



Dear ARC Member:

Below is the ballot regarding 2 motions that were passed when there was no longer a quorum at the Annual Meeting held on Friday, May 13, 2011 in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. The Bylaws, Article II; Section 1. Annual Meeting, state:

The annual meeting of the club shall be held in conjunction with the club's specialty show in the month of April, May, or June; at a place, date and hour designated by the Board of Directors. Written notice of the annual meeting shall be mailed by the Secretary to each member at least 30 days prior to the date of the meeting. The quorum for the annual meeting shall be 10% of the members in good standing and shall include at least 1 member of the Board. In the absence of a quorum, the members present may adopt recommendations to be presented to the membership for decision by written ballot cast by mail.

The front of the enclosed page includes Motion #1, with a short statement from both the member who made the motion and the Board in order that the members who were not present at the meeting are aware of the intent and effects. Motion #2 and statements are on the reverse side. Please be sure to read all the information before completing the Ballot below.

The ARC Board of Directors

BALLOT

The ballot must be received no later than August 15, 2011 by:

**Ann Glynn, ARC Secretary
9188 Schroeder Road, Live Oak, CA 95953-9542**

Motion # 1 (Futurity): Yes _____ No _____

Motion #2 (Docked/Undocked Tails): Yes _____ No _____

Member #1 (please print): _____ Signature: _____

Motion # 1 (Futurity): Yes _____ No _____

Motion #2 (Docked/Undocked Tails): Yes _____ No _____

Member #2 (if Family Membership): _____ Signature: _____

Only 1 Ballot is being sent per Membership.

Unsigned ballots will be considered invalid.

Motion # 2 (Docked/Undocked Tails)

The membership recommends that the Board confirms that the Standard of the Breed as approved by the AKC requires a Rottweiler to have a docked tail! The failure to dock a Rottweiler's tail is in violation of the Constitution, the object of which is "to urge members and breeders to accept the Standard of the Breed as approved by the American Kennel Club".

Motion: Liz Wertz; Second: David A. Roberts

Statement from Liz Wertz

When each member of the American Rottweiler Club (ARC) apply for membership, they agree to "abide by the Constitution and Bylaws of the American Rottweiler Club." The ARC Constitution and Bylaws include the objective of "accept the Standard of the Breed as approved by the American Kennel Club (AKC) as the only standard of excellence by which Rottweilers shall be judged."

This motion is to have the ARC Board confirm that the AKC/ARC Standard of the breed, as it pertains to exhibiting in AKC conformation, requires a Rottweiler to have a docked tail. Therefore, any ARC member who exhibits an undocked Rottweiler in AKC conformation is in violation of the ARC Constitution and Bylaws. This does not prohibit ownership or breeding to undocked Rottweilers, nor does it prohibit exhibiting an undocked Rottweiler in AKC performance events.

Statement from the ARC Board

An important word left out of Ms. Wertz's above statement is "URGE". There is no mandate in our Constitution to "ACCEPT". The ARC Mandatory Practices, Constitution & Bylaws and Standard may only be changed as outlined in Bylaws Article VIII. Amendments. Neither the ARC Board nor the membership, via a ballot such as this one, can change these documents by fiat with a simple vote on interpretation.

Ms. Wertz's statement that "this does not prohibit ownership or breeding to undocked Rottweilers", is contradictory to her motion which states that "failure to dock a Rottweiler's tail is in violation . . .". It is unclear whether the intent was to require imports to be docked if acquired by an ARC member or not. Furthermore, any amendments to our Constitution & Bylaws must first be approved by the AKC and we very much doubt that they would approve adding a requirement that members must dock their Rottweilers tails!

The motion also asks that "the Board confirms that the Standard of the Breed as required by AKC requires a Rottweiler to have a docked tail". We cannot do that. The AKC has decided that a natural tail may be shown, awarded points and finished based on decisions by individual judges. The ARC cannot make it "illegal" to show any AKC registered dog, docked or not, at an AKC event. Even if the Standard was amended to include the statement "An undocked tail should be severely penalized", undocked dogs would still be allowed to be shown.