board suggested that she contact AKC directly.

Executive Session

At 10:53 p.m., Kathy McIver moved and Sue Marino seconded that the Board go into executive session. The motion passed unanimously.

At 11:44 p.m., John Cornell moved and Kathy McIver seconded that the Board come out of executive session. The motion passed unanimously.

While in executive session, it was reported that the Board had approved the Applicants List dated February 17, 2011.

Parent Club Title Program

Sue Marino reported on the information requested from the AKC in regards to the AKC Parent Club Title Program. The Board discussed the fee of \$50 per title. The program may put pressure on members to apply for the titles to compete with other members who are using this program. Sue reported that the Working Dog Committee does not favor the NCA's participation in this program. The committee believed that the program was only a revenue producer for AKC. The AKC says that it has no interest in interfering with a parent club's tests or rules. There was a suggestion to discuss the Parent Club Title Program at the Annual Membership Meeting to gauge the membership's interest.

Pam Rubio moved and Meredith Reggie seconded that the Board approve the NCA's participation in the AKC Parent Club Title Program. The motion failed. 6 Yes (JC, RF, KM, MR, PR, DT); 6 No (LA, JB, MLC, SM, MLP, PS)

NCA Policy Manual

Pam Saunders reported on her progress with the revision of the *NCA Policy Manual*. All of the updates from 2006 and later are included and she is in the process of filling in the gaps. She will be requesting the Board's assistance in places where information is not clear or where there are contradictions.

At 12:04 p.m., Mary W. Price left the meeting.

Verification of NCA Titles

The Board briefly discussed the distribution of the information sheet that is sent to owners for new NCA titles. After review, it was agreed that the procedure seems to be working.

Newfoundland Temperament

The Board discussed two incidents of Newfoundlands showing poor temperament in the breed ring. Letters have been received from two NCA members concerning the incidents. It was suggested that an article be prepared for "The Standard", the AKC judges' newsletter by the Judges Education Committee.

Maredith Reggie moved and Sue Marino seconded that the Board request that the Judges Education Committee develop an article for the "The Standard", the AKC judges newsletter, on the importance of proper Newfoundland temperament and the judges' role in maintaining this temperament. This article will also be published in *Newf Tide*. The motion passed unanimously.

The Judges Education Committee was requested to submit the article for the Board's review by the May 1-3, 2011 meeting.

Un-united Medial Humeral Epicondyle

Jacqueline Brellochs informed the Board that she had been aware of a Newfoundland bitch with an obvious foreleg condition which was diagnosed as un-united medial humeral epicondyle. Yet, the bitch received a normal OFA clearance with the explanation that OFA does not consider un-united medial humeral epicondyle to be "elbow dysplasia". It was reported that OVC would fail this condition.

It was reported that the Health & Longevity Committee has not discussed this matter.

Hearing no objection, the Board requested that the Health & Longevity Committee consider this information and develop a report for the Board at its July 21, 2011 meeting.

At 12:22 a.m., hearing no objection, the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by,

Mary Lou Cuddy
NCA Recording Secretary