



# Sound Judgment

Senior Conformation Judges Association, Inc.

Newsletter Vol. XXIV #1 May 2006

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Victoria Jordan-Leichner,  
*ex-officio*

## **SCJA ANNUAL MEETING**

### **AKC PROPOSED POLICY – RESTRICTION ON AKC JUDGES**

One of the major subjects which came up at our Annual Meeting last March in Louisville concerned the rumor that the **AKC Board was considering a policy that would restrict AKC judges from judging any shows other than AKC shows.** At the beginning of April, the SCJA discovered that this subject was to be discussed at the April AKC Board meeting. The AKC Board was actually in session when the attached SCJA letter was forwarded to the AKC Executive Secretary with a request that it be presented to the AKC Board before they left New York. This, in fact, was accomplished, and we have attached our April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2006 letter. *We have since been advised that our letter was received by the AKC Board, that the discussion of the subject was postponed and that the recommendations in our letter would be considered when the subject does come up for consideration.*

We can only hope that this proposal that AKC judges being limited to judging AKC shows only meets with the same fate that the AKC's proposal for an annual administrative fee for judges (we called it a licensing fee) did. We wrote a strong letter some months ago when this proposal came up condemning the action and recommending that it be shelved. So that the members can appreciate some of the issues that your Board gets involved with, we will attach that letter as well. In any event, rest assured we will keep on top of this issue. It is important that you furnish us your comments concerning being limited to judging only AKC shows.

Another subject that came up was the unbelievable requirements for an individual to apply for approval to initially apply for a Group. Although this has been published and implemented, nonetheless, the SCJA Board has agreed to voice our strong objections to a policy we find insulting to the basic intelligence of all of us. Any of our members that have followed SCJA's thinking through the years knows that we believe the requirements for the judges approval process are much too complicated and cumbersome for advancement and have made numerous recommendations that they be streamlined. We also believe that any number of people are eligible to start with a Group. We believe the AKC should have made the exception rather than to come up with this convoluted set of requirements to fit an individual.

### **CONCERNING AKC'S CONFLICT OF INTEREST COMMITTEE**

We have never received specific comments concerning one of our major recommendations that the threat of disciplinary action made to the judges be removed (front inside cover of the *GUIDELINES FOR CONFORMATION DOG SHOW*

## ***CONCERNING AKC'S CONFLICT OF INTEREST COMMITTEE*** (continued)

*JUDGES*). Two years ago we were informed in a most positive manner that this threat would be removed from the *GUIDELINES*. However, it still remains. We intend to follow up on it.

## ***SCJA ELECTIONS***

In accordance with our bylaws, the SCJA Board has appointed the following individuals to serve on the Nominating Committee for the forthcoming elections: Rita Bell, Chairperson (NY) ( 716) 337-3319 [charida337@aol.com](mailto:charida337@aol.com); Robert Boothe (TX) (432) 694-4479 [boothe1@apex2000.net](mailto:boothe1@apex2000.net); Margaret Braun (OR) (503) 690-3200; Alfred Ferruggiaro (MD) (301) 421-1930 [alf198@yahoo.com](mailto:alf198@yahoo.com); and Evie Sullivan (IN) (317) 862-6997 [ees-1@webtv.net](mailto:ees-1@webtv.net). Alternate is Paul Thomann (MO) (636) 225-7282 [pathomann@aol.com](mailto:pathomann@aol.com). The Nominating Committee has nominated the following individuals for the SCJA Board of Directors:

Dr. Richard Hilderman, Mr. Robert McKowen, Lt. Col. Wallace H. Pedé and Mr. Frank Wolaniuk

Article V of the SCJA Bylaws details the election process.

## ***UPCOMING EVENTS***

### ***ACEF JUDGES INSTITUTE      LAS VEGAS, NEVADA AUGUST 12<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>, 2006***

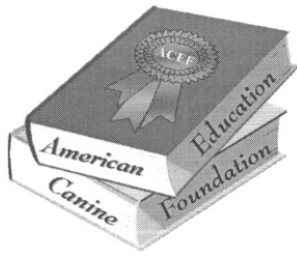
This will be our 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Judges Institute. The week long Judges Institute includes six nights hotel, lunch everyday except for the afternoon off, all breaks, class material, graduation banquet and graduation certificate. Tuition is: Local \$160; Double \$360; Single \$570. Full details are in the attached flyer along with a registration form. Our members and ACEF patrons receive priority for acceptance and a discount.

## ***GRADUATE INSTITUTES***

Group specific Graduate Institutes are planned for the Sporting Group and Hound Group. For those interested in receiving information as soon as it becomes available, please let us know via email [scja@cox.net](mailto:scja@cox.net) or [acef04@yahoo.com](mailto:acef04@yahoo.com) or fax at (703) 451-5979. Please put ACEF Sporting Group Graduate Institute or ACEF Hound Group Graduate Institute in the subject and always include a day and evening phone in your message.

## ***SCJA'S NEW WEB SITE UNDER CONSTRUCTION***

Our new web site should be ready within a few weeks, and we would like to encourage the members to refer to it. We intend to make it current and to include the latest positions taken by your Board. We also will include a very interesting historical section to include the actual letters, minutes of meetings and similar information so the members can appreciate the difference the SCJA has made in championing the causes for our judges. There will also be some pictures included in the historical section.



# A.C.E.F.

American Canine Education Foundation, Inc.

## 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Week Long Course CANINE CONFORMATION JUDGING

For: All Judges ***and*** any person wanting to increase their Canine Knowledge!  
Provisional Judges, Approved Judges, Aspiring Judges, Breeders & Handlers.

Where: Sunset Station Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas (Henderson), Nevada

When: Saturday August 12<sup>th</sup> – Friday August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2006

Tuition Includes: Six nights lodging, course material, four days of lunch, all breaks, and Thursday's Graduation Dinner. Tuition: \$ 380 Double    \$ 590 Single    \$ 180 Local

Course Covers: Anatomy, Movement, Judges Approval Process, Judges Ethics, and Management Guidelines for Judges, Ring Management and Procedures, AKC Rules, Regulations and Guidelines, and more.

*The ACEF is the granddad for judges' education holding the first week long Judges Institute in the country in 1989.* This is an unusual opportunity at a reasonable price to meet and exchange views with some of our senior judges, experienced breeders and fellow exhibitors in an informal setting without the usual hustle and bustle of the dog show scene. This is a must for those of you just starting your judging careers and for those of you judging seven years or less.

There are no restrictions on the number of breeds you are approved for. **Enrollment is limited and will be on a first come, first serve basis.** The ACEF Board of Directors has recognized since the inception of our organization that the majority of our future judges come from our experienced breeders; that the real expertise in the respective breeds emanates from the conscientious and dedicated experienced breeder. Even those of you who have only been involved in the Sport for a relatively short period of time will discover it is never too early to learn canine anatomy and the other fundamentals involved in the Sport. ***The AKC gives students full credit for attending our weeklong Judges Institute.***

For Further Information and / or a Registration Form Contact:

**Telephone:** Wallace H. Pede', ACEF Chief Executive Officer at (703) 451-5656.

**Email:** Nina Sherrer, ACEF Director of Education, [acef04@yahoo.com](mailto:acef04@yahoo.com)

(Subject: ***ACEF Jdg NV Institute***). WEB: [www.k9education.org](http://www.k9education.org)



# THE AMERICAN CANINE EDUCATION FOUNDATION

## COURSE IN CANINE CONFORMATION JUDGING

For Judges, Aspiring Judges and Breeders

Saturday, August 12<sup>th</sup> – Friday, August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2006

SUNSET STATION HOTEL & CASINO, Las Vegas (Henderson), Nevada

### REGISTRATION FORM

\_\_\_\_\_  
Last Name (please print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
First Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City

\_\_\_\_\_  
State & Zip Code

( ) \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone

( ) \_\_\_\_\_  
Cell Phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
E-Mail Address (please print)

**WEEK'S TUITION** includes: 6 night's hotel (Check IN: Saturday, August 12<sup>th</sup> – Check OUT: Friday, August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2006), four lunches, breaks, Thursday night's Graduation banquet, course material, and a Certificate of Graduation for each student. Individuals are responsible for nights other than the six nights scheduled. Advise the Sunset Station Hotel if you plan to be there for more than the scheduled six nights at (702) 547-7777.

#### CHECK ONE PLAN BELOW: ROOM OPTIONS

\_\_\_ 2 persons - double occupancy \$380 per person – for SCJA Members or ACEF Patrons \$360 per person

\_\_\_ 1 person - single occupancy \$590 per person – for SCJA Members or ACEF Patrons \$570 per person

\_\_\_ living locally (no room needed) \$180 per person

PLEASE FIND SOMEONE TO SHARE A ROOM Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_ SMOKER Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_

(If needed, I can share room with smoker YES \_\_\_)

I have made arrangements to room with: \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE NOTE:** If you are bringing a spouse/companion (to share a room with you) who *will not be attending classes and does not need a class book*, please print their name: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_. Their cost will be the same as a double occupancy.

They will have a "guest badge" and will be included in the lunches and Graduation banquet.

Unattached spouses may wish to participate in sight seeing tours during class hours.

**TRAVEL PLANS** (detailed info on hotel and travel directions will be posted on the WEB: [www.k9education.org](http://www.k9education.org))

\_\_\_ Flying. (Use Las Vegas Airport - LAS). \_\_\_ Driving

**BACKGROUND (check one):** Judge\_\_\_ Yrs. Judging\_\_\_ Breeder\_\_\_ Yrs. Breeding\_\_\_ Other:\_\_\_\_\_

Original Breed \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL TUITION DUE \$** \_\_\_\_\_ (MINIMUM DEPOSIT OF \$150.)

**AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$** \_\_\_\_\_ **BALANCE DUE \$** \_\_\_\_\_ No later than JULY 25<sup>th</sup>, 2005.

No reminders will be sent. Full refunds through July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2006.

**MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO ACEF. MAIL TOGETHER WITH THIS FORM TO:**

**ACEF – 2006 NV Institute  
7200 Tanager Street  
Springfield, VA 22150**

**SPACE IS LIMITED. Students paying full tuition will be accepted by date registration is received. Those sending a deposit will be prioritized by date final payment is received.**

**IN CASE OF EMERGENCY PLEASE NOTIFY:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name Relationship

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address & Phone (include area code)

\*\*\*\*\*

**NOTE FOR FULL TIME STUDENTS - unless you have a guest for Thursday night's Graduation dinner, this section does not apply.**

**FOR THOSE STUDENTS ATTENDING LESS THAN FULL WEEK**

Fill out name, address, phone number and all other pertinent info on front. (A limited number can be accommodated since we are obliged to utilize a number of sleeping rooms and classroom seating is limited.)

**Exhibitors, local breeders, all-breed club members and others are invited to the Graduation banquet. For those students wishing to bring a spouse, friend, etc. to Thursday's Graduation Dinner, please print their name, indicate number below and include cost in check.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Guest Name (please print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Guest Name (please print)

PLEASE CHECK DAYS ATTENDING (includes lunch except Tuesday)

Classes: Sun\_\_\_ Mon\_\_\_ Tues\_\_\_ Wed\_\_\_ Thurs\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ days @ \$45 ea. ....Due \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Room nights: Sat\_\_\_ Sun\_\_\_ Mon\_\_\_ Tues\_\_\_ Wed\_\_\_ Thurs\_\_\_ Total nights \_\_\_\_\_ .....Due \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
@ \$100 single/double

**THURSDAY GRADUATION DINNER** - number of people \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$36 ea.....Due \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Full Refunds through July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2006

**TOTAL DUE \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**IF YOU WANT CONFIRMATION, PLEASE enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope. You will not hear further from us until approx. two weeks before the Institute.**

**For Questions Contact:**

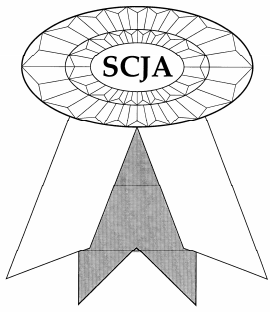
**Wally Pedé, CEO** - phone (703) 451-5656 / fax (703) 451-5979  
**Nina Sherrer** - email: [ACEF04@yahoo.com](mailto:ACEF04@yahoo.com) Subject: ACEF Jdg NV Institute  
**WEB page: [www.k9education.org](http://www.k9education.org)**

Date Received \_\_\_\_\_ Deposit \$ \_\_\_\_\_

ID No: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Received \_\_\_\_\_ Pd in Full \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Rm With ID No: \_\_\_\_\_



## **Senior Conformation Judges Association, Inc.**

Wallace H. Pedé *Chief Executive Officer* 7200 Tanager St., Springfield, VA 22150 (703) 451-5656 Fax (703) 451-5979

April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2006

Mr. Ronald Menaker, Chairman  
Mr. Dennis Sprung, President  
All AKC Board Members  
The American Kennel Club  
260 Madison Ave. 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10016

Subject: Consideration by the AKC Board to Limit AKC Judges to Judging AKC Shows Only

Dear Ron, Dennis and All Board Members:

It has just come to our attention that the subject of limiting AKC judges to judging AKC events only may be discussed at the April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2006 AKC Board meeting. This subject was discussed during the rumor stages at SCJA's Annual General Meeting in Louisville, KY last month; now that it has been fairly well confirmed, it was decided by the SCJA Executive Board Committee that the SCJA voice our strong objection to this unbelievable consideration by the AKC Board.

First of all, each and every AKC Board member is aware of Article IX of AKC's Charter, Constitution and Bylaws which gives the AKC Board of Directors the general management of the business and affairs of the American Kennel Club; however, it clearly states "that all the powers conferred by this Article of the Bylaws shall be exercised subject to all other provisions of these Bylaws" and equally important "and to the statutes of the State of New York and all amendments thereof and additions thereto".

A good many of you have indicated to the SCJA in writing that you agree you must abide by the above. First, we would suggest each of you personally assure yourself that the New York statutes allow for the exceptions to federal law concerning the interference with intrastate commerce as well as any restraint of trade.

In addition, AKC's *RULES APPLYING TO DOG SHOWS* CHAPTER 7 JUDGES SECTION 1 "Any reputable person who is in good standing with the American Kennel Club may apply for approval to judge any AKC recognized breed or breeds of purebred dogs, which in his or her opinion he or she is qualified by training and experience to pass upon, with the following exceptions:" ... **Nowhere does it say that anyone judging for any other organization cannot apply to judge.** One could easily assume on the face of it that none of our AKC judges could judge for Canada or any other foreign registry to say nothing of some of the rare breed registries here in the states. We would also assume that you would prevent anyone other than AKC judges to judge AKC shows. No more foreign judges! Perhaps if this policy is adopted, you are planning for a long list of exceptions. A question you should ask yourselves, "Where do the individuals gather their experience on the rare breeds that the AKC has approved in greater numbers than ever before?"

Dedicated to serving for the good of all associated with the dog world

This proposed policy would not have the significant ramifications for the multiple-Group judges, but we ask you to think of the newer judges just getting started that might judge two or three shows a year. Where on earth is he or she going to get their practice judging dogs? If the AKC really had the best interest of the sport and in an individual becoming a better judge, you should encourage them to judge as often as possible. On the other hand, if the AKC Board is just concerned with furthering its dominance over the dog world and becoming even more dominant, then of course you are on the right track, or perhaps this might be the proverbial straw that broke the camel's back.

Perhaps the AKC is concerned about competition? Everyone agrees the American Kennel Club is the preeminent force in the sport today and is an old and venerable organization with little real competition. In the event you are concerned with maintaining your dominance, you should not entertain the use of heavy-handed or possible illegal tactics to achieve this goal. For once, why doesn't the AKC Board have some consideration for their judges and look at it from their point of view? We have an AKC Board member on record as saying that the judges should be treated like employees and the President going a step further saying the judges should be treated as family. Now is an excellent time to apply this philosophy. Doesn't the AKC Board have enough real problems to solve without opening up another can of worms?

The SCJA strongly recommends this subject be squelched before it receives any serious consideration. We have been told that the thought behind it was that the AKC is spending so much money on judges' education that they feel like they are educating the judges for the other organizations. The AKC is spending money? **Have you folks any idea of the money the judges spend in educating themselves to meet the ever-increasing requirements for judging approval?**

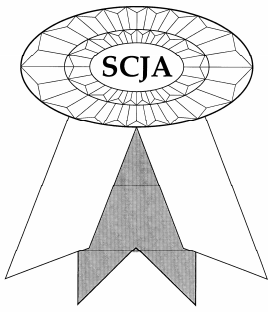
We were asked over a year ago by AKC's President if the SCJA would be willing to assume more responsibility and programs for judges' education. He stressed that it was just being contemplated without any firm decision. Nonetheless, AKC did abolish the judges education department, and the SCJA Board agreed to double the number of Institutes that our sister organization, the American Canine Education Foundation (ACEF), puts on. But the SCJA learned a few months ago that AKC's judges department will now assume that additional role. We have a separate letter on the subject of a Basic Course for judges; however, the subject of this letter (restriction on AKC judges) came up on such short notice that it had to take priority and be sent out in a timely manner in order for you to receive a copy before you leave New York.

You will be hearing separately from us concerning a Basic Course for judges which the ACEF has been conducting and refining for the past nineteen years. Up until now, all of the AKC requirements listed for judging approval have been based on what is needed to obtain additional breeds. Nowhere have any requirements and credit been established to learn the basics. Our letter will cover this.

Sincerely,

Wallace H. Pedé  
Chief Executive Officer

WHP/kms



## **Senior Conformation Judges Association, Inc.**

Wallace H. Pedé *Chief Executive Officer* 7200 Tanager St., Springfield, VA 22150 (703) 451-5656 Fax (703) 451-5979

July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2005

Mr. Dennis Sprung, President  
All AKC Board Members  
The American Kennel Club  
260 Madison Ave. 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10016

Subject: AKC Staff Proposal Regarding Annual Judges Fee AKC Letter Dated July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2005

Dear Dennis and All AKC Board members:

Reference AKC letter dated July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2005 from the Director of Judging Operations in which she asks for the Senior Conformation Judges Association's comments on AKC's proposal to the AKC Board for the imposition of an annual judges fee. Our intention is not to circumvent the Director of Judging Operations, but in view of the nature of our response, it is obviously a matter for the AKC President and Board. We will, of course, send a copy of this to Darrell Hayes, Assistant VP Dog Show Judges. No doubt the short suspense date was placed on the Judges Department by AKC officers or Board. The AKC letter was faxed to us after business hours on Friday, July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2005. It imposed a suspense date of "on or before July 15, 2005". With the long July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend, this in effect gave us 10 days to formulate a meaningful and responsible input to this very important subject which affects some 3,000 or more judges.

Before expressing our views, we would like to quote and adopt AKC Board member Carmen Battaglia's recent comments concerning his disagreeing with the majority of the AKC Board members on the "PAWS" issue. Carmen's comments are indeed well elucidated and most appropriate. We quote, "Let me begin by saying that when people in a family disagree, we don't divorce. We continue to support each other even though we differ on strategy. The right to dissent should not be confused with disloyalty." (end quote)

Along this same thinking, Carmen, and our now AKC President, Dennis Sprung, at a meeting some years ago, made the comments that we should "treat our judges as employees" with Dennis going one step further by saying we should treat them as "family". With these thoughts in mind, we would like to express our views on AKC's proposal to initiate an annual fee for judges even though we have no idea of details of the proposal.

On one very important aspect of this is that the letter is completely silent as to whether or not this proposed annual judges fee replaces the \$25.00 per breed applied for fee imposed on judges or if it is in addition to the fee. It also lacks any details concerning any proposal.

The SCJA first brought this subject up in our letter of March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2002 to AKC's President and the AKC Board of Directors. Here we are more than three years later, and AKC would like an answer in 10 days. In view of the holiday and judging assignment, we have not been able to contact all of our Board members to say nothing of our membership.

I have contacted Gerry Penta, ADSJ President, and he informs me that he will be requesting clarification as to what exactly AKC's proposal is. I also contacted Jeffrey Pepper, DJAA President, who was receiving input at the time of my call.

First, we will again make the point that the AKC is an IRS approved not-for-profit organization, and for the past 125 years has not charged a judge's fee and accepted administering the judges as part of their primary mission for existence. **The Senior Conformation Judges Association is strongly opposed to any annual judges fee (read licensing fee).**

Prior to approving an annual licensing fee for AKC judges, we would ask the AKC officers and Board members to consider the following:

1. Consider the administrative cost of this additional judges fee. Does it apply equally to all judges? The judges with one breed having one or two assignments per year, do they pay the same as our Group and all-breed judges judging twenty to fifty shows per year? We would hope not! Consider the administrative burden of keeping track of the ever-changing Groups and/or breeds individuals are approved for.
2. AKC Delegates cannot charge judging fee - do they pay the licensing fee? We would hope not! There would be an additional administrative burden of keeping track of the Delegates that happen to be judges.
3. The man hours that would be expended to keep track of the judges that have or have not paid their fee. When a judge does not, is he forbidden to judge? Does the AKC notify all the local clubs that have contracts with the delinquent judge?
4. Think carefully about the fact the AKC has, throughout its history, taken the strong stand time and again that they do not **license** judges. You would have a difficult time maintaining this position with a newly imposed annual fee for judges. We have driver's license, pilot's license, lawyer's license, a fishing license and many others, and now we would have a judge's license.
5. The AKC Board should be aware of the very recent Supreme Court decision concerning the limitations placed on the sovereign states concerning interstate commerce. No need to go into the details. Your attorney should be aware of it. Some people believe the AKC is presently involved in interstate commerce. The licensing of the judges would be added evidence of this fact that the AKC does business in all 50 states and should be registered as a foreign corporation in all 50 states. We realize you have been fortunate enough to escape this requirement. So you want to be careful not to add the straw that broke the camel's back.
6. Worth contemplating – how many non-government enterprises can impose fines and take away a person's livelihood without going to court? Certainly not General Motors and the likes. Only the major sports organizations and they have been granted a special exception to the laws of the land by the United States Congress. On the other hand, AKC's right to impose fines, conduct searches and take away a person's livelihood has been granted by the State of New York, not the United States Congress. Even the State of New York has imposed a caveat when granting the AKC this authority by compelling the AKC to abide by all the statutes of the State of New York and any amendments thereto. AKC, through the years, has gotten away with all sorts of questionable decisions including the one that the First Amendment to the United States Constitution did not

apply to dog show judges. (Some present AKC Board members should be well aware of the details.) On the other hand, some individuals question incidents that have occurred that allowed them to believe AKC's published guidelines for dog show judges applied to all judges except certain individuals. We believe the rubber band has been stretched to the maximum and is close to breaking. We wonder if the AKC Board has any idea of the number of disgruntled individuals within our sport.

We have checked with a few lawyers and granted there is room for disagreement, but they believe, and a good many of us agree, if you license judges, you make all of them professionals which entitles them, just like doctors and lawyers, to solicit assignments. There are those that believe they have this right at the present time and the licensing would be the proverbial nail in the coffin.

A huge part of the cost of maintaining AKC judges is due to the ever-changing bureaucratic and inefficient judges approval process. We are told you spend over a million dollars to weed out less than 3% of the judges applying for approval. Let's face it. The approval process needs to be streamlined and simplified. This, itself, would be 10 times more effective at increasing net income compared to the income received from a judges fee and without the further burden of administering the fee.

The SCJA, through the years, has made suggestions to improve the efficiency, including a 20+ page study concerning the judges approval process forwarded many years ago with input from the major players within the sport. Hundreds of hours went into its preparation, and no official reply was received, let alone acknowledging receipt of it.

**Our position is clear. The Senior Conformation Judges Association recommends no change in the long-standing AKC policy that no licensing fee be imposed on judges.**

Dennis, may we hear from you as to whether or not more time and discussion can be had between the judges groups, the AKC staff and Board to further study the ramifications involved concerning this subject? Perhaps a joint meeting of AKC senior staff, AKC Chairman of the Board and President with representation from each of the three judges groups could be set up. We certainly can't speak for the other two judges groups. We can't imagine them not agreeing to such a meeting; however, if not, **the SCJA is.**

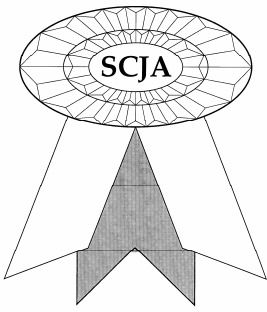
This letter will be faxed to AKC Secretary, Jim Crowley, with a request to see that it is distributed to the AKC Board.

Sincerely,

Wallace H. Pedé  
Chief Executive Officer

WHP/kms

cc: AKC Asst. VP Dog Show Judges



## **Senior Conformation Judges Association, Inc.**

Wallace H. Pedé *Chief Executive Officer* 7200 Tanager St., Springfield, VA 22150 (703) 451-5656 Fax (703) 451-5979

September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2005

Mr. Dennis Sprung, President  
The American Kennel Club  
260 Madison Ave. 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10016

Subject: AKC President Sprung's Reply of July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2005 to SCJA Letter Dated July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2005 on  
AKC Staff Proposal Regarding Annual Judges Fee

Dear Dennis:

Thank you for your prompt reply to our letter of July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2005. In our twenty-two years of existence, we have never had one of our letters written to the AKC President answered the day it was received. We do appreciate it. However, the two points you made in your letter need clarifying. They are the two points you attempted to clarify for me.

First, you advise us that your were forwarding our letter "to the appropriate party, Mary Ann Alston, since the Dog Show Judges Department is handling this matter and will be bringing it forward to the Board." Dennis, we received the letter from Mary Ann Alston, Director-Judging Operations (assistant to the Assistant VP Dog Show Judges) but our letter to you and the AKC Board said quite clearly, "Our intention is not to circumvent the Director of Judging Operations, but in view of the nature of our response, it is obviously a matter for the AKC President and Board." And indeed it is!

In the SCJA's twenty-two years of interfacing with the AKC and personally corresponding with eight or more AKC Presidents, there was little doubt in our minds that a suspense placed on the AKC Judges Department by the AKC President or the AKC Board could not be extended by an individual three echelons removed from you as President. Our next to last paragraph said quite clearly, "Dennis, may we hear from you as to whether or not more time and discussion can be had between the judges groups, the AKC staff and Board to further study the ramifications involved concerning this subject?" **You did not answer that specific request!** Are we to assume that you and the AKC Board want the short suspense date to hold? If this is the case, we obviously have no choice except to accept that you and the Board do not wish to discuss this proposed action affecting every one of our approximately 3000 judges and that you find it appropriate to ask us to comment on the proposal, the details of which we have not seen.

On the second point you make, Dennis, and I quote, "This is not a licensing fee. There has not been any thought or discussion of a licensing fee. The concept is an annual fee for judges based upon the numerous services and benefits provided." (end quote) Take a good look at our point when we said, "Think carefully about the fact the AKC has, throughout its history, taken the strong stand time and again that they do not **license** judges. You would have a difficult time maintaining this position with a newly imposed annual fee for judges. We have driver's license, pilot's license, lawyer's license, a fishing license and many others, and now we would have a judge's license." (end quote from our July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2005 letter)

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I thought we were clear when we stressed the AKC has, during our twenty-two years and long before, stressed for legal and other reasons that the AKC does not license judges and has consistently, on many occasions, argued that they do not. The above quoted paragraph in our letter just tells the Board (not the Director of Judging Operations) to be sure this wouldn't be another point in favor of those that say the AKC does license judges. I must say one of the SCJA's Board members did suggest we alter the original language of the above quoted paragraph. So perhaps it is wise to insert it here. In our July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2005 letter, we should have used the original language,

“ If it walks like a duck, if it quacks like a duck and if it looks like a duck, **IT'S A DUCK!**” Perhaps our original language would have made it more clear. Calling it a fee “based upon the numerous services and benefits provided” to the judges does not in our mind add enough camouflage to hide “**THE DUCK**”. Now, I trust you realize that the SCJA is not asleep on post; the SCJA realized all along that the AKC has never and continues to take the position that the AKC does not license judges. By imposing this so-called fee, we believe it would make it a great deal more difficult for the AKC to continue to maintain their long-held often questioned position that the AKC does not license judges.

One last comment concerning the letter from Mary Ann Alston. When I called Mary Ann, I reached her replacement, Pete Gaeta. I read Pete our letter and explained why our letter was directed to you and the AKC Board. I then called Darrell Hayes personally to extend him the same courtesy of advising him as to why the letter was sent to you and the Board. Again, Dennis, thanks for your prompt reply; however, we did think your response needed clarification less the fancy be left with the impression that the SCJA has been in the dark the past twenty-two years and did not realize the AKC has steadfastly held the position that they do not license judges. We just want the AKC Board to realize with this annual fee a good many of us believe it will be difficult, if not impossible, to maintain this position.

Sincerely,

Wallace H. Pedé  
Chief Executive Officer

WHP/kms