

## **USBCHA- DIRECTORS' MEETING**

June 17, 2020  
5 PM PST, 8 PM EST

### **Attending:**

Officers: Peter Hall, Linda DeJong, Marianna Schreeder

Directors: Mary Minor, Terri Warner, Jan Stebbins, Angie Coker-Sells, Wyatt Fleming, Faansie Basson, Kay Stephens, Mike Neary, Jennifer Bozanos, Linda Tesdahl, Lori Cunningham, Mich Ferraro, Sue Schoen, David Saunders, John Palmer, Amanda Milliken, Milton Scott, Louanne Twa, Dianne Deal, Laura Vishoot, Cy Peterson

Guests: Carol Clawson, Tracee Treadwell, Diane Sylvestre

### **President's Opening Statement**

Purina did annual contribution despite cancellation of the finals

### **2020 Cattledog Finals**

USBCHA National Cattle Dog Committee met May 27, 2020 unanimously voted to recommend cancelation of the 2020 Cattledog Finals. Minutes posted on BC Boards for review.

**Motion:** Terri Warner: Cancel 2020 finals

**Second:** Linda Tesdahl

**Passed** with no objections

### **2021 Finals**

Sheepdog finals at Belle Grove, October 5 through 10

Cattledog finals at Sandeen Farm, date TBD

### **Covid-19 Committee Recommendations and Discussion (Kay Stephens)**

**Recommendation:** Previously posted on BC Board for review by BOD. Lots of members have given feedback. Most members want to minimize rules. Committee is going forward with list of recommendations for guidelines ready to submit July 1.

PortaPotties seems to be a major concern for spread of virus. Carol had some recommendation to minimize risks. One suggestion was to use money already allocated to finals this year to give incentives for hosts to follow these best practices. Example: if host decides to follow recommendation guidelines, USBCHA could waive a portion of sanctioning fee.

Tracee Treadwell: Cases are back on the increase with multiple hotspots. Seeing outbreaks in rural areas driven by gatherings. Transmission still appears primarily through aerosols and masks are likely helpful.

Diane Sylvestre: Wanted to make the point that guidelines from committee comes from safety concerns for members and are not intended not to impede hosts and trialing. Committee is open to recommendations and feedback to make trials safe and tenable. They are providing the best information they have for the Board of Directors to take into consideration when making decisions.

**Discussion:** Each director was given a time to ask questions and give suggestions. Each director also thanked committee for their hard work.

1. Consider how to mitigate some of additional costs of meeting guidelines
2. Create a checklist of what the host is going to do to mitigate risks ex. no handler post, portapotties. This would enable hosts to decide what elements they could incorporate in their trial. Also could be way hosts can communicate to handlers what they are doing.

3. Need to consider regional differences especially in size of permitted gatherings.  
Also consider Canadian border is still closed at this time.
4. Question: What if trial host doesn't choose to follow guidelines.- will present question to committee to consider
5. Education is a key element- need to educate everyone why things are necessary.  
Rural areas feel less urgency to be educated about safety measures. Ex using masks to protect others and propping porta potties doors open when not in use.  
Suggested list of safety protocols.
6. Emphasis on safety of competitors and hosts.
7. Put forth scientific recommendations and best practices, taking into account regional differences. Treat competitors as adults able to make individual decisions after they are given relevant information.
8. Offer of incentives is better way to address the issues rather than directives.  
Guidelines rather than regulations. Leave up to hosts to use best practice.  
Support committee recommendations.
9. Need to try to get people educated and behind guidelines rather than enact rules. Need to consider Canadian border. Leave up to individuals to make own decision.
10. Concern if regulations not followed lay you open to liability. Make sure people understand
11. Guidelines with checklist
12. Waiver: Discuss whether to add it to membership application. Issue about what to do with non-members competing.
13. Best practices might be better than to call it guidelines- sound less like regulation. Get out best practices and waiver as soon as possible. Nothing we can do will take care of virus in porta potty.
14. Situation is changeable so changing regulations so frequently would be an unnecessary burden. Look at safety measures, realize there is always a risk but aim to minimize it.
15. Do we put a cap on how much to contribute to trials following safety measures?
16. Concerns about what to do if something changes drastically. Point made we cannot be enforcers of state and local regulations. If borders are closed we can't control that.

**Motion:** David Saunders: Resume sanctioning August 1<sup>st</sup> as previously determined.

**Second:** Terri Warner

**Vote:** Passed with no opposition

### **Covid-19 Liability Concerns (Carol Clawson, Lori Cunningham)**

**Presentation:** Expressed concern about previous inclusion of hosts in waiver.

Now suggest waiver covers only USBCHA. Possible have an on-line form for members to sign. Need to go back and review the waiver before posting it. Concern is that if hosts are not required to follow USBCHA guideline that USBCHA cannot enforce adherence and, therefore, waiver should not include hosts. Need to consider insurance-what would it cover? Waiver won't help if host disregards local regulations. Marianna will check with insurance. Discussed whether it is possible give a template for hosts to use. Carol advised against giving legal advice by providing a template but that hosts could copy and paste portions of USBCHA waiver if they choose and that would be outside USBCHA.

Will do another draft and present it at another meeting around July 1.

## **Finals Qualification Committee Update (Cy Peterson)**

Posted on BC board. Committee recommends letting 2020 points go as there is no completely fair way to do it considering patterns over the years as to what time of year dogs qualified. Many handers use winter to get ready to qualify in spring. There was no way for 2020 handlers to make decision to qualify their dogs early in trial year instead of waiting for the second half. Nursery dog- if aged out have the option of running them in open. Nursery should not be end goal.

Monroe can choose to have a non-sanctioned nursery trial for nursery dogs that qualified in 2020 or 2021, however he chooses to configure it but USBCHA will not be involved.

### **Discussion:**

Point made that some nursery dogs will never move up to open.

**Motion:** Cy Peterson: Let 2020 trial year go and start fresh for 2021 on Aug 1.

**Second:** Jennifer Boznos

**Vote:** Passed David Saunders only no.

## **Other issues**

### **Nomination/election of judges for 2021 Finals**

Suggested check with this years' judges and use them if they are available. Decision is to wait until January to contact them and make decision about judge nominations at that time.

### **Kunkel**

Voted to be permanently sanctioned. New letter has been drafted and will be sent out tomorrow.

## **New Business**

None

Peter will send out draft of announcement to membership. Board to review before being posted

**Adjourn Motion:** Cy Peterson

6:40 PST