

## President's Message September 2011

Greetings to everyone:

Countdown to the fall cluster is now less than two months. The show and cluster committees have been hard at work in preparing for the upcoming circuit. Hopefully you have volunteered to help out during the show. If you have not, there is still plenty of time to let us know where you would like to help out. Please just let someone on the show committee know so we can utilize you in the best way possible.

On September 24<sup>th</sup> the TVKC will be hosting one of the AKC's first 'Open Shows' in downtown Knoxville at Krutch Park on Gay Street. Along with the show we will also be hosting a "Meet the Breeds," as well as doing a responsible dog ownership day with the event. Bernadine Luketich and Paula Smiddy are chairing this event and can also use your help as well as your dogs in providing breeds for the general public to learn about. This is another great example of our club being seen out in the community.

Because of the efforts of Beth White, Ace Russell, Robin Brown, and Angie Bass our TVKC Obedience, Agility and Conformation classes have been going very well. Although the weather has been such a big factor as of late we continue to have dates in place for upcoming classes. Please see the TVKC website for updates on our classes. The conformation classes are looking into a possible indoor site close to I-40 in an industrial building near the Cherry Street exit. This location will allow us a well lit and useful indoor location for the fall and winter months. Thanks to Barbara Price for finding this location.

The new board met recently for our extended annual planning meeting. Everyone was present and we were able to get a great deal accomplished. One of our goals was to reach out to our membership and get their feelings and input about the club. In the upcoming weeks and months one member of the board will be contacting each and every member to complete an updated information form along with a number of questions to get a feel for each person's area of interest as well as what they would like to see from the club in the future. Please be honest and candid with whoever contacts you. This is being done so we can keep in contact with all of our members, some that for one reason or another cannot attend meetings as well as those that might be more comfortable in sharing ideas as well as concerns in a more private way.

Since becoming President I have tried very hard to provide some type of educational or interactive program at every meeting. Because it is difficult for one person to try and do this every month the board has appointed a Program Committee consisting of Pam Stanner, Chairperson, Keith Bailey, Barbara Price and Walter Sommerfelt the goal is to continue to provide quality, diverse programs to introduce all of our members to topics of interest in the world of dogs.

The September 20<sup>th</sup> meeting will have for our speaker Dr. Kristi Lively from the Village Veterinary Clinic. Dr. Lively will be speaking on the collection, use, and storage of Frozen Semen for future use in Artificial Insemination. Back in the Early 1980's Carol and I were fortunate to be part of one of the first centers approved by the AKC and the American Field to freeze and process semen. Since that time we have witnessed to growth and wider acceptance of the practice as well as the technological advances that have greatly increased the success rate of this valuable breeding tool. I encourage anyone that has even the slightest

interest in the Breeding of Dogs to attend and please feel free to invite anyone else that might be interested to attend. Dr. Lively will start her presentation promptly at 7:00 PM. The board has decided to have our featured speakers first whenever possible.

The board also reviewed and adopted “the proposed constitution, by laws, and standing rules” changes recommended by the Committee. We will be handing out the proposed changes at the meeting along with the reasoning behind the updates. Voting on the Constitution and By Laws changes will take place in October and following the vote it will be submitted to the AKC for their final review and approval.

The board has reviewed the AKC sportsmanship award and has decided to ask the three previous winners, Jean Dinkins, Phyllis Fortune and Eddie Delaney to serve as the committee to review the AKC standards for the award and put forth nominations for the club to consider. The AKC outlines that the award “*Honors those individuals who deserve special recognition that have made a difference in the sport of purebred dogs, embodied the AKC code of sportsmanship, and have been an active and valued member of an AKC member club.*” If you feel any member should be considered for the award please contact one of these three individuals to have them consider that person for nomination.

After a discussion the board decided to accept a recommendation that was passed unanimously that instead of creating an oversight group or committee for performance and training classes that Ace Russell be asked to serve as the clubs’ training coordinator. Hopefully Ace will accept and continue share with the club his knowledge in the performance area.

Beth White continues to do an outstanding job on the clubs’ website. After discussion it was approved that members may submit a photo of their dog and any brags to be posted on the website for no longer than one month. So if you have a dog and a win you wish to brag about please send the photo and info off to Beth.

Keith Bailey and her committee have met with the UT Veterinary College relationship student to see how the TVKC and the school can better serve the perception of purebred dogs to students. The group is working on a power point presentation to be presented at a future UT lunch meeting. More information will be supplied as the program moves forward.

Our Cluster will again feature a number of extra activities for our exhibitors and out of town guests and we can still use a lot of help on a number of them. If you would like to help out with our Friday night “Lottery Sweepstakes”, The Friday Bake-A-Wish Bake sale or the Saturday evening Dinner, Dance, and Raffle please let us know. These events take a lot of planning which is done in advance but they do need some help on the day of the event. Please consider donating a little of your time to one of these. The proceeds from these events go to help a number of worthwhile causes within the sport as well as our community.

As you can see there is a great deal of activity at TVKC as well as other areas already being worked on. We hope you will continue to be active in serving the club and for those that have for one reason or another been on the sidelines we invite you to jump in and help.

In closing I would like to mention that we have had a great increase in the number of visitors to our meetings. Please take a moment to welcome them and introduce yourself to them and inquire about their interest in the club, their dogs, and what brought them to our meeting. If

we continue to work together to bring in new members with a willingness to help out and grow our club it is a win win for us all.

That's it for now I look forward to seeing all of you on September 20<sup>th</sup> and hearing Dr. Livelys' presentation.

Walter Sommerfelt  
President, TVKC