

## **Situations Regarding Dog Health at an AKC Event**

It is very important that situations regarding the health of a dog at an AKC event are handled properly. It is imperative that the proper steps are taken to ensure the safety of all dogs at the event. Below we have outlined some potential situations and a recommended action for each.

### **Exhibitor approaches Executive Field Rep, Superintendent, Event Chair, Event Committee Member, etc. and declares that a dog(s) under their supervision/care has a health issue**

If approached by an exhibitor stating that they have a dog(s) with a health issue as defined in Rules Applying to Dog Shows, Chapter 11 Section 9 (see below) the Executive Field Rep, Event Chairperson, and the Event Committee must be made aware of the situation. The Event Committee will review the situation and make a decision about the eligibility of the dog, as well as other dogs, to be on the show grounds as defined by Rules Applying to Dog Shows, Chapter 11 Section 9.

### **Person approaches Executive Field Rep, Superintendent, Event Chair, Event Committee Member, etc. and declares that a dog(s) NOT under their supervision/care has a health issue**

Advise the person to follow the procedures detailed in Rules Applying to Dogs Shows, Chapter 15 Section 1 (see below). If a veterinarian determines that there is a health issue as defined in Rules Applying to Dog Shows, Chapter 11 Section 9, follow the same procedures as if an exhibitor had declared that a dog(s) under their supervision/care had a health issue

### **Notification Responsibilities to the AKC**

If an Executive Field Rep is in attendance, they should contact their supervisor and make them aware of the situation. If an Executive Field Rep is not in attendance, notification should be made by the event chairperson using the Weekend Club Hotline, 800-252-7894. The Executive Field Rep supervisor and/or the Weekend Club Hotline should notify the appropriate Event Management staff (based on the competition type) of the situation. If an exhibitor is instructed to remove their dog(s) from the event grounds, the Event Committee should provide a written report to the Event Management staff within 72 hours of the completion of the event. The Event Management staff will provide instructions on the appropriate method (email or fax) to provide that communication. The Event Committee should follow their normal reporting procedures for all other situations regarding dog health at an AKC event.

### **Rules Applying to Dog Shows, Chapter 11 Section 9**

*No dog shall be eligible to compete at any show, no dog shall be brought into the grounds or premises of any dog show, and any dog which may have been brought into the grounds or premises of a dog show shall immediately be removed if it:*

*(a) shows clinical symptoms of distemper, infectious hepatitis, leptospirosis or other communicable disease,*

*or*

*(b) is known to have been in contact with distemper, infectious hepatitis, leptospirosis or other communicable disease within thirty days prior to the opening of the show,*

or

*(c) has been kenneled within thirty days prior to the opening of the show on premises on which there existed distemper, infectious hepatitis, leptospirosis or other communicable disease.*

### **Rules Applying to Dog Shows, Chapter 15 Section 1**

*Every exhibitor and handler shall have the right to request a veterinary examination of any dog within a show's premises which is considered to endanger the health of the other dogs in a show. This must be in writing and signed by the person making the request to the event chairman, whose duty it will be to direct the subject dog's owner or agent to take the dog to the show veterinarian if deemed appropriate. **Malicious complaints will be considered conduct prejudicial to the sport.***

### **Allegations of Malicious Complaints**

In accordance with Chapter 15, Section 1 of the Rules Applying to Dog Shows, any allegation that a malicious complaint has been filed will need to be reviewed by the club's Event Committee pursuant to the process detailed in *Dealing with Misconduct at American Kennel Club Events*. The Director of Compliance Support (Wanda Forlines) should be contacted if there are any questions about an Event Committee's responsibility in regards to disciplinary action of a person. The Director can assist either the committee chair or staff with any procedural questions relating to those actions.

### **Veterinarians at the Event**

Chapter 10 of Rules Applying to Dog Shows details the Duties and Responsibilities of Show Veterinarians. Included in that section is information about what to do if a dog is to be examined, including situations like those covered in Chapter 15, Section 1. The veterinarian must be available to examine the dog and any expense for a dog that is being examined under the Chapter 15 Section 1 is the responsibility of the Event giving club. The club would need to have the veterinarian on-site for the exam or the owner should be directed to take the dog to the veterinarian.

### **Required Statements in All Premium Lists**

To be in compliance with the AKC Board Policy (January 2004), the following statement is required in all premium lists:

"Exhibitors should follow their veterinarian's recommendation to assure their dogs are free of internal and external parasites, any communicable diseases, and have appropriate vaccinations. Additionally, clubs should include any specific local health requirements; for example proof of rabies vaccination."