Purebred Alternative Listing (PAL), the AKC and You

- *What is a PAL Inquiry?*

A PAL inquiry is when a club or individual believes a dog not to be the PAL breed listed or believes the dog is not spayed/neutered.

If the breed is in question, the complainant will submit photographs of the dog, and any documentation they may have with a detailed letter explaining why they feel that the dog is not the PAL breed listed. The photographs and documentation are reviewed by a committee of individuals with over 160 years in the sport of purebred dogs.

If the committee believes, based on the inquiry, the dog is not the breed listed the owner is contacted requesting current photos. The committee makes a determination based on the physical characteristics of the dog as to whether the dog appears to be purebred, purebred but of poor quality, or not a purebred.

If the committee believes the dog not to be the breed, it can be arranged for experts in the breed to review the dog in person. The dog would need to have permanent identification on record with AKC.

If the dogs spay/neuter is in question, the complainant will submit documentation they may have and a detailed letter explaining why they feel that the dog is not spayed/neutered to the American Kennel Club.

- *How does it affect the listing of my dog?*

During an inquiry, the dog(s) in question are placed on hold. Until such time that the matter is resolved, the AKC advises all parties, not to compete with the dog(s) in any AKC licensed or sanctioned events.

- *How long does it take?*

The time frame for a PAL inquiry is directly related to the response time of the individuals involved, which is generally between 1-2 months. However, each inquiry is handled on an individual basis. Therefore, the time frame is flexible and can vary greatly from case to case.

- *What happens at the end of the inquiry?*

Following the completion of an inquiry, the file is again presented to the committee for review. A determination is then made based on the information received as to whether the dog is purebred to the satisfaction of the American Kennel Club. If the dog is purebred or spayed/neutered all of the referrals (holds) will be removed, and each owner will be notified.

If the dog is found not to be purebred to the satisfaction of the American Kennel Club, the dog be converted to a Canine Partner, and the owners will be notified in writing.

If the dog is found not to be spayed/neutered to the satisfaction of the American Kennel Club, the dog will be left on referral, all awards will be removed from the dog's record and the owners will be notified in writing.

- *Am I able to receive the name of the person who filed the complaint?*

Disclosure of Information (October 1983 Board meeting) - The Board affirmed as policy the long-standing operating procedure that AKC would refuse to disclose information from its registration records or from its correspondence files without the express permission of the principals or due process of law. This would include revealing the names and addresses of the owners of dogs. Information on an individual's dogs or litters, as opposed to blanket information on all breeders in an area, would be given to IRS or to a government agency upon receipt of proper authority.

- *Why do you not use DNA?*

We are aware of tests designed to determine the primary and secondary genetic heritage of mixed breed dogs, not to certify whether or not a dog is purebred. We do not recognize or utilize mixed breed DNA testing. All of the different Mixed Breed Analysis programs offered that we have seen all state that their mixed breed analysis test is not a test for purebred dogs. At this time, we are not aware of any tests to evaluate whether a dog is purebred.