

AN UPDATE: AKC PUREBRED PRESERVATION BANK

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Chair, AKC Purebred Preservation Bank

I have been asked to give an update for *Perspectives* on the progress of the AKC Purebred Preservation Bank (AKC PPB). AKC PPB



**AKC Purebred
Preservation Bank**

is now up and running, and its early success is gratifying. We appreciate the efforts of the many individuals and clubs who have not only expressed interest in the program, but made significant contributions, suggestions, and donations.

UPDATES

PPB has a new program manager, Susan Myers susan.myers@akcppb.org who is currently a Senior Breeder Relations Field Representative for AKC. She is a breeder and exhibitor of Sussex Spaniels.

As of this writing we are pleased to share that the frozen semen of 20 sires has been donated. There have been about seven Parent Clubs who have submitted their requested criteria, and many others who are discussing their various options.

The long-awaited recommendations for Parent Clubs to submit their questions for the donor application and their criteria for the recipient application are now available online, along with plenty of other information at www.akcppb.org.

We continue to make improvements in the applications in response to the input we have received from Parent Clubs and breeders. The latest versions of two important documents are now online: the Donor Application and Semen Profile, and the Semen Recipient Application. Also, the tri-fold information pamphlet and the one-page version suitable for reprinting in breed magazines are in the Downloads section of the AKCPPB web site. The documents suggesting language for inclusion in wills and bequests were recently added to the web site.

As a 501 (C) (3), the AKC PPB has recently received a generous donation of \$5,000 to help cover expenses and promote the preservation of

purebred breeds. The expenses, including paying the AKC staff who work for AKC PPB, continue to run far below budget.

At the April meeting, the AKC Board of Directors re-elected the board members for the Class of 2027 for three-year terms: Dominic Carota, Ted Phillips, and Dr. Marty Greer. Continuing on the board are Dr. Charles Garvin (Chair), Tom Powers, Vanessa Skou, Mark Dunn, Dr. Jerold Bell, and Dr. Joellen Gregory.

CURRENT TASKS

The number one challenge for AKC PPB is getting the information about the program out to those who are likely to be interested in participating - clubs, individuals, semen storage facilities, and veterinarians. AKC Delegates have received many presentations, but that does not always translate to the messages being widely distributed. We appreciate all Delegates spreading the word about AKC PPB as much as possible.

We always want to be available to answer questions and address any potential objections or misunderstandings. One effective method we frequently use is to engage club memberships by having them watch the AKC PPB webinar which is on the website, then

have a live Zoom question and answer session with me or other members of the AKC PPB board or staff. We are happy to set that up for any clubs who are interested.

The other continuing challenge is to combat the natural tendency of inertia. People just do not like to think about their own mortality, and what will happen to their established line and any stored frozen semen they have, once they are no longer able to maintain either.

ELEPHANTS IN THE ROOM

One objection frequently heard is about the

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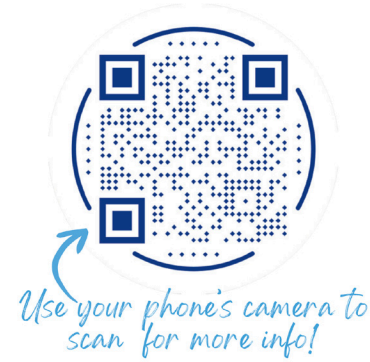
GARVIN, cont'd

breeder who is concerned about loss of control. They are proud of the line they have created and maintained over many years, and are concerned that without their control their line may be diluted, and its reputation degraded. Two questions to clarify and challenge that type of thinking. First, when we breeders are no longer around in 20, 30, or 50 years, who is going to control any semen that may have been stored - and who is going to pay for those 50 years of storage? Second, understanding the natural pride in a well-developed line, if your breed is in trouble in the future, is your line good enough and valuable enough to be useful in reconstructing or preserving your breed?

Similarly, in some breeds there has been a divergence among bench champion type and field champion type, or other schisms. Today's breeder may not want to have their line potentially intermixed with the "other" type. However, if a breed is in trouble, wouldn't you prefer to have your preferred breed type represented in the process of reconstituting or rescuing your breed from extinction?

Encouraging breeders to consider the sometimes-difficult alternatives for what will and could happen in the future is an important task for AKC PPB. Additionally, such discussions are also essential for all of those who are interested in ensuring the long-term survival of our beloved purebred dogs and distinctive breeds.

We at AKC PPB are always interested in your opinions, questions, and suggestions. Thank you for your feedback and your support. You can reach us at contact@akcppb.org 919.816.3329 or charles.garvin@akcppb.org 740.361.0025.



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