

What is THE BULLDOG CLUB OF AMERICA?



You are a member of the Bulldog Club of America. The person you purchased your puppy from, or the owner of the stud who bred your bitch may have recommended membership in the Bulldog Club of America. Or better yet, you are planning to purchase a bulldog and are seeking information about the breed. THIS IS THE BEST WAY TO START.

But do you know what BCA is or what it does? In a few words - The Bulldog Club of America protects, and promotes the Bulldog - all else is secondary. The Bulldog Club of America does many things and all members and potential members should become familiar with the objectives of the Constitution and the code of ethics.

OBJECTIVES OF THE CLUB

as stated by the founder

1. To maintain a standard of excellence for the guidance of breeders, owners, and judges.
2. To improve the breed through encouragement of effort directed toward approaching to the degree of excellence as set forth in the Standard of the Bulldog Breed.
3. To stimulate interest in competitive public showing of bulldogs.
4. To further interests of the breed.
5. To work for the general good of breeders, owners and exhibitors of bulldogs.

CODE OF ETHICS

OF THE BULLDOG CLUB OF AMERICA

as approved by the Council

Preamble: The Code of Ethics is established to set a standard

of acceptable behavior for Bulldog Club of America members. The code is designed to protect the integrity of the Club and to protect and enhance our breed.

Code of Ethics

- Members of the BCA have an obligation to protect the welfare and the best interests of their breed by conducting themselves in a manner designed to reflect credit to themselves, their breed, and the BCA.
- Members are expected to observe the highest standards of sportsmanship; conduct themselves in such a manner as to reflect positively on the sport of showing dogs; and exhibit good will at all shows and obedience trials.
- Members who contemplate breeding a litter, or who allow the use of their stud dog for the same purpose shall direct their efforts toward producing dogs of quality, of even temperament, vigorous and free of health problems. They shall be familiar with the bulldog breed and its BCA/AKC approved standard and breed only those specimens which conform to it.
- Members shall not engage in false or misleading advertising or misrepresentation of their breed, nor shall they malign their competition by making false or misleading statements regarding their competitors' dogs, breeding practice or person.

BLATANT DISREGARD FOR THE STANDARDS SET OUT IN THIS CODE SHALL BE CONSIDERED UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOR AND NOT SUPPORTED BY THE BULLDOG CLUB OF AMERICA.

The Bulldog Club of America is not a policing agency. It

cannot force anyone to act in an ethical manner, Revoking an individuals membership in the Club is possible but difficult, as well it should be. This protects an innocent member from having his membership revoked because someone doesn't like him. Other than revoking membership there is little that BCA can do to enforce its Code of Ethics. It relies on the honesty and integrity of every member to live and observe the Code in the spirit it was written.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

When "sports" like bull-baiting and dog fighting were outlawed in England, there were a few men who felt the bulldog should not be allowed to disappear. They formed a group which eventually became - The Bulldog Club. When the English began emigrating to America, their bulldogs emigrated with them. A few dedicated bulldog fanciers formed - The Bulldog Club of America I This club was legally established in 1890 and was one of the first breed clubs to become a member of the new regulatory organization, The American Kennel Club. Although originally composed of a small group of men in the northeastern United States, membership in the group began to spread country-wide and the structure of the organization was reshaped in 1950 to recognize that fact. Thus, the organization we now have of a two tiered structure was adopted. The Bulldog Club of America became truly a national organization.

One of the main objects of the reorganization of BCA was to guarantee representation to all areas in the country. But, there also needed to be something which provided truly national leadership. The solution decided on was unique and effective: an organizational form similar to our national government.

National officers elected by the membership shall be the executive branch. The country would be divided into geographical areas called Divisions. A Council composed of representatives

(Councilors) elected by BCA members in the various Divisions would be the legislative body. Each Division would have a similar structure: Division officers and a Board of Governors, to carry out the work of BCA within its geographical boundaries. Further, to assure no area dominated, the National Officers are elected for two years and the next set of officers must come from the numerically next Division. The result has been an outstanding success.

The Divisions are as follows: You are a member in the division in which you reside - through this membership you are automatically a member of BCA.

DIVISIONS

Division One - Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Vermont

Division Two - Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, West Virginia and Wisconsin.

Division Three - Arizona, California, Hawaii and Nevada.

Division Four - Arkansas, Colorado, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas, Utah and Wyoming.

Division Five - Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington.

Division Six - Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota and Missouri.

Division Seven - District of Columbia, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia.

Division Eight - Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, Tennessee.

HOW BCA FUNCTIONS

One of the most important and visible functions of BCA is the publication of the "**Bulldogger**".

The "**Bulldogger**"

The Bulldogger, published four times yearly is one of the most highly respected breed publications in the dog world. Timely articles written by knowledgeable, experienced "bulldog" people, Veterinarians, and judges, show reports, and pictures are a part of the contents of this publication. All of this is a part of your membership in BCA. It is not available by subscription or at the newsstand. And as time passes, the Bulldogger becomes more valuable. It documents "where we have been", "where we are" and in a sense predicts "where we are going"!

The Executive Committee consists of the officers, President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. The delegate to AKC and the councilors from that Division supplying the National Officers form the Executive Committee and this group takes care of the day to day business, approves the agenda for the Annual Council Meeting, approves the presidential appointments of all standing committee chair persons except the Standard and National Show Committee. These two chairpersons must be approved by the entire Council.

STANDING COMMITTEES

All committees share a common purpose: To improve the Bulldog

Club of America and make it more valuable to the members. Committee chairmen and members donate huge amounts of time, talent and often considerable amounts of unreimbursed expenses to our Club. They keep BCA operating and we all owe them sincere gratitude for their dedication to our Club and our Breed.

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES

Our Constitution and By Laws are short and cover the basics of our government, but they do not cover most procedural matters. These procedural items have been codified into a usable form. The chairman of this committee is responsible for presenting specific changes proposed by Councilors and adding, changing and deleting procedures according to the Council's decisions.

THE NATIONAL SHOW GUIDELINES

This committee sees that the annual National Show fulfills its purpose as a high quality exhibition of the bulldog. For quite a few years there was considerable variety in the National Show from year to year. The Council wanted the Nationals to be more even in quality and formed a committee to set up guidelines for the National Show Week. The Guidelines cover such things as the trophies which may be presented (the approval of Club medallions and cash).

All National show judges must be members of the Bulldog Club of America. The judge of Intersex can only judge Intersex every five years. The committee decides if any new guidelines are needed, or current ones should be changed or dropped and presents its recommendations to the Council for approval.

LEGISLATION

This committee keeps an eye on anti-dog legislation and tries to coordinate and assist the Divisions and local clubs in combating such actions. Several years ago when the rash of too often breed specific vicious dog and anti-breeding laws began, BCA realized the need for coordinated action to help prevent this type of laws being passed by states and cities. A committee was formed to help the Divisions and local clubs combat these laws, to inform them of effective ways to do this: to coordinate with the AKC program and to circulate methods which had been used to effectively prevent this type of legislation.

THE GALLERY OF NATIONAL WINNERS

This committee takes care of the Gallery when it is on exhibition. This is the collection of paintings of the Best of Breed and Best of Opposite Sex winners at the National Specialty show. The committee is also responsible for the plaques, which contain the names of honored BCA members, stud dogs, brood bitches and breeders which are included in the Gallery exhibit. The Gallery committee arranges the items for display and packs them for shipment to the next show site. The committee approves the artist who will paint the portraits and must approve each portrait before it is placed on exhibition. This ensures that the paintings will be an acceptable, even quality.

ALTERNATIVE PLANNING FOR THE GALLERY

The paintings in the Gallery of Winners used to be on display at Mack Truck Headquarters and Mack Truck shipped them to and from the National Show Week each year. When that arrangement was cancelled, we faced the problem of what to do

with the paintings between shows. A committee was formed to investigate possibilities for finding another place where BCA could display them. It was the committee, which recommended the current system of shipping the paintings on to the next show site at the end of each show week for storage until the next show. It is still searching for a way to display the paintings between shows.

DEDICATED GALLERY FUND RAISING

Obtaining a permanent home for the Gallery will be expensive and so the Council started a fund which it hopes will eventually allow us to provide such a home. For several years a silent auction has been held during each National Show week in support of the fund. These auctions have been very successful with many rare and antique items donated. Cash donations are also accepted from individuals, Divisions and Member Clubs.

THE LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE

This committee is responsible for setting up the Club's annual operating budget and planning for future financial needs and generally keeping an eye on BCAs financial status. It includes a Councilor from each Division, the current BCA president and treasurer, an executive secretary and other members as needed.

AKC GAZETTE CORRESPONDENT

Those of you who subscribe to the AKC Gazette know that in addition to general dog information columns and articles there is a section for the national breed clubs to present articles about their

breeds and clubs. The Correspondent is responsible for seeing that an interesting informative article about Bulldogs or BCA is included in the Non Sporting Breeds issues of the Gazette. He may write the article himself, or ask some one to write as a "Guest columnist."

ARCHIVES

This is our history. Copies of the minutes of all Council and Executive Committee Meetings, all publications, all constitutions and amendments and anything else of historical importance is included in the Archives.

BREEDER REFERRAL

When BCA is contacted by a person interested in buying a Bulldog, he is referred to some one who knows the breeders in this area. The chairman may also refer people who have been sent on by AKC. Each division should have a Breeder Referral person that the chairman can refer people to.

EDUCATIONAL COMMITTEE

This very important committee has a grave responsibility It is their responsibility to get information regarding breeding, shows and clubs to the many people who are breeding bulldogs but are not members of any clubs, and to the many clubs whose members know nothing about BCA.

A sub-committee of Education is Judges Education. Their purpose is to conduct seminars, etc. for people who are interested in becoming judges.

HEALTH COMMITTEE

The object of health is to support research or genetics seminars on health issues at shows, etc.

RESCUE

This committee is just as it says. If some bulldog has been abandoned for whatever reason, this committee will take the dog to a Veterinarian for health evaluation, have the dog spayed or neutered and then for a fee find a home for him.

We believe that with careful breeding and sincere investigation of all new owners, the need for a rescue committee can be a rare occurrence.

Read again the Code of Ethics as well as the objectives of BCA.

Note whether the person selling you a bulldog *conforms to* this code and objectives.

And if you are selling dogs, will the buyer observe the Ethics Code and BCA objectives?

The purchase of a dog - any dog - is a commitment of several years. He will give you all his love and respect. Are you prepared to do the same?