

**Why the AKC?** Continued from pg. 8

### **AKC Affiliation - Will Boykin Spaniels Become Beauty Contestants Only? Will They Become A Fluff Dog Like You See On Westminster?**

Because of problems that developed in the American Water Spaniel, the Irish Setter and other breeds, there are those who believe that AKC affiliation is a negative and that the AKC is the root cause of these problems. This argument can be likened to the gun control lobby whose position is that availability of guns is the root cause of crime when the fact is that people, not guns per se, are the problem. The AKC is a registry, a facilitator of events that showcase a breed's characteristics and an educational resource. The parent club of the breed (the BSCBAA in the case of the Boykin Spaniel) is responsible for establishing a breed standard that encourages the characteristics that they wish to replicate in the breed and for policing breeders to ensure that puppy mills and disreputable activities are severely punished. In some AKC recognized breeds, the bench show or 'beauty contest' folks took a lead role in the development of the breeds. The Boykin Spaniel is a hunting dog who happens to be shown by some folks on the bench as opposed to a bench dog who might or might not have hunting instincts. The breed standard developed by the BSCBAA should specify that a dog that is shown must demonstrate hunting instincts, and we hope that the BSCBAA will make attainment of a 'working certificate' a prerequisite for bench championships. The focus of the BSCBAA as the parent club of the Boykin Spaniel

must first be on protection of the hunting instincts of the breed and on aggressively policing breeders who raise AKC accredited litters.

### **AKC Affiliation -- What It Means For You And Your Boykin Spaniel**

AKC accreditation provides new venues to showcase the breed as a spaniel on a national scale in upland game work (flushing), and in agility, tracking, obedience trials, hunting & field tests for Spaniels, rally events and, yes, conformation shows. Additionally, AKC accreditation provides a limited registration option for dogs that have cosmetic faults (white spots, under-bite, etc.) or poor OFA or CERF results that prevent breeding. These dogs can still compete in and receive titles in AKC sponsored events, but breeding of them must be discouraged if not prohibited.

In short, we believe that the pros of AKC accreditation outweigh the cons if we ALL (breeders, owners, clubs) do our job on the front end of the process. ALL means all of us who own, breed, show, and run Boykins in events, but most particularly the future of the Boykin lies in the hands of the parent club, the BSCBAA. **IF** the BSCBAA specifies in the AKC Boykin Spaniel breed standard that a Boykin must first demonstrate hunting instincts and obtain a working certificate as a prerequisite for bench championships, then the Boykin Spaniel will not become just another fluff dog you see on Westminster...





# Waggin' & Braggin'



*Hunting in Kansas 2005  
Michelle and Greg Copeland, Charlie Cox,  
Gary Shumpert, Pat Watts, & Mike Long*



*And everyone lived to hunt another  
day..... Kansas 2005*



*Ros & Angel*



*The Clark Family & Shiner*



*Ryan Anderson &  
Texas Trace Cowboy*



*Jeff Crunbley*



*George Harmon & Texas Trace Dauber "Dob"*