



LINES FROM LINDA

by LINDA AYERS TURNER KNORR

Doug Ljungren, AKC Vice President of Sports and Events, delighted the Delegate body in a recent speech announcing the formation of the new AKC Club Development Department! Formed to assist clubs, this team will be an answer to the prayers of many who have longed for more resources, guidance and support from our American Kennel Club. Here's what he said:

"Clubs are the cornerstone of AKC events and have a major impact on the success of AKC sports. On occasion, unique issues arise that can be difficult for a club to address on its own. In order to provide assistance when needed, the AKC has created a new unit called the Club Development Department. Its purpose will be to work cooperatively with clubs to address challenging situations and enhance their ability to hold quality events.

"The functions of the Club Development Department will include:

- Champion the Best Practices being developed by Delegate Committees and communicate the successes being experienced by other clubs.
- Proactively reach out to clubs when trends or feedback indicates assistance may be helpful.
- Develop educational material to pass on the knowledge needed by new event committee members.



"...ANNOUNCING THE FORMATION OF THE NEW AKC CLUB DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT!"



AKC Club Development Team: Doug Ljungren, Vice President of Sports and Events meeting with Guy Fisher, Club Development Manager and Glenn Lycan, Director of Event Operations Support. Glenn Lycan is the head of AKC's exciting new Club Development Department.

EXCITING NEWS FOR THE NEW YEAR: AKC CLUB DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

AKC CODE OF SPORTSMANSHIP

- Work with clubs to address issues regarding the loss of show sites or cluster partnership problems.
- Assist clubs in exploring the feasibility of adding special attractions or complimentary events. This can range from adding 4-6 month puppy classes, NOHS or Open Shows to dock diving, fast CAT or other new events AKC has in the works.
- Champion B-Matches. Assist clubs in developing pre-event publicity and follow-up with success stories.
- Mentor new clubs during their start-up process or when adding new event types.

“...One of the first special projects to be undertaken by the Club Development Department is to reemphasize the importance of the AKC Code of Sportsmanship.”

“Sportsmanship is essential to the long-term health of our sports,” said Ron Menaker, Chairman of the Board of Directors. “We must never compromise our commitment to fairness, respect and a sense of fellowship.”

“Superintendents will be provided large poster boards with the Code of Sportsmanship to be displayed at events. A smaller size will also be available. Interested clubs may obtain these free of charge by contacting the Club Development Department.” (See AKC Code located on the right.)



Ron Menaker, Chairman of the AKC Board of Directors emphasizes Sportsmanship and Club Development go hand in hand.

PREFACE: The sport of purebred dog competitive events dates prior to 1884, the year of AKC’s birth. Shared values of those involved in the sport include principles of sportsmanship. They are practiced in all sectors of our sport: conformation, performance and companion. Many believe that these principles of sportsmanship are the prime reason why our sport has thrived for over one hundred years. With the belief that it is useful to periodically articulate the fundamentals of our sport, this code is presented.

- Sportsmen respect the history, traditions and integrity of the sport of purebred dogs.
- Sportsmen commit themselves to values of fair play, honesty, courtesy, and vigorous competition, as well as winning and losing with grace.
- Sportsmen refuse to compromise their commitment and obligation to the sport of purebred dogs by injecting personal advantage or consideration into their decisions or behavior.
- The sportsman judge judges only on the merits of the dogs and considers no other factors.
- The sportsman judge or exhibitor accepts constructive criticism.
- The sportsman exhibitor declines to enter or exhibit under a judge where it might reasonably appear that the judge’s placements could be based on something other than the merits of the dogs.
- The sportsman exhibitor refuses to compromise the impartiality of a judge.
- The sportsman respects the AKC bylaws, rules, regulations and policies governing the sport of purebred dogs.
- Sportsmen find that vigorous competition and civility are not inconsistent and are able to appreciate the merit of their competition and the effort of competitors.
- Sportsmen welcome, encourage and support newcomers to the sport.
- Sportsmen will deal fairly with all those who trade with them.
- Sportsmen are willing to share honest and open appraisals of both the strengths and weaknesses of their breeding stock.
- Sportsmen spurn any opportunity to take personal advantage of positions offered or bestowed upon them.
- Sportsmen always consider as paramount the welfare of their dog.
- Sportsmen refuse to embarrass the sport, the American Kennel Club, or themselves while taking part in the sport.



“ WE WILL DO OUR BEST TO RESPOND AND PROVIDE RELEVANT EXAMPLES AND GIVE CLUBS OPTIONS. ”

GLENN LYCAN

Director of Event Operations Support

Ljungren said, “The head of the Club Development Department will be Glenn Lycan, Director of Event Operations Support. Working with Glenn will be Guy Fisher, Club Development Manager.”

A second generation member of the sport, Glenn Lycan’s family was already involved with Samoyeds when he was born. The first AKC event he attended was in 1967 in Illinois. Throughout his youth his parents bred Samoyeds. Glenn was their kennel boy. After several years of caring and showing Samoyeds and friends’ dogs of various breeds, he went to work for Houston and Toddie Clark. When the Clarks retired in the mid 80s, Glenn and his wife, Rebecca, moved to Griffin, Georgia and opened a kennel and handling business. They joined the Griffin Kennel Club and became active members. During those years, they would attend an average of 140 shows a year.

In 2002 Glen was hired by the AKC as the Associate Director of Special Services, the subject matter experts for the AKC. After a year, he was promoted to the Director of the Companion Animal Recovery affiliate for the AKC (CAR at the time, now Reunite). In 2004 he came back to AKC to run the Case Management (compliance side of registration) and DNA departments (registration verification and business to consumer product services). These two departments account for over 100,000 communications a year. In 2012, the AKC

added the customer service department to his list of duties, adding the responsibility of close to 500,000 communications per year and quadrupling the staff reporting to him.

After a couple more years, in 2015, Lycan came full circle back to the job he originally sought in 2002, Director of Events Operations Support. His job function is to support his Co-Director, Alan Slay, and provide additional support for Superintendents and Clubs. A natural step to support clubs was to create a department specifically designed to help clubs succeed.

Now the AKC has added the Club Development Department to the events division and named Lycan Head of the Department, along with his event support duties.

Glenn feels passionately about meeting clubs’ needs. Here’s what he had to say, “The main point I want to come across is that we are here to help clubs; no question is wrong. We will do our best to respond and provide relevant examples and give clubs options. If the question needs to be reviewed by a different department, we will handle getting it to the right group and making sure it gets answered.”

GUY H. FISHER

Club Development Manager

As member of the Professional Handlers Association (PHA), the AKC Registered Handlers Program and the Dog Handlers Guild (DHG), Guy H. Fisher has enjoyed a successful handling career highlighted partly by the campaigns of several top dogs in their respective breeds and by numerous Best in Show wins. He also became a licensed AKC Judge of Junior Showmanship. Guy continued the tradition with the help of his children, Taylor, Jacklyn, Joshua and Samantha. Participating in the Jr. Handlers Program, as well as assisting Guy, has instilled a love of the sport into the whole Fisher family. Guy handled and finished championships in all seven groups and has had top twenty contenders in many of them.

In June of 2014, Guy came to work for the American Kennel Club as an Executive Field Representative. His involvement in all breed kennel clubs covers a full range of all offices, as well as show chairman. He was, and still is, an active member of his national breed clubs and all breed clubs that he and his family have participated in before. In December of 2016, Guy accepted the position of Club Development Manager and is looking forward to helping any club with their needs.

Doug Ljungren emphasized, “Creating an organizational champion for clubs will provide the resources and focus that is consistent with the importance that clubs have to our future. If your club is facing challenges or is seeking advice, please feel free to contact the Club Development Department at ClubDevelopment@akc.org.”

AKC has answered a huge need for clubs! What a way to begin our New Year! Hope yours will be the best ever! ■

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