

Bracco Italiano Club of America General Membership Meeting

DATE: Monday April 11th, 2022

7:30pm eastern

Called to Order 7:35pm Eastern

Roll Call: Jennifer Caban Secretary- Attendees: Jennifer Caban, Jeff Lemmenes, Bob Gross, Aline Pearl, Claire Philpott, Courtney Bastian, Gary Lewis, Kailee Joyner, John Kavalier, Sonia Wehner, Bobbi Benson, Lisa Erb, Marilyn Vinson, Charlie Calisto, Jack Hague

Report of Treasurer: John Kavalier

- a. Club financials report: The club balance is in great shape, the current balance of \$22,980.58. There have been no outgoing expenses to Nationals planning yet, and no major expenditures at this time. No question on the treasurer's report raised by membership.

Committees Reports

- **National Specialty Planning Committee**- Members were polled on the timing of the event and the majority choose to postpone the event until spring 2023, there will be no National Specialty held in 2022. The planning committee is currently working on the event to be held toward the end of April 2023. They want to host AKC events to include a Hunt Test and Conformation as well as host an Italian judged Hunt and Show. They are working to secure a merchandise vendor again for this event. The committee meets on Wednesdays to plan and are working out details of scheduling at this time. They are trying to get something out to the membership ASAP with plenty of time to plan for attendance. – No questions raised by membership at this time.
- **Rescue Committee**- In a report from our chair, Deanna Jennifer reported there was 1 rescue to come through recently an 18 month old neutered male. The dog was in the Carolinas and was rehomed to a family in NC. The new owner has agreed to make a donation to the club for rescue funds. Bobbi asked what the amount of the donation was. Jennifer stated she would need to check back with Deanna regarding that answer, it was thought to be \$250 but Jennifer didn't have that specifically handy at the meeting. Bobbi and Claire suggested that fee might be increased to be sure the dog is appropriately placed and not "too cheap" to get a Bracco. Charlie Calisto stated he felt the fee was appropriate that the intent is to be sure the dog finds a suitable forever home and not to make money. Marilyn mentioned that donations can be made by anyone at any time to the rescue funds and if we feel we need to do fundraisers that is a better option than increasing the fee on dogs who need homes. It was asked if we knew who the breeder of this dog was and if they were contacted? We were told the breeder was Seth Probst but Jennifer was not sure of the process of contacting the breeder by the rescue committee and will ask that as well. Jack Hague asked if there were any ramifications to breeders not willing to take back puppies/dogs in a rescue situation. This particular breeder is not a BICA member so there is little we can do but assist the dog. Jack asked if we could keep a listing of these types of incidents to be used if a breeder chooses to join the club we could have that as a red flag. Marilyn asked if we had a documented process and rules for how the rescues

are handled. Gary will check to see if we have this documented. If we do not this is something we can work with Deanna to create for future use. Charlie Calsito 2nd that he would like the processes documented. Gary and Jennifer will follow up with Deanna and report back for the next membership meeting.

Additional take away- It was asked why would the club promote any breeder who isn't in the club- Gary stated as a club we do not promote any breeders as preferred over another but we do not list or allow listings on the site for non-member breeders. We are working to encourage our club breeders to be listed on the website so that we can use this as the go to place to recommend new owners start looking. Jennifer stated it was sent out to all club members that the fees to be listed on the breeder site or stud dog site were waived and we wanted all our folks to be listed, they need to step up and be on the website if they want this to be the source for new owners shopping for a puppy. Courtney stated it is not worth paying a fee to be listed if you are not actively breeding. Jennifer again mentioned the fee was waived but will remove that from the application listed on the website. Bob Gross asked if we had a "Responsible Breeder" logo or something of that sort that can be used by members to post on their websites etc. showing they are approved breeders by BICA. That is not something we currently do, but OFA would be a source for something like that, and the CHIC program. Marilyn also mentioned AKC has the breeder of merit logo. Courtney mentioned that the CHIC program means all of the health testing by breed was completed and it doesn't ensure the results of the tests are good results. Bob stated it is up to the puppy buyers to do their due diligence and look at the OFA results, we can lead folks to OFA searches on sires and dams. Claire also mentioned the overseas breeders are starting to do more health testing and posting results. Marilyn mentioned that of the 549 Bracco AKC shows registered, 271 have results in OFA and only 17 have CHIC we need to get more owners on board with using that program. Bob asked if only OFA was listed or if it also showed PennHip- there is a fee but Pennhip results can be added to records.

- **Hunting Committee** No major advances on this committee. They are working to establish guidelines for the Bella Bravo award and will set a separate committee for that task. If anyone wants to do regional get together or hunt training etc. we can get the word out and promote such events to membership. Bob Gross possibly interested in hosting a Bracco Day in VT where he guides in fall, he will be in touch as the time approaches. Jack Hague was asked to be on hunting committee but has heard little to nothing on this, Gary will work to get a more established communication to this group. There have been no formal meetings so far. We need to get this up and going so that we can encourage folks to learn this aspect of the Bracco or for those seasoned set up the mentorship program to help others. Claire mentioned a possible NAVHDA event in MI, Kailee mentioned a possible site to do a gathering in NC on hunting grounds with bird access.
- **Health Committee** Amanda Inman continues to work on the Kidney research studies. She is working with the Bracco club in the UK to expand the research and is working to get international studies on dogs as well. Continued efforts are being made to get grants and funding for the research.
- **Judges Education Committee** Lisa Moller is currently the chair (not on call). Kailee mentioned she emailed Lisa about an upcoming opportunity in Raleigh in fall and we need a presenter. Claire mentioned she can help up in MI events but didn't feel she was a strong speaker herself. Club is working with AKC on the Canine College if members have any photos or videos or

suggestions of dogs here or overseas they feel are strong examples of the breed please email those to Amanda Inman for review and potential inclusion-must have rights to use the photo/video.

- **International Committee** Allison (not on call) has made several posts on FB with videos etc. from Italy.

AKC Full Status- BICA will be having supported entry for the clusters in Oklahoma City, OK and Doswell, VA the first weekend of full recognition (June29th-July3rd). Kailee will throw together a flyer to post on social media to encourage attendance.

Bylaws review- this is being worked on by the board and will be presented to membership for a vote of any suggested changes once completed. Once voted on by membership this will be sent to AKC. Call set for the board to discuss on April 14th- more to follow that call.

-If members are interested in hosting Regional Gatherings please let the club know so that we can get info out to the membership. These can be informal get together, hunting days, training events or building entries at shows or other competitions.

Many opportunities to get the breed and club out there. Courtney mentioned it might be worth looking into the club paying for a booth at Pheasant Fest next year. Should be in Minneapolis next year due to the rotation of the event.

Try to find and encourage members to attend things like chucker challenges, meet the breed events, hunting show cases etc. Claire and Jack could host an across the borders event if things open back up for international travel to be easier.

Any Old business not addressed. None raised

Any new business None raised not already covered under above topics.

Meeting adjourned 9:02 pm Eastern.