**AKC Delegate Report 3rd Quarter 2022**

Overall, total number of events is up.

The 2023 Rally National Championship will be a two-day event on Friday & Saturday, June 16 - 17, 2023. The NOC will be Sunday & Monday, June 18 - 19, 2023.

A new event, “Rally Two-Step Relay” was introduced at the Orlando Invitational in December. The course was designed for two team members to complete. One team member will be positioned 1/3 of the way on the course from the start, while the other team member is at the start. The first team will perform a series of signs individually. Once they reach the second team, a toy will be exchanged and the two teams will perform the next several signs together, side by side. After performing those signs, the first team will wait while the second team performs the next series of signs individually. As the second team completes the next to last sign, the teams will meet up, exchange toys again and cross the finish line together. Fun and costuming was encouraged, and prizes were awarded for 1st thru 4th. There will be no jumps or sit stay on the course, all other signs may be used.

COVID Provision made permanent were: 1. In all Agility, Obedience and Rally classes that require three qualifying scores to earn a title, the three scores may be earned under the same judges. 2. Date and mileage restriction for judges – Obedience & Rally: no mileage restrictions for judging Obedience & Rally events. Agility: 30/100 miles between assignments modified effective January 2, 2023. 3. There are no restrictions on the number of times an individual can judge a class at Obedience or Rally events in a cluster.

Rally Novice Class Eligibility – Board approved to allow dogs that have earned the Obedience Beginners Novice title to be eligible to enter the AKC Rally A classes.

Judges Education and Recruitment – Due to the delay for the online judges’ education, Staff increased the seminar requirements extension for Obedience and Rally judges to January 1, 2024. It is expected the Obedience seminar will be available in early 2023. Work on the Rally Judges’ seminar will be delayed, and Staff will begin work on a webinar to fill the gap. Applicants that meet the requirements, aside from attending a seminar, are encouraged to contact obedience@akc.org or rally@akc.org. Additionally, Staff has begun a mentoring program for new applicants and provisional judges.

Fast CAT®, Scent Work and Coursing up 20-24%. Herding, Lure Coursing and Earthdog flat.

There will be over 25 thousand events held in 2022 with over 100 thousand entries. Entries are well above 2019 entries (the last full year of sports). The number of unique dogs is at an all-time high. • 4-6 Month Puppy competition had the largest increase in number of events over 2021. • All sports in 2022 were at or above the same time frame in 2021.

Event Committees – Reminder – event committees must have a minimum of 5 members who are club members, and their names must be listed in the premium. Three need to be onsite.

Public Service Dogs - The AKC will recognize Public Service Dogs with new titles – Detection Dogs (PSDD), Patrol Dogs (PSPD) and Tracking Dogs (PSTD). This new program is effective November 1, 2022.

Fast CAT Regulations – “Should the owner be allowed to run/walk down the course after handing the dog off to the releaser?” There was a lot of discussion among the Committee members and a vote was taken, 6 members were against this procedure and 4 members voted to allow it. This vote gave AKC Staff an indication of how the Committee felt. • “Should the releaser be allowed to recall the dog after the dog has completed the course?” After much discussion, the Committee voted unanimously to NOT support the continuation of this practice.

Separating CAT / Fast CAT® Regulations from Lure Coursing. The books are nearly ready to go to press.

Lure Coursing – Would the Sport Benefit from a Regional Point Schedule? The point schedule hasn’t been changes in 31 years. Of the 15 allowed breeds, 12 are at the lowest allowable point schedule. After a lot of statistics were presented by staff, a long discussion by the Committee, it was decided to recommend adopting a regional versus the current national approach, but only allow the point schedule to go down at this time. This would impact two breeds. The point schedule for Borzois would decrease in three regions and the point schedule for Whippets would decrease in two regions. The point schedule might be increased at some time in the future if participation warranted the change.

Responsible Dog Owner's Day is September 17, 2023.

Respectfully submitted

Kathy Gregory

PCOTC AKC Delegate