WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ANKC

There was a Special Board Meeting of ANKC in early May and now that the Minutes have been confirmed there are a few items which may be of interest to members.

Probably the main issue nationwide in the past 12 months has been the problem in a number of breeds with dogs being sold as exotic colours and the question as to whether the sire and dam are correctly registered on the main register. A considerable number of French Bulldogs have been deregistered and the ANKC Task Force set up to investigate the matter has been inundated with information which obviously has to be verified before any further action can be taken. It is also interesting to see the range of breeds which are being implicated.

A second Working Party is working on developing a process to try and make it more difficult to register dogs on the Main Register with non-standard colours. It has asked for an extension of time to report and it was agreed it would report to the October Board Meeting.

Although not specifically addressed at the meeting, the issue of DNA testing was raised on several occasions. It was generally agreed that the only complete solution to the problem was DNA testing and some investigation is taking place to determine the most economical way of doing this testing.

I have already posted information regarding ANKC remaining an Associate Member of FCI. I will not repeat that. Assuming the agreement is signed promptly, CACIB shows will commence in Australia after 1st January 2018. ANKC has agreed that at least 2 CACIB shows will be held in Australia each year. At the same time ANKC has determined that a maximum of one CACIB show will be held in each jurisdiction each year. Affiliates will be invited to submit an expression of interest and demonstrate they have the capacity to run such a show. State Bodies will evaluate the expressions of interest and recommend the host Affiliate to ANKC. ANKC will allocate the shows taking into account the recommendation of the State Council and the existing canine calendar.

These shows will be held in accordance with FCI Show Regulations, Groups and Standards. All of our other shows will be conducted in accordance with existing regulations so there will be little disruption and only one show to avoid if your breed has a substantially different

Standard. More details later. See www.fci.be for FCI requirements. I'm waiting for someone to tell me whether I can exhibit my Phalene as a Toy Continental Spaniel rather than being lumped in with the Papillons.

The afternoon session was conducted as a workshop to look at the future of ANKC. I think it is fair to say that opinions varied from no change through to the abolition of state bodies.

At the present time the ANKC Constitution sets out certain things that ANKC can do and at the same time lists a range of matters which are under control of the States and with which ANKC cannot interfere. At the end of the discussion it was decided to start with things which ANKC does control and consequently two working parties were established. The first was tasked with developing a set of show regulations which would be compulsory Australia wide. This essentially would be the same that happens with the disciplines.

The second is looking at the Conformation Judges Training Scheme and the many variations which exist between jurisdictions.

Most members will not be aware that $1 from each puppy registration right across Australia, goes to the Canine Research Foundation (CRF) a charitable Trust. The Trust has 6 members, 4 academics and 2 canine representatives. It is entirely autonomous and is not connected to the ANKC. The CRF funds canine research projects at Universities across Australia. Each year they receive about $90,000 as a result of the puppy levy.

You are probably also not aware that ANKC is trying to have a Whole-Body Barometric Plethysmography Chamber imported into Australia for use by our members. This chamber measures the breathing capacity of dogs and it is intended to be used to counteract RSPCA claims regarding breathing difficulties in pedigree dogs.

Each unit costs about $45,000 and at the start of May over $17,000 had been raised from donations. ANKC is examining how the balance can be raised. From enquiries which have been made, the Trust has indicated that it can only fund research projects and not the purchase of equipment.

Further enquiries are still being made but one suggested solution is for the States to divert some of the funds raised from the puppy levy. Regardless I am sure we will have one or probably two of these chambers in Australia by the end of the year.

I will keep you all up to date on the progress of these matters.

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