

OMISSIONS FROM THE MINUTES OF THE WCA ANNUAL MEETING

The following address and letter addressed to the AKC were presented from the floor of the WCA Annual Meeting held in Chicago in March. It was suggested that they be printed in the National Magazine and a copy was given to the Club secretary.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

My name is John Bartell and am called J. I am from the Los Angeles Area and am a member of the Southland Weimaraner Club.

Just so there will be no misunderstanding, I am not a big Blue Weimaraner breeder, no do I intend to become one. I own both Grey and Blue dogs and love them equally.

I come before you today to state some of my grievances, which also happen to be the same grievances of other members of our National Club.

We feel that the majority of our National Officers and members of the Board have not been acting in a fair and just manner toward all the members of our Club.

I have here a letter addressed to the American Kennel Club and a copy of which I will give to our Executive Secretary, Mrs. Thomack, and request that it along with the address complete with enclosures be printed in our WCA magazine as soon as possible. The reasons for my actions are that outside of the 3,000 words allotted to the proponents of the Blue dog, it is practically impossible to have anything, including full-page paid advertising, published in our National Magazine that does not adhere to or agree with the ideas and policies of the present majority of our national officers and board members.

Owing to the seriousness of this letter, I personally feel that neither one member, nor a small group of members have the right to make a report of this nature to the American Kennel Club.

Therefore, if our national magazine will be allowed to print this address and letter, the reaction received from all our members, be it pro or con, will enable all of our members to be in a better position to determine whether this letter should be mailed to the American Kennel Club or not.

I would now like to read your this letter.

1071 W. 190th St.
Gardena, California 90247

Board of Directors
American Kennel Club
51 Madison Avenue
New York, New York 10010

Gentlemen:

I, as a member of the Weimaraner Club of America, also being a breeder and owner of Weimaraners, feel that you gentlemen should be informed as to just what is taking place within our club.

I feel that the officers and directors of the W.C. of A. are not only biased, but also unfair to the entire membership of this national club.

It should be brought to your attention that our officers and directors have violated our constitution that was approved by the American Kennel Club.

I, as one of the members of the W.C. of A., was allowed to appear before our National Board Meeting on December 5, 1969 to state the cause for the Blue Weimaraner. Enclosed is a copy of that presentation. We asked that this presentation be published in our national magazine, the board refused to do so.

The board then published an official announcement under the heading "Secretary's Corner," a copy of which is also enclosed, in the January 1970 issue of the W.C. of A. magazine.

A letter to the editor, written by Mr. M. Reilly, pointing out the unfairness of the procedure (also enclosed) was also refused publication by the board.

In the same official announcement it was stated that the A.K.C. made the blue color a very serious fault. It is my understanding that the A.K.C. may reject or accept any standard or part of a standard, but the A.K.C. never writes a standard or any part of a standard, for a breed club. Recommendations of changes for clarification or correction may be requested by the A.K.C., but that is all. The board of the W.C. of A. has made an untrue statement for the membership to read and believe.

The official ballot that was submitted to the membership was so confusing that a true answer to the question "whether to disqualify the blue colored dog or leave it as it is" was unobtainable. One of our officers admitted that he was responsible for adding the word black to the ballot thereby causing it to read "blue or black coat." Not everyone knows that the black dog is a mixed breeding or a mongrel. The so called blue dog, on the other hand, is a pure-bred Weimaraner and reproduces itself.

The board of directors selected a nominating committee in early December, after December 3, 1969. According to our constitution, this was done illegally. Our constitution states under article V, section 4 of the by-laws: "No person may be a candidate in a Club election who has not been nominated in accordance with these by-laws. A Nominating Committee shall be chosen by the Board of Directors before November 15th."

Since the nominating committee was not chosen before November 15, it appears to me that all the candidates nominated by the committee are not eligible to hold office.

This meeting of the nominating committee was held one evening while the national field trial was in progress. Most of the members of this committee were participating in the events that were being conducted. I feel that it was an imposition to ask them to serve on such a committee having such an important function under these conditions. I would also like to add that one of the members of the committee told me that the meeting was held in the corner of a

cocktail bar and the meeting lasted approximately one hour.

I feel that this was not only unfair to the members of the nominating committee, but also to the entire national membership.

There is more that can be said and will be supplied, if necessary. Would the Board of Directors of the American Kennel Club please advise us if you are the authority that decides what is to be done in the matter. If the Board is not the one to decide, then who is?

Sincerely

John J. Bartell

In addition to the presentation to the WCA Board of Directors (which was published in the January issue of Graymatter) the following are included with the letter.

The Weimaraner Magazine, Jan. 1970

Secretary's Corner

OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

For some time it has been apparent that we must solve the problem of whether to accept the blue Weimaraner, or disqualify it, or take some other action such as classify it as a separate variety.

The lack of acceptance by some people of the club's membership vote in 1965 to disqualify, and the fact that AKC did not at that time accept that recommendation, left an increasingly unsettled condition.

AKC wanted different timing of action and a better color description than was then available, and so made the color a very serious fault.

As a result, and as a result of continuing requests by the proponents of the blue dog, the Board of Directors at their meeting on December 5, 1969 decided after serious consideration:

1. To hold a membership vote to decide between continuing the present standard listing the color as a very serious fault, or recommending to AKC a change to disqualify the color.
2. To recommend disqualification.
3. To allow 2,000 words for pro and 2,000 words for con discussions in the February issue of the magazine.
4. To allow 1,000 words each in the March issue for one (and only one) round of rebuttal.
5. To publish in the March issue the Board's reasons for recommending disqualification.
6. To hold the membership vote prior to April 30, 1970.

Since Mrs. H. B. Barnett has been the primary breeder and exponent of the blue Weimaraner, she has accepted the job of choosing and editing the material recorded in favor of the blue in order to have it fit the words allowed.

Mrs. Viola Thomack will edit material received from gray only proponents on behalf of the Board of Directors.

Communications for or against disqualification may be sent to Mrs. Viola Thomack at WCA Headquarters for forwarding as appropriate.

January 12, 1970

Mrs. Viola Thomack
Editor-Executive Secretary
The Weimaraner Magazine
Weimaraner Club of America
Greenway Road
Sun Prairie, WI 53590

Dear Viola,

Today I received our January 1970 issue of The Weimaraner Magazine and, having read the official announcement on page 5, decided to write a "letter to the Editor" which is neither pro nor con.

I do not know what went on in 1965 so I cannot speak of that. However, it seems to me that the schedule you listed in the magazine is grossly unfair to opponents of the Board.

Point No. 1 does not allow me or any other member of the Club to vote on "some other action such as classify it as a separate variety" as you state in the first paragraph.

Moreover, Point No. 2 states the Board recommends disqualification, yet the Board does not state its reasons. In fact, the Board's reasons will not be stated until after there is not opportunity to answer them (Point No. 5 follows Nos. 3 and 4). It seems logical that the discussion should be centered around the Board's reasons. It does not seem logical that everyone should start throwing out their reasons haphazardly. The Board may make a statement that is in error. There would be no way to rectify the error prior to the vote. The Board, it appears to me, is taking the position of a patriarch: "Let the kids fight, then we will tell them what is to be done!"

It also seems logical that the reasons for the Board's actions were discussed at the Board Meeting. Why have the minutes not been published? Does the Board first vote and then create reasons depending upon the arguments against the decision?

I, for one, would like to see the Board's reasons before I make a decision. But I would also like to have the opportunity to ask the proponents of the blue Weimaraner to answer definitively each reason the Board advocates. I can make my own decisions. It would be much simpler if this could be done in the open forum of the magazine.

Mike Reilly

CC: to all Board Members & officers, Mrs. H.B. Barnett.

The above address was put in the form of a motion, seconded, and voted on. Although, the motion was defeated, it was not withdrawn, and should have been published in the minutes. Feeling as deeply as I, John J. Bartell, do in this matter, I am taking this means of having this address and letter published with additional copies made that will be mailed to all the various Weimaraner Clubs throughout the country, to say nothing of individual club members. Should I receive a substantial amount of support on this matter, I will not only mail the address and letter to AKC, but also the correspondence I receive.

Let's all hope the nominating committee for the selection of officers for the coming year is chosen early enough, and their names and address published, so they can be contacted by the members with their suggestions. These members may have the names of several people who would be glad to serve and would run the club democratically and fairly for all the members and the welfare of our Weimaraners.

Another omission in the magazine was that there were 1064 ballots received on the Blue question, 588 for disqualification, 442 to leave the standard as is, and 34 ballots declared improper and not counted. This makes the vote for disqualification 588 out of 1064, slightly different from what was implied in the vote count given, but far different from the five or more to one ratio that was stated to be the case in 1965. Has sentiment changed that much?

Concerning votes, have you noticed that for the past two years, the total votes cast (or ballots received) have not been mentioned in the minutes and the unopposed candidates' votes have not been listed. Prior to the past two years, not only was the total number of ballots given, but even write-in candidates were listed, if any. Conceivably, a write-in candidate may have received more votes than an unopposed candidate, even if such a write-in candidate could not take office.