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# The Cavalier Chronicle

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August 2005

## PAUSING TO UNDERSTAND OBJECTIONS TO PAWS BY CHARLOTTE CLEM MCGOWAN

(Originally Printed in August DOG NEWS)

A growing list of organizations including AKC Parent Clubs, state federations formed to fight bad legislation, local and regional clubs, hunting enthusiasts, cat fanciers, rabbit breeders, bird breeders, etc., are going on record to oppose the PAWS legislation, S1139/H2669. Why do you suppose this is happening?

The number one reason is that this is a very fatally flawed piece of legislation and the very people who have worked in the trenches on the state and local level are the ones most apt to have figured this out. Another reason people have gone on record publicly is that AKC has refused to acknowledge very genuine concerns about this assault on breeders' rights and seems willing to settle for a bad bill thinking it could have been a far worse bill. The word "capitulation" comes to mind. AKC calls it "staying in the process," and is pushing a fantasy that supporting a bad bill is being proactive and showing the public we care.

We have a situation which has polarized members of the fancy and in which AKC has ignored its' own policies and its own constituents. AKC has also flip-flopped on whether or not it had any part in writing the bill. Part of the dog press has tended to parrot the AKC line that opponents are simply misinformed, hysterical or incapable of contemplating what one AKC spokesperson termed an "intricate" piece of legislation. In the meantime, one can only guess at how happy the HSUS and all the other animal rights groups are to see the fancy eating its own. Within our ranks, we also have several people who have made a career of speaking out and writing about "puppy mills." While they may not be card-carrying animal rights activists, they might as well be. That's all they think of... except when they're thinking of animal research, circus, fur, hunting, and all the other things they want banned. They seem to have endless hours to basically push the whole animal rights agenda, stopping just short of banning purebred dog breeding. If people spend enough time

spouting an animal rights, anti-breeding line, they become what they preach and cross over to the dark side. Stand on the edge of the abyss peering in long enough and there you go. Think "Star Wars."

On the other extreme, some of the newer activists urge a boycott of AKC. They have nothing to lose after all—they aren't AKC breeders or supporters anyway. Disagree with them and they shoot first and ask questions later. They know more than everyone about everything. They are out there on the newly formed Yahoo groups. They haven't yet figured out that if you're nasty no one is going to listen to you. These are the extremes. But extremists aside, there is a huge degree of frustration amongst some of the most legislatively informed people in the fancy as they watch AKC circling the wagons to defend a very bad piece of legislation.

I would like to address a number of concerns fanciers have. First of all, how did this come about? It all started in the late 80s and early 90s with the "puppy mill" exposes. The anti-"puppy mill" frenzy was the opening act as animal rights activists worked to paint all breeders as "puppy mills" and the fancy, using their own highly individualized definitions, joined right in. That's not to say there weren't plenty of bad kennels to see back then. There were! Something needed to be done. Fast forward to 2005—because of USDA and AKC these bad kennels have become the exception. In the interim, AKC's thousands of inspections have weeded out most of the bad players and improved conditions everywhere. AKC rose to the occasion and has made a huge, positive difference.

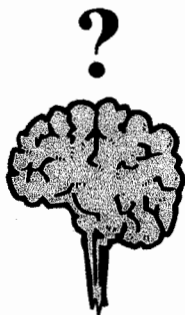
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# WHAT'S ON MY MIND

Did you ever notice that:

- the prettiest girl has the bite that goes off?
- the handsomest boy only has one testicle?
- the yard mysteriously grows a new mud puddle just after you bathe the dogs?
- its Wednesday at 1:30 pm and now you remember to do show entries?
- you run out of dog food when the store's closed and it's a holiday weekend?
- just when you get a few dollars ahead the dog-show van breaks down?
- the accidental breeding occurs when you already have too many dogs to run on?
- when your vet bill exceeds your credit card limit another dog gets sick or hurt and needs to be hospitalized?



I always prided myself on living a pretty good and clean life... but if at least a couple of these hasn't happened to each of you at some time, then the Gods must be angry at me for something! Summer 2005 at our house was something like the list above, but I have high hopes for the Fall... things are getting back to normal. Helen recovered well from her surgery, all the kids are healthy ("knock on wood" – I don't want to test fate!), the plans for the show are on schedule and in budget... and I'm almost caught

|                  |           |
|------------------|-----------|
| PROPOSED AGENDA: | SEPTEMBER |
|------------------|-----------|

Minutes of last meeting - corrections/additions

Report of the Secretary

Report of the Treasurer

Report of the Committees:

2006 Show

National 2006 - Callaway

Sunshine

Rescue - ACKCSC Rescue Trust

Unfinished Business:

Puppy Picnic

Supported Entry - Priceville, AL

PAWS Legislation

New Business:

Bylaws Amendments

# Lu Dunham

up on my office work. I hope you've all had a good summer, got some rest, had some fun and for those of you in Atlanta, have kept your heads above water... will the rain and thunder and lightning storms ever let up?

Please take time to read the article in this issue on PAWS as well as the information on the AKC and Georgia Canine Coalition websites related to the proposed legislation related to dog breeding/rescue and selling of puppies. Our board voted unanimously at the last meeting to oppose this legislation along with the ACKSC and many other specialty and all-breed clubs across the nation. We also oppose the AKC and Georgia Coalition's support of PAWS. As club members, each of you should make an informed decision about where you stand as individuals on this issue.

Also, as you will note in the minutes...

- we need everyone to make a point to visit our website whenever you have a minute, to increase our ranking and help our site be more accessible when someone searches on Cavaliers in Atlanta / Georgia etc.
- anyone with ideas for improving the website?
- anyone interested in working on program ideas for meetings this Fall?
- volunteers to do a "Meet the Breed" ? please contact a board member or officer...

See you in September....Lu

The Cotton Cluster  
Priceville, AL

CKCSC of Greater Atlanta  
Supported Entry  
November 10 -13

Huntsville KC - Thursday - Judge: Nancy Hafner  
Huntsville KC - Friday - Judge: Loraine Boutwell  
Decatur KC - Saturday - Judge: Carole Beattie  
Decatur KC - Sunday - Judge: Sandra Lex

Help support these shows - the Cluster is providing rosettes for WD, WB, BOS, BOW, BOB. Remember we get a check from the Cluster for every Cavalier entered.

**Entries Close 10/26/2005**

## PAUSING TO UNDERSTAND OBJECTIONS TO PAWS

In the history of all this, we then had the High Volume Breeder Committee in which AKC explored its relationship to larger kennels and commercial kennels. This was a courageous piece of work. The wedge that animal rights groups had placed between the casual breeder and the large scale breeder and the commercial breeder and AKC's failure to even deal with the commercial sector had caused a precipitous drop in AKC registrations with commercial breeders heading for many of the over 20 non-AKC registries that now exist. The High Volume Breeder report was the first step in coming to terms with what was going on, but even as the report came out, our own home grown activists started squawking away again about puppy mills.

Most people know that in the last several years we fought a really terrible bill, the so-called Puppy Protection Act, authored by the very same Sen. Santorum now trotting out the PAWS act. The PPA was pushed by activists who were aware Santorum's state, Pennsylvania, had a large number of Amish farmers breeding dogs on a large scale. Santorum was perfect prey for these groups. The PPA, combined with the Doris Day Animal League (DDAL) lawsuit against the USDA together would have gutted hobby breeding in this country. HSUS was thickly involved on this one working closely with Sen. Santorum. Most of us knew whom we were working against.

Luckily, AKC opposed the PPA and filed an amicus brief supporting the USDA. AKC worked hand in hand with the cat fancy, NAIA and other groups on this effort. The result of the failed PPA and failed lawsuit was that we now had a court precedent whereby the court supported the USDA in interpreting that the Animal Welfare Act was not meant to cover home based hobby breeders of dogs, cats, rabbits, and other pet animals but was intended to cover breeders who sold at wholesale to brokers and pet stores. It took years to get this decision and it was huge and it was widely celebrated, especially by AKC and certainly by all of us who had worked so hard to get that result.

Then came last fall and AKC's Lobby Day. Many of us who had spent most of our waking hours working on legislation were invited to Washington, DC for a seminar on effective lobbying and to hear AKC representatives, lobbyists and even Sen. Santorum's aide speak to us on the process and AKC's agenda. We learned many things. We learned that Sen. Santorum had had an animal rights activist as an aide and that during the PPA she prevented anyone from bringing to Sen. Santorum's ears any indication of the degree of opposition to the PPA. We learned she prevented AKC lobbyist Jim Holt from getting near the Senator. We also learned she was now history and the new aide, a nice young man with the last name of Stolfus had been open to talking to Jim. Jim told us that

he was working with the aide and Sen. Santorum on a new, good bill that we could all support. We were told not to bring up the PPA when Jeff Stolfus talked to us, we were told not to mention it. We complied. Then we were sent out to lobby the hill and we were told to tell our Senators and Representative that AKC would be supporting a shiny new improved bill that Sen. Santorum would be filing. We lambs complied because we trusted Jim. Obviously we did not know, and for that matter, we would hope neither did Jim know exactly what was coming down. But a better question was why were we sent out to lobby for something that was anything but certain? And I ask myself, in retrospect, why did I lobby for an unknown bill? Well, I trusted Jim, that's why.

Fast forward and suddenly on May 26, 2005, we have press releases from AKC, HSUS, DDAL and Sen. Santorum saying we all support PAWS! Wowie zowie! Imagine that, AKC and the very organizations that hope to end all purposeful breeding of animals standing in a line together. Especially shocked were all the people working on legislation that were clueless as to what was happening and especially clueless as to the content of the bill!

Standing and clapping were the "puppy mill" fighters who included some of our columnists who have endlessly written on commercial breeding using that term, content in the knowledge that they and only they knew what was best, along with all the animal rights groups. Did we have any warning or indication of what was coming? In retrospect, perhaps the notes in Dog News that Wayne Pacelle, head of HSUS, was handsome and well spoken and the suggestion we ought to form an alliance with HSUS should have tipped us off. There had been rumors that HSUS was attempting to court some prominent dog show people. Could it have happened? Did someone at AKC become mesmerized by the anti puppy mill campaign and the constant and articulate droning of the Trojan Horse animal rightists in our midst? Did some of them forget that HSUS and company are out to end all purposeful breeding of animals, or did they ever know? Did any of them note the irony of those of us in Massachusetts asking AKC to post a legislative alert on a state bill to regulate commercial breeders that would make anyone breeding more than one litter a year subject to Pet Store rules (a measure supported by HSUS) at the very same time they were announcing PAWS? And did AKC forget their strong allies in the Cat Fancy and other groups working away on legislative issues?

Now to PAWS itself, a measure we are told is good for dogs! What is good in PAWS is really irrelevant because it has a fatal flaw. The fatal flaw is that after years and years of fighting to keep the AWA and the 60-90 pages of regulations that accompany it out of the private homes of

# CLUB MINUTES

President, Lu Dunham, called the meeting of the Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Club of Greater Atlanta, Inc. to order at 7:24PM on 04-05-2005 at the Red Lobster on LaVista Rd. (11) Eleven members were present. Also, one guest attending was Bill Trapnell, of Atlanta.

A motion was made by Susan Robinson to accept the April minutes as published in the newsletter. Seconded by Susan Lewis. Motion passed.

## Secretary Report

The following applications were read for the second time; Applying for associate membership are Mrs. Susan Hardwick of Augusta, GA. and Meredith Webb of Atlanta GA. Applying for Regular membership is Lisa Stephens of Stone Mountain, GA. The membership voted unanimously to accept these into our club. Seven other applications were read for the first time: They are: Associate membership - Kim Jennings, Parma, MI; Valerie Cordock, Ledyard, CT; Carole Romanini, Cape Coral, FL; Jean Hill, Cape Coral, FL; Lee and John Chenevert, Alpharetta, GA; Larry Blackburn and Charles Ekstrom, Cape Coral, FL. And applying for Regular membership is Carole Conley of Gainesville, GA.

Correspondence from the AKC involving policy changes was read:

AKC Policy concerning Contractual Requirements for Commercial Filming and/or Electronic Transmission of its Approved Events. (April Board Meeting)

Operational Requirements for Commercial Filming or Electronic Transmission of Events (Board Approved Staff Policy)

Letter of explanation for Dogs Disqualified by Event Committee with accompanying sample of the applicable disqualification form.

Information sheet concerning The Use of Motorized Vehicles at AKC Events and the ADA

Letter from the Director of Companion Events concerning General Procedures to Follow for Rally Trials.

Event Operations letter explaining the February 2005 changes to the Board Policy concerning Clusters Back-to-Back Shows.

AKC Executive Secretary's letter requesting electronic submission of current membership list.

## Treasurer Report

Reported Balance in General Fund at \$8,973.44

It was reported that we have not received any word from IRS about our tax-exempt status after 120 days. The IRS was contacted and we were told it could be 200 days from filing. We should hear something by Mid-September.

## Committee Reports

### Show Committee

Lu went over the tentative schedule for the 2006 National show at Callaway and our show. She showed us the Logo's that have been designed for the 2006 shows. Both the National and Our Club logo have magnolias and butterflies added to the club logos. Reserved ringside seating will be available for fee. It is possible that we might be able to have the show televised on the "in house" hotel channel so that individuals could view the show from their hotel rooms. For updates regarding the 2006 National Specialty and more information checkout the National website at

# AUGUST

www.ACKCSC.org. Discussion as to who were chairman of committees and where help would be needed to place. There are plans to give "I made the cut" T-Shirts to all who make the cut at the National show. There will be a vendor there that can make the tee shirt and for an additional charge add your cavalier's name and/or class.

## Rescue

Susan Lewis reported she had a call about a cavalier in a shelter. After doing research she determined it was not a cavalier.

## Old Business

### Puppy Picnic

Discussion on when we were having a puppy picnic! Brenda Martz had volunteered to have one at her home in fall. Sue Hardwick tried to call Brenda Martz to check on a date but got no answer. This was tabled to next meeting.

## New Business

### Paws Legislation

Lu Dunham asked if we wanted to draw up our own statement either for or against the PAWS Legislation. Discussion was held. Alice Alford made motion that our club draw up our own statement opposing Paws legislation and send to AKC. Also, send a copy of this statement to the Georgia Canine Coalition stating that we oppose this legislation and urge the Georgia Canine Coalition to withdraw their support and to remove our name from the list of supporting clubs. Motion seconded by Susan Robinson. Motion passed. Lu Dunham and Helen Jesse will handle.

### Priceville Show

The first week in November is the Show in Priceville and we are the supported entry for Cavaliers. We need to make our plans to attend now -- remember our club gets paid for every Cavalier entered at these four shows and the clubs offer rosettes for the winners.

## Discussion

Susan Lewis advised she would like to see more programs and educational meetings at our regular meetings. Discussion held. If anyone has suggestions for this just let Lu or someone know.

Vickie opened discussion on Atlanta Journal and Constitution ads for Cavalier puppies and also puppies for sale on the internet and what we as a club can do about it.

Discussion followed; Alice Alford suggested we have Roxy Hayes get our site on the first page of an Internet search. Roxy has already advised Vickie that our website does not get enough hits for that. Suggestion was to ask each member to click on our club site as often as they can to help build traffic. By being on the first page of an internet search, more of the general public would be driven to our site and get much needed information about cavaliers before they buy. If anyone has suggestions on how we can educate the public let us know. Discussion held on having an education booth at a flea market.

Susan Robinson made a motion to adjourn and Steve Lewis seconded.

Motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 9:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Alice Alford, Secretary

## PAUSING TO UNDERSTAND OBJECTIONS TO PAWS

hobby breeders, PAWS does just that. It is a spectacular capitulation on the part of AKC. We have been told that PAWS will protect about 96% of the registry. While the 4% are aghast at being cashiered, AKC has failed to note it has relegated some very top breeders, some very elite breeders to the harsh USDA commercial regulations that require such things as surfaces impervious to water, i.e., no dogs in the house. No good breeder fears an AKC inspection, but a USDA inspection is a totally different ball of wax. Some at AKC appear oblivious to this and believe that if one is inspected by AKC already they shouldn't mind being inspected by USDA. Wrong. It is different. Let me just give you an example: at the height of his breeding career, Ed Jenner bred a lot of wonderful dogs with a great deal of love, with help, and with care. Ed would be subject to PAWS. Imagine Ed being told, no puppies in the house, no dogs in the bedroom. Imagine Ed hearing HSUS and its supporters calling him a "puppy mill" based solely on numbers! Ed is gone but there are some very great breeders who are with us who would suddenly be told they are commercial entities that must submit to USDA rules and licensing. Is it ok to sacrifice them to appease the animal rights appetite for breeder regulation?

We are told that PAWS will help control importation of dogs. I would say to you that there is a disconnect in that statement. In my breed, a toy breed, litters are small. Several of our very top breeders who serve as some of the few sources of top class stock for newer breeders would be collared by PAWS. Because my breed is difficult to breed and demand outstrips supply, people are already importing many dogs from Europe and Japan. They are importing them to show! PAWS will certainly help European and Japanese breeders by increasing demand since U.S. breeders will be limited because no hobby breeder in their right mind would want to submit to USDA rules and will simply breed less. Was anyone thinking about this?

We are told PAWS will not affect rescue. Think again! AKC has disseminated their opinion as fact. Lawyers with the Cat Fanciers have done an analysis of that situation. You can read about it here: <http://www.cfainc.org/exhibitors/alert-US-PAWS-rescue.html>.

The numbers in PAWS indicate that anyone breeding more than 6 litters or selling more than 25 dogs would be a dealer. Obviously people with large breeds like German Shepherds and Irish Wolfhounds, which can have 15 puppies in a litter, can't see a problem here. But some of the toy and terrier breeders with 1-3 puppies in a litter certainly can! Of special concern too is the really bad way the bill is written. DDAL is probably already planning out its next lawsuit over the word "or" and salivating at the prospect of lowering the numbers at their earliest possible convenience.

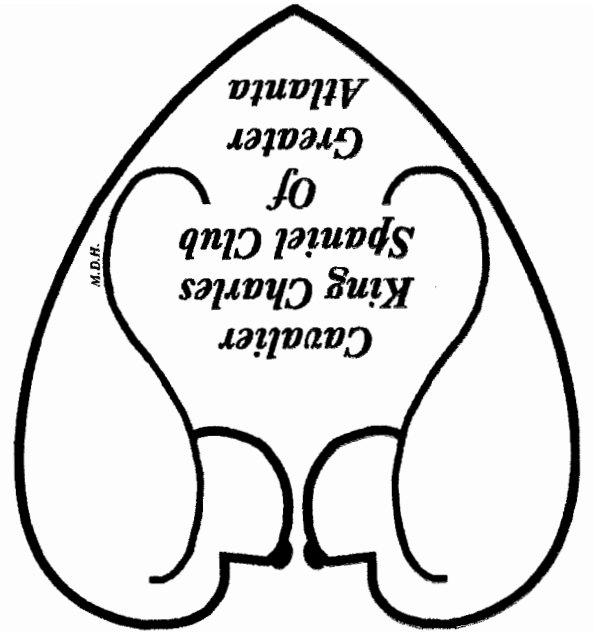
More than anything, Federations have argued nationwide when limit laws and breeder licensing laws have been proposed that home based hobby breeders are exempt under federal rules. This powerful argument bites the dust with PAWS. What was AKC thinking here? Did they ever think of telling Sen. Santorum if he felt Pennsylvania had a problem with its Amish farmers he could get some state regulations to deal with his particular problem rather than trying a federal sledgehammer?

I strongly oppose PAWS and I strongly support AKC. These two positions are not incompatible. To publicly oppose AKC' position on PAWS on this issue is painful. But to sit in silence would be a dereliction of duty. I have heard people say they oppose PAWS but are afraid that they may not advance as judges or may miss out on some chance to advance themselves with delegate committees or the Board or those who control judging panels of important shows if they speak up. Others are afraid to be attacked in the press as being misinformed or hysterical. I prefer to do the right thing, and the right thing is to strongly oppose PAWS. More and more groups and clubs are doing the right thing too.

Is there any way out for AKC here? It seems certain that PAWS is past any stage where the fatal flaw can be removed. AKC has only stated it has reservations about the numbers section. A notice has also come out distancing AKC from the actual writing of the bill. Past that, AKC is full steam ahead. It seems unlikely AKC can do an about face because it is so far into the process. But a reexamination of the impact of this bill not only on dogs but cats, rabbits and other animals and on anyone who has more than one species (dogs and cats) might outline the consequences that can ensue if this bill passes. Try reading Lawyer Jeff Helsden's legal analysis of Paws at the link following this article and then you may wish the Directors voting for PAWS had read it too.

Any suggestions that concerned fanciers are misinformed fails to do anything but inflame those who are trying to save AKC from itself. Having been accused of being an AKC apologist, I can tell you that those of us who have worked diligently to preserve everyone's rights to breed, own, show and have our purebred dogs do not need to be patronized by AKC communications. We are not misinformed or hysterical. We are strong supporters of our sport and we cannot sit quietly while AKC disassembles all that has been done on the federal level to protect our right to continue our sport without the government intruding on the very privacy of our homes.

*For more information and to find all of the links mentioned in the article go to: [www.dognews.com/mcgowan.html](http://www.dognews.com/mcgowan.html)*



Email: [oskot@mindspring.com](mailto:oskot@mindspring.com)

Helen Jesse

Address Newsletter correspondence to:

Hillsboro, GA 31038

2590 Dumas Road.

C/o Alice Alford, Secretary

CKCSC of Greater Atlanta

Address club correspondence to:

## Important CKCSC of Grater Atlanta Meeting Notice

### Red Lobster

**3937 LaVista Road, Tucker, GA.**

The regular general club meeting held on the first Tuesday of the Month – begins promptly at 7:30 pm.

If you need directions call Red Lobster @ 770-934-2645.