



Questions & Answers #1

Revision: 12/13/2010

RE: USASA Proposal

Introduction

This first Q&A session will attempt to address the following areas/questions. As we continue to research and take additional questions we will add to the Q&A document. We would like to thank everyone for taking the time to think about the proposal and submit their questions and concerns. We are aware that not all of the questions submitted are included in this first draft. We ask for your patience as we continue to work through the remaining and future questions that are sure to arise. We look forward to discussing the enclosed questions and answers in our upcoming conference calls.

UPDATE: This document has been updated based on the Q&A Session held on Wednesday, 12/1/2010 via NAMASCUSA telephone conference call. The call was attended by members of the NAMASCUSA AKC Committee, NAMASCUSA Board and NAMASCUSA members.

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Why does USASA have so much say?

1) **Submitted By: Lori M – Minisoda Aussies**

The "Alternative plans" to NAMASCUSA going AKC sounds like a threat to me. What choice do we really have? I wish a pro-AKC person and a con-AKC person could really explain what choice we have? It feels to me like there is not any choice, that it is USASA's way or nothing.

In the Summer of 2009, after USASA and AKC had worked for several years with other clubs and an individual who were seeking to bring the Mini Aussie into AKC, our Board was approached about joining in talks leading to possible AKC recognition of MAS as a breed. USASA was there because they are the parent club for the Australian Shepherd. AKC does not make decisions directly concerning a breed without parent club involvement, so USASA was critical to the process. Indeed, without USASA, this initiative could not have started.

After trying to work through the process through FSS, it was apparent that we were not going to be able to accomplish what both Parent Clubs were hoping to as all attempts were turned down by the AKC Board. A new approach was taken in mid-2010. The USASA Studbook committee had gone through their studbook and found there to be approximately 15% dogs of Mini Australian Shepherd heritage that had never been intended to be registered by the founders of the USASA Club. As many of those dogs had been bred intentionally to be smaller than indicated by the USASA Australian Shepherd Breed Standard, they felt that those dogs should be moved to their own breed classification as USASA did not wish to form a size division within their breed standard. As the parent club for the Australian Shepherd, they have decided to split the breed by size (following the example of the Norfolk/Norwich terrier). The AKC has said that USASA would be the ones working with NAMASCUSA (or who ever they decided to work with) to draft a proposal for the AKC board to consider. The Proposal has been drafted and submitted to the AKC Board and the concept has been accepted. We do have options, if we vote yes on the proposal, then NAMASCUSA would be the Parent Breed Club for the new breed. In this capacity we (NAMASCUSA) would work with the AKC to create the "new breed" Standard in addition to all of the other aspects of being a Parent Breed Club for an AKC recognized breed. There are other clubs and/or individuals that have applications in but at this time they are not being considered for parent breed club status unless NAMASCUSA turns it down. If the membership votes not to be the "new breed" Parent Club than USASA and the AKC will make a decision as to who they will move forward with.

This is not a threat; it is simply the reality of the situation. We the membership of NAMASCUSA can decide to vote to be the parent club and be in a position to shepherd our breed into the AKC or we can vote no and another group will do just that. Who that group is will be determined by the AKC and/or USASA. If we are not the parent club, another club and/or individual will be selected and that group will control the breed within the AKC parameters.

Additional Comments from meeting: Karen Keller: discussed the history of the mini aussie and the different groups that have petitioned AKC. The discussion covered the RBS (Royal Basque Shepherd group), which petitioned AKC and then subsequently changed their name to the NAS and applied to the UKC, the FSS program and the USASA ballot to change the Aussie jump heights (which was narrowly defeated). The NAMASCUSA board is working on putting historical documents into the file section of the member list.

2) **Submitted By: Cindy Duggan**

The NAMASCUSA Breed Standard Miniature Australian Shepherd reads for General Appearance and Character Miniature Australian Shepherd. So will USASA have the privilege of changing the complete breed standard? Etc. Character, Appearance?

The parent club of the new breed will be directing the new breed standard. The only exception is the DQ on the upper end regarding size as follows: (Per the USASA proposal to the AKC) The new breed's standard will have a maximum height disqualification over 18" at the withers for dogs and over 17" at the withers for bitches. This was not required by USASA but required by AKC staff to ensure that there is a permanent size distinction between Aussies and MAS since the reason for splitting the breed was for size. There is no stipulation as to minimum height disqualifications.

Additional Comments from meeting: Where the Aust. Shepherd starts the mini needs to end. AKC does not want a 19" MAS male competing against an 18" standard female. A mini larger than

the standard aussie in the group ring is a no go for AKC. As a side note the initial breed standard was 13" to 17" for the mini aussie through NSDR. A DQ for the conformation ring does not DQ a dog from performance events or from breeding.

3) **Submitted By: Cindy Duggan**

Does NAMASCUSA AKC Committee know the date that the USASA members are going to vote on the USASA/AKC Proposal?

We do not have the exact time, but we understand that it will be soon. We expect to hear from USASA once the vote has gone out to their membership. The USASA membership will vote on the proposal and if passed the proposal will be returned to the AKC for implementation.

Additional Comments from meeting: At that time the NAMASCUSA membership will vote on Parent Club Status.

UPDATE: The proposal was mailed to the USASA Membership and ballots must be postmarked by January 8th in order to be counted in the final vote.

Why is it that we can not go in as a variety or size division?

4) **Submitted By: Jacque**

"it became evident that in spite of being bred from different foundation dogs and according to different breed standards, MAS and Australian Shepherds had become so intertwined genetically that they clearly had to be acknowledged as belonging to the same family." They won't acknowledge our dogs to be Australian shepherds but they recognize the dogs are intertwined genetically. How can they/you insist they are different breeds? Seems to me the above statement is a clear statement our dogs are a size variety of the Aussie-end of story as far as I am concerned.

AKC has not accepted any breed as a true size variety for many years now. Our club knowingly bred our dogs to a different breed standard (specifically size). USASA (nor ASCA) recognizes us as a size variety nor are they willing to allow a size division within their breed which would be acceptable by AKC. It is their right to make that choice. They (USASA) are protecting their breed standard. USASA has proposed and the AKC board has approved splitting the Australian Shepherd Breed into two breeds by size just as the Norfolk/Norwich Terrier did with the only difference being ear type.

English cocker spaniels and English Springer spaniels 100 years ago were produced in the same litters. If they went over a certain height they were Springer's if they were under a certain height they were cockers.

What is the story on the current NAMASCUSA studbook?

5) **Submitted By: Kris Finch**

If I understand this correctly, it's our database that they will use to pull AKC minis/toys out of the Australian Shepherd registry... is that correct?

No, that is not correct. The NAMASCUSA database will be only be used (when needed) to verify pedigrees of those dogs (that are not currently registered with AKC) that apply for AKC registration as the new breed.

Additional Comments from meeting: First point – USASA will NOT pull the dogs out of the AS registry. The dogs will be moved on a voluntary basis from the AKC Australian Shepherd stud book

to the AKC "new breed" stud book. The NAMASCUSA database/stud book has nothing to do with USASA.

6) **Submitted By: Kim Dostie**

I remember when three of the previous board members stepped down. That would be Terri, Kathy and myself. The agreement was that the books would not be turned over to AKC. So where do we stand on this NAMASCUSA board?

Please see the response to question #5 above.

7) **Submitted By: Connie Brogan**

So, without NAMASCUSA and the NAMASCUSA data base which includes "our" dogs it is unlikely this "new breed" will have much success in moving forward.

The individual dogs in the database are not being registered; each dog is individually registered at the owner's request by submission of a registration application. The parent club (or group/individual) that is accepted as the Parent Breed club to go forward with this new breed will create the registry rules for the new breed. These rules will define what registries will be accepted for AKC registration going forward.

Additional Comments from meeting: The parent breed club will define the registry rules and can decide how long to keep the stud books open. This is an important aspect of defining the registry rules and while NAMASCUSA would hope to keep the stud books open another club (selected to be the parent breed club) may not choose to do so.

8) **Submitted By: Cindy Duggan**

If NAMASCUSA Club dissolves who gets the NAMASCUSA stud book database?

NAMASCUSA has no current plans to dissolve now or in the foreseeable future.

Additional Comments from meeting: At the current time neither NAMASCUSA/MASCA by-laws have any provision of what happens to their respective club stud books if the club dissolves. There are provisions to determine how to handle any monies that the club may have but nothing currently in place to deal with the stud books.

9) **Submitted By: Lynette Poca**

NAMASCUSA will be turning over their stud book that holds all of the AKC/NAMASCUSA dogs for cross reference. Then AKC will "re-home" them. What an easy way for USASA to get what they want. NAMASCUSA is just handing over the info for them to use against our dogs. Since posting, I have been told that the stud books might not be turned over to AKC/FSS/USASA. When I contacted AKC they assured me they would need to be turned over. Could a Board member please tell me if I am incorrect?

The database will be only be used (if needed) to verify pedigrees of those dogs that apply for AKC registration to verify pedigrees. USASA has not and will not have any access to our database and it will not be used for any purpose. Any re-homing that will be done will be voluntary by the owner of that dog if they feel that their dog will be better served in the new breed registry.

Additional Comments from meeting: Voluntary Re-homing is being done out of the AKC registry/database NOT the NAMASCUSA stud books.

10) **Submitted By: Therese Stoebner**

The vote is simply whether we accept the terms of the proposal and have NAMASCUSA be the parent club for the new breed. I don't see anywhere in the proposal that members can request to have

their dogs excluded from the stud book turned over to AKC. Does anyone know more about that? Or does that become a club issue if we vote yes?

Please refer to the answer for question #7 above. D. Dulaney has volunteered to have one of her dogs entries in the stud book shared with the membership so they can see what a stud book entry actually looks like and the information contained within it.

Additional Comments from meeting: In order for a dog to be registered the owner must submit the paperwork (registration application) to AKC in order to be registered with AKC as the new breed. The pedigree of a dog is just that the pedigree of that dog. If a dog is registered with AKC (or any breed registry for that matter) the pedigree of the dog will go with the dog. So while a dog may appear in the pedigree of the dog being registered it is NOT being registered by just being in the pedigree.

If NAMASCUSA becomes the parent club, how long would the new studbook remain open?

11) Submitted By: Lori M – Minisoda Aussies

This proposal does not address how long our stud books would be open. Ten years from now, if someone produces a small bitch in an Australian Shepherd program, could that bitch still be moved to the smaller breed?

That is up to the membership (of the AKC Parent Breed Club) Our goal would be to keep it open indefinitely, like with the Border Collie. Because they are considering any NAMASCUSA registered dog as if its 3 generation, in the future it is our goal to have them be able to come in thru the FSS and work into full recognition from there. Any AKC registered Australian Shepherds who wish to transfer must do so in the 3 year period. That option will close after that time period.

Additional Comments from meeting: Any AKC registered Australian Shepherd will have the option to move to the new breed (regardless of size) within the 3 year period as stated in the USASA proposal. What will happen after the 3 year period will be up to the parent club and AKC. Those details would need to be worked out.

12) Submitted By: Therese Stoebner

I don't see anywhere in the proposal that the "new breed" would be required to close their stud books in three years. I believe that is a decision left open to the parent club. Do the Border Collies still have an open stud book? USASA left their stud book open for years before closing it.

Please see the response to question #11 above.

What about size DQ's – MAS and USASA's?

13) Submitted By: Lori M – Minisoda Aussies

I have seen breeders that are purposefully breeding small Aussies without any "Spike" genes. Is USASA going to put a size disqualification on their dogs as well? Why would we need to have a size disqualification if they don't have one?

Because they are the parent breed club for the breed that is being split at which time the new breed will have its parent club established. They are the parent club for the Australian Shepherd with an approved breed standard in place. We are the new breed who will need to develop a breed standard

for the new breed. It would take a super majority to approve the idea within their (USASA's) membership and then a super majority to approve the breed standard change. What makes us a mini is size, nothing else. The AKC has set the breed standard on the upper end.

14) **Submitted By: Krystal Pickett**

In the AKC rule book for Australian Shepherds it specifically says sizes should not be disqualified for quality.....so does that mean USASA now has to change the breed standard for Australian shepherds.

That is a decision up to USASA the parent breed club for the Australian Shepherd, it is not a NAMASCUSA decision. Changing breed standards within the AKC is a very involved process. Regardless this is not a decision that is up to us.

Additional Comments from meeting: The DQ on the top side has been determined per the proposal and as stated in earlier Q&A's. The bottom side DQ (or no bottom side DQ) will be decided on by the new breed parent club. Just a reminder that the DQ is for the conformation ring only – not for registration and/or performance events.

Re-homing Issues

15) **Submitted By: Lori M – Minisoda Aussies**

USASA and AKC are giving us three years to voluntarily clean up their problem. What are the "further steps" they might take to clean their stud books in three years if voluntary doesn't work?

NAMASCUSA does not know the answer to that question. We can not see what the future will be in three years. We do know that IF we are the Parent Breed club for the "new breed" that we will have the opportunity to provide input into that discussion as stated in the current proposal.

The proposal states that in three years USASA has the right to re-examine their stud book to evaluate the results of the breed split (along with the AKC board and the **new breed's parent club**).

How will the new breed handle both Conformation and Performance as to size?

16) **Submitted By: Lori M – Minisoda Aussies**

What name do they compete under in performance events?

The "new breed" will compete under the "new breed" name.

What is the difference in how the "new breed" and the ILP/PAL dog will be handled?

17) **Submitted By: Lori M – Minisoda Aussies**

If they are ILP'd they would compete as an Aussie if they are over 18 inches. What if you have a 19" MAS female that is great in agility (born from smaller parents). Where does she compete?

The ILP'd Aussies that are over 18 inches will continue to compete as an Australian Shepherd. The dogs ILP'd as Aussies that are under 18 inches will compete as the new breed. Please see the following question #18 for more information.

18) **Submitted By: Sue Rankin**

I have 4 aussies, 3 are minis and 1 standard. The 3 minis are girls and are between 17-18 inches. They will compete as a standard, while my standard (AKC) who is 18 inches will compete as a mini?

Note: There are multiple registries but for this question we will focus on the following four registries (and/or breed clubs): Australian Shepherds - ASCA/AKC; Miniature Australian Shepherds – NAMASCUSA/MASCA

- These dogs are currently identified by registry and not by size. The new breed will have a DQ on the top side for the conformation ring. There will not be a DQ in the performance venues based on size.
- Whether or not the new breed will have a DQ on the bottom side will be determined by the "new breed" parent club as they work with the AKC to define the "new breed" standard. The top side DQ is being mandated by the AKC as USASA is splitting their breed the Australian Shepherd into two breeds defined by size and/or pedigree (specifically height). The Australian Shepherd and the "new breed".
- The mini's (registered NAMASCUSA/MASCA) would be eligible to enter the AKC as the new breed and compete in the performance venues as the new breed regardless of size (only the conformation ring will have a DQ).
- The AKC Australian Shepherd can choose to voluntarily move to the new breed and would compete as the new breed regardless of size Or they can stay where they are with no change. This move is up to the owner of record.
- The ILP/PAL dogs will be moved based purely on size. It is important to note that ILP/PAL dogs typically where registered in order to take advantage of the AKC Performance Venues. They are not eligible for conformation as they are required to be altered to register as ILP/PAL.

Additional Comments from meeting: A discussion followed regarding the ILP/PAL programs. For more information on these AKC programs: <http://www.akc.org/reg/ilpex.cfm>

From the AKC web site:

The AKC, PAL/ILP and You

Many people have discovered the fun of teaming up with their dogs and competing in AKC Events. But, not all of those wonderful canine athletes that you see at these events are registered with the AKC. Some might be enrolled in the AKC's Purebred Alternative Listing/Indefinite Listing Privilege (PAL/ILP), a program that allows unregistered dogs of [registrable breeds](#) to compete in AKC Performance and Companion Events, also [specific breeds](#) in the FSS® Program that are eligible for Companion Events.

If you have a purebred dog that cannot be registered with the AKC and have a desire to see what your dog can do in real competition, a PAL/ILP number is your ticket to the world of AKC events and clubs!

Purebred Alternative Listing/Indefinite Listing Privilege (PAL/ILP): The program that provides purebred dogs a second chance.

There are various reasons why a purebred dog might not be eligible for registration. The dog may be the product of an unregistered litter, or have unregistered parents. The dog's papers may have been withheld by its breeder or lost by its owner. Sometimes, it is the dog itself that was "lost." There are many dogs enrolled in the PAL/ILP program after they have been surrendered or abandoned, then adopted by new owners from animal shelters or purebred rescue groups. The PAL/ILP program allows the dog and owner a second chance at discovering the rewards of participating in AKC events.

What about NAMASCUSA/MASCA dual registered dogs?

19) **Submitted By: Cindy Duggan**

My concern is IF the members of NAMASCUSA decide to go AKC what will become of our dogs that are dual registered?

What becomes of your dual registered dogs is up to you. There is no forced registration with AKC. If as an owner of a dog registered with NAMASCUSA, you wish to register that dog with AKC you will be able to do so and AKC will utilize the books from NAMASCUSA to verify the application for registration.

20) **Submitted By: Cindy Duggan**

It may take a couple of years for NAMASCUSA to be a new breed with AKC... in the mean time will the dual registered dogs be able to show with the MASCA dogs at a MASCA dog show?

This is a question you would need to ask MASCA as it is MASCA that writes the rules for MASCA shows, not NAMASCUSA.

21) **Submitted By: Cindy Duggan**

This honestly is confusing to me... I am not starting any trouble... I want to know where do I stand with my MASCA registered dog? Who is also registered with NAMASCUSA. I know from what I have read I can say I no longer want my dog to be registered with NAMASCUSA if they go new breed AKC. But... in the mean time the NAMASCUSA registered dogs that go AKC.. where will they fit at a dog show showing against my MASCA Miniature Australian Shepherd?

The answer to this question depends on the rules of the organization you are showing in. If it's MASCA shows, you need to ask MASCA. If it's IABCA shows you are questioning, you need to ask IABCA what they will do. NAMASCUSA does not have a say in what outside organizations decide to do.

Additional Comments from meeting: Currently on the IABCA show premiums the IABCA policy is that the rare breeds continue to show as a rare breed until they are fully recognized in AKC. Until the new breed has full recognition within AKC, we would expect that the dogs would continue to show as a Mini Aussie in the rare breed shows. Each venue has it's own rules and those venues determine how they run their shows. If the membership votes for NAMASCUSA to be the parent club the board would review the venues available and discuss how to move forward with those venues.

If the membership votes for NAMASCUSA to be the Parent Club, NAMASCUSA will still run as it is currently. There is lots of work to be done to create the breed standard, create the registry rules and work with the show venues. While the new breed is in FSS/Misc. there is not a AKC conformation champion program. Showing in Misc class is FEO only. There are two times a year when the FSS dogs can move into the Misc. class. The dogs then stay in Misc. class for at least a year while AKC trains judges and sets up the programs necessary for the new breed. In essence the new breed is in a holding pattern while the membership votes on the standard, the name and AKC sets up the necessary programs (computer) for the new breed. These are only just a few of the milestones that will need to occur prior to full registration.

Again the three year timeframe is for the voluntary re-homing of the AKC registered Australian Shepherds to the new breed.

22) **Submitted By: Connie Brogan**

The difference is "if" things would play out with ASCA and AKC as "you" are surmising, they would be dual registered as Australian Shepherds. They will not be dual registered as two separate breeds.

So the situation between NAMASCUSA dogs of a new/different breed and MASCA dogs is a totally different issue. It is NAMASCUSA who will be cutting their dogs off from the AKC/ASCA/MASCA gene pool.

They (MASCA) are basing everything on a name - if they have different names that makes them different breeds. There are breeds that have two names. AKC does not care if your dogs are dual registered with another registry. Everyone needs to understand that we are opening up our gene pool, not closing it down. NAMASCUSA has always had an inclusive, not exclusive policy. The parent breed club gets to decide which registrations are allowed. We feel the gene pool is much bigger than just the NAMASCUSA and MASCA registered minis.

Additional Comments from meeting: Basically they are taking the Australian Shepherd breed and splitting it into two breeds. Those owners that feel they are better served by moving to the new breed are being allowed to move. We are taking a subset of the Australian Shepherd and moving that subset into the new breed.

What happens to oversized dogs?

23) Submitted By: Lori M - Minisoda Aussies

What happens to mini litters that produce oversized dogs?

They would be registered as the new breed if the parents are registered in the new breed. That is no different than today when two NAMASCUSA parents produce over sized off-spring.

24) Submitted By: Cindy Duggan

As a individual that buys a puppy from a breeder. And according to Steven Parr's proposal: "The MAS standard must contain size disqualifications of 17" at the withers for bitches, and 18" for dogs. This assures a clear and firm size distinction between the MAS and the Australian Shepherd. The size distinction between the two breeds must be permanent." So as a breeder I wait until the puppy reaches his or her mature size before I sell the puppy? As a puppy buyer with those firm size distinction I will not purchase a young puppy and pray that he or she stays true to standard size. That would be heartbreaking to love a puppy at a young age... and "Oh.. sorry you will go back to the breeder because you are over size or under size".

Why would you need to keep all puppies you breed until they are adults? Do you currently do this with your NAMASCUSA/MASCA registered litters to ensure that they stay within the breed standards currently in place? There are lots of dog breeds out there that have requirements for height and weight in their breed standards that are disqualifications and those breeders of those breeds have no problem placing their puppies out when they are still young. I think most buyers (or at least I hope!) are educated enough to know that it is impossible to guarantee size of a mature dog. Predict or guess, sure...but be absolutely certain, no. Just as a breeder cannot be certain that any other disqualification might not show up as the dog matures.

25) Submitted By: Kim Dostie

So you have a litter that some puppies grow up to be over 18 inches and the rest of the puppies are around 16 inches...so now you have puppies that are aussies and others that are another breed??? What a dilemma!

Your breeding practices are the same with the "new breed" as they are today. If both parents are registered as the "new breed" the entire litter would be registered as the new breed regardless of their size at maturity. Just as today you register a litter based on the registry rules of your breed club - whether it is NAMASCUSA or MASCA.

26) **Submitted By: Torre Waller**

So how would that work. Are our dogs that go over size and meet the size/height requirement for USASA now going to be able to be registered as AS even though the parents are NEW BREED?

There is no change. They would be registered as the new breed if the parents are registered in the new breed. That is no different than today when two NAMASCUSA parents produce over sized offspring. The only way they could be registered as AS is if both parents are registered as AS. The registry rules are not changing.

Additional Comments from meeting: While the standard aussie breeder does produce dogs both under and over the preferred size it is not done intentionally. They are breeding to the entire Aussie breed standard. While the Mini Aussie breeder is intentionally breeding for the smaller dog. Those dogs that are intentionally being bred for a smaller size are not being bred to the Aussie breed standard but are being bred to the Mini Aussie breed standard.

What about the toy sized dogs

27) **Submitted By: Cindy Duggan**

As you read further it states proposing DQ for bitches over 17" and dogs over 18". BUT... allowing breeders to take small standards and register them as the new breed without any problem? Does that mean the "toy" size will be allowed?

That is a decision/issue that the membership will need to vote on for the "breed standard" of the new breed by whoever is the parent club for this split breed.

Additional Comments from meeting: There are several questions being asked. There is the re-homing of any AKC registered AS to the new breed. Any dog with NAMASCUSA registration will be eligible for registration of the new breed (if NAMASCUSA is the parent breed club and determines the registry rules). The question regarding breed standard size requirements will be determined by the parent breed club. The size DQ's are for the conformation ring only and again that will be decided by the parent breed club.

How might NAMASCUSA be changed if the membership votes to accept AKC Parent club status for the MAS? What about the Mission Statement?

28) **Submitted By: Barb Byer**

Will NAMASCUSA change its breed standard to accommodate dogs under 14"?

The lower size of the breed standard will be membership voted by the members of the "new breed" Parent Club.

29) **Submitted By: Barb Byer**

Will NAMASCUSA change its name to accommodate the new breed name? Will NAMASCUSA change the wording of its mission statement to accommodate its seeking separate breed status? Isn't a club that has changed its name, mission statement, and breed standard in essence a reformed club?

The club will be updating its documents according to the membership vote on the proposal.

Additional Comments from meeting: In discussions between Traci and the Lawyer who processed our Club paperwork. The club may change any club documents as long as it does not change the non-profit status of the club. The club name has been changed on multiple occasions. The mission statement can change to reflect the direction of the club. Most corporations update their mission statements as their corporations grow.

30) **Submitted By: Kathy Agan**

Just what is the NAMASCUSA club going to be?

It will be whatever the membership chooses it will be.

What would happen to NAMASCUSA members and registered dogs that choose not to go to AKC?

31) **Submitted By: Therese Stoebner**

IF we as club members vote to proceed and move on to become an AKC parent club of the new breed, how do we respect the wishes of those who do not want their dogs or pedigrees released to AKC?

Their dogs will not be released to AKC, nor will their pedigrees. Each person who chooses to AKC register their own dogs will need to submit their pedigrees along with their registration applications. Only those dogs that apply to the AKC for registration will go into AKC as the new breed. The only way a dog that is not registered with AKC might show up in the new AKC database would be if it was in the three generation pedigree of a dog that is submitted for registration.

How will history be written?

32) **Submitted By: Cindy Duggan**

What is the true story about Willow? From what I have heard this amazing little Australian Shepherd competed and beat some Australian Shepherds. Does that mean we have to change the history of our Miniature Australian Shepherd because a dog named "Willow" beat some Australian Shepherds? Is going to AKC and wiping out the history and integrity of our Miniature Australian Shepherd worth all of this?

Willow is not registered with NAMASCUSA, nor was she ever registered with NAMASCUSA. As to her history it is up to interpretation and conjecture. Since she is not NAMASCUSA registered we can not speak to how she has or has not been registered within other registries. I believe many of her achievements are listed on multiple performance venues. To all accounts she was/is a pretty awesome performance dog that anyone of us would be proud to have.