

BULLETIN BOARD

DTP VOLUME 14

FEBRUARY 1991

FROM THE EDITOR'S TERMINAL...

As most of you know, on Feb. 3rd the postal rates went up. First class is up from 25 to 29 cents. What you may not know is ALL other postal rates went up as well including items that affect the BCOA mailings. Bulk rate increase will affect the mailing cost of the Bulletin Quarterly Magazine. Also the Address Change service fees are increased for both the BCOA publications. The cost of mailing fliers, ballots & rosters will also be affected. It is more important than ever to let BCOA know of any changes in your address - not only to know where you are but to help keep costs down too. Don't forget to send the changes to Sandy Bridges, 668 Pronto Dr., San Jose, CA 95123. Hoping to hear from you soon! CTH



FOR YOUR INFORMATION...

A different kind of restrictive legislation has recently surfaced. The Peninsula Humane Society in San Mateo County, CA introduced a proposal to ban dog & cat breeding in the unincorporated areas of the county. The Responsible Dog Owners of the Golden State & local San Mateo clubs mobilized their members to try & work with the county supervisors for a more realistic solution to pet overpopulation. But on December 18, the County Board of Supervisors voted 4 to 1 to pass the measure. This ordinance also enacts mandatory spay/neuter of all dogs and cats & will take effect in July & for the following six months. After January 1, 1992, only special permit holders will be allowed to breed their dogs & cats; all other dogs & cats will have to be spayed/neutered. The ordinance will most probably encounter constitutional challenge as a local issue by the dog & cat fancy. The measure seeks to address the overpopulation and annual euthanasia procedures which must be performed in the tens of thousands at humane society shelters nationwide. The national implications are that even though it is hoped this measure will be challenged, the precedent setting nature of the ordinance will stand.

The January 1991 issue of the AKC Gazette finds a most glowing review of *The Basenji - Out of Africa to You* by Susan Coe. This wonderful addition to the Basenji enthusiast's library is also one of the 6 nominees in the Dog Writers' Association of America 1990 Writing Competition. The coveted Maxwell Award recognizes excellence in all aspects of dog publications including writing, editing, publishing, photography, illustrations & video/broadcast in 40 designated categories. Entries in 1989 totaled nearly 600. To be one of the final nominees is quite an honor. The Maxwell Award honors Mr. Maxwell Riddle (who for you Basenji trivia buffs judged at BCOA's second sanctioned match in August, 1949) Mr. Riddle is one of the Founders of the Dog Writers' Association and a renowned writer/judge for over 50 years. The Award is part of the DWWA Westminster festivities. Wishing Ms. Coe the best of luck and congratulations!

Priscilla Benkin from ADOA has written "Update: Airline Transportation." This information is provided in the hopes that all will use it to make air travel safer for their dogs. Contact ADOA, 1654 Columbia Turnpike, Castleton, NY 10233 for a copy of this timely information.

In an effort to combat abuse of the AKC registry system, the AKC Board & Delegates voted on December 11, 1990 to approve an amendment to the Dog Show Rules, effective July 1 1991. The amendment will place a time limit for registration of litters to six months & individual dogs to one year after issuance of the individual registration application. Annually 2,500,000 dog registration applications, commonly referred to as blue slips, are issued yet about 1,250,00 are never returned to AKC. This means that almost 50% of those issued are never used and the potential for abuse of these available registrations papers, used as desired for an indefinite period, is a reality. While all violations will not stop, it was felt that a time limit would greatly reduce the number of papering from surplus blue slips. The goal is to take a positive step to restrict those individuals that are currently using the registry system for personal gain without regard to the integrity of pure-bred dogs.



CLUB BUSINESS



Report on Board Action

BALLOT #2, 14 January, 1991 - APPROVED

New members circulated in accordance with the By-Laws: The following people have applied for membership in the BCOA & their names along with a request for comments have been published in the November issue of the Bulletin Board. No comments have been received by the Secretary. Your approval is requested to accept the applicants as members: Parry Tallmadge, CA; Michelle T. Gahgan, IL; Brian & Sherry Kloosterman, MA; James W. Swayze, IL; Gloria Gregory, NY; E. deReus, Netherlands; Judy Stuart, CA; Sue B. Weld, GA. APPROVED: Bolte, Bridges, Coe, Curby, Grundman, Jimenez, Jones, Russell, Williams, Wuornos
NO RECORD OF VOTE: Curby, Work

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS

In accordance with the By-Laws, if any member wishes, comments concerning applicants may be sent to the Secretary. Applicants are listed with their two Sponsors (*):

W. Daniel McGinley, 107 Ardmore Pl., NW #16, Atlanta, GA 30309
*Mary Lou Kenworthy & Cheri L. Marsh
Robin Hammitt, 1102 N. Mende Ave., Colorado Springs, CO 80909
*Patricia A. Bird & Marti Reed
Christine O'Rear, 1060 B Elm Ave., Seaside, CA
*Teresa B. & George Gavaletz
Lynn M. Danell, 1014 W. Pontiac Way, Fresno, CA 93705
*Sandra Bridges & Patricia Cembura

NATIONAL SPECIALTY 1991

Is it too early to start thinking about the National Specialty in September yet? No, reports those involved in the planning group. US Air has established a Gold File for BCOA, #212592 and will be providing special rates for BCOA travelers into Charlotte/Douglas airport. The show site is located less than 10 minutes from area hotels. The Holiday Inn is the tentative BCOA headquarters & will offer a free airport shuttle service. Their numbers are: SCarolina 803-548-2400, NC Carolina 704-334-4450. The Best Western is also located at the Interstate 90 Carowinds Exit, numbers are SCarolina 803-548-8000, NC Carolina 704-332-9354. Both should be offering special rates for BCOA members. So for those of you who like to plan ahead, hope this will help you get started. See you in September!

B.C.O.A. CALENDER OF EVENTS

NATIONAL SPECIALTY DATES

1991 Pineville, North Carolina	September 26, 27, 28 & 29
1992 Indianapolis, Indiana	September 21, 22, 23 & 24
1993 St. Louis, Missouri	October 1, 2, & 3

REGIONAL SPECIALTIES: 1991

May 25 Basenji Club of Cincinnati

SUPPORTED ENTRIES

March 10 Detroit Kennel Club Basenji Club of Greater Detroit

All dates will be printed as information becomes available - please submit YOUR club special event to have it listed in the Calendar. The Source of information is from the AKC Gazette Events Calendar & YOU. If your club would like to let other BCOA members know of your Specialty, PLEASE send the date to the BULLETIN BOARD editor. Thanks!

A LOOK INTO THE PAST . . .

Attempting to put together a history of the Basenji Club of America could not be accomplished without the aid of Club Historian, Andie Paysinger. The historical data is abundant but not in a form that makes the story of the past simply a just type it up project. From Andie, "It is a shame that so much has been lost over the years because of apathy but so it goes. Mr. Gilkey & Mr. Phemister corresponded frequently. Fortunately Mr. Gilkey kept a carbon copy of almost everything he wrote & saved everything he received. Mr. David Streeter is to be thanked for salvaging the Gilkey records. Al Braun was a big help, sending a huge amount; Dorothy Brasher also in sending & collecting things in the Southeast." The documentation used for this series of articles will come from the BCOA Archives. As many of the principals are now deceased, we are grateful that their letters have been retained & will be used as reference. It is hoped that any inaccuracies will be corrected by those with documentation that the archives do NOT contain. Those of you with a long memory that have something to add, please do share your knowledge. A large thank you goes to all the early BCOA members who wrote their thoughts & ideas, their frustrations & hopes, that were so involved in the establishment of Basenji in the U.S. and the Basenji Club of America. Without their penchant for recording the activities of their time, this information to you would not be possible.

The arrival of Basenjis to the U.S. was well publicized, an oddity heralded in major newspapers & national magazines. From the start, the first Basenji enthusiasts began planning for the future of a breed of dog whose claim to fame was that it did not bark. Those who were serious about this new dog were proud to own the first of these strange dogs, and fortunately seasoned dog fancy veterans, concerned more about the breed and less about personal gain. In an early letter, in which the two seemed just to be making each other's acquaintance by correspondence, Mr. Alexander Phemister wrote to Mr. George Gilkey that he and "Dr. A. R. Richmond of Toronto were doing their utmost to see that the young stock get into the hands of people that can do good for the breed. Once we have a few people showing them at the major shows I will have no trouble bringing pressure to bear so that we can get them recognized but until they are more popular we had better hold our fire." Mr. Phemister had a bit of knowledge on the subject, as then President of the AKC, Mr. Dudley Roger "lives only a short distance away from me."

Between 1937 and 1942 there had been a number of Basenji imports from Africa, Canada & England. They in turn had produced Basenjis that went all over the U.S. Each owner was enthusiastic & the most natural thing they all desired was recognition of the breed from the AKC. In May of 1942 it was felt that it would take time before recognition could take place & when first mention of a club was made. "We might have a club & meet once a year say at the Westminster Show. I think it would help. We need not be very active" stated Phemister in a letter to Mr. Gilkey of Merrill, WI. In September of 1943 Mr. Phemister reported his showing of Phemister's Barrie in obedience, stating in another letter to Mr. Gilkey

that he hoped that the obedience exhibiting would help in the recognition effort. He reported Barrie's scores were 94, 93 1/2 & 92 1/2 in three straight shows held less than three weeks apart. BCOA historian, Andie Paysinger states that it seems they talked more about the club formation in 1942 and actually did meet at Westminster in 1943, officially sealing the start of the club. In a later letter, Mr. Phemister alludes to the By-Laws "that I drew up over-night when requested for them by the AKC." Dog World Magazine, June 1943 found an article titled Basenji Briefs that reported "a standard had been drawn up and the Basenji Club of America had applied for AKC membership."

President of the newly formed Basenji Club of America was Alexander Phemister. There were two Vice-Presidents: Miss Ethelyn Harrison of Euclid, Ohio & Miss Eloise Gerry of Madison, WI. Treasurer was Mr. George Gilkey and secretary was Mr. George Richards of Lynn, MA. Excerpts from the first By-Laws include: Article 1 - Purposes, Section 1: The purpose for which the club is formed are as follows: To encourage & promote the breeding, raising & exhibiting of Basenjis & to further the interests thereof by holding shows, advertising & publicity. To educate the public as the standards & merits of the breed & to assist the members with their problems in connection with the breed. Article II, Section 1: Membership in the club shall be limited to persons of good repute, sportsmanship & business ethics. Dues were \$3.00 per year except that a family membership was granted a man and wife for \$5.00 per year. The First American Standard was an exact copy of the current Basenji Standard of the Basenji Club of Great Britain.

The first task of the newly formed club was to apply to the AKC for registration of the breed in the AKC Stud Book. A letter dated June 4, 1943 from the AKC stated in part "It was the vote that the matter of application for admission to the AKC stud book be laid over until such time as the breed had grown in popularity." Five months later, Mr. P.B. Rice, Secretary of the AKC wrote to Mr. Phemister: "I am very pleased to advise you that our Board of Directors at the meeting of November 9th recognized for registration in the Stud Book the breed BASENJI." The jubilation of this caused all involved to work for the 100 registrations necessary to be classified in the Hound Group. When they started, only 27 basenjis were registered. Each and every basenji had to be found & registered. All puppies born in the following breedings had to be registered as well. Dr. Richmond, along with Gilkey & Phemister bore the brunt of the documentation process. With the arrival of puppies in 1944 & spring of 1945 as well as their registration effort, Basenjis became an official member of the Hound Group.



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