

BREEDING COMMITTEE REPORT TO THE BOD

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by Jim Seibel for the Breeding Committee

At the last Annual Meeting of the BWPGCA, April-2017, the BOD approved a new structure for the Breeding Committee(BC). During 2017 & 2018 the BC implemented the functions of the new structure. The intent was to also test the new structure for functionality and efficiency. The structure was to be flexible and would be modified as needed. The following report summarizes the tasks completed within the past year. The report will follow the areas of responsibility developed by the BC and approved by the BOD at the 2017 meeting.

Coordinator of the Breeding Committee - Jim Seibel

The work of the coordinator was made easy because each member of the BC worked very hard to develop his/her area. The group met several times as needed via conference calls to discuss progress and share ideas for solving issues that became a problem. Although each member took primary responsibility for his/her area, there was a lot of crossing over to help in other areas. This resulted in greater progress overall. The coordinator needs to facilitate this effort to help each other while still allowing the individual directors to control his/her area of responsibility. It became apparent as the BC developed that the work in some areas is overwhelming and needs some restructuring. That will be covered in a separate report.

Directors Report.

The work of the individual Directors: John Pitlo-training, Rick Sojda-judging and tests, Laurie Connell-breeding and Anna Artz-breeding logistics and support. It is difficult to detail the work of each in these areas without crossing over into the other three areas of responsibility. This report will generalize the accomplishments of the group.

Rick Sojda and the group identified that there are needs in the area of judges and judge development that need improvement. The training and promotion of judges from apprentice to judge and from judge to senior judge has been done in pretty much the same process for many years. Senior judges observe and recommend to the BC which judges and apprentices are ready for promotion to the next level. Although the process has been followed for a long time, in order to develop judges in a more thorough manner and more rapidly there is a need to better identify and follow through on the process. Rick has advised and the group agrees that this should be an area of immediate attention.

John Pitlo has promoted more attention to training of the pups for a long time. Far too frequently handlers bring dogs for evaluation in Natural Ability and Intermediate testing not well prepared or improperly prepared. Instructions for exposing and training pups have been available in two books by Joan Bailey and "Green Book." There is a saying that is far too accurate: "Some people always get good dogs and some people never get a good dog." It is also said that 30% of what you see in a dog is genetic and 70% is environmental. John and the group recognize that this can cause the selection of dogs to be

used in the breeding program more on environment than genetics.

To address this issue the BC has implemented a system of coaches for each pup placed by the club. Although only in its first year the system seems to be helping. In the future many more coaches will be needed to keep up with the demand. Those coaches need to be consistent in approach and therefore will need to follow a common process. The process needs better standardization and continuous updating as better methods are identified and adapted.

Laurie Connell has been taking on the task of selecting pups for importation from the Europe. Mostly from the CR but also from the Netherlands. A great deal of research to determine the best genetics for the club's needs is required. Laurie works with various people in both countries to determine the best litters to select from in order to keep the domestic gene pool healthy. She is rapidly building a team of talented assistants to help in this effort.

On the domestic side Laurie and Anna Artz have cooperated to use data received from test and health evaluations to select candidates for breeding. Obviously, this requires input from other areas within the BC and consultation with health and field evaluation personnel.

Anna Artz has taken on the responsibility for advising breeders in the process of getting the best situation for getting the desired pairs

matched. This includes natural breedings and artificial insemination. Both require Anna's expertise in the field of veterinary science. Another job that requires help from other members of the BC and outside experts in the field. Anna has made many improvements in the area of working with the breeders and this should help in our success rate. Selecting the most qualified veterinarians for artificial insemination is vital to our improvement in success rate.

Conclusion

It has been a very busy year for the newly structured Breeding Committee. Most, if not all, of you has seen comments written regarding the future of the BC. The subject will undoubtedly be discussed during the BOD meeting under the report of the BC.