

NOTE: I am typing the article exactly as written. If I have made notes, they are in RED. Dog names and ancestors are printed in BLUE for ease of seeing the information. This article is complete as written in "German Shorthaired Pointer Activities" copyright 1953.

History, Purpose and Objectives

German Shorthaired Pointer Club of America, Inc.

By E. J. Loring

In December, 1938, nine owners of German Shorthaired Pointers made application to the American Kennel Club for a charter as a parent organization.

The organizers believed that the Shorthair would retrieve as well as point. Application was made for permission to use the name "German Shorthaired Pointer and Retriever Club of America, Inc."

The American Kennel club, however, stated that the German Shorthair was classified as a pointer and would not permit us to use any corporate name containing the word 'retriever'.

On August 18, 1938, Articles of Incorporation were filed in the office of the Secretary of State and with the Register of Deeds of Hennepin County, Minnesota, and the parent organization of the breed, on that date, became a corporate entity.

The original signers of the charter were: Joseph MacGaheeran, Douglas R. Luger, Jack Shattuck, Jr., all of Minneapolis, and Beckwith Mayer of St. Paul. The four incorporators were the first officers of the corporation and the Board of Directors consisted of Joseph Burkhart, St. Croix Falls, Minnesota; Henry Radle, Stillwater, Minnesota; Edward J. Loring, Minneapolis, Minnesota, 1 year term; Beckwith Mayer, St. Paul, Minnesota, 2 year term; Joseph MacGaheeran, Minneapolis, Minnesota; Douglas R. Luger, Minneapolis, Minnesota; and Jack Shattuck, Jr., Minneapolis, Minnesota; 3 year term.

The parent organization spent many weary months working out a clarification of the standards for the breed and on May 7, 1946, the present standards adopted by the parent club were approved by The American Kennel Club.

There was no attempt by the parent club to depart radically from the previously accepted standards, the object being primarily to clarify the reading of the standard so that there could be more uniform interpretation, thus hoping that the judges called upon to judge the breed at bench shows would be more consistent in the selection of winners. It is regrettable that, either many judges do not know Shorthairs or have not read the standards, or, are there other considerations that influence their decision? Early judging disclosed such a variation in the type selected as winners that lovers of the dog who were concerned to promote a type close to the standards wondered how judges could be so far apart in the type selected as winners. There has been some recent improvement shown, but many judges still have lots to learn about the breed and disclose by their conduct in judging that they have not studied the standard very carefully.

Purpose and Objectives

When application was made to The American Kennel Club to be recognized as a parent organization, this corporation agreed to be bound by the charter, constitution and by-laws of The American Kennel Club and to observe the rules and regulations of The American Kennel Club.

When the state of Minnesota issued a corporate charter to the German Shorthaired Pointer Club of America, Inc., there arose a contractual relationship between the state of Minnesota and the corporation, and the corporation agreed that, in consideration of the issuing of a charter, it would, in the accomplishment of its purposes and its objectives, be governed by the limitations fixed in its charter and by-laws adopted by the members.

In addition to the contractual relationship between the corporation, The American Kennel Club, and the State of Minnesota, there is, of course, a contractual relationship between the corporation and its members by which the corporation represents to its members that, through its Board of Directors and its officers, it will accomplish its purposes and objectives strictly in the manner provided for in its articles and by-laws. The Board of Directors and the officers of the corporation are not only legally but morally bound in reaching conclusions, defining policies and transacting business to determine whether such contemplated action is within the authority of the corporation. How many officers of how many members of the Board of Directors have informed themselves as to the obligations of a parent club to The American Kennel Club? It might serve a useful purpose to quote from Section 5 of Article IV of the Constitution and Bylaws of The American Kennel Club as follows:

‘It shall be the duty and privilege of each parent member Specialty Club to define precisely the true type of the breed of pure-bred dogs which it was organized to promote and improve and its definition when approved by the Board of Directors of The American Kennel Club shall and will be recognized by The American Kennel Club as the sole standard of excellence for which such breed of pure-bred dogs shall be bred and by which such specimens of such breed must be judged in the awarding of prizes of merit.

The standards of excellence of all breeds of pure-bred dogs now adopted by Parent member Specialty Clubs and approved by the Board of Directors of The American Kennel Club shall not be changed in any respect until the wording of any change or changes first has been submitted to the Board of Directors of The American Kennel Club and its approval of the same has been obtained.

When the German Shorthaired Pointer Club of America, Inc. was recognized as a parent club, it became the ‘duty’ of this club ‘to define precisely the true type of the breed of pure-bred dogs’ which we were organized to promote. Once the parent club has set a standard of excellence, that remains fixed and can only be changed as to wording with the consent of The American Kennel Club. It is not the privilege of this club to read anything different into the standards. The standards, as clarified, if read and studied by the judges, should show consistency in the type of dog adjudged a winner and afford to breeders a clear guide to produce a true-type dog. It is not a question of trying to develop standards to fit a dog. The dog should meet the standards as near as possible. There probably never has been and probably never will be a dog that will match every requirement. All that can be hoped for is to get as close as possible.

When the corporation was originally chartered in the State of Minnesota, it stated its purpose to be:

‘to encourage the breeding of pure-bred German Shorthair dogs; to develop and bring to perfection their natural high qualities and talents; to protect and advance the interest of said breed on the bench and in the field.’

When its articles were amended on May 25, 1945, the club, without changing its original purpose, enlarged its objectives. Its general purpose clause provided:

'(b) To promote the breeding of said breed and to regulate the practices and method of persons interested in breeding, registering, selling, purchasing, exhibiting and running pure-bred dogs of the German Shorthaired Pointer breed; to prevent, detect and punish frauds, misleading statements and misrepresentations in connection therewith and to protect the interest of its members and the breed in which they are interested.

(c) To define precisely a standard for the true type of the breed of German Shorthaired Pointers; to improve its definition from time to time; to establish uniform standards of judging, either at field trials and/or bench shows; to obtain certificates of award and the granting of points to an owner of a dog toward a championship for the dog winning the award or points, either in the field or on the bench, under the rules and regulations of The American Kennel Club.'

The purpose for which the club was organized and the objects to be accomplished are defined in Section 5, Article IV of The American Kennel Club Constitution and By-laws and in Article II of the Articles of Incorporation, as amended, of the club. It would seem to follow that we, as a corporation, are bound to 'encourage the breeding of pure-bred German Shorthair dogs' to bring them as close to the standard as can be by pure blood line breeding. The objects and purposes are not simple and they present a tremendous challenge that compels our response by sincere devotion to purpose and energetic action to accomplish only pure breeding. If those objects can be accomplished, then the corporation will be heading toward the position it can establish and should maintain.