

**President's Report
Dalmatian Club of America**

In June, the DCA membership participated in an important vote meant to help provide direction to the DCA Board regarding the club's future actions with respect to the "Backcross Project." As previously explained, the project, which is entirely independent of the DCA, involves the perpetuation, breeding, and testing of the progeny of the single Dalmatian-Pointer cross done by Dr. Robert Schaible in 1973.

Here are the official results of the membership ballot that closed June 30, 2006.

504 total votes

- 323 I am in favor of continuing the testing and breeding of the Dalmatian-Pointer backcrosses
- 176 I am not in favor of continuing the testing and breeding of the Dalmatian-Pointer backcrosses
- 1 abstention
- 4 invalid

First of all, it is gratifying that such a large number of members took part in the vote. Along the way, there were important questions raised and a fair amount of discussion and information sharing.

The next logical question is "What happens now?"

The DCA Board will be deliberating on this and other topics at our August meeting. In light of the membership vote, I expect that we will try to make progress in several areas

We will want to get appropriate information out to the membership, using our vehicles of the Spotter, our web site, and presentations at the National specialty. There is considerable information in a variety of locations and formats, and it may be wise to gather the best information together in one easily accessible place. Topics of interest would be the history of the backcross project, the current status of the project, the basic scientific issues involved, more in depth scientific explanations and issues, and various medical and other treatment options.

We will encourage discussions between members who may have differing points of view, and encourage input to the board from all concerned. In the future, we will be asking more questions of the membership, assessing their level of interest and support.

July 17, 2006

The board will have discussions with research scientist who can help guide us with a roadmap of how to study the many unanswered questions about the **pathophysiologic** mechanisms of the uric acid problem, and clarification of the pathways and factors associated with uric acid stone formation in Dalmatians. We will search out updates of the current scientific literature regarding DNA identification and novel therapies for genetic diseases.

We hope to develop a constructive relationship with those who are involved in the breeding and care of the backcross dogs, recognizing that as an independent entity, there may be occasional differences in priorities and actions from the Parent Club itself.

One thing I think we can all agree is that we want our Dalmatians, in addition to being beautiful, talented, intelligent and happy, to be as healthy as possible. Let us now discuss how best to achieve that goal.

J. Charles Garvin, M.D.
President, DCA