

Questions for AKC/USASA Meeting On May 20, 2009

Attendees: Linda Perry, Kathy M., Michelle Stewart, Karen Keller, Traci Phillips, Kim Dostie, Mona Cooper (MASCA rep), Stevens Parr and Mari-Beth O'Neil.

No submission of an FSS application is required at this time to get answers to questions. It is the goal of FSS/USASA to take positive steps forward for everyone involved.

1) Has the board of USASA taken a vote regarding our dogs and what was written in the Journal? Yes, they approved the submission. Did the membership of USASA vote on what to do with our dogs? No official vote has been taken. The board, current and past, has been fielding opinions of their membership since the beginning of the Australian Shepherds acceptance into the AKC. Then with the ever growing flame of Willow and others that run agility like her, it has heated up the stance that the miniature needs to be its own breed. That the membership has voiced at annual meetings that they do not want to approve them as a division. They are not against them, but want them to rightfully find their own place. Can the membership of USASA take a vote to accept our dogs as a division or variety of the Australian Shepherd? The attitude of the board and members of USASA is there is no need to take a vote. Stevens felt sure that a vote would yield a 99 to 1 vote against being a division. See above.

2) If the membership votes to take our dogs into the FSS will they be going in as a developing breed, directly derived from the Australian Shepherd? The USASA membership says that you are a different breed, but they don't ignore what we are and our pedigrees. MB: Our history is our history. Parson and Russell terrier (example) they came from the same man. The precedent is there. SP-No one is going to stand in your way on that front.

3) If the membership chooses to take our dogs into the FSS, can they go in with the true history of our dogs? Yes, it is understood that they have common history Similar Example: Sheltie and Collie) and the pedigrees are intertwined. They don't want us to lie about the history, but be factual.

4) If the membership chooses to take our dogs into the FSS, would the dogs be guaranteed the Herding Group? At this point Mari-Beth is under the assumption that these dogs would be in the herding group. If toys are brought in as a division, which would obviously complicate the question of being in the Herding Group. She suggests that the herding people within AKC participate in the discussions regarding this topic. That there is a possibility in finding a way to have our dogs compete at herding trials, while excluding the toys for their own safety. How can we be assured that if our dogs enter AKC they will be placed in the herding group and not the Non-sporting or Toy group? See above

5) If the membership chooses to take our dogs into the FSS, how long would the stud books be open? It's a topic very much open to discussion, see below. Can we use any Aussie/any size, any registry, except an AKC registered Australian Shepherd? That has not been established/discussed yet.

6) What are the process/criteria of reopening AKC stud books at a later date following full AKC recognition if the Parent Club feels that it needs to enlarge the gene pool? **Some accepted breed clubs never close their stud books. IE : Border Collie, Coon Hound. Some could remain open for a period of 3-5 years and then be eligible to re-open them in 5 years from time of closing. FSS is very open to making sure the gene pool isn't hurt by use of closing the stud books.** Can the Parent Club determine which registries could be eligible (i.e., MASCA, AKC Australian Shepherd, ASCA, NSDR A, M or T dogs)? **This is very much open to negotiations with FSS and USASA.** How long can we keep the stud books open and how difficult is it to re-open them in the future? **See above**

7) Since our dogs are basically Miniature Australian Shepherds, if the stud books are reopened will size variety Minis be allowed in from the parent club that remains size variety? (Possibly MASCA in case the merge not becoming complete due to NAMASCUSA accepting the position of the AKC Parent club). **Yes, Duel registration may exist-regarding parent club and MASCA. It would be up to the parent club that is accepted to accept MASCA registrations with some type of clear guidelines. IE: Black and tan coonhounds, 3 generations of pedigree and registration for duel acceptance.**

8) How would re-homing work and does that have to occur if FSS takes NAMASCUSA? Negotiation of using dogs already in AKC stud books - will it be voluntary or Mandatory. Many members are worried about the possibility of their AKC dogs being re-homed by USASA and AKC as a separate breed against their wishes if the NAS is recognized. Is this a definite possibility or not? **This entire question is being looked at with open mindedness and a desire to be fair and positive in every step taken. Not going to handle the past in a punitive manner, not fix the past...but move forward in a positive manner. We need to create a line in the sand, at some time. Maybe the next generation off of the AKC registered dogs. Important to USASA to offer a proper home for those already registered as Aussies with AKC. USASA prefers a voluntary, rather than mandatory solution. USASA needs to have a clean stud book, as does NAMASCUSA, but accomplished by working these things out. No thought of anything like stripping titles, ect. Objective is to do this in a peaceful and respectful way....**

9) USASA claims that the Mini was improperly registered by AKC as an Australian Shepherd due to lack of diligence on AKC's part. **They acknowledge that a mistake was made in the early days of acceptance of the Australian Shepherds and are correcting the mistakes now, in the steps they are currently exploring.** What guarantees do we have that those dogs not meeting our Breed Standard (i.e. obviously toy mixes) won't enter our Breed? **It was strongly suggested that we take that faction into consideration so as not to find ourselves in the same position that USASA is now with the miniature Aussies. We need to be open minded at the negotiation table regarding the topic of including the toys. Do we have any say in the quality of dogs we can accept into our breed? No**

10) What determines how long we sit in FSS? http://www.akc.org/reg/fss_details.cfm

But with the understanding that we are in a very unique situation.

Generations from AKC registered Aussies or by way of NAMASCUSA's registration policies now, could they come right in and get full acceptance. **FSS/USASA is very open to working these details out in a fair and non punitive way.** What concessions are open for the Parent Club (NAMASCUSA) (If the members vote this direction), that the other applicants won't be offered? **The only thing I can see is faster acceptance into the FSS program (companion) as well as Misc group with eventual full recognition into the herding group (member's preference) (and noted by MB –that she assumes it may be the herding group.**

11) If the members chose to take our dogs to FSS, can we use Miniature Aussie, Mini Aussie, Miniature Australian Shepherd as our name? **No, it is a precondition set by USASA for acceptance into the FSS.** If not what other names would be acceptable? American Shepherd, American Herding Dog, Miniature Shepherd, Miniature American Shepherd? If the members chose to take our dogs to FSS, would the members vote on the final name? **The membership of NAMASCUSA may choose the name if the membership chooses to go into the FSS.**

12) Regarding our registry rules, can Mandatory clearances and membership with our club be negotiated?? **You as a club can require testing for members. But anyone else that has eligible dogs, AKC doesn't refuse registration. It's a club issue....Wide latitude with Parent Club and won't get AKC interference.**

Poodle club of American-has only 300 members-exclusive club

Different clubs have different requirements. Set standards of membership! Lax or demanding, it's up to us.

AKC gets a monthly conversion from OFA-AKC adds results to certified pedigrees. Maybe in the future AKC may add other testing to pedigrees.

13) How much pull does USASA have in the negotiations of these dogs going into the FSS/AKC? **Collaborative effort with all involved and in discussion stages.**

It very much requires USASA to sign this off. USASA and FSS would not do this without each others cooperation. USASA/FSS-goal is to do this in the most positive way. To date, they have worked nicely together and are in agreement.

14) Can we immediately compete in the AKC performance venues available, including herding, once we enter FSS? (An important question). Can we also compete in Conformation while in FSS? **Immediately eligible for companion events. Once we meet FSS requirements regarding http://www.akc.org/reg/fss_details.cfm , then we move into the misc group with full rights to participate in everything AKC offers, including conformation. The exception is that in misc conformation you may not acquire championship points; it's more of an exhibition.**

15) Will AKC require a size DQ for NAS dogs? Question came up and USASA/FSS thought NAMASCUSA's breed standard went up to 19 inches, NAMASCUSA clarified that it was MASANA's height they were referring to, not NAMASCUSA's.

16) Before an official vote of the membership of NAMASCUSA takes place, would FSS/USASA be willing to put these answers in writing so that it comes from your organizations with the guarantee that the membership of NAMASCUSA be given time to vote with full disclosure on what can be negotiated and answered now from FSS/USASA? Yes, they will give us time to take a vote of the NAMASCUSA membership. So long as it's within reason. USASA and FSS will get back to us within 10 days with answers to these questions.

17) Is it true that your preference is to offer NAMASCUSA as the parent club for our dogs to go FSS, before a splinter club is offered FSS? Yes, they prefer us.

18) If the membership of NAMASCUSA votes to not take NAMASCUSA as the parent club to FSS/AKC, will you take another group? Wasn't asked or answered, but it is clear from the overall approach of USASA/FSS to NAMASCUSA that the answer is yes.

19) In the future will there ever be an opportunity to seek FSS/AKC as a variety (Variety-No) or a division of the Australian Shepherd? A division of the Australian Shepherd is not a point that the membership or board of USASA are willing to approve. To think otherwise is creating a false sense of hope and reality.

White Doberman -not the same, parent club acknowledged them, which is the difference. USASA does not acknowledge us, whereas the Doberman club does acknowledge the white Doberman as being the same breed.

Stevens Parr gave his Philosophical version of why the mini is considered a separate breed by USASA by sharing his opinion formed over many years by listening to many Aussies breeders. ***An Aussie is versatile, he can herd all sizes of stock, he can do it effortlessly, he is a blend of many characteristics, size is not the determinant, heart, courage and such make up an Aussie. That is why there is no DQ. But that is not an open ended invitation to accept all aussies, all sizes. When you start making size as a determinant that defines your dog, sooner or later...it does have an impact on the dog that you ultimately get. That creates a difference between Aussies and what we consider a different breed**