

**American Working Dog Federation Board of Inquiry**  
**Findings and Recommendations to the AWDF Executive Board**  
**In the matter of Anne Camper, AWDF President**  
**vs. United Schutzhund Clubs of America (USCA)**

BOARD OF INQUIRY MEMBERS

Leslie Carpenter, Monty Ellison, Amanda Hoskinson, Mike O'Donnell, Christopher Smith.

FINDINGS

1. The composition of the Board of Inquiry complies with the requirements of the AWDF bylaws.
  
2. The complaint was filed by the complainant within a 3-months of the last alleged violation as specified in the bylaws.
  
3. Evidence provided by the complainant demonstrates a clandestine, deliberate and sustained effort by the USCA to create and promote an all-breed organization called the American Working Dog Counsel (sic) (AWDC) to compete with and replace the American Working Dog Federation (AWDF).
  - a. In an email dated December 12, 2017, USCA President Jim Alloway writes to the AWDF Board of Delegates stating, "I formed a new organization to compete with AWDF named the AWDC", and "I worked with and obtained full support of the FCI working commission".
  - b. An email communication from Frans Jensen provided by the complainant further demonstrates that these officers of USCA were in contact with Mr. Jensen, President of the FCI Utility Dogs Commission, without the knowledge of the AWDF Executive Board or Board of Delegates, to obtain agreement to replace the AWDF with the AWDC for purposes of representation to FCI International competition. In an email from Frans

Jensen to Nathaniel Roque, Mr. Jensen writes,

“In answer to the question if the representation of the All Breed Clubs in the USA switches from the American Working Dog Federation to the American Working Dog Council, that the invitation to send a team to the FCI IPO/FCI IPO-FH World Championship also switches to the American Working Dog Council.”

“If in the future the representation of the All Breed Clubs from the USA will be under the patronage of the American Working Dog Council the invitation for the FCI IPO- and FCI IPO-FH World Championship will be send (sic) to the American Working Dog Council. Then also a representative of the American Working Dog Council will be invited as a guest at the FCI Utility Dogs Commission meetings.”

4. Evidence provided by the complainant demonstrates that USCA Executive Board members Jim Alloway, Vadim Plotsker, Michele Clubb, Nathaniel Roque, Mike Diehl, Laurie Coppola, Dennis Vander Linde, Gary McGillivray, Mark Chaffin, Don Yelle, Pedro Jimenez, Jr., Carissa Kuehn, Hal Lymus, Teresa Cowart, and Debra Krsnich did vote (EB 05-18) to selectively penalize certain nonmembers

of USCA with higher USCA trial entry fees if they do not belong to a member club of the proposed AWDC.

The USCA states that the reasons for increasing trial fees for non-members is to charge for the benefit that USCA non-members receive from competing in USCA trials. The Board of Inquiry agrees that the USCA is entitled to charge whatever it wishes for its trials; however, by approving a selective offer to waive the additional fee if the USCA non-member belongs to an AWDC member club was clearly an attempt by the USCA to force AWDF member clubs to join the AWDC.

5. Evidence provided by the complainant demonstrates that the USCA has exhibited a pattern of behavior of disregard for agreements established during valid meetings of the Board of Delegates, and that the USCA has exhibited behavior since 2014 indicative of a desire to assume control of the AWDF Championship and to replace the AWDF with an alternate organization

controlled by the USCA. Specifically, these actions are:

6/22/2009 – USCA refuses to recognize WDA judges even though they were recognized by the SV, causing hardship on alternate breed clubs within the AWDF.

8/1/2009 – USCA increases scorebook certification stamp fee from \$5 to \$10 for USCA members who buy their scorebooks from any other AWDF club other than USCA (\$20 to \$40 for USCA non-members).

9/21/2009 – USCA refuses to follow AWDF agreement adopted unanimously on 5/21/2009 that breed clubs will issue scorebooks only for their specific breed. As of 07/2018, USCA continues to issue scorebooks for non-GSDs that identifies the breed of the dog instead of listing the dog as a mix-breed.

5/10/2012 – USCA attempts to enact voting representation based upon the amount of money paid by an organization. Motion fails.

2/1/2014 – AWDF implements dues structure in which all member clubs pay the same amount (\$450 per club). Motion adopted.

8/19/2014 – USCA dominated Executive Board attempts to implement a Trial Scoresheet and Summary Sheet policy to be administered through the AWDF secretary.

9/10/2014 – USCA dominated Executive Board adopts cap on AWDF Championship entry fees of \$150.00.

3/17/2015 – USCA unilaterally decides to allow entry of member non-GSDs into AWDF Championship even though USCA is a GSD breed club. As of 4/2018, USCA continues to allow non-GSD entries to the AWDF Championship.

4/10/2017 – USCA complaint about AWDF Championship – USCA requests refund of entry fees to competitors and apology from AWDF Board for 2017 AWDF Championship.

10/10/2017 – USCA Director of Judges communicates with FCI Working Commission President Frans Jensen to confirm that FCI will recognize an alternate all-breed club called the American Working Dog Counsel (sic) and that the new organization will be recognized by FCI for purposes of sending competitors to the FCI IPO World Championship and FH World Championship, thereby replacing the AWDF.

11/2017 – AWDF President and Vice President discover actions taken by USCA to form a

competing organization to the AWDF.

11/8/2017 – AWDF votes to pursue joint WDC/AWDF Championship event at the request of USCA.

12/12/2017 – USCA halts negotiation on Joint Championship.

12/17/2017 – USCA/AWDF Joint Championship negotiations resume.

12/18/2017 – USCA halts negotiation on Joint Championship.

1/4/2018 – AWDF accepts bid from alternate AWDF member club for 2018 AWDF Championship.

3/19/2018 – USCA implements 300% increase in trials fees for non-members unless said nonmember is a member of a club belonging to the USCA supported AWDC.

4/5/2018 - In a conference call conducted by USCA President Jim Alloway to answer questions from USCA members about the executive ballot adopted by the Board on 3/19/2018 (EB Ballot: #05-18), Mr. Alloway states that the USCA Executive Board mistrusts AWDF and chose to keep references to AWDC in the EB language, even though AWDC doesn't exist, as a "safeguard" in the event there is an "issue" down the road (with the AWDF Championship).

## PENALTIES

Members of the BOI spent numerous hours in discussion evaluating various penalties that might be applied to the USCA to affect a change in behavior. In the end the BOI members unanimously agreed that the actions taken by the leadership of the USCA were intended to destroy the AWDF in order for the USCA to assume control of an alternate all-breed organization to represent the USA in the FCI. Furthermore, the BOI members agreed that the USCA has repeatedly demonstrated a lack of concern for other member clubs of the AWDF by their actions and disregard for their needs.

We discussed various sanctions of the USCA and voted 4-1 that due to the egregious actions taken by the USCA to attempt to destroy the AWDF, and the past behavior of the organization, the only reasonable recommendation that the Board of Inquiry can make to the AWDF Executive Board is to expel the USCA from the AWDF. The specific recommendations to the Executive Board are:

1. Immediately suspend the USCA from voting privileges in the Club.

2. Immediately suspend the USCA from participation in AWDF Board of Delegates or AWDF Executive Board meetings.
  
3. Instruct the USCA to immediately cease selling or distributing official AWDF scorebooks, and to return all AWDF scorebooks on hand to the AWDF Secretary.
  
4. Advise USCA members and member clubs that the AWDF will continue to recognize titles earned at USCA club trials until December 31, 2018, and that USCA members may continue to use their current valid USCA membership cards and USCA scorebooks at any AWDF member club trials until December 12/31/2018.
  
5. Advise the USCA that effective 12/31/2018, USCA membership in the AWDF is fully revoked, and all privileges associated with that membership are terminated.
  
6. Immediately notify the FCI regarding the expulsion of USCA from the AWDF.

#### CONCLUSION

The Board of Inquiry assumes the role of discipline for members or member clubs very seriously. We understand that our recommendations may cause hardship for the ordinary members of the USCA who are not involved in the leadership of the club; however, we believe that without expulsion from the AWDF, the USCA will continue to act only in the best interests of the USCA without regard to the damage its actions cause to other breed clubs within the AWDF.

Respectfully submitted this \_\_\_\_\_ day of July, 2018.

Christopher Smith, BOI Chair, AWMA