

March 25, 2008 Teleconference minutes

Meeting began @ 8:05pm CST

Attendance: **President:** Al Govednik, **Vice President:** Lyle Roetemeyer

Secretary: Michelle Testa, **Treasurer:** Sean O'Kane

Executive Delegates: Vera Reeves, Gary Patterson, Glenn Stephenson (**absent**)

Clubs Present: 13 **Clubs Absent:** USRC **Total Delegates present:** 14

President's report

Al Govednik reviewed the past couple of months and welcomed the addition of our 14th club to the Federation

The Society in America for the Cane Corso Italiano - with Erik Storm as their club delegate.

Al continued on to discuss the situations that had come about since our last conference call.

There was a question posted in regards to the AWDF's status in hosting the FCI Championship in 2011. Al reiterated that our relationship with the FCI's Working Dog Commission is strong and we will continue to work closely with them. The member's of the commission are very supportive and intend to assist us in our endeavors. (The Working Dog Commission is a part of the FCI and for the most part run their own events. The FCI is made up and run by mostly conformation people).

AWDF will not be hosting the 2011 FCI Championship.

The Executive board of the FCI Working Dog Commission continues to feel that in the future the AWDF will be able to host such an event. Al states that he is always available if anyone would like more information.

Anne Camper (AWMA) asked when this come about

Annetta Cheek (WPBTC) asked Al what has to happen first.

Al stated that acceptance as a member is what we are diligently working on. The FCI past President Eberhart Strasser and recent president Frans Jensen have realized that the AWDF is the representative of the working dog breeds here in America and are very supportive of our organization..

May Jacobson (UDC) asked if we have to have a registry club, Vera Reeves (WRSF) stated that DVG is a member and have no breed registry. Al G. stated that they are contract partners with different commissions.

May Jacobson states that she was at the AKC meetings and they are willing to discuss things with the AWDF. She feels that it would be helpful to AWDF to receive their support. Al reminded her that he had been in meetings a few yrs ago with Bill Speck and they could not come to an agreement. May J. informed Al that Bill Speck is now retired and Doug Ljungren is now head of the AKC performance committee.

Vera R. reminds everyone that the AKC is not going to tighten their belts on many things including registrations and health checks.

Carole Patterson (DVG America) stated that AKC wants recognition of their program and she has been contacted by Dave Ljungren's assistant Lisa Carroll for a teleconference.

Lyle R. commented that it was interesting the AKC was now looking to the AWDF to assist them. He feels that this is a 2 way street. The AKC has to accept all our breed clubs (which would create multiple clubs in many breeds) and include breeds that are not

yet accepted by their organization as well as our working programs to even move forward.

May J. offered to meet with the AKC to discuss the situation with AWDF/ AKC. Augusta Farley strongly suggested that if this meeting was to come about that it should be handled officially by the AWDF and not by a delegate. Other delegates agreed with Augusta.

Al G. finished this discussion asking May Jacobson to introduce the contacts of the AKC Performance committee to the AWDF Executive board and he would be willing to meet and discuss the situation. May J. said she would forward the information and have the AKC contact the AWDF.

Vice President Report

Lyle Roetemeyer discussed the sponsor situation. He has hit a wall with most companies stating the economy as a reason. He will continue to make contacts in hopes to secure businesses for 2009. He is looking forward to meeting every one at the Championship as well as having a very productive annual meeting.

AL G speaking about the Championship asks that all delegates attending to be proactive at the event. If any questions, complications or problems come up Lyle, Sean, Michelle and Bill B. will all be there to please contact them. He also reminded everyone he will also be available by phone if need be as well as there is a BOI in place for any unforeseen instances. He has received information that this event will have a wonderful turn out and thanked everyone for their hard work and support.

Treasurers Report

Sean states that there is \$12,844.66 in the budget. We are ahead of projected amts on dues. The Trophies are at \$2800.00, a nice turnout for donations this year.

The discussion of receipt of monies from AWDF Championship host club was discussed. In the past due to the low turn out and the heavy responsibilities of the host club to put the event on it was agreed that the host club would receive all monies from the entries. Sean stated that the information that he had received was that AWDF was to collect partial monies from the entry fees (\$10.00 from each IPO3 with the monies from IPO1,2 and FH entries going to the AWDF) and that from this information he had based some of his budget projections. Sean stated that with out this we need to be aware of a loss if the host club is to receive all the profits. Augusta F and Annette C. state the importance of supporting Sean's budget.

Al states that he will discuss this issue with the host clubs on a conference call tomorrow night and clear this up.

Michelle mentioned that it will be important to have some sort of written agreement / contract with host clubs to be clear about host responsibilities and finances in regards to the event. Augusta mentioned that her club has a contract for this that she developed and would be willing to forward it to Sean. It was agreed and Sean responded he will work with a lawyer to put this together.

Secretaries Report.

Michelle asked if anyone had any questions or additions regarding the Feb.18th minutes. She then asked that the minutes be accepted

Bill Bimrose motioned for the minutes to be accepted, Carole Patterson 2nd there were no objections

Minutes were accepted

Voting privileges for appointed positions

Bill Bimrose spoke about the 4 appointed positions (Secretary, Treasurer & the 2 DAL) on our Executive board and their inability to vote. In accordance with our C&B/L (Article VI-C) Bill states that we can vote on securing these 4 positions giving them the ability to vote.

Annetta C. motions to vote on giving the appointments voting privileges

Barbara B. (AHNA) 2nd the motion

15 Yes

2 absent

The vote is to give voting privileges to the appointed positions Treasurer, Secretary and the 2 Delegates at large.

The Society in America for the Cane Corso Italiano

Erik Storm presented a brief out line about his breed and his club. Stating that they are a club of 101 members and very supportive of the preservation of the working qualities of the Cane Corso. His organization wanted to be apart of a group of likeminded individuals and is very excited to be an active part of the AWDF.

Erik informed us that their last Regional event resulted in 90 entries with many spectators.

The Cane Corso is not only bred for guarding but for herding and coursing as well.

An informative English reading link to the breed:

http://www.canecorsoitaliano.com/notizie_e.htm

Gary P (DVG America) asked Erik about their Breed registry and Erik responded that their breed has FCI and ICCF, AKC-FSS registration and has also applied to the UKC.

The AWDF is excited to have the Society in America for the Cane Corso as a part of our Federation. Al G states that the club will be on Guest status and will be looked at the GM in Alabama.

Erik will be available at the Championship to answer any questions about his breed.

IRO/FCI Search and Rescue Program – Vera Reeves

The 2008 IRO Championships will be held in the Czech Republic

Vera began by letting everyone know how welcoming these people were and that the past ground work the AWDF has done really had them looking forward to our arrival and representation at the meeting.

Vera continued saying that Frans Jensen, the Working Dog Commission and Rescue Dog commission fully support our endeavors and will assist and advise as we move forward adding this program to our list of attainable titles.

The RDS program is similar but not identical to the SV RH program. The SV & DVG versions of the RH are not the same as the FCI- IRO

There are 3 types of conditions Rubble, Area and Water. There are 3 levels in each condition along with 3 separate sections in each level. All in all it is a sport program that is highly involved with some levels that are more intense and challenging than the standard rescue certification programs here in America. Vera stated in her opinion that these disciplines are far above the standard certifications required here and they would certainly raise the bar for S&R dog qualifications here in America. She felt that eventually in the future dogs titled in the IRO would be called to duty.

The meeting was really looking to find common ground to bring all the countries up to the same level. FCI / IRO are still working on translating the rules with the Swiss having solid suggestions to improve them. Vera mentioned that the Swiss were very advanced in both the IRO & IPO rules.

Vera expects that with a bit of hard work over a few years it would be possible to have organizations such as FEMA and many other rescue organizations accept this sport certification.

Al mentioned that many dogs that competed at the FH CH in Europe were from IRO background

Vera continued to go over the importance of introducing the program through seminars / demonstrations.

A suggestion was made to begin to set up a club/ committee that would be totally devoted to putting this program together. The next step would be to put feelers out to find interested parties.

Carole P. asked if anyone here in America was qualified to host seminars. Vera said no. The best thing to properly introduce this would be to bring someone over and have a national seminar probably located at the Annual AWDF Championship. Invite the rescue groups in America to attend and / or participate.

Vera finished by reiterating how supportive the group in Europe is of the AWDF and mentioned that Frans Jensen suggested that it would be in our best interest to have an AWDF representative at the IRO Championship. She will put a synopsis together for the files.

Al G. thanked her for representing us at the meeting.

AWDF Championship

Rhonda M asked a question regarding the schedule changes for the Championship. Bill Bimrose spoke stating that the club should adhere to the already posted schedule. Al responded that he will have an answer on the schedule tomorrow night.

New Business

Review of the proposed by law changes

Annetta Cheek was against the change to Section IV- G Allowing participation by phone for E board and delegates at the annual meeting.

She feels it needs to be discussed and that a voted in board member needs to be present at the annual meeting.

Rhonda M. suggested that maybe the Executive board should have this allowance.

Michelle suggested that it is reality that not every one can be there every annual meeting for a number of reasons and that this should be able to be resolved in a way so these meetings can be productive. It is definitely important to be able to have certain people present for their reports that they are available to answer questions Annetta agreed. Michelle asked Annetta to come up with options for this section of the C&B/L and present it at the annual meeting. Annetta answered she would work on it.

Clarification the AWDF score books

Gary P asked if the AWDF Score book will still need to be stamped by USA. Lyle R replied that until the USA Executive board makes a new decision AWDF Score books will continue to need to be stamped by USA.

Bill Bimrose motioned to adjourn the meeting

Anne Camper 2nd the motion

Meeting adjourned at 9:31 CST

Next TC to be held in approximately 6 weeks