



## Questions & Answers #2 Revision: 1/11/2011

### RE: USASA Proposal

#### ***Introduction***

This second Q&A session will attempt to address the following areas/questions. In some areas we will reference and/or re-print Q&A's from the 1<sup>st</sup> session. We would like to thank everyone for taking the time to think about the proposal and submit their questions and concerns. 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, 12/15/2010 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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#### ***ILP/PAL Concerns & Questions***

##### 1) ***Submitted By: Karen Keller – ILP/PAL Program Definitions***

Dogs that currently have an ILP/PAL number with AKC as an Australian Shepherd will be moved to the "new breed" if they measure 18" and below. Those dogs that are moved will retain all titles earned as an ILP/PAL Australian Shepherd, and may possibly be allowed to finish any title that the dog currently has legs earned in as an ILP/PAL Australian Shepherd until the Title is complete. Those same dogs will transfer their earned titles to the MAS breed, meaning that if they had for example; a herding started title, they will retain that title when transferred to MAS.

There is some discussion going on for those dogs that are ASCA registered but at this time a decision has not been made in reference to those ASCA E-Dogs.

**Additional Comments from meeting:** Linda talked with Stevens Par and it appears that there will be a way for those ASCA ILP dogs to come in as Australian Shepherds regardless of size. At this time, all dogs under 18 inch are not being registered as Australian Shepherds in the ILP program; they are being referred to the Mixed Breed Program for registration.

For more information on the AKC ILP/PAL 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.

## ***Re-homing Concerns & Questions***

### **2) *Submitted By: Karen Keller – What does the 3 year encompass?***

Any AKC registered Australian Shepherd may voluntarily re-home their dog to the "new breed" regardless of size if they feel they would be better served in the "new breed". Examples might be dogs that are smaller aussies and typically produce smaller offspring. Dogs that they think would be better served competing in the performance venues as the "new breed". No dog will be forced to move, this is entirely a voluntary move. Once a dog is re-homed it may not move back. This opportunity to re-home your AKC registered Australian Shepherd (regardless of size) is for a 3 year period only as outlined in the USASA Proposal.

## ***Stud Book Concerns & Questions***

### **3) *Submitted By: Karen Keller – Stud Book Issues***

The parent club of the "new breed" will define the registration policies for the new breed and that includes determining if and/or when the stud books will close or if they remain open indefinitely, as has happened with the Border Collies. The Border Collie parent club accepts the registrations from four different registries. The "MAS" parent club will choose which outside registries will be accepted in the open stud books. An example would be having MASCA or NSDR as acceptable registries, thereby allowing dogs from those registries to be allowed in the MAS breed.

### **4) *Submitted By: Therese Stoebner***

If the NAMASCUSA members vote to become the parent club of the new breed would we be allowed to keep a separate stud book? If we are not allowed to keep a separate stud book what would happen to all the dogs that are registered with NAMASCUSA and choose to stay OUT of the AKC new breed?

**Comments from meeting:** If NAMASCUSA becomes the AKC/MAS Parent club there would come a point where the AKC would take over the registry function for NAMASCUSA and the registry would cease. At that point in time members who choose not to register their dogs with AKC would probably

want to choose another registry for their dogs actively competing in venues as those venues may cease to accept NAMASUCSA registration. Dogs currently registered with NAMASCUSA will still have their existing NAMASCUSA registrations which lists them as a Mini Aussie. It will be up to the venues to decide if they will continue to have those dogs compete with the Mini Aussies.

## **AKC Recognition Concerns & Questions**

5) **Submitted By: Shirley Shannon – Shandell Kennels**

I am not sure I fully understood the difference in "FSS" entry and "splitting the breed by size." I was getting the idea that by splitting the breed as opposed to developing breed, it would put us on the fast track into the miscellaneous class, by-passing the years spent in FSS. That is to say, once the vote is yes and a few details worked out, we would go directly to the miscellaneous class at the first scheduled Jul or Jan date. Then our year would be spent there while judges learn the breed and the other little necessary details are worked out prior to full recognition. If I am way off base, I would like a better time line or explanation?

**Comments from meeting:** Splitting the breed by size fast tracks the breed into the misc class. The time we spend in FSS is simply the time that AKC needs to incorporate our new breed into their software program, develop the new breed standard and other administrative tasks required in setting up a new breed. Once these details are in place and the minimum amount of dogs are registered, we will be moved into the misc. class at the next upcoming date. It is important to note that although we will be in FSS for a short period, our time there is not for re-development but to allow the administrative tasks, judges training etc. to be completed. NAMASCUSA dogs will be recognized as full generation pure bred and will go directly into misc class when these administrative tasks are complete.

## **USASA Involvement & Breed Separation Concerns & Questions**

6) **Submitted By: Jan Gould – Dusty Boots**

In the example of the Norwich/Norfolk Terrier, the breed was divided by ear set. With the Aussie, the breed will be divided by size with the new breed having a DQ on the upper size. However, the USASA dogs will not have a DQ on the lower size. Could we possibly have a 16 inch bitch at Westminster in the new breed and a 16 inch bitch in the Australian Shepherd breed? One can explain the difference in ears, but how will the difference in the breed be explained if they look the same and are the same size?

**Comments from meeting:** This would be a conversation that would be had between the parent club for the New Breed, USASA and the AKC. It would be highly improbable that a 16 inch Australian Shepherd would be in a major show.

The possibility does exist, however if it does become a problem down the road, and USASA decides that they need to do something about it, they will not be able to change our breed standard in order to change theirs. This is also one good reason for the new breed to have a strong Parent Club protecting its interests.

7) **Submitted By: Jan Gould – Dusty Boots**

When does USASA's say in what the new breed is/does end? How long do they get to be in the driver's seat?

Once the parent club for the New Breed is established, USASA's involvement would be limited to only those issues within the New Breed that would cross over to impact the Australian Shepherd breed.

Thus far, the act of splitting the Australian Shepherd breed into two separate breeds directly and significantly impacts the Australian Shepherd, the USASA and their studbook and explains their strong involvement.

One thing to call attention to is that any action or proposal made by outside parties that would significantly impact the New Breed, its studbook and/or club would result in an equal ability for the parent club of the New Breed to be directly involved in as well, thus dispelling the myth that when a breed enters AKC it gives up all control to the AKC 'powers that be'.

**Additional Comments from meeting:** A) First of all USASA is not entirely in the drivers seat, we have been working along side of them with equal input and working to keep it that way all along the way. It has really been an equal struggle between the three parties in order to get what each of us feel to be the best for our dogs.

Also something to think about; there has been a lot of mutual respect between the three entities trying to make this happen. AKC and USASA could have just taken on this task without any input from NAMASCUSA, yet they respected our members and our club enough that they wanted us to participate and fight for what we felt our members would want and what would be best for our dogs.

USASA actually in two different instances went to bat for us:

1) USASA fought for us with AKC to allow us to have a higher height DQ than what AKC originally set before us. AKC wanted two inches below the already established Australian Shepherd preferred height of 18 inches. USASA, knowing our dogs, stood up to AKC and agreed with NAMASCUSA that that much of a difference was just too much and we came to an agreement of 17 inches as the top for our girls. USASA was the one who stood by us and requested that AKC allow an inch between the standards to be acceptable.

2) At one point in our negotiations with AKC, they came to us and said that only the dogs with three generations clear of any ASCA/AKC Australian Shepherd will be allowed to come into the misc class. Without USASA stepping up to the plate and going to bat for us, the proposal would have gone in with this condition.

8) ***Submitted By: Jan Gould – Dusty Boots***

What consideration has NAMASCUSA given to the ability, without a lower DQ on the AKC Aussie, that USASA won't turn around in the next couple years and produce and sanction their own version of the mini aussie? They will have distanced the new breed from the Australian Shepherd and there will be a group of people still looking for a miniaturized version of the Australian Shepherd and not realize that the new breed is the same thing.

Given that the rationale for splitting the breed is due to a large subpopulation of the breed being intentionally miniaturized, and that the AKC has acknowledged that this is the basis for splitting the breed, the AKC would not allow the USASA to lower their breed height in the future.

1) The new miniaturization would be impossible to distinguish from the new breed in the ring.

2) The Parent Club for the new breed would certainly have a say in the AKC's consideration of adopting an amendment to the Australian Shepherd breed standard if it interfered with ours.

That said, any answer we give would be conjecture and we are supposed to keep things on topic to the AKC Proposal and the matter at hand which is: does NAMASCUSA want to be the parent club? So perhaps the better answer would be: "Should that situation arise in the future, it would be decided by USASA, AKC and the parent club for the new breed."

**Additional Comments from meeting:** This may be something that NAMASCUSA could work with

AKC to get in writing that USASA would never be able to develop a Mini Aussie.

## ***New Breed Parent Club Concerns & Questions***

9) ***Submitted By: Tammy Flaga***

Who deems (and polices) MAS from the other registries as being eligible for registration as the new "breed" ?

This will be determined by the "new breed" parent club. NAMASCUSA's current position is to continue to take from the registries that we do currently. NAMASCUSA will want to include as many eligible registries that we can in order to not exclude anyone and to keep the gene pool as wide open as possible.

10) ***Submitted By: Tammy Flaga***

Aside from the re-homed AKC dogs, will NAMASCUSA maintain the rights of acceptance during the time that the stud books are open?

This will be determined by the "new breed" parent club, which is why it is important to have a strong Parent Club representing this new breed. If NAMASCUSA becomes the Parent Club, it is the thought of this committee to leave the studbook open permanently to the different Mini Registries that we already accept now. AKC does not require that a breed closes their registry. The AKC Border Collie Parent Club has their registry set up to accept dogs registered with 4 different individual Border Collie Registries.

11) ***Submitted By: Lori McClelland***

Is it the board's understanding that AKC has received several requests to be chosen as the "breed club" for the breed that is the mini aussie - as it has been defined by our standard, as well as most of the same breeding lines?

This is the board's current understanding, yes.

12) ***Submitted By: Lori McClelland***

If this is the case, has the AKC, or USASA stated that their intent is to accept one of these requests should the members of NAMASCUSA decide not to have NAMASCUSA be the rep club? I am sure you have answered this question before but the reason I ask is that the membership is continually side-tracked about whether they believe the mini aussie should be in AKC. This is not the issue. The issue is whether they believe NAMASCUSA should be the parent club - not MASCA, not another club.

They have told us if the NAMASCUSA membership votes no, then they will go forward with other options. If a new club is selected the feeling is that the proposal as negotiated by NAMASCUSA will most likely not be offered to another club.

### ***A Clarification:***

NAMASCUSA has been asked if they are working together with the Royal Basque Shepherds or other groups in getting this to happen with AKC.

NAMASCUSA is not now and has never worked together with any organization in this endeavor. There will be more discussion on this at the next meeting.