

AWDF Teleconference Minutes - December 29, 2008 DRAFT

Meeting began 8:10 CST

Attendance:

Pres. Al Govednik, Vice Pres. Lyle Roetemeyer,
Treasurer: Sean O'Kane, Secretary: Michelle Testa,
Executive Dirs. Vera Reeves, Glenn Stephenson (absent), Gary Patterson (absent)

Clubs with Delegate Representation:

United Doberman Club, United States Rottweiler Club, Working Pit Bull Terrier Club of America, United Schutzhund Clubs of America, Working Riesenschнауzer Federation,
North American Working Bouvier, LV/DVG America, United States Boxer Assoc.
North American Working Airedale Terrier Assoc., Society in America for the Cane Corso Italiano & American Working Malinois Assoc.

Clubs absent:

Federation American Bulldog, Authentic Hovawarts of North America, & United States Mondioring Assoc.

Total present on the call **19**

Delegates present **13**

President's Report

President Al G. began the call with his trip to Europe. He stated that the judge's meeting was very productive and AWDF was well received. Many attending the meeting were curious as to how things were going in America. There was a lot of discussion of the future changes in the sport. One note of interest was the changes in tracking. The move toward more realistic surfaces and articles was being looked at. There would be not so much manicured grass situations and articles would be similar to what people might be carrying on their person such as credit cards, keys, wallets etc. The discussion on pressure and judging it was hot. Dogs appearing to be depressed or pressured would be severely pointed and marked down a complete rating and any heavy handler help was to be dropped 2 rating categories. Tim C. of the Boxer club asked for further clarification and Al gave a few more examples. AL stressed the importance of this information and requested that all delegates inform their club members of these changes.

The goal now in IPO sport is for the dog to be free, relaxed and in harmony with its handler.

Rule changes weren't discussed as there was new pressure coming from the green party to make more changes so Germany has set up a committee to discuss the situation and find a resolve to the situation.

Al continued saying that after the meeting Frans Jansen presented a letter to him that he had received from Yves DeClerq (Executive Director of the FCI). Al G. read the letter to the delegates. Ann Camper asked that copies be sent to all the delegates.

Al agreed and asked the secretary to follow up. He also stated that this letter is available on the FCI website.

The summation of the letter:

The AWDF will have a solid position in the FCI and continued access to compete at all FCI Championship competitions.

Al G. continued on discussing the FCI/ AKC status at May Jacobson's request. During the judges meeting it was mentioned that AKC has had a long standing agreement with the FCI in regards to honoring registration and apparently when AKC decided to enter China to increase their registration numbers AKC overstepped their boundaries. The FCI voiced their displeasure and are not looking at the AKC too favorably.

Al G. had asked Sandy Purdy of LV/DVG America to join the call this evening as she had also attended the judges meeting in Europe. Sandy concurred with Al that America (AWDF) is very well received by the FCI. She continued on stating that Frans Jansen was extremely helpful to America. She also noted that the FCI sees our hard work and how well organized we are.

Al G. thanked Sandy for her synopsis and continued on stating that the submission of our statistics to the FCI showed that America (AWDF) has the 2nd most titled dogs (trials/ shows) in the world with Germany being first.

Boxer club situation with Judge Dennis Bauer

The FCI requirement for having a judge's license is that the judge must maintain a residence in the country the license is issued. The Boxer club had to have Mr. Bauer removed from being a judge for their club due to his residence is Europe and not America.

Vice President's report:

Lyle R. began stating that the AWDF is moving in a positive direction as an organization. It is excellent to see that for the most part all the clubs are working together for the common good of the sport. Lyle is looking forward to 2009.

Treasurer Report

Sean had resent the budget to the delegates for review. He let the E board and delegates know that we have stayed with in our finances this year and he will have a statement out at the annual meeting. There was a short review and it is noted that all finances/expenses were basically the same. Debit cards have been dispensed to the President, Vice Pres. & Secretary. Annetta C. made the motion to accept the budget for 2009, Carol P. 2nd the motion - none opposed
2009 AWDF Budget was accepted.

Postage for mailing of scorebooks - Sean reviewed the situation of the cost of mailing the books to clubs. He came up with a tier for pricing.

Minimum number of books to be ordered will be 10

10 books ordered – shipping cost \$10.00

30-50 books ordered - shipping cost \$20.00

50+ books ordered - cost will be calculated on a case by case basis.

Michelle made the motion to accept the new tier as written

Vera Reeves 2nd the motion

None were opposed

Motion passed

USMRA asking for uniform funding

Sean began by letting the group know that this type of thing had been done away with 2 yrs ago.

He continued on with the Mondioring club making a request for financial assistance from the AWDF for uniforms. Sean stated facts that financially the Mondioring club brings to the AWDF 91 members for a total of \$261.25 in dues. AWDF does pay for FCI IPO & FH CH entries and the uniforms that the teams have worn have been sponsored or donated, therefore have not come from the AWDF finances.

The AWDF hasn't sponsored any DVG or FMBB teams in any financial way recently to their European CH events. Sean stated that with our present financial situation this would set a precedent that we could not fulfill for other clubs if they requested the same. It was also noted that the requested financial amount by USMRA exceeded their dues input. The decision was made that USMRA would not receive financial support for uniforms and Al G. again as he has in the past would provide them a couple of outside contacts for donations and sponsorship.

Education proposal

Annetta C. has spoken to Augusta F. about the possibility of putting an education program together. They both agreed and understood that the status of our finances at this time made it fiscally impossible to put something together. Annetta stressed the importance of having an education program and all agreed. Sean O mentioned that USA is beginning some projects in this field.

Secretary report

Michelle asks if there were any questions in regards to the November 17th minutes.

May J. made the motion to accept the November minutes as written

Charles Price seconded the motion

None opposed

November Minutes are accepted.

FCI FH team Selection-

Michelle began by thanking Bill Bimrose and Angeli Modjesti for their assistance in the selection process for the 2009 team. It was nice to have 5 candidates submit their declarations and she shared that the committee was very excited about this year's team.

There were no responses from the delegate body when asked for the submission of names for the team captain. Jeff Govednik offered to take on the position and the committee accepted his offer.

The 2009 FH team captain will be Jeff Govednik.

Al Govednik, Andres Arportela, Daniela Bedenice (1st Alt.) will be our 2009 team. Floyd Wilson & Diane Vegsund Came In as our 2nd and 3rd alternates.

We wish them the best of luck!

AWDF 2009 Championships

The stadium at Notre Dame High School has been selected and contracts will be signed

The Premier Planning Company is on board this year heading up our hotel-and facility situations at no cost to the AWDF. The Judges will be set in a bed and breakfast away from competitors.

The trophy list is up & donations are coming in, Sean expects close to a full sponsored list. The 2009 budget is prepared for the expense if need be.

James Honda has requested that all monies for bill payment be filtered through the AWDF and he has offered to donate all proceeds from the event back to the AWDF.

Scorebook

Al G. on the topic of the AWDF books wanted to remind everyone that regular club books are fine to submit along with the requirement of the AWDF book. Our scorebooks are a step up and far more complete and in the future the plan is to have only one book for all member AWDF clubs.

There was a question of how to acquire a score book and the requirement of the book to represent the club to which the dog will be entered under for the AWDF Championship.

Michelle noted more often than not many belong to more than one organization under the AWDF umbrella. She stated each handler must research the best situation for them in representing a club at the AWDF CH. Once the handler has made a decision of which club they wish to represent they should contact that specific organization for information on entering. Not only does the handler have to be a member in good standing of the club they choose to represent but the score book should also reflect that specific club and that club has a record of the book. The handler may purchase an AWDF book from any club but in choosing the breed or sport club to compete as a representative in at the AWDF CH that book must reflect that specific club membership by receiving a stamp and/ or official signature. Each club can charge a fee for stamping the books in similar fashion as the USA office.

By sending the scorebook in to be "certified" this will allow the club that will be represented the opportunity to verify current membership, record the competitor as a representative & that the title to be competed at complies with that specific clubs regulations for entering the AWDF Championship.

Lyle R. states that the key to address as we grow is to understand the importance of keeping trial records.

He stressed the importance that all clubs should be keeping trial events and handler representation on file.

Vera R. agrees with this process stating it will assist in verification and that in actuality the score book might only be stamped one time ever and if the handler chooses to switch representation each year that is the handler's responsibility and choice.

The AWDF requests that:

All entries must have an AWDF score book to compete in the AWDF Championship

All AWDF score books must represent the club to which the entry is representing.

Teams interested in competing in the AWDF CH should contact their respective clubs for specific direction for entry submission.

AWDF member club Deadlines for entries

Michelle is creating the entry form for the event and to give better direction to people wishing to compete would like to have the club deadlines on the document and available on the website.

The AWDF deadline for the club submission of entries to the AWDF Secretary is May 9th 2009

Current deadlines submitted at this call

United States Boxer Association - 4/25/2009

United States Rottweiler Club - 4/25/2009

United Schutzhund Clubs of America (USA) 4/25/2009

Working Riesenschnauzer Federation (WRSF) 4/15/2009

American Working Malinois Association 4/25/2009

Working Pit Bull Terrier Club of America 4/25/2009

North American Working Airedale Terrier Association 05/02/2009

DVG America 4/25/2009

The Society in America for the Cane Corso Italiano 4/25/2009

Clubs who have not submitted deadlines

United Doberman Club

North American Working Bouvier

United States Mondioring Association

Federation American Bulldog

Authentic Hovawarts of North America

Michelle requests that all clubs MUST have their deadline dates in to her by Friday January 2nd 2009

Collar regulations

Sean began with a short review of the committee's notes and the draft that he had sent out to the delegates which was drawn up by an attorney. It was stated that USA's new language on the use of training collars (prong & e collars) is a plus.

It was again stressed that the FCI regulations governing these devices should not be overlooked. The definition of official practice on the trial field was discussed and resulted in some controversy.

Laurie Stupak made the motion to table the discussion of the regulation

Bill Bimrose 2nd the motion

No one was opposed

The collar regulation was tabled with Al G. impressing on the event committee and delegates that this needs to be resolved and instituted ASAP.

New Business

AWDF/ IRO new committee

The AWDF has developed a new committee to research and institute an IRO program here in America. The members of the committee are:

From the AWDF - Al Govednik, Vera Reeves, Sean O'Kane

Melody Greba IN Task Force 1 FEMA Advanced certified team

Janet Mercill K9 Handler FEMA Task Force 1 & K9 Evaluator & adv. Cert. team

Gail McCarthy MA Task Force 1 FEMA K9 Evaluator (K9 S&R 1992) & adv. Cert. team

Jackie McCarty IN Task Force 1 FEMA K9 Evaluator & advanced certified team

Tony Zintsmaster IN Task Force 1 FEMA K9 Evaluator & advanced certified team

Al G. states that creating this new venue could possibly expand the AWDF by as much as 1/3

LV/DVG America President Carole Patterson wanted to let Lyle Roetemeyer know that Juergen Rixen editor/publisher of "Der Gerbrauchsund" magazine had attended the WUSV event and wrote a glowing report about it in the last issue. Herr Rixen was very complimentary of the USA club and Carole will translate the article and send it along to publish in the USA magazine.

In closing Al G thanked everyone for their hard work this year and reiterated that the FCI letter solidifying our attendance is quite an accomplishment. Carole P. supported the statement stating that having S&R is another step to promote dog training and support our working dog's heritage.

Sean O'Kane made the motion to adjourn

May Jacobson 2nd

Meeting adjourned 10PM CST