

## **Task Force on Breed Specific Legislation**

On Thursday, November 4 the Board of Directors of the CKC requested the Chief Executive Officer, Joe Mauro, to strike a Task Force under the chairmanship of CKC Director Lee Steeves to deal with the CKC's Breed Specific Legislation initiatives. Based on existing CKC Policy, the Board of Directors will formally review the mandate and composition of the Task Force at its next regularly scheduled meeting in December. On November 5, the CEO and the Chair of the Task Force, Lee Steeves, discussed the Conference Call outputs and developed an interim strategy for the upcoming week's meeting

A draft Mandate for the Task Force was considered. Existing CKC Policy will be reviewed and any recommended changes will be brought to the December meeting for Board consideration.

The Board has developed the following as a starting point for discussion by the Task Force:-

The Board has confirmed its' confidence in the work done by the staff to date but due to the gravity of the situation in Ontario and New Brunswick feels that additional resources are necessary to provide staff additional guidance and Board direction.

The Task Force will develop Terms of Reference to identify the scope of the problem. Included in this scope will be the degrees to which the public has been influenced as well as identification of influences on the politicians now involved in the contemplation of breed bans. Work will begin on the formal presentation of the CKC to the committee that will receive Bills 132 and 55. (see detail at end of paper) Outputs this week will include the development of an implementation strategy to get the messages to the correct people. There will be short timelines attached to each initiative struck, a person charged with the responsibility to carry out each of these thrusts, a strategy for the implementation and a budget attached. Proposals from the Task Force will include initiatives which are workable and acceptable to politicians, the public and the dog fancy. Messaging will be developed to target our various constituents – breed clubs, general membership, non-members, general public, etc. Messages will include impacts of this legislation on the public. Determinations will be made as to the best ways of mobilizing to respond to this threat to the Fancy.

Contact will be made with Agriculture Canada to determine whether the federal government intends to take a position of either or both pieces of legislation.

Board Directors on this Task Force will include Lee Steeves, Dwain McLean and Deborah Graffmann. Mr. Mauro has contacted Mike MacBeth and Julie King. Both women have agreed to sit on the Task Force as members at large. Ms MacBeth brings with her journalism credentials, a deep knowledge of the dog fancy and a sincere interest in the Canadian Kennel Club. Ms King also brings journalism credentials, a deep understanding of BSL and the complete support of the Staffy Bull Club of Canada, the Am Staff Club of Canada and the Dog Legislation Council of Canada. Allan Bennett, Kim LeBlanc and John Hodgkinson have offered to serve as liaison Directors to the Task Force and will be involved in the research, planning and in the initiatives as they are rolled out.

A meeting of the Task Force is scheduled November 10 at 9:00 am at the CKC offices in Toronto.

nb This brief would marshal all of the arguments and supporting data, expert opinions, etc. in a coherent whole. Both an executive summary and power point presentation could be prepared if resources allow for use with the brief. This brief can then be distributed to local clubs with a request that they engage in lobbying on the basis of the document. It will also form the basis of individual lobbying of legislators. Finally, it will form the basis of any appearance by CKC directors, board members or staff before any committee.

### ***Activity List***

- mass mailing in Ontario and NB would be in our best interests, giving the messages that will be formalized on Wednesday to all of the CKC members so that they are encouraged and urged to write to their MPP's offering each of them the CKC's stance and their support of that, as constituents.
- lobbying effort required, a schedule of meetings that needs to be set up with politicians in both Provinces, etc.
- a set of mailing labels run by zone, by postal code so that they can be split up by Director.
- research component looking at the type of Committee that will be set up (Standing Committee referral or Legislative Committee) and who will sit on the Committee so we can target those politicians particularly. There is also an issue of time limits for public hearings. It is important to try to influence the Opposition whips to preclude the Liberals attempt to limit time of presenters.

- develop as well a list of potential witnesses so that we are able to co-ordinate presentations and advise the Opposition of their particular areas of expertise.
- identify jurisdictions that have been successful in writing legislation that has workably dealt with dangerous dogs. We may also consider jurisdictions where BSL has been implemented and where it has failed.