

Reneé Viehmann

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Sent: Saturday, July 19, 2008 9:41 PM
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Subject: Discussion Request for Next Board Meeting

July 19, 2008

Dear WCA Board of Directors,

Hello, my name is Reneé Viehmann and on behalf of the newly founded Blue Weimaraner Club of America, I would like to take a moment of your time. You may have heard about us through the grapevine, so let me tell you a little about ourselves. The founders of the BWCA consist of those who love the blue coat color of the Weimaraner. We have come together to protect, promote, and advance the best interests and welfare of the purebred blue Weimaraner, and to continue to bring their natural qualities to perfection through careful breeding practices. We want to educate and encourage those choosing to breed blues to do so responsibly and ethically. We also hope to encourage breeders and owners alike to participate in activities with their blues. Our website www.BWCoA.com gives a more complete objective and also lists all of our documents including our Code of Ethics and Breeding Regulations for your perusal.

The BWCA, its founders and members would like to request that the WCA allows a petition or vote by the WCA membership to remove the disqualification status of the blue coat color and consider splitting the Open conformation class to include blues. Below are a few points as to how this could benefit the WCA:

- WCA membership is down from previous years. The removal of the DQ from blues could bring in new members to the WCA.
- New members owning intact blues would be able to compete in WCA ratings tests as well as conformation shows, Futurities, etc... which means more revenue to WCA.
- Owners of blue Weimaraners may be more willing to become involved in the WCA and local Weim Clubs by volunteering to hold office, participate in committees, and volunteer for events.

A few other points that we would like to address are:

- The popularity of the blue coat color is increasing worldwide with blue's being sold in Canada, Germany and France as well as inquiries from Russia, Japan, China, and Puerto Rico on how to purchase one from the US.
- Blue Weimaraners should have to conform to the same standards as the gray Weimaraner. Currently, because the WCA does not recognize them, there is no control over the quality, standard or ethical breeding practices.
- Removing the DQ status on the blue coat color will greatly improve the quality of the blue Weimaraner over time.
- Legitimizing blue Weimaraners mean that puppy mills and BYB's can no longer advertise "rare" just for a buck, reducing their profitability.
- Reputable breeders producing blues means less BYB and puppy mill produced blues in rescue.
- The general public will have the opportunity to purchase quality blue Weimaraners from reputable sources.
- Since the blue color gene is dominant to the gray gene, only those who *choose* to breed blue Weimaraners will produce blue. Therefore, those who do not prefer the color will never produce it.

The breeding of blue Weimaraners has not phased out as the WCA had believed it would after the DQ went into effect. They actually have grown in numbers and have now spread worldwide creating more problems as the people importing and breeding the blues are generally not reputable, knowledgeable breeders. This will continue to hurt the breed as a whole. We believe the WCA needs to step forward to take control of the situation and pull the blues back into the fold thereby setting the standard for the blues as well.

Regardless of one's individual belief of how the blue Weimaraner came to be; whether it be from cross breeding or genetic mutation, at this point blue Weimaraners are 100% purebred. Casar von Gaiberg's importation to the United States in 1950 and subsequent breedings produced many top quality and top winning gray Weimaraners. The blue Weimaraner is still a Weimaraner and its decline in quality over the years is detracting from the Weimaraner breed as a whole.

There has been a lot of discussion on the public forums regarding the blue Weimaraner and its history. Some of the discussions were negative, but some were positive and educational. We believe that the members of the WCA, especially those new to the breed within the last 30 years, should have the opportunity to vote on whether the blue Weimaraner should be included in the standard.

Personally, I own a high-quality, well-pedigreed blue Weimaraner. It saddens me that

she cannot stand next to her gray-coated sisters and compete in the AKC conformation ring when she can compete in all other AKC sanctioned events as a Weimaraner.

As mentioned in the opening paragraph, the formation of the Blue Weimaraner Club of America is to help educate the public on the blue Weimaraner and to come together as a group to standardize and improve the quality of the blue Weimaraner. Our foremost goal is to persuade the WCA to allow a petition, or better yet go straight to a vote on removing the disqualification on the blue coat color. In addition, we would like to add a second petition or a vote to add an additional open class for the blue coat color.

If a petition or vote is denied or the vote does not go in our favor, our only other option is to seek new breed status. This is not as favorable of an option for several reasons:

- AKC will not accept a new breed from a disqualifying fault, so a new breed would have to be formed under UKC. Many owners prefer to stay within AKC.
- A new breed will take upwards of 15 years to establish.
- Over that time period, the situation could deteriorate even more as the popularity continues to increase with more BYB's and puppy mills leading the way in production.
- We own purebred Weimaraners and prefer to keep them purebred Weimaraners.
- As Weimaraner owner's, we enjoy training with, competing with, and walking with other Weimaraners and their owners.
- We enjoy helping to plan Weimaraner events for our local Weim clubs as well as supporting local and national Weimaraner rescue.
- If we no longer own Weimaraners, the connection will disappear and support for our local clubs and rescue will be redirected towards the new breed
- If we no longer own Weimaraners, then those of us that are members of the WCA no longer have interest in being a member and will allow our membership to lapse.

On behalf of the BWCA, its members, and owners of blue Weimaraners everywhere, thank you for your time and consideration, we look forward to hearing from you.

Reneé Viehmann
WCA Member
BWCA Founding Member