

ALAA Annual Members Meeting March 28, 2011

Meeting Minutes

Members Attending:

President: Dixie Moore of Dixie's Doodles
Vice President: Heather Hale of Hales Labradoodles
Audit Officer: Shari O'Quinn of Olympic Labradoodle
PR & IT Officer: Rochelle Sundholm of Springcreek Labradoodles
Secretary: Jane Peck of CSpiritdancer Labradoodles
Treasurer: Butch Charlton of Down Under Labradoodles

Patty Barnes of Log Cabin Labradoodles
Kay Kutinsky of Wonderland Labradoodles
Cass Linder of Linder Labradoodles
Stefani Whitman of Ocean State Labradoodles
Christi Coopshaw of Riverbend Labradoodles
Maggie Palmblad of Bedrock Labradoodles
Dixie Springer of Springville Labradoodles
Tamara Martin of Hills West Labradoodles
Luke Erb of Pawpaws Poodles and Labradoodles
Karen Elliott of Rocky Mountain Labradoodles
Brandon Silva of Brasken Kennels
Ed Schwalbach of Doo South Labradoodles
Louise Southerland of Halton Hills Labradoodles
Dorothy Parker - Pet owner
Mary Lou Nolan - Pet Owner
Debbie Young - Fernridge Labradoodles

Meeting was called to order at 7:05 MST. Meeting was recorded and announcement was made to that effect.

Agenda Items:

1. Slate for 2011

- a) Resumes being accepted for 2011. Sent to: info@ilainc.com by 4/25/2011.
- b) Accepting resumes for any position. Position descriptions can be found in the Bylaws
- c) Vote will be held as soon as possible in early May

2. Review of 2010

- a) Introduced online inbreeding tool
- b) Automatic Paw Programming
- c) Revised bylaws
- d) Implemented additional financial controls
- e) Roundtable held in Atlanta "Raising Superstar Dogs"

- f) Implemented requirement for ALAA registered names and numbers on member websites to create transparency, ensure truth in advertising among breeders and assure public that breeder has met certain standards.
- g) Revised acceptable health testing to remove "OFA borderline" hip scores
- h) Selected venue and program for 2010 Roundtable
- i) Consulted with attorneys and ALA regarding sale of Sunset Hills and CloudCatcher Nichii Gakkan. Regarding sale – all documents are confidential. Be assured that the ALA is being very thorough in their review of Nichii

3. Financials 2010 – Review

The following 2010 ALAA statistics were shared by Butch Carlton:

- 420 litters were registered
- 2665 puppies – our biggest year ever!
- 170 new dog registrations
- 27 new breeders – Welcome!
- Lost 5 breeders – We wish them well
- 147 new pet members

Reviewed the Financials Reports

- Net income \$3750
- The travel and entertainment is for the officers to travel to the conference, air fare and hotel rooms.
- Professional services are for paw programming, inbreeding tool programming, plus the monthly maintenance fees
- The conference expense of \$18k is offset by what we charge people to attend. Breeder education is one of our more important initiatives.
- Outside services - This is what Butch gets paid for the registrar work.
- Assets \$43,844 mostly in cash in checking account and PayPal

Contact Butch if you have any questions on the financials.

4. Quality Assurance

Shari O'Quinn introduced herself and discussed taking on the role of the quality assurance officer after Linda Layman's extended illness.

Linda, our former ALAA Audit Officer, went through two complicated surgeries and recoveries. The board supported her during this time and tried to step in to assist her. I helped Linda during this time and then stepped into this position once Linda resigned.

There was much disarray as it was difficult for Linda to keep up with it all and I am doing my best to bring everything current, including audits.

We thank those breeders who keep their programs up to date and deeply

appreciate their ongoing efforts to support the ALAA by doing so.

Our logo on your web site implies our endorsement and support of each breeder and also implies the need to ensure that each breeder is keeping to all the rules and regulations. This is in respect to the ALAA Organization, Puppy Members and Potential Puppy families, and to other Member Breeders.

The audits are a very time consuming but necessary job. To assist in this job we have available to member breeders the "Kennel Testing Profile" that allows members to go in and check Dog Registration and current health testing.

I would like to ask that Member Breeders take a moment to review their Kennel Testing Profile, Personal Information, and Litter Registrations to see if all is current and up to date. It is up to each breeder to be responsible for their program and this is greatly appreciated. I am happy to assist anyone with this; feel free to email with any concerns or questions.

5. Plans for 2011

We have the following plans for the year 2011:

One of our charter goals is to protect the future of the Australian Labradoodle and Labradoodle. Our registration process is one tool used to uphold breeding standards.

- 1) We are restructuring the registration process to reduce confusion, better monitor and uphold breeding standards. Seeking to model after the AKC registration process with Full Registrations (breeding) and Limited (spay/neuter contract) registrations. The breeder can reverse anything entered, however if a dog is registered with Limited Registration, it would prevent the registration of any future offspring.
- 2) Stud owners will also be required in the future to sign-off on litters to approve the litter. Any use of an outside (non-ALAA) stud will prompt an e-mail to the stud owner when the litter is registered. This protects the outside stud owner as well as ensures future litters are properly registered and not breaking contracts.

Additionally, another charter goal is to educate breeders and provide a forum for collaboration between owners and breeders to promote and protect the future of the Australian Labradoodle and Labradoodle.

- 3) The 2011 Roundtable event will be held in Santa Monica, California on October 21 – 23. and will feature speaker Pat Hastings, creator of the

popular program “The Puppy Development Puzzle,” who will present “Structure in Action.” We have waited two years to get her very popular seminar booked and we know it will be a great program! She will be demonstrating the evaluation of puppies at the program. Registration will open in May. Be sure to register early as rooms fill quickly.

6. Member Submitted Agenda Items

We received 2 different items from 3 people.

Why is Wheaten ancestry not recognized?

6 breeds are recognized by the ALA, ALAA, ALAEU. We are all consistent in what are recognized as foundation breeds for the Labradoodle. Basically, the Wheaten is not among the recognized foundation stock of the Australian Labradoodle.

Why don't we use the same grading system as the ALA?

There are grading scheme issues creating inconsistency between ALA, ALAA and member websites. It is a difficult concept when we are not all speaking the same language. At one time the ALA and the ALAA tried to work together with same grading scheme. Ultimately they wanted to create cohesiveness. The committee disbanded before agreement could be reached. The ALA president (at the time) used her grading scheme with slight revisions.

There are two major areas of differences between the ALA scheme and the ALAA grading scheme.

1. Coat and Shedding

If a multigen dog sheds, it is stripped of its numerical generation and reverts back to the beginning. We all know you can have quality pup from quality parents and still get throwback puppies from that same breeding so that did not seem right.

2. Numbering system – ALF1-5

Our grading system is programmed into our database and printed on pedigree. It can be found under the microchip number and dog's name on the far left of the pedigree. When dog bred to like or better, the grading advances from Labradoodle to multigen Labradoodle to Australian Labradoodle to multigen Australian Labradoodle to Purebred Labradoodle. With this system, dog is not penalized for like to like breeding. Unfortunately it is difficult to get two breeders to accept the numbering system and come up with the same results on a breeding.

7. Open Questions and Answer Period:

Brandon: Where do I find info on the grading scheme?

Go on website to Australian Labradoodle breed standards. Grading scheme – link follows.

Debbie: Do seasoned Labradoodle breeders want ultimately to be AKC registered?

Some want it to be a recognized breed and others believe it will be a breed so ultimately we are moving in that direction. If breeders want to work towards AKC needs more consistency. If we are moving toward becoming a recognized breed, we need guidelines that look towards greater consistency – colors – standards – all different standards – When you come from a purebred breeding world, you come from a world that is consistent and everything is equal. Poodles parti colors are not allowed to be shown, but are registerable. Guidelines that maybe we need to look towards greater consistency – colors – standards – all different standards – When you come from a purebred breeding world, you come from a world that is consistent and everything is equal.

Organization is breeding to a standard. The “foundation dog” takes decades to get to be an AKC breed. Any other breeds have been around for years, but it will take years. There is no AKC dog that is a purebred – they all started from a mixed breed.

By keeping group intact and continuing to keep solid breeding records we may have a breed. As a group, we must be stringent with registrations to create greater consistency. We now have our own classification as a breed with PennHip, OFA and Optigen because of our club, consistency etc. We went from being a Designer dog to a “Classified dog” with these organizations. We are a young organization and it may not happen in our lifetime as the AKC requires “Like to like” breedings for 30 generations.

Cass (comment): I am very pleased that the ALAA has accepted all colors and patterns. Poodles came in every color and patterns. The AKC tried to get rid of colors and patterns by culling puppies. ALAA doesn't condone culling. This breed's (Labradoodles) foundation comes from poodles. Poodles with parti colors are not allowed to be shown, but are registerable. We should embrace what is natural to the breed. AKC was the last of national registries to accept patterns and colors – they don't allow in show ring but still allow to register. Took a lot of years to get to this.

Brandon: Infusion –How did the cocker spaniel become the most recognized breed in the Labradoodle lineage? Did we decide to only have the cocker rather than one of the 6 other breeds that are recognized by the ALAA?

Years of leaked information is what led to our knowledge. No matter the mixture, the dog was recognized as a Labradoodle. Beverley had a “secret recipe” for the pioneering of the Labradoodle breed. Until people who bred with Beverley came forward, we did not know what was in the breed. We looked at established pedigrees and the Cocker was introduced more often than others. If Beverley and other breeders of the foundation said I tried “this” but it did not work, we did not want to make a mistake and breed to mistakes.

The Infusion committee wanted to use the most common, most consistent dog used in the AL. It was decided it is in the best interest of the breed going forward to use these 3 breeds in our infusion. If more information were to come forth with successful breedings, it would be considered for other infusions. The ALAA recognizes the Labrador retriever, the poodle and the cockapoo as the most consistent and most provable pedigree breeding. The ALA has had an infusion process and then changed their process. There are only 13 breeder members in Australia. The most consistent breeds recognized by the ALA include the Labrador retriever, the poodle and the cocker spaniel.

TAMARA: Poodle/lab/cocker make up the Australian Labradoodle. Seems difficult to get a cockapoo that is accepted for the infusion. Inconsistency in scrutiny of cockapoo – is there a recipe? We don’t know what others put in their pedigree. Learned as we went – previously dogs registered as an Australian Labradoodle and since it was not disclosed, we did not know the mix. In the past 10 years, we have tried to update registrations from Australian Labradoodles to what the mix truly is. It is best to use our registry if you want to know what the lineage is as we have been diligent in creating transparency in our database.

ALA wants to support the advancement of the breed. Several breeders were resistant to cockapoo infusion. Infusion committee was created of 8 members. We voted to have stringent guidelines in agreement with the breeder community because the value and authenticity of pedigree was important. We have learned by doing and we are building a strong foundation. Need health testing and a provable pedigree. In the U.S. with the ALAA we require pedigrees. The trial and error is difficult – breeder must be prepared for the dogs that don’t cut mustard as well as the financial element. You must have rules to protect the foundation of the breed.

Tamara: Is there a ratio I can calculate to? How do I know if I am infusing enough of the parent breed? Unfortunately, It is not mathematical. Key is to breed not just from pedigree and breed from your eye, not from mathematical ratios. – Heather’s recommendation, not ALAA recommendation. Breed by weakness in your dog. Any new dog must have a provable pedigree. This will help you gain consistency in your breeding faster and you will be happier in your results. Want to breed for the quality of the dogs, not just what looks good on paper. Don’t just look at the number grading system – use your pedigree and your eye to create the consistent results you want.

Dixie (comment): We now require that any dog coming in now must have a full provable AKC pedigree. We must see a 6 generation pedigree. We have always required that you prove your lineage. We are now creating more transparency. There is a lot to process to prove the lineage.

Maggie: Is it the Board that makes decision or does the Board look to the members to make decisions? How does that work? The Board makes lots of decisions – it would be a tremendous amount of work to go to the membership for a vote for every decision. If changes to Code of Ethics must be voted by entire membership. The grading scheme and breed standards are voted by breeder members. Changes for these fundamental items are put out for vote. Changes such as putting registration number on your website are made by board. Should there be more phone calls like this to get member input? These are costly, but we do send out announcements and there is always the ability of the member to express concerns or send us an e-mail.

Maggie: How is it determined what things will be brought to the membership? At the annual Roundtable we do have an open forum for discussion. During the year we get suggestions written to us. We weren’t aware there were problems finding things on the website so we will look at that.

We would love to hear from our members what they want. Breeders e-mail us their questions and we spend a great deal of time responding. Unfortunately we can’t openly share their questions and answers due to privacy. On the other hand, please share your suggestions. Two years ago a monthly newsletter was sent out and we appreciated the comments but we had very little suggestions. We are very happy to look at suggestions of ways to get information to you our membership.

Is there any chance the board will consider the implementation of a breeding coefficient standard like 10% OR less like other clubs have done? Randy & Natalie Woods created our database program. We had talked about implementing that into the program but we will ask him about programming it into the database. Poodle

club has it and has the poodle registry set up – it is very helpful. Have you used our trial matings on the ALAA website? Cass is very advanced in her knowledge of breeding coefficients. Programming this into our database will be looked at.

Time to end the call – it is 8:30PM. Thanks for all your input. Transcribed by Jane Peck, Secretary ALAA