**KCBLO REPORT – BREED COUNCIL MEETING SATURDAY 21ST OCTOBER 2023**

The ever growing problem with XL Bullies and dogs out of control is a situation causing a lot of concern amongst Stafford people. In 2018 PETA sparked a debate in Government regarding the Stafford stating that the Government MUST put the Stafford onto the Dangerous Dogs list and effectively ban them from the UK. Thankfully the Government voted against putting the Stafford on the list which was a huge relief for all Stafford devotees. The Government recognised that the Stafford is one of the most popular and loved dog breeds throughout the UK. In 2019 the breed was voted Britain's favourite dog with a massive public vote. However, we should not be complacent……

With the media and public focus currently on the XL Bully, any loosely associated Bull breed is a target and I think we have to be very vigilant with whats going on. This is something we just cannot and should not ignore; although we are aware of whats happening, what can we / us breed clubs do to get the message out there that the Stafford should not be drawn into the XL Bully situation. Even though our breed name does get mentioned by the media when they refer to some unknown out of control dog being a 'staffie cross' it creates a stigma and once attached its hard to remove. Yes we know they are just using the term loosely but once those words are said they are out there in the public ears and in their minds. It is a worrying situation for all bull breeds and the media trend now is heading towards the use of muzzles when out in the public domain – how would you all feel about having to put muzzles on your dogs once you step out of the front door? I think we should be very proactive, just as we were back in 2018 when PETA tried to put us on the DD list… so we need to not just talk but ACT. As a Council of proactive Breed Clubs we need to create a strong wall of protection for our Breed just like we did in 2018.

There is a Dog Coalition group so maybe this is something we can get into ? What are your thoughts on us protecting the breed and its now reputation for being a loyal loving family dog??

The **Dog Control Coalition** - a group which includes the RSPCA, Battersea Dogs Home and the Royal Kennel Club - said: "The biggest priority for everyone involved is to protect the public - but banning the breed will sadly not stop these types of incidents recurring.

Lets talk and bond together on this before we get dragged into something we have played no part in… as far as we know. Please keep focused on this as it wont go away…

So now onto Litter registrations; so at the end of 2022 there were 1178 litters registered amounting to 6469 puppies. Out of these litters, 917 contained blue and a huge 788 were from blue x blue matings. Of the 6469 puppies, 4901 were registered as blue that's just over 76% of the total registered number of puppies.! There does not seem to be any let up in the popularity of the Blue as at the end of 2021 with a higher number of litters and puppies registered it was 77%. I'm at a loss as to why they are so popular! OUR Mr C professes to be the highest health tester in breeding and the top promoter of blue stud dogs. We should be advertising all the other colours as rare!! Only 3 black and tan puppies registered compared with 11 the year before. The trend for blues doesn't appear to be slowing down anytime soon. So far this year the numbers are totting up to roughly the same … as regards numbers of litters and puppies… and blues!

Ok now onto the Show entries. The entries through 2022 increased compared to 2021 and looking at the show entries thus far this year we are on course to be around the same as 2021 with an average per show of approximately 135 – however, the 2022 figures of approximately 141 average were somewhat inflated due to some breed clubs having two championship shows; plus in this year so far, we are without entries from 3 breed clubs as unfortunately they had no CCs this year to add into any totals. The Generals are actually up on last year and are at their highest for 5 years. All in all the show entries are looking good.

Also, as KCBLO for our breed with the Liaison Council, I was asked to submit a few items for consideration to be included on the Agenda at their next meeting. I am pleased to say the item put forward by East Anglia has been included and I will report back after the Liaison Council meeting. There were some other items submitted from East Midlands which were rejected by the Admin Team as being not appropriate with the reply as ""Please be advised that these items are not appropriate for the agenda, although I have passed your comments onto the SASS & Breed Shows team managers for review". All items from both Clubs are listed below and the wording boxed below is what I have submitted to the Liaison Council from to which I will feedback the outcome.

From East Midlands: They would like the following discussed and responded to:

1. Why is there lack of communication with regards to the Kennel Club website and the secretaries page,
2. Why is there a lack of information and lack of replies to emails with regards to the 10-day ruling of a response.
3. No confirmation of acknowledgement of licence applications being received etc.
4. No details or communication around updates to the find a judge being in operation for level and level 2 judges for the JEP for the website

**From East Anglia: Proposal..**

> **Proposal:** We would like to propose that wording in the Definition of Classes for the sections detailing Maiden, Novice, Tyro, Debutant and Under-graduate be amended to (Minor Puppy, Special Minor Puppy, Puppy and Special Puppy, *and ANY class defined as Special* excepted, whether restricted or not).
> **Rationale**: This would clarify this requirement in one place as currently the mention of classes defined as Special is in the overview of the definition of classes and has been overlooked by some.

Lasty, due to recent events; I was asked to look into the appropriate KC guidance to refuse entries to club shows and events. If any club would like a copy please let me know and I can forward.

Finally, If I can be of any assistance to any Club, please get in touch with me. I am in regular contact with many other Breed Representatives linked to the Liaison Council and the Kennel Club so please use the avenue I do have and get in touch.

Any questions?

Thank you
Karon Jackson
SBT/ KCBLO