

## ABMC Board of Directors

Regarding the 2007 American Belgian Malinois National Specialty, we respectfully submit the following:

**PURPOSE:** Our purpose in hosting the 2007 American Belgian Malinois National Specialty is to promote the Belgian Malinois, showcasing this beautiful, versatile, working dog in all the venues it can and does excel. We hope to promote unity within the breed and ensure the future of the Belgian Malinois.

**EXPERIENCE:** This 2007 National Committee has the necessary experience to chair this national. Lisa Swarhout currently serves on the ABMC BOD and has been the president of the Yellowstone Valley Kennel Club for the past three years. She chaired the 1999 ABMC National Specialty in Montana. Lisa has served as Trial Chairman or Trial secretary for several agility, obedience, and agility/obedience trials. She has also chaired several "Malinois supported entries". Nancy Lasky currently serves on the ABMC BOD, is a member and past board member of the Upper Snake River Valley Dog Training Club. She has chaired or served as Trial Chairman or Trial Secretary for 10 agility, agility/obedience trials for the USRVDTTC and the YVKC. Suzanne Belger is currently a board member of the Upper Snake River Valley Dog Training Club and served as its president for last three consecutive years. She has served as agility trial chairman and currently serves as an agility trial secretary for USRVDTTC and PKC fall agility trials. Suzanne has chaired the "Malinois supported entries" for Boise 2005 and South Jordan 2006. USRVDTTC, a member club of AKC, offers an annual obedience and agility trial that enables the club to maintain over \$48,000.00 in funds. The Yellowstone Valley Kennel Club offers an annual 4 day conformation cluster as well as obedience and agility trials that generate considerable income for the club. We have the knowledge, experience, and ability to organize and execute the 2007 ABMC National Specialty.

**LOCATION:** We chose the Salt Lake City, Utah area as it has been several years since a national was held in the western half of the United States. There has been a tremendous amount of support from other AKC clubs in the area as well as Malinois owners. We have found a wonderful facility that will allow us to offer all events at a central location with all the necessary amenities.

**DATES:** We chose the dates for the national after careful consideration. We considered the following when choosing the dates:

The weather this time of year permits ease in traveling. Rarely does the weather conditions prevent vehicular travel, it is temperate enough to fly dogs if necessary, and the temperature is conducive to outdoor venues.

The Utah Beehive Cluster will be the weekend before our specialty (May 3-6, 2007) in South Jordan, Utah. South Jordan is approximately 45 minutes south of Farmington, Utah. The weekend following our specialty The Great Salt Lake Dog Training Club and the Mount Ogden Kennel Club will have a 3 day cluster (May 18-20, 2007) in Logan, Utah. Logan is approximately 90 minutes north of Farmington, Utah. We plan to advertise this fact hoping that those that have more time and money will be able to utilize the proximity of these two clusters.

When we looked at options for our specialty we did consider "piggy-backing" onto one of these clusters. (This year at the Utah Beehive Cluster, there is a Terrier, Shetland Sheepdog, Doberman, Bulldog, and Collie specialty event. The American Eskimo club is

holding a specialty at the Logan cluster.) If we were to hold our national in conjunction with either of these two clusters we would lose the obedience, rally, and agility revenue as those events are all ready "taken". We would be left with a national that only consisted of "conformation" events and incur a significant loss.

While we could add a day of obedience, rally, or agility before or after either of these clusters, historically in this area they do not support themselves during the week (Monday through Thursday). Looking at the numbers it would not have saved us any money but rather have incurred an additional loss of approximately \$1000.00 (best case).

We did not feel it was realistic to expect the majority of exhibitors to spend 6 to 7 days (excluding travel time) at a show. I am sure we would all like to but most of us have jobs, families, and other commitments that would prevent that.

We feel that by being one of many "specialties" we would diminish the "specialty" of a national specialty and allow us to focus on only one aspect of this great breed. The beauty of the Malinois is only a small portion of what makes a truly great Malinois. Their working ability should be recognized and given the same "weight" as their beauty. Winning a national specialty High in Trial (Herding or Obedience) should be considered a very special honor.

**JUDGES:** We made our selection of judges based on several criteria, the first and foremost was their knowledge and appreciation of their respective assignments.

Conformation---Carolyn Herbel, experienced well respected AKC judge, judged Regional Specialty, noted for being a structure and temperament judge

Agility---Gillian Crawford, experienced agility judge that has judged "national specialties", lectures, agility competitor

Obedience/Rally---Mel Stanley, experienced obedience/rally judge, very personable and easy to work with, added bonus of living in the area.

Sweeps---Sharon Sparks, long time, well respected club member, sponsors Rusty Award

Herding---Pricilla L Phillips and Sandy Moore, experienced herding judges, worked with Malinois type herding dogs

**BUDGET:** We have prepared the following budget with the following in mind:

We are very aware of the critical financial situation the club is in and have taken steps to minimize any loss the club will incur.

We have organized 2 agility trials as fundraisers. The first one is "piggybacking" onto a local club's 2-day agility trial, the second is a 3-day agility trial in the early spring of 2007. The clubs in this area have been more than happy to assist the ABMC in their efforts.

We will only order merchandise on a pre-paid basis. We plan on doing this twice...once before the specialty and once after the specialty. Pre-paid orders include all apparel items as well as catalogs.

We will only order awards (besides what AKC mandates) that we can pay for. We plan

to solicit donations and acquire funds through fundraisers. Simply put, we will not order trophies we cannot pay for

The banquet is a pre-paid event and the set-up costs will be minimal. We anticipate set up fees of \$100 or less.

We have submitted the budget using figures based on 2006 National entries for conformation, sweeps, obedience, rally, and herding.

We have used local agility entries and cost to project revenue for the agility events.

We realize that we have submitted so many "pieces" of this proposal that it is almost impossible to have a clear picture of what we are proposing. In order to clarify our proposal we have sent a "final" proposal package via snailmail to each board member as well as this email. We hope that this will eliminate some of the confusion about which "proposal" to consider.

We have attached the "approved" date and location proposal and the current budget proposal (please disregard all other proposals and budgets that have been previously submitted). We have made a few changes to "approved" proposal (herding trial order, agility entry fees). We will continue to update the BOD as plans are finalized and changes occur. We are a year from the 2007 National and need the BOD to approve this national or choose another location and allow a new committee the time they need to plan the 2007 National.

Respectfully,