

Friday, May 12, 2006. New York, NY

The American Kennel Club Board of Directors has adopted a new Judging Conflict of Interest Policy, effective January 1, 2007. AKC believes that it has the best judges in the world and expends millions of dollars

a year to administer its judging approval system to ensure that quality remains high.

"AKC judging approval confers a certain status on an individual and with

such status comes an enormous responsibility to both AKC and the Sport as governed by AKC," said President and CEO Dennis B. Sprung.

The policy states, with some notable exceptions, that AKC approved judges should be focused on judging and supporting AKC events.
Approved

judges should not have a significant interest in another registry that is in direct conflict with AKC or be judging for another event-giving organization to the possible detriment of events held by AKC member and

licensed clubs.

The complete policy and Frequently Asked Questions are available on the AKC website, www.akc.org.

MASTER NATIONAL RETRIEVER CLUB. The newsletter for the Master National RC is now available online at www.masternational.com. Included in the current issue is the proposed plan for managing the number of entries at

Master National events which involve a series of regional tests. If, after you've read the proposal, you have opinions about it, you can contact Bill Teague, Regional Vice President for Region III (GRCA's region), at tal@hughes.net.

2006 NATIONAL. The Kansas City Golden Retriever Club, host for this year's National, has really outdone themselves in offering great merchandise for sale. In addition to T-shirts and sweatshirts with the "jazzy" logo, and the highly acclaimed DVD on puppy raising and evaluating, they are also offering spiffy black flip flops with goldens along the straps. You'll want to be among the first to own these, so go

to the GRCA store at <http://www.grca-store.com/grca-store/productthumbnails.asp> and place your order. Merchandise is shipped promptly.

National Catalog Ad Deadline: July 19th is rapidly approaching! Don't miss your chance to blow your horn in the biggest show of the year. Let

your star performers solo, sing the blues for departed friends, or just

jam with the band and wish everyone well. Be part of all that jazz in Kansas City by putting your ad in the catalog. Get all the details on line at <http://www.kcgrc.org/advertising.htm>. Don't wait! This number wraps on July 19th!

We've heard some concerns about grooming space at the National. Inside grooming spaces are already full, but KC has rented a tent for outside grooming. You can also bring a generator and set up in the parking lot--no charge. As not every dog will be groomed every day, please be considerate of your golden relatives and offer to share grooming space. If a person in your club has just one dog in one class, surely they could use your table for an hour...and maybe they'll even chip in for the price. If you read Cheryl Minnier's interview with Ken Matthews and

Wayne Miller in the March/April issue of the News, you'll recall that they had to squeeze in to the limited grooming space at Westminster. And

it certainly didn't hurt Andy's chances!

AWARDS DEADLINES APPROACHING. June 1 is the deadline to apply for or send nominations for several GRCA awards to be presented at the Annual Meeting at the National Specialty. These awards include the Vern Bower Award, the Junior Achievement Award, the Ginger Gotcher Award and several others. For complete details please go to the GRCA website <http://grca.org/awards/awardsinformation.html>. If you qualify for one of these awards or if you were thinking of nominating a worthy candidate

for others, now's your chance!

The following paragraph appears on every Hot Topics post. We do want to

hear from you with your questions or concerns and will respond to each post. But it's not very effective to spot a Board member at ringside at

a show, scream about an issue, and demand action. Please write down your concerns and send them on. You'll have your thoughts organized, we'll know exactly what it is that concerns you and will be able to better answer your question.

As always, please contact any Board member with your thoughts or opinions on these or any other issue of concern to you. The entire Board may be reached at grca_board@yahoo.com

Barbara Branstad
Sec'y, GRCA