

2017 June AKC Delegate Meeting Newark, NJ
Submitted by Jane Bjork, American Brittany Club Delegate

Field Trial and Hunt Test Committee: Quarterly report- Pointing breed field trial entries are down 7% compared to last year. Hunting test entries are down 1%. Total performance events are up 4%, which includes other breed trials and tests, agility, etc. There are plans to increase the ability to drill down with reporting to answer questions such as increases or decreases in juvenile, gun dog or all age stakes. There is a new Performance Events Director, Carolyn Murphy.

Canine Health Committee: Canine Influenza Virus is having an impact on southeastern indoor conformation show attendance with one 2 day show being canceled (Texarkana KC) and Florida Vizsla and Brittany specialties being canceled. Throughout the southeast, attendance of entered dogs is down 55 percent, with dogs staying home. A show in Wrightstown PA reported 29% absenteeism. The handling of refunds for entries are entirely up to the club. The H3N2 has a 21 day shedding from infected dogs, who begin shedding before they exhibit symptoms. Covering crates at indoor events reduces transmission, and the virus can “live” 48 hours on soft surfaces, and 24 hours on hard surfaces. It is not particularly hardy in the environment.

Breeder of Merit: The program will expand to include levels capturing increasing breeder accomplishments.

New Programs: Many new AKC events are available for dogs. Trick dog, Scent dog, Dock Dog, Barn Hunt, FAST CAT coursing, Airedale Fur Dog, Farm Dog are among the 23 different available sports. There were 3.1 million entries in 2016. Conformation entries peaked in 2003, and by 2008 we had lost 120,000 entries. Conformation has been in decline since 2003, however 2016 showed the smallest rate of decline. Agility has reached a plateau in entries. There are 8 agility organizations, and AKC acknowledges that it loses entries to these other sponsors, however, the intent is to ensure entry level agility opportunities for everyone.

There will be a new, official Scent Work event, and any club can sponsor one. Clubs can start applying on or after August 1st for events that may be held on or after October 1st.

The road to a conformation championship or field championship or advanced testing is long. AKC is piloting a new program called “Achiever Dog.” If a dog earns a ribbon in 3 different venues, a certificate will be issued to that dog. Also being piloted for puppy class winners- puppies defeated will be tracked all the way from 4-6 months class up to 12 month class. Points are earned by winning the puppy class and will be issued “Puppy of Achievement” certificates. These programs are intended to provide encouragement along the way to those owners who do many events with their dogs.

Registration and Financial Report: For the first quarter of 2017, overall entries are up 2%, litter registrations are up 6.6 % and AKC Marketplace online traffic is up 45%. 10% of puppies registered are under limited registration. Since only 10% of puppies ever registered are bred, it is suggested to breeders to, if you will, limit use of limited registration. We need to encourage breeding of health-tested animals in this age of animal rights activism.

Brucella update: Per the Center for Disease Control, there are very few cases of *Brucella canis* occurring in people beyond a laboratory worker’s accidental exposure, but people and dogs are contracting *Brucella suis* from hog and boar hunting from blood contact and eating the meat.

Financial best practices for clubs: Club treasurers should be bonded and insured to protect the club. Clubs should have a financial committee “to look forward” to future events and an audit committee “to look backwards” at past events and verify transactions. One audit should be held each year, with accounting books reconciled monthly with a report. This is often required by the bonding insurance companies to maintain the policy. If a club has non-profit status, an outside professional is recommended to prepare tax returns. Consider requiring two signatures on checks for dollar values over a designated limit. There should be a maintained list of all club property.

Financial planning for a club event should be on an “each entry” basis. What is the intended profit on each entry, not including any fund raisers meant to offset cost. For example, if a field trial entry is \$50.00, subtract the AKC and ABC fees, percent judges cost, percent wrangler, food, venue. What is left over *per entry*?

Dealing with Misconduct. In 2016, 0.7% of all events have had the necessity of dealing with a misconduct event. If there is a conduct complaint against a person, it must be investigated. A complaint must be filed on the day of occurrence, and 3 members of the event committee must be prepped for a potential misconduct hearing. The committee determines if any conduct that results in a complaint is prejudicial to the sport (would the behavior that triggered the complaint cause someone to reconsider participating in the sport.) The misconduct committee investigates and determines if the conduct is prejudicial. If yes, then a hearing must ensue. Recommendations are to have 5 designated committee members “just in case” to allow for recuse in case one is a potential witness, as one cannot serve on the committee and a be witness. The conduct must be proven, prejudicial must be proven, and it must be connected to the event. Often, complaints arise late on a Sunday when placements are called, so ensure your event committee remains on the grounds until it’s over. Ensure you have several copies of Dealing with Misconduct, and follow it closely.

Finally, what is my role as your delegate? The AKC Delegate Advocacy and Advancement Committee put together a nifty video of the role of a delegate. <https://youtu.be/m-Mp3Z9fg7s>