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Charles W. Carnese
Legal Counsel, BHCA
Brindle McCaslin & Lee, PC
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Portland, OR 97204-3228

Barbara Brandt
BHCA Corresponding Secretary
11401 Gamache Drive
Anchorage, AK 99516-1676

Dear Mr. Carnese and Ms. Brandt:

I represent Mr. Patrick Willer, a professional dog handler and a member of the esteemed Basset Hound Club of America, Inc. (hereinafter "BHCA"), who resides at 3426 House Lane, Sulphur, LA 70663-0229, and write you at his behest. Mr. Willer wishes to achieve a cordial and prompt resolution to the matter discussed below.

The BHCA is a Wisconsin Non-Stock corporation organized in this state in 1938, remains in good standing with the Wisconsin Department of Financial Institutions and is subject to the laws of this state.

My client is of the understanding that BHCA improperly allowed the reinstatement of [REDACTED] this past June. At the Open Board meeting, in front of at least 75 witnesses on October 7, 2009, the club president of BHCA admitted that dues for the member in question had been at least eight months past due at the time of the reinstatement. Upon information and belief the dues of [REDACTED] were in fact eleven months past due at that time. Under BHCA Bylaws, this was not a proper reinstatement. The BHCA president further admitted before witnesses that [REDACTED] did not request reinstatement; rather, the request was in fact made by other members. Under Wisconsin statutes, consent to membership by the person being admitted is an absolute requirement. See below.

The current ByLaws of the BHCA provide two grounds for termination with permissive language and one ground under which termination is mandatory. [REDACTED] situation falls under Article II Section 4(b):

BHCA Constitution and By-Laws
ARTICLE II MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 4. Termination of Membership. Memberships may be terminated: (a) by resignation. Any member in good standing may resign from the Club upon written notice to the Corresponding Secretary, but no member may resign when in debt to the Club. Dues obligations are considered a debt to the Club and they become incurred on the first day of each fiscal year. (b) by lapsing. A membership will be considered as lapsed and automatically terminated if such member's dues remain unpaid 90 days after the first day of the fiscal year; however, the Board may grant an additional 90 days of grace to such members in meritorious cases. In no case may a person be entitled to vote at any Club Meeting whose dues are unpaid as of the date of that meeting. (c) by expulsion. A membership may be terminated by expulsion, as provided in Article VIII of these By-Laws.

BHCA is a Non-Stock Wisconsin corporation, and all such entities are regulated by Chapter 181 of the Wisconsin Statutes. Subsection VI of that chapter addresses members and membership in such entities, and on the issue of proper admission of a member, Wis Stat 181.0601(2) controls the question of whether consent is required. The statute reads as follows:

181.0601 Admission. (1) CRITERIA AND PROCEDURES. The articles of incorporation or bylaws may establish criteria or procedures for admission of members. (2) CONSENT REQUIRED. A person may not be admitted as a member without the person's consent.

The reason that the improper reinstatement of a particular member is an issue, apart from general concerns that any dues-paying member would have about the lawful operation of a corporation such as BHCA, is that the reinstatement enabled the improper award of a Award.

In order to earn points for the honor of being awarded Grand Field Champion, the dog owner or co-owners must be must be proper members of BHCA. See Exhibit A. The dog co-owned by the [REDACTED] did not have a member as its owner and should not have been able to earn points in Field Trials toward the award of Grand Field Champion. In order for honors to have value and prestige, they must be earned in accord with all laws and rules.

Since the membership of the [REDACTED] apparently lapsed and was terminated under Article II Section 4(b) of the BHCA bylaws, and the member was not legally reinstated because the member did not consent to reinstatement, and since to qualify for a Grand Field Champion all owners must be members of BHCA, the awarding of the honor of Grand Field Champion to the dog owned by the [REDACTED] was not in accord with the laws of this organization and those of the State of Wisconsin.

We respectfully request that you take the following action:

1. Invalidate any awards – including that of Field Dog Grand Champion - earned by the improperly reinstated member since the date of reinstatement; and

2. Return to the third party that paid his dues all monies applied to the dues for such reinstatement.

To avoid legal action to enforce the laws of Wisconsin and the Bylaws of BHCA we require correspondence indicating your willingness to comply not later than November 10, 2009 and evidence that such actions have been fulfilled not later than December 10, 2009.

We look forward to a response by the date indicated.

Sincerely yours,

Marjory S. Stewart

Marjory S. Stewart

Basset Hound Club of America
FTAC Meeting
May 28, 1999

GRAND CHAMPION AWARD

Purpose: The Grand Champion title, awarded by the parent club, is to increase interest and to encourage the continued competition of Field Champions at trials.

Recommendations: On October 9, 1971 the Field Trial Advisory Committee presented the following proposal to The Basset Hound Club of America officers and directors.

The proposal was a title, Grand Champion, awarded by the parent club. The object of the title is to increase the interest of and to promote the running of field champions. Also, it will reward the outstanding and consistent hound.

To obtain this title, the hound must be entered in the championship class at Member or Licensed Field Trials. This class must be braced and must be run to its conclusion.

Point Schedule:

1. Ten (10) or more hounds entered, points are awarded as follows:

- First Place 4 Points
- Second Place 3 Points
- Third Place 2 Points
- Fourth Place 1 Point

2. Fewer than ten (10) and down to and including five (5) hounds entered, points are awarded as follows:

- First Place 2 Points
- Second Place 1 Point

3. Fewer than five (5) hounds entered, points are awarded as follows:

- First Place 2 Points

A total of twenty (20) points must be accumulated by the hound. It is estimated that 10-15% of those champions competing three or more years will obtain the title.

The points and the results are to be recorded and kept by the National Field Trial Chairman. Also, the owner (or co-owners) of the hound must be a BHCA member to receive the title.

This title will be called "Grand Champion" and will be awarded by the BHCA in the form of a certificate suitable for framing. The proposal will take effect on January 1, 1972. There will be no retroactive points given.

Revision 1: As of March 4, 1975, this class may be run in trials if so advertised.

Kenneth E. McWilliams, FTAC Chairman

Revision 2: As of 10-1-87, Field Champion classes held at Member and Licensed Trials, may be advertised to run in small pack per the AKC Rules and Procedures.

Approved 10-1-87.

Richard Spurling, FTAC Chairman

Revision 3: Points Schedule approved by the BHCA board 3-17-90.

- John (Bill) TenEyck, Chairman and representing Maumee Valley B.H.C.
- Ken McWilliams - Kentuckiana B.H.C.
- Kay S. Reilly - Lenape B.H.C.
- Stella Atwater - Berkshire B.H.C.
- Fred Atwater - Patroon B.H.C.
- Ken Engle - Valley Forge B.H.C.
- Norwood Engle - Susquehanna B.H.C.
- Marjorie Skolnick - B.H.C. of Maryland
- Carl Eisenmenger- Pathfinder B.H.C.
- Joe Thomas - Western Michigan B.H.C.
- Roxanne Jones - BHCA Board
- Robert (Barney) Linebaugh - Looking Glass B.H.C.
- Dick Spurling - Capital District B.H.C.

The meeting was called to order at 7:20 pm at the Coraopolis Beagle Club, Clinton, Pennsylvania, with 13 members present.

The following agenda items were addressed:

Review of Grand Champion Qualifications

There was much discussion of the qualifications for the BHCA Grand Champion award. Current rule states "owner or co-owner must be a member of BHCA." The group decided to change this rule and the following motion was presented and passed.

Stella Atwater made the motion that both owner and co-owner must be members of the Basset Hound Club of America for the hound to accumulate Grand Championship points and, furthermore, there shall be no retroactive points awarded for placings before membership is

attained. Ken McWilliams seconded the motion. Motion passed with two nays.

Fall National Location

Marge Skolnick led the discussion in opposition of the BHCA Fall National Field Trial being held in the same location for two years (1999 & 2000). It was the general consensus of the representatives that St. Louis, Missouri is not a central location for the majority of individuals participating in the sport of Basset Hound field trialing and attendance at this national event will suffer greatly. Many BHCA members of the sport are signing statements voicing their displeasure with the decision to hold the fall national field trial in the above-mentioned location for two years. Furthermore, the group discussed options to holding field trials other than under the auspices of the parent club. The discussion regarding the location of fall national field trials will be tabled until the fall FTAC meeting.

Minimum Requirements for Basset Field Trial Judges

In the past, the FTAC has passed recommendations and fought for minimum requirements for basset hound field trial judges. These recommendations have never gotten past BHCA. Much discussion ensued regarding these recommendations. It was suggested by Chairman, Bill TenEyck, that these recommendations could be redrafted by interested parties, if so desired, and revisited at the fall meeting. If this is to be done, Bill TenEyck needs to know in advance so it can be added to the agenda.

Trial Dates for 2000

It was discovered the proposed schedule for 2000 was in error due to a misrepresentation of Easter weekend. Both Berkshire Valley and Buckeye fell on Easter weekend. Schedules were reworked and new proposed schedules are attached.

Other Items Pertaining to FTAC

Berkshire Valley asked to move their trial location and date for Fall of 1999 - from October 16&17 to October 9&10 and to the Delci Beagle Club. Bill

TenEyck asked for the change to be requested in writing and he will seek approval from the BHCA Board. There should not be a problem with this change as there is no conflict in the eastern section with the proposed date of October 9 & 10.

A proposal from John Meale was presented to the group asking to hold a regional trial at the Niagra Beagle Club in Attica, New York on any open date in the Fall of 1999. Bill TenEyck asked John to submit for this trial in writing and he will present it to the BHCA Board for approval.

Ken McWilliams made a motion that we hold a regional trial at the Niagra Beagle Club in Attica, New York, on an open date in the Fall of 1999, if the BHCA Board so approves. Ken Engle seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Kay Reilly informed the group that she had a very difficult time getting the Grand Championship certificates done this year; no one in BHCA seemed to know what the awards were or what they looked like. Award certificates received were not the same quality as prior years. Roxanne Jones offered to investigate this situation and have the awards redone to reflect the quality of previous years.

It was decided by the group that since the Dal-Tex club is no longer holding field trials, they will not be represented on FTAC. Dal-Tex will be invited back whenever they resume holding field trials.

Barney Linebaugh made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Stella Atwater seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned.