

**Australian Labradoodle Association of America**  
(Conference Call Minutes: March 31, 2009)

**Board Members:**

*Present:* Dixie Moore, Linda Gelaude, Linda Layman, Butch Charlton, Carol Dean, Rochelle Sundholm

**Member Attendees:**

Dixie Moore-Dixie's Doodles, Linda Layman-4 Paws Doodles, Linda Gelaude-Copper Canyon Labradoodles, Bonnie Patrick-Heartsong Labradoodles, Patty Barnes-Log Cabin Labradoodles, Dixie Springer-Springville Labradoodles, Louise Sutherland-Halton Hills Labradoodles, Mary Burkovich-Laurel Mountain Labradoodles, Rochelle Sundholm-Spring Creek Labradoodles, Rachel Waito-Dare to Dream Labradoodles, Butch Charlton-Down Under Labradoodles, Kay Kutinsky-Wonderland Labradoodles, Ed Schwalback-Doo South Doodles, Peggy Shemwell-Bistineua Lake Labradoodles, Sandra Reagan-Mill Creek Labradoodles, Shari O-Quinn-Olympic Labradoodles, Luke Erb-Paw Paws Labradoodles, Tracy Smith, Natalie Woods-Cedar Park Labradoodles, Andrea Most-Canyon Court Labradoodles, Carol Dean-Southern Charm Labradoodles, Kevin Gelaude-Copper Canyon Labradoodles, Cris Cerva-Virginia Labradoodles, Helen Macan, Malinda Devincenzi-DarbyParkDoodles, Anderson-Arborgate Labradoodles

*\*Lightyear Conferencing records all phone numbers accessing the ALAA members only conference call.*

**Proceedings:**

*Meeting called to order at 7 p.m. EST by President, Dixie Moore*

-Each person on the call asked to state their name, program name if they are a breeder and phone number. It was explained that the conference call was being recorded.

***Dixie presented the Slate for 2009***

President: Dixie Moore

Vice President: Rochelle Sundholm

Treasurer: Butch Charlton

Quality Assurance Officer: Linda Layman

Secretary: OPEN

PR Officer: OPEN

-No other members applied for positions. No applicants were rejected. If interested in one of the open positions, please send an email to Dixie at [moore.dixie@gmail.com](mailto:moore.dixie@gmail.com) as the committee for accepting applications is no longer together. We had hoped to have more than one name on the slate for each position.

-The vote for board directors will be held in April and a ten day notice provided membership. Date for vote is still to be determined.

***Review of 2008 by Dixie Moore***

-Reinstated having regular newsletters. We used to have them quarterly a long time ago, but only had one over the last recent years until the monthly Mini Doodler for membership began in June, 2009.

-The October 2008 Roundtable was held in Austin, TX. We have not picked a new site for this year's Roundtable.

-Website was revamped. Tried to make it more clear, no information was changed. Asked for people to let the board know if they saw discrepancies in information on the site

-We returned to a healthy financial status at the end of 2008. Dixie asked Butch Charlton if he had a report. Butch explained we had a net income of \$0 for 2008, less than \$100 profit. Sales by item and by customer are tracked. In 2008 there were 38 new breeders who registered with the ALAA, 393 litters registered, 2541 puppies registered, and 145 new pet owners. Butch highlighted the big expenses in 2008, which were the Roundtable, IT Services, Registrar fees and Legal Expenses. Cris Cerva asked if a copy of the treasurer report could be provided to members, if the legal fees were a one time expense, and if there were charges filed against the corporation that resulted in the legal fees. Butch indicated we could provide the treasury report to membership, explained legal fees were primarily a one time expense for advice and not the result of charges filed against the corporation, and that we have about \$500 spent on legal fees in a typical year but about \$8,000 was spent in 2008. He also explained the fees included legal advice on setting up by-laws, articles of incorporation, registering the ALAA name as a DBA.

-Dixie continued with the review of 2008 and indicated we had formed an infusion committee in 2008 and that new rules for infusions were implemented and emailed to membership in March 2009.

-Health committee was formed in 2008. Study done on CERF by Tracy Smith. A letter was sent to CERF requesting our own category for the Labradoodle and Australian Labradoodle, but CERF declined. We will try to resubmit for own category again in the future. Committee reviewed the PAW Program and submitted recommendations to the board for vote and approval. Most notable change to requirements is for PRA testing to be required at Gold Paw level. Breeders will have 6 months to comply with testing requirements.

-Research was done on the use of Cockapoos by breed developers.

-Annual audit completed on 140 breeder members. Linda Layman thanked those who responded to audit in a timely manner. Explained we look at websites, dogs, litters and puppies and it's very time consuming for her and Butch Charlton to review and enter information. Reminded breeders it was their responsibility to keep up with their bloodwork at the Gold Paw level and that the Paw would be pulled if they did not have current testing. Linda explained that we hope to have Randy and Natalie program automated letters to be sent to Silver and Gold Paw breeders who have testing needing to be done as well as a letter to QA so everyone follows through in the right timeframe. The system would automatically pull the Paw if testing results were not updated. We hope to consider programming in other things as well to make managing information easier. Linda Gelaude expressed an automatic letter would be useful and appreciated. Mary Burkovich asked if this automatic letter information could be included in the minutes. Dixie Moore explained that membership would get information about automatic reminders once they were programmed and established.

-Formed regulations committee in 2008. Obtained a DBA for the ALAA per the committee recommendations. Committee proposed a mission statement that was adopted. New bylaws were planned, but were not completed. This task will be pulled out of committee and taken to the board level. Issues that will be discussed are: two classes of voters, what does each class vote on, nomination process, voting process, term limits, directors and clarification of officer responsibilities. If anyone has ideas, please let us know.

-Patty Barnes asked if any of the 7 infusion committee members were still doing infusion litters. Rachel Waito indicated she does not do infusions, Dixie expressed that she and Cris Cerva were not doing infusions, and asked Rochelle if she were. Rochelle explained she had a registered cockapoo, but had not used him and did not have plans to use him. Dixie explained that there were a couple of members on the infusion committee that were still doing infusion litters. Patty expressed that she resigned from the infusion committee because she felt that all members of the committee should not be doing infusions. Dixie explained that it would be difficult to have a committee deciding on infusions that did not have an understanding of working with infusion dogs and explained that the people on the committee are those who volunteered. Patty explained she thinks it's important to give feedback from those who do infusions, but they should not be allowed to vote. Linda Gelaude explained that a committee will not get 100% agreement on how to proceed. She explained she felt the makeup of an infusion committee should be comprised of those doing infusion litters and those who are not so there is input from both and that hopefully those involved would not be self serving and would make decisions based on the best interest of the breed and not themselves. Linda Layman interjected and said that once the committee comes up with recommended policies, the board reviews and votes on them. Dixie explained she thought the rules put forward were very fair and asked Patty if she thought differently. Patty said it wasn't appropriate for those who could benefit to vote on the issues. Tracy Smith agreed with Patty and wanted to go back to a previous topic to explain that there wasn't a threat of a lawsuit last year against the ALAA. She explained that the legal issues came about because people had expressed concern over the appearance of conflict of interest over infusion issues, and when that occurred an ALAA board member threatened to sue the people who raised the issue of conflict of interest, at which time the board determined to investigate that board member. Tracy explained that we are circling back to the same issues of infusions that caused that legal issue last year and that there is still an appearance of conflict of interest when the majority of members on a committee own cockapoos or are already breeding infusion litters. Linda Layman indicated she felt that people who have experience with infusions is in the best interest of the breed and that it wouldn't serve the breed well to have a committee comprised of only those who did not have experience. Tracy suggested she felt those that were experienced should serve as expert consultants but not on the committee. Patty asked if we could open up discussion about how to form the infusion committee again at a later date. Dixie expressed that there has been a lot of interest in criticizing the committee, but not a lot of interest in people serving on the committee by non-infusion breeders. She explained that we can revisit the committee issue but had hoped that people would see that the rules are fair. Luke of Paws Paws Labradoodles asked why the ALAA does not accept the Wheaton as an approved infusion dog. Linda Gelaude explained that the breeds approved are those that have been shown to be in the majority of the background of Labradoodles. She also explained that when Beverly originally did the Wheaton infusion she was to follow a specific process with the ILA in providing pictures of

those puppies so a determination could be made as to whether or not the Wheaton had value as an infusion dog. Beverly did not follow the process so the Wheaton was not considered. The ALAA does not have plans to consider the Wheaton at this time. Dixie explained that we will review the infusion process and explained we got a lot of positive feedback when the rules went out in early March. Linda Gelaude expressed that the Labradoodles is a breed in development, and the infusion committee is in development. What we have now, may not be how things stay. Constructive criticism would be appreciated so the process can grow and we appreciate input as it helps with improvement.

### **Plans for 2009**

-Dixie indicated we will reform the IALA, along with the ALA, and it will have goals of coming up with a uniform grading schemes among the associations, to separate the IALA and ALAA in appearance as we have the same website, representatives appointed from all of the sister associations, create their own by-laws, ensure legal requirements are followed for an international entity, determine guidelines for additional countries that want to join. Working on getting representatives together from the ALAA to join this group.

-We have a goal to revise the by-laws and grading scheme which will partially come from the IALA.

-We will have another Roundtable this year. Site to be determined.

-Automated Paw review is in discussion/planning.

-Dixie called for Questions. Mary Burkovich asked if the ALAA database will ever be integrated with the ALA database or if we can have access to the database so pedigrees are easier to access. Natalie Woods indicated the last time she checked with the ALA that their database was not accessible in the same way. They can view our info, but we cannot view theirs unless they change things. Dixie indicated she wasn't sure if all the ALA members even had access to the database and that we have a license for our database and can't share it with them. Natalie said the ALA does not have the same search capabilities and that most info is put out in excel spreadsheet. Mary thought one of the previous years agendas was to incorporate the databases. Dixie thought the same, but that it became impossible to come to an agreement as to what the database should contain. It would be very costly to create something between the two. Mary asked if they would plan to have a Studfinder feature in the ALA and asked if the ALA is comprised of only Australian breeders. Dixie said she wasn't sure if they would create a Studfinder, and indicated the ALA was just Australian breeders and not the European breeders. The Europeans will be creating their own sister organization. Ed from Doo South indicated being confused by all the acronyms (IALA, LAA, ALA, ALAA, etc). Would like a better explanation of these on the website. Dixie explained the IALA was the international umbrella organization and all the other organizations are the sister organizations under it. It isn't what it was intended to be, and will be reformed and worked on.

-Dixie restated that there was a request for financial statements to go out membership. Recommended possible quarterly.

-Infusion Committee will be under review.

-We will ask if the ALA database can be accessed or be visible to our members.

-Reminder that the website was revamped and has more work. Ed from Doo South indicated he has trouble navigating the site and that it is still confusing to him. Rochelle indicated that we had asked for feedback and input from membership to better improve the website and said that all feedback would be greatly appreciated and should be emailed to her so improvement can continue. Mary Burkovich indicated she'd like a feature to change puppy info when registering a litter instead of having to delete the puppy if a mistake is made. Natalie said it is easier to delete and re-enter than to program to change info. She asked for people to email her and Randy when they come across issues as they can usually make corrections to problems the same day. Sandra from Mill Creek asked why the ability to change your dog's photo was no longer available. Butch said to email him the picture and he can change it. Natalie said they'd look into that as she thought that had already been programmed and that ability available to breeders.

-Ed from Doo South asked if we had any plans for major events with Labradoodles to promote them and help generate income for the ALAA. Dixie said there weren't any plans now, and that it would be hard to add to the board's tasks, and that getting volunteers for things like this has been difficult in the past. If there is interest, we can entertain the idea though. Linda Gelaude said she liked the idea of a labradoodle show and shared thoughts about how to assess conformation and dogs. Linda Layman expressed it may be difficult to assess the labradoodle given the many different looks at this time. She explained that Malinda of Sunset Hills recommended shaving a dog at 12 months to get an accurate assessment of conformation. Linda Gelaude explained we'd need to have separate categories based on coat types as Labradoodles can look very different depending on the type of coat and type of haircut.

-Mary Burkovich expressed not understanding conformation terminology and desires more visual explanations. Linda Gelaude said that AKC and Canadian clubs give good feedback on info on dogs. Linda Layman indicated that if anyone feels they need to learn more that visiting these shows would be extremely helpful.

-Dixie indicated our meeting time of an hour was up and asked if there were any final questions.

**Meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m. EST**