

Basset Hound Club of America, Inc.
Founded 1933, Incorporated 1935, AKC Member Since 1937

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July 6, 2009

To: BHCA Members
Re: Electronic open letter to BHCA Members – 6/29/09

Dear BHCA Members,

The Board feels an explanation of what may have caused some confusion to those who received an electronic letter from BHCA member, Mr. Patrick Willer, is in order. Mr. Willer's communiqué spells out his concerns with regard to 1) the use of Executive Sessions by the BHCA Board of Directors and 2) his concerns regarding the Board's responsibility and authority to formulate the national judges' nomination and election process.

The charge that the Board is acting behind closed doors on a variety of issues is serious and one that would disturb any BHCA member if they did not already know the facts. The facts are that there have been Executive Sessions throughout every administration to the present concerning individual member's private personal and/or sensitive issues or the Board's concerns as to a particular individual or actions. On each occasion the Board went into an Executive Session because in doing so the Board protects the integrity rights and reputation of those individuals involved. Included within those sessions are the privately considered reports of the Life Member Committee. Should public action have been required the issues would have been handled in a public manner.

Executive Sessions are a totally legitimate part of "Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised" by which the Club is guided when they are not inconsistent with the By-laws and/or Standing Rules and do not in any way resemble the scurrilous reasons hinted at and alluded to in Mr. Willer's electronic letter. In fact, the expert quoted in Mr. Willer's letter states that there are some subjects that rightly belong in Executive Session. What is discussed during these sessions may only be divulged within an Executive Session and is a normal function of any Board of Directors no matter the organization. Only the end result is revealed if public action is taken (i.e., Motion 02-09 and Life Member annual meeting announcements). Minutes are kept separate from the regular meeting. They are confidential and may only be read within an Executive Session. We are sorry that Mr. Willer was provided exaggerated incorrect and therefore misleading information and that through his electronic letter many members of the BHCA are now unnecessarily and totally misinformed.

With regard to Mr. Willer's accusations and concerns about the national judges' nomination and election process, please see the Board's comments re notification of a proposed Standing Rule change in the Sep/Oct *Tally-Ho*.

In the future, all members should realize that direct communication with the Board is their right as this might save everyone the trouble of such misinformation. Thank you for your continued interest in the BHCA and our beloved Basset Hound breed.

Sincerely,

BHCA Board of Directors – 2009

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