

Editorial



Since January, I have been diligently seeking the pups my Roxie whelped following an illegal breeding while she was at Sunseeker Kennels in Dallas, North Carolina. The owner of the “sire of record” has only very recently complied with the request for a fresh DNA sample from her dog Logan of April Farms from a national registry for a parentage evaluation. Thus we are still weeks away from untangling the web of deceit woven by a group in North Carolina that had been entrusted with her care.

As many of you may already know, the Boykin Spaniel Club & Breeders Association of America (BSCBAA) is in transition. In September, the entire board of directors resigned except for Paisley Stevens Knudsen who now serves as President. It has been a long and difficult task to bring credibility back to the club. A new board was immediately seated. With the resignations of Paul Pennell, Jack Somerville, Lea (Turner) Batiste, Ayme Hines, Gina Plott, Emily Foster and Jim Heinz, the club can now move forward in a positive manner with clear focus and a spirit of service to the Boykin Spaniel and not to individuals.

Many of the club’s founding members have re-joined the club

and once again sit on the board in an effort to fulfill the legacy started when the club was first incorporated well over a decade ago. The transition is a wonderful thing! We will be celebrating with a Meet the Breed event at the American Spaniel Club in Philadelphia this January. Realistically, we have an eye on the Boykin competing at Westminster in January 2010!

You will see many changes in the club... We will endorse many different venues of competition for the Boykin with the exception of Weight Pulling. We feel such activity is detrimental to the health and welfare of Boykin Spaniels. Therefore, the club will no longer hold or sanction such competition. We will return to the original constitution. We will begin work on the breed standard and hunting style with an eye on foundation lines and submit those changes to the American Kennel Club when revisions are allowed. Curly coats, amber eyes and honest scaring can be added to the standard through the guidance of the American Kennel Club and through an honest vote of the membership! We will also be able to revisit any changes made by the previous board which are not in the best interest to the breed.

We intend for this club to be a group of people who love this breed more than himself or herself. We want it to be fun, as it is a hobby for 99% of those involved. Sadly, as with ANY dog

club, there are always going to be people who cause dissension wherever they go. We will do our best to discourage those people from continuing such conduct and do our best to maintain tranquility while adhering to the club’s bylaws. If you feel like you are better than anyone else, more experienced than anyone else, more qualified than anyone else, then do not join. This club is being reborn with an atmosphere of nationwide team spirit as its foundation!

I do encourage all team players to join the club at this time...and be a part of the legacy that the BSCBAA is creating. The journey will be rewarding. You will find an application on Pages 5-6.... Send it in!

As I write this, I am:

- (1) Recuperating from “brain surgery” (as Paisley calls it) ...
- (2) Taking care of my triple bypass boyfriend ...
- (3) Trying to get packed for my infamous annual Kansas hunting trip, and
- (4) Whelping pups! Life is a little too busy for this old gal!

The holiday season is a time to be thankful for the many opportunities, chances and outright miracles that life shows us. I want to wish you all a wonderful and safe Holiday Season..... Many blessings to you all!

Happy Hunting,

Patricia Watts

Flush of View by Christine Prince

Summer has passed – but the Boykin Spaniel Club and Breeders Association of America’s issues are still heated! There have been so many concerning events involving the BSCBAA over the last few years involving the key officers, but now we might be able to see a light at the end of the tunnel.

After reflecting on the happenings of the summer, I have decided to send in my application to rejoin the BSCBAA. The following Flush of View, Part 2 briefly describes what I have witnessed over the past few months, and why I feel the need to re-join our breed’s American Kennel Club (AKC) parent organization.

In July, President Paul Pennell abruptly announced that the club by-laws were going to be changed. The announcement came shortly after naming his father-in-law as the registered agent for the corporation and discovering that the South Carolina Secretary of State had not been correctly updated on changes to the by-laws. Rather than file the changes with the state or vote on the course of action, Mr. Pennell took it upon himself to announce to the membership that the club would be reverting back to its old set of by-laws.

About three weeks before the regularly scheduled meeting a very solid board member resigned, effective immediately. My source for board information stated she had no idea what was being planned, but she felt there was reason for concern.

Then only two weeks before an upcoming meeting, Paul Pennell, his father-in-law Jack/John Somerville, and Aimye Hines resigned from the Board of Directors and membership to be effective immediately following a meeting scheduled for Sept. 6th. Gina Plott, Emily Foster, and Lea Turner/Batiste resigned from the Board, also to be effective Sept 6th following the meeting.

The American Kennel Club (AKC) stepped in and worked to untangle the mess after their advice was sought on receipt of the resignations by the remaining board members. Through the course of these correspondences, it is believed that AKC now has a very clear picture of the ethics of those persons who presided without oversight for many years over the club and even planned a destructive walk-out.

On Sept. 7th an interim board was seated per instruction and support of the AKC. The names of these individuals will be announced on the club's

website as soon as the legal “t’s” are all crossed! The interim board members are all recognized participants within the breed and at Boykin Spaniel events around the country. Not surprisingly, many of these individuals are founders and past board members who had previously left the organization.

So what happens now? As of the writing of this update the interim board reports that the former president has released some of the club records. The former president is requiring that only a licensed, bonded, and insured courier or moving company retrieve the club’s equipment. The rest of the club membership is waiting to see what is going to happen next. In the meantime the interim board is able to accept membership applications and begin rebuilding the organization to meet its original mission.

People might ask why they should want to join the parent club. The answer is simple... Being part of this organization will help guide the breed’s future. No guarantees can be made about the BSCBAA’s future because that is to be determined by its membership. The originator of the breed saw an all-around spaniel that could hunt as well as be the family companion. If you want to be involved in ensuring that the breed remains as it was envisioned, then your voice is needed to help direct this nationwide club in democratic principles with your membership participation.

There is a bright future for this breed’s participation in the AKC as the Boykin Spaniel is moving forward to full registration status. The parent club is given the task to uphold a breed’s historical purpose and integrity, but it is the quality of membership that comprises the parent club that is the most important factor involved. In the past, the membership has been mistreated, but we are now being given the opportunity to become involved. I hope that each of us will seize the opportunity so we can forward together as a true membership focused on what is good for breed. Rejoin and become a part of a great legacy!

