

Greeting fellow New Zealand breeders!

I wanted to reach out to our membership and update everyone as to what has taken place over the past few weeks. I know that there are rumors and gossip and I wanted to set the record straight. I also wanted to let our membership know what the club is working on to help our membership during these trying times.

First, on a personal note, when I decided to run for President, I could have never imagined what was in store for me. In all honesty these past few weeks have been challenging, frustrating and difficult, but also uplifting, encouraging and invigorating. I told my wife the other day that "Crisis brings out everyone's true colors." I have been blow away in by most people's ability to adapt, change, uplift and support each other for the greater good! Our country and world are facing unprecedented challenges and we have never navigated anything like this. I am continually amazed at our ability to rise to a challenge and overcome those adversities.

First, I want to address the national show status. Because the 2020 show was cancelled, the club from Tennessee offered the board the ability to award the 2021 show to Ohio and they would then take 2022. The board took a ballot vote and chose to keep the 2021 National show in Tennessee and went on to award the 2022 National show to Ohio.

I want to personally thank both Rusty Westoff and the entire contingent from Tennessee, as well as Keith Motter and the contingent from Ohio for being fantastic to work with and flexible with our board as we navigated these uncharted waters. First and foremost, for the passion they each showed for wanting what was best for the club and our fantastic breed.

I know that there are those that are unhappy with the results, as well as the process. I understand and respect the love and passion they have for this hobby and respect their points of views.

I also want to bring to your attention some of the things that are happening to help our membership considering what the next few months will bring. The board voted to allow any club that had a sanction and had to cancel the show, the ability to change the date of that sanction. We do ask for patients; I know Dave has been buried with changes and it does take time. He is working through all the requests and will address them all.

We are also working to offer those members wishing to run for a board position, some options for your petition, as many won't be seeing the required number of breeders face to face. This should be rolled out very shortly.

We are also working on new and exciting things, we hope to offer the membership over the coming months including a new exciting youth program. Also new technology updates to allow membership easier access and ability to communicate. I really look forward to rolling these new advances out our membership.

Finally, I want to thank Jason Moore, Dave Cardinal and the board for their hard work and commitment to this club. I am truly humble and honored to work with such a fantastic group of individuals!

Sincerely,

Adam Benker, President AFNZRBA