

October 11, 2008

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

The membership of the Dalmatian Club of America recently completed an important ballot regarding discussing possible future AKC registration of the descendants of the Dalmatian-Pointer cross.

The specific question was "Is it time for D.C.A. to discuss the possibility of AKC registration of the descendants of the Dalmatian-Pointer cross?"

The results showed 611 envelopes received, with 603 valid ballots.

Yes – 279	46.3%
No – 324	53.7%

I would like to thank all of the DCA members who made the effort to participate in the balloting. Many members spent a great deal of time and effort on all aspects of this subject; learning, gathering and sharing information and opinions. The issue was discussed at great lengths in the Spotter, at the DCA Annual meetings, and on the DCA membership e-list as well as several other e-lists. The discussions were, for the most part, valuable and informative, though some of the comments drifted too much toward attacking individual personalities.

It is important to note that even the most inappropriate comments did not reach the level of antagonism and personal attacks that were, unfortunately, present during similar debates in the early 1980's. Again, the club members deserve credit for keeping the discussions mostly in bounds.

DCA is now faced with the question of "Where do we go from here?" As I noted in the explanatory cover letter to the ballot:

"If the vote is negative, DCA will continue to encourage discussion on the topics of the low uric acid progeny, and support further testing, research and education, but take no action regarding possible future AKC registration."

It is difficult to extract clear meaning from the results of any ballot, as there can be many reasons to vote "No" or "Yes" on the question. For some members there are still questions and concerns about the low uric acid dogs and breeding programs that at this time have not yet been adequately investigated or satisfactorily answered, and there are some questions that were answered, but whose answers, to some, may not be deemed acceptable. Others are comfortable with what is known, and ready to proceed further towards investigating AKC registration.

If there is interest in continuing to learn about the LUA dogs and breedings, and the ballot results from 2006 and 2008 indicate that there is, then we will need to work together to identify what unanswered questions still exist, and the best methods for answering those questions.

Some questions may not have answers everyone likes. Our challenge will be to then compare the potential benefits versus adverse consequences, and to compare what is known versus what is not known – and may never be known.

During the three years that we have been actively discussing these issues, the Board and I have followed three basic concepts:

1. Keep the membership informed.
2. Listen to the membership.
3. Follow the mandates of the membership.

The Board has done their part; the membership has done their part. There have been lively and active discussions, but there has been no crisis and there has been no chaos. In the long run, the Dalmatian Club of America will be better off because of the process by which this issue was handled.

By continuing to all work together, we can contribute to further progress while enhancing the strength, effectiveness, and vitality of our parent club. Again, thanks to everyone who participated in this challenging endeavor, and is willing to continue to work on more upcoming club issues and projects.

J. Charles Garvin, M.D.
President
Dalmatian Club of America