

GSDCA BOARD MEETING – June 28, 2012 – Starting time 8:30pm via Telephone

A telephone meeting was called for June 28, 2012 at 8:30pm EST. Ginny Altman was unavailable on that date and Dania Karloff was asked to take the meeting minutes.

Present: Frank Fasano, Bill Burgraff, Lanalee Law, Lew Bunch, Zoe Backman, Laura Gilbert, Nadine Grady, Fred Migliore, Carmen Battaglia, Bart Bartley, Morton Goldfarb, Nancy Harper, Pam Odell, Gary Szymczak, Dean Wylie and Jim Moses.

Absent: Ginny Altman, Dorothy Linn and Carol Moore.

President Frank Fasano started the meeting reading a letter he received from Jim Crowley giving the GSDCA permission to host a regular class for long coats (dogs and bitches) at this year's National.

Frank wanted to entertain a motion to create a long coat class for this year's national. Gary Szymczak made the motion. It was seconded and a discussion followed. Frank took comments from all board members.

Zoe Backman: Asked why do we need a fault class at any dog show? Membership seems to be against this thought. Frank responded that it was done to see if people were interested in this concept and to bring in additional entries. Zoe wanted to know if we would be using the specific definition of the SV for "long coat".

Bart Bartley: Bart said that 90% of breeders think that eliminating long coats would remove other qualities associated with long coats. He thinks this would be a good opportunity to allow the membership to decide whether they want to support it.

Carmen Battaglia: Carmen supports the idea of a long coat class

Lew Bunch: Lew said that any idea that would bring greater participation to our shows would be good. He said let us test it and let us try it.

Bill Burgraaf: Bill wants the long coats being shown but pointed out that they could be shown in the regular classes today although a separate class would be beneficial. Bill prefers a natural shown long coat rather than a trimmed coat.

Laura Gilbert passed on the discussion.

Nadine Grady: Nadine said she was at a show this weekend and everyone was opposed to the idea and thought it was a horrible plan.

Morton Goldfarb: Morton said that long coats have not been shown because they have been discriminated – he favors the long coat class.

Nancy Harper: Nancy is in favor of the additional class but concerned with the timing because it will take more time at the show to have another class. She has no opposition to the motion.

Lanalee Law: Lanalee favors most anything that would increase entries but has some concerns. She noted that the German have been very specific regarding the quality of the coat; and is also very concerned about creating a show class based on a fault.

Fred Migliore: Fred is in favor of having a long coat class. Judges should be knowledgeable to understand quality of coats.

Jim Moses: Jim thinks this is a Catch 22 situation. A long coat is a fault but he has used them in his breeding. He said as long as we can have more participation, he is in favor but has some misgivings.

Pam Odell: She is in favor of putting her toe in the water to try it and see what happens.

Gary Szymczak: He is in favor of more participation but is concerned whether we are setting precedence with this action.

Dean Wylie: Wants to know how it is working in Germany since they are already trying it.

There was a question but no answer as to whether the Germans breed long coated dogs to regular coated dogs.

Zoe said that the Board had to vote on whether to allow this action to go into effect this year and bypass the established “two year rule”. A discussion followed.

A regular member in attendance (via phone) asked to speak but it was informed that this was a board meeting and members are asked to comment prior to the meeting. A discussion followed where various board members commented on the ability of attendees to comment.

Jim stated that 2/3 of the board members must approve bypassing the two year rule for a change to be implemented to matters where a change affects showing at the National. Carmen said that the two year rule came into effect with matters related to the Futurity.

Nancy called for the question. The motion was to create a long coat class (dogs and bitches) at this year’s national.

For the motion: Bart Bartley, Carmen Battalia , Lew Bunch, Bill Burgraaf, Morton Goldfarb, Nancy Harper, Fred Migliore, Jim Moses, Pam O’Dell and Gary Szymczak

Abstained: Lanalee Law, Dean Wylie, Laura Gilbert

Against the motion: Zoe Backman, Nadine Grady

Lew Bunch moved to implement these two classes at this year's National. Passed unanimously.

Frank noted that the next item in the agenda is the APHIS letter. Frank requested approval to send a letter from the GSDCA. Bart Bartley wanted the membership to recognize that we are deeply indebted to Stormy Hope for all the work she does informing the membership of dog and breed related legislative issues. Dean made a motion to mail the letter, written by Stormy, making comments regarding the proposed regulations by the USDA Animal Plant Health and Inspection Service (APHIS). Motion passed unanimously.

Frank announced that the next board meeting is in St Louis. Board members will be notified of location, hotels, etc.

Meeting adjourned.