



Perspectives

The Delegates' Newsletter

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8 Golden Retrievers, Labrador Retrievers, Shetland Sheepdogs, Border Collies, and Greyhounds are among breeds that enthusiastically launch themselves into the air and splash into pools of water as participants of a popular new competition developing outside of AKC's umbrella.

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Thank you to Crécia Closson for all her hard work as the coordinator of this issue. Thanks also to the entire committee for their support and patience in the publication of this issue. — Daniel J. Smyth and Carol Williamson, Editors

AKC WANTS YOUR HISTORY . . . AND CAN KEEP IT SAFE!

NORMA ROSADA-BLAKE, *AKC Archivist*

Invited by Blackie Nygood, Mispillion Kennel Club

AKC SERVICES

The AKC is dedicated to provide member clubs, especially parent clubs, with effective and meaningful services. The archives preservation service is one of numerous services available to such clubs at no cost. This service was created with the following goals in mind: (1) to provide parent and member clubs with a preservation solution for club records at no cost; (2) to protect the history and heritage of the sport of purebred dogs for posterity; and (3) to create a central educational depository that provides researchers with primary material on purebred dogs. AKC now collects, arranges, preserves and maintains club records at its New York headquarters as an educational resource for club members, researchers and staff. However, after ten years, many clubs still have not taken advantage of this unique opportunity. I would like to again extend the offer to those who may be new club officers and members.

Despite what you might think, this is not something new. Historically, the AKC has provided clubs with tools and services to enhance their experience. For instance, the AKC Gazette began with \$5,000 of (then president of the AKC) August Belmont's own money. From the formation of the earliest clubs in 1889 until today, the AKC Gazette has been one of the most important tools the organization utilizes to communicate, among other things, breed standards, club events, and show results.

The AKC wants your club to operate as effectively as possible. With that in mind, services and tools we offer, including educa-

tion, publicity for clubs and events, online event reports and management, etc., are geared to help you carry out your message to the public and conduct events with ease. This list of programs continues to grow each year. As an extension of the AKC, it is in everyone's best interest for your club to have the most effective management tools possible. This is just one service of possibly hundreds the AKC has developed to build a balanced support system for clubs. In 1998, the AKC began the first archives storage service for club records. It was developed so that AKC could protect the history of the purebred dog for future generations and was intended to provide money and volunteer-strapped clubs with a simple storage solution for their records.

Expenses associated with this service are incurred by the AKC. We know it takes a great deal of time and resources collecting, arranging and maintaining club records, which is why there is a trade off for the AKC. The money we spend on this service guarantees two things: First, the history of the sport is preserved for posterity; and second, clubs are given an effective tool to manage their records.

Nothing can be absolutely guaranteed, but we believe that maintaining club records in a centralized, secure location will minimize any risks to these important documents. As you know, records stored in a club member's basement, attic, or interior rooms are prone to natural disasters such as floods or fire. There have also been many cases where the bereaved family members of a de-

ceased club member disposed of what appeared to be useless papers, when in fact they were irreplaceable club records. Club records are also lost because a member had a falling out with the club and was unwilling to relinquish them. The loss of a club's history is a tragedy, but it is reality.

Club records are maintained at our New York office by a professionally trained archivist. So you might ask yourself, "How can clubs effectively manage records if they are not in their possession?" Let me explain. Club records are managed through a careful program of preservation, organization, cataloging, and security. Preservation means club records are protected from further deterioration. Organization means club records are arranged in a cohesive and logical fashion according to accepted national archival standards. They are cataloged for easy reference. And security means club records are protected from natural and human disasters. These management applications preserve your club records and items are easily identified and, therefore, much more accessible.

Once club records are transferred to the AKC, research may be conducted by the archivist and copies made at no cost to the club. Requests, within reason, are made by contacting the archivist by telephone or email. Alternatively, if you prefer to conduct research, make copies, or view the collection at any time, you may do so during normal business hours.

You should feel comfortable and confident utilizing this service. We are here to enhance your

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experience as a member of the AKC. In fact, several clubs have already taken advantage of this service and entrusted their records to the archives. They include: The American Water Spaniel Club, Bull Terrier Club of America, Chihuahua Club of America, Chinese Shar-Pei Club of America, German Shepherd Dog Club of Long Island, Giant Schnauzer Club of America, Lowchen Club of America, Monticello New York Kennel Club, Newfoundland Club of America, Otterhound Club of America, Portuguese Water Dog Club of America, and Scottish Ter-

rier Club of America. In addition to these clubs, the service has been utilized by several prominent individuals in the fancy (or their heirs), including handlers, breeders, owners, and photographers.

The AKC Archives will accept and maintain primary material such as meeting minutes, Constitutions and Bylaws, Articles of Incorporation, correspondence, reports, newsletters, photographs, negatives, scrapbooks, audio and video tapes, ribbons and rosettes, catalogs, and premium lists.

When you are ready to take the first step, contact me with infor-

mation about your records, including the size of the collection (how many boxes), and a general idea of the content. We can then discuss further plans. To that end, I look forward to working with your club.

I encourage you to visit the Archives' web page for more information on this service and about our collections at www.akc.org/about/depts/archive/ or contact me by phone at (212) 696-8216, or by email at nrb@akc.org. 

AKC AGILITY ONLINE ENTRY SERVICE

ROBIN L. STANSELL, AKC Vice-President, Show Operations
KRISTI MUNCHEL, AKC Director, Internal Consulting Group
Invited by Carl Ashby, United States Kerry Blue Terrier Club

AKC SERVICES

In the past month, Delegates have received a letter from the Dog Show Superintendents Association expressing concern over the American Kennel Club's decision to offer an Agility Online Entry Service. In their letter to Delegates, the Superintendents expressed concern that this will grow into a service for many, if not all, AKC events. I asked Robin Stansell to explain the background and future direction of this new initiative.

— Carl Ashby

Why is the AKC offering an online entry service for Agility?

There are several reasons that AKC developed an online entry service for Agility:

1. **Provide reliable and convenient service to AKC Agility Clubs:** When Agility clubs select AKC as the online entry

service provider, the clubs are guaranteed to receive entry fee payments from the AKC. There have been instances of Agility entry services failing to promptly pay clubs for entries they accepted. Further, AKC will incur the credit card processing fees on behalf of the clubs. The service will also reduce data entry for trial secretaries because the entry data can be downloaded into existing trial management packages.

2. **Provide reliable and convenient service for exhibitors:** Agility exhibitors using the AKC online entry service to enter Agility events will benefit from pre-populated entry forms and reduced entry errors. The AKC system can warn the exhibitor of potential problems, including jump height mismatches and class ineligibilities.

Further, exhibitors will have the convenience of entering multiple dogs and multiple events in a single transaction. Lastly, the AKC service will provide exhibitors with a cost-effective method to enter online. The online entry processing fees are reasonable and the service eliminates the need to use expensive overnight delivery services to ensure a spot in a trial that closes quickly.

These are all issues that will be improved for clubs, exhibitors, and trial secretaries that choose to use the AKC Agility Online Entry Service.

How does the AKC Agility Online Entry Service work?

There are two services available using the AKC service:

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