

Salem Area Dog Fanciers
Organizational Meeting #1
Thursday March 28, 2002
Dennys Restaurant, Salem, Oregon

In attendance: Judi James, Beth & Chuck Aylworth, Gary & Rikki Hoffecker, Karen Houle, Alice Watt, Amy Thompson, Theresa Kaminski, Gwen Mulheron, Chris Carter, Chris & Tom Levy, Georjan Bridger

Chris Levy opened the meeting by stating the reason for our being here this evening was to consider forming a dog club in the Salem area. There is the capitol of Oregon, but there is no formal club to represent dog fanciers here. Although many of us are members of clubs in Portland to the north, or Albany/Corvallis to the south, it would be nice to have a club right here at home to share our common interest with. Chris noted that she and Alice Watt reviewed the catalogs at recent shows in Linn County and found about 100 exhibitors in the greater Salem area. There is a club that was originally formed in the Salem area, but it has not held shows or other events in the Salem area for many years and the membership is closed.

Chris asked everyone to introduce themselves and describe their experience in dogs. Around the table were 6 AKC judges including one licensed for field trials, and one for obedience, and dog show/breeding experience spanning from 3 to 40 or more years in all seven groups.

Chris then asked everyone to discuss why a club in the Salem area would be a good idea. Among the needs expressed:

- No other club in the area
- Need for education of both members and the public regarding responsible dog ownership
- Resource to the community seeking to buy a dog; enjoy and train a dog
- Classes to education members and the public.
- Club helps mentor newcomers to the sport (and not so new ones!)
- Someone to watch the legislature and city/county government to protect the interests of the dog owning public
- Need to build a relationship with the local humane society and shelter
- Network to communicate dog activities in the area (we discovered there is a handling class starting at a local business and one of those present teaches obedience classes)
- Need to give back to the sport: If we show, we should also help put on a show
- Need for a local breeders directory and referral method

We then discussed what our next steps should be to form a local dog club. We discussed the need for a constitution, an application for membership and process to screen those applications, need to incorporate, need to define our territory, begin process of planning for member education, fun matches and fundraising, need for insurance, appropriate name for the club, need for AKC input on the process, need for a website.

Consensus was reached to name those present as an interim steering committee with Chris Levy as chairman and Judi James as recorder. The following tasks were assigned for the next meeting:

Chris Levy – contact AKC to find out their process for forming a club and solicit their advice. Also contact AKC Field Representative Harriet Borsuch and AKC Board member Patti Strand and see if they could attend next meeting.

Judi James—draft constitution and membership application consistent with AKC guidelines, set up membership list and distribute to all. Obtain information on incorporation

Alice Watt—begin search for a match site and possible dates. Some possible sites mentioned: a local school, Willamette Mission State Park, Cascade Gateway Park, Minto-Brown Park, soccer fields, Sublimity Harvest Festival Grounds, Willamette University

Rikki Hoffecker—contact Sublimity Harvest Festival Grounds and inquire about fees, availability, size, etc.

Everyone—consider possible names for the club that define our geographic locale, consider fundraising ideas, begin recruiting potential members, begin looking for other places to meet.

We then discussed when and where the next meeting should be. Consensus was to hold meetings on the fourth Thursday of the month, on a monthly basis. For now, we'll continue to use Denny's since it is centrally located and has a private meeting room.

Next meeting will be Thursday, April 25, 2002 at 7 pm, Denny's on Ryan St & Hawthorne, Salem, Oregon.

Meeting adjourned about 9 pm.

Recorded by Judi James