

WCA LOCAL SPECIALTY CLUB POLICY STATEMENT

Overview

Local Weimaraner clubs are defined as specialty clubs licensed by the American Kennel Club (“AKC”) and affiliated with the Weimaraner Club of America (“WCA”). While local clubs are autonomous, they are subject to the rules and regulations of both entities. In the pursuit of its objectives, it is the policy of the WCA to support local clubs as they seek, attain and maintain the status as local clubs recognized by the AKC.

AKC

The complete AKC regulations governing clubs can be found in the publication, “How to Form an AKC-Accredited Dog Club”, which is available on the AKC website. This publication explains the process of becoming a licensed specialty club and how that accreditation, once achieved, is maintained.

A “licensed club” is defined as, “A club approved to hold events at which championship points and/or titles may be won.” While not an exhaustive list, to initiate and maintain the status of a licensed club, requires compliance with the following criteria:

1. *Membership*: The majority of members must live within the club’s geographic area. Members should consist of breeders of AKC registered dogs; exhibitors in AKC events; judges licensed by the AKC; and interested dog owners who, although not actively breeding or exhibiting, own AKC registered dogs.
2. *Continuity*: The club must establish and maintain a record of meetings, elections and activities.
3. *Constitution and Bylaws*: The club must draft and approve a Constitution and Bylaws.
4. *Event Sites*: The club must have identified suitable sites for its activities.
5. *Officers*: Qualified officers must be chosen for the various club positions.
6. *Activities*: Clubs must hold events in their area which promote the sport and purebred dogs.

These rules mandate that a specialty club must support and hold AKC sanctioned or licensed events to maintain its accreditation. At a minimum, the club is required to hold at least one show in the events in which they are licensed once at least every other year. Clubs are not considered inactive until there is three to five years of failing to hold any AKC events. The rules are explicit in rejecting the recognition of a second club formed as a splinter or dissident group from a currently existing licensed specialty club.

It is of the utmost importance that each licensed specialty club adhere to the purposes of a licensed club as outlined in the AKC mandated Bylaws as follows:

- A. To ensure ongoing public benefit from purebred Weimaraner dogs through programs and activities.
- B. To encourage and promote quality in the breeding of purebred Weimaraners and do all possible to bring their natural qualities to perfection.
- C. To urge members and breeders to accept the Standard of the Breed as approved by the AKC as the only standard of excellence by which Weimaraners shall be judged.

- D.* To do all in its power to protect and advance the interest of the breed by encouraging sportsmanlike competition at dog shows, field trials, obedience trials and similar events.
- E.* To conduct sanctioned and licensed specialty shows, field trials, obedience trials or similar events under the rules of the AKC.

WCA

Weimaraner clubs fall into two categories, Associate Clubs and Local Clubs. Associate Clubs are start-up local clubs which have not yet been recognized by the AKC but have met the following WCA Standards to achieve Associate Club Status, specifically:

1. A minimum of one year of organizational meetings.
2. Initiating and expanding its membership roster.
3. Choosing a club name.
4. Electing officers.
5. Establishing bank accounts and securing financial health.
6. Successfully holding noncompetitive or fun events.

One year after the club is formed they may apply to the WCA's Board of Directors to obtain the status of "Associate Club", which can be maintained by re-applying to the WCA Executive Secretary every two years. Associate Clubs are not mandated but are strongly encouraged to hold two formal WCA Ratings Tests per year, strictly complying with the WCA's Rules and Regulations. Once the club has achieved WCA Associate Club status, they must aggressively and timely seek AKC approval to become a licensed club using the procedures outlined above. If the Associate Club has not been licensed by the AKC and fails to re-apply to the WCA within this two year time period, then they will be dropped as a WCA Associate Club in good standing.

The Responsibilities of Local Clubs

The WCA's local clubs are by definition AKC licensed specialty clubs. The local clubs and their members must understand that despite AKC rules governing their status, the AKC exercises no proactive monitoring or oversight over the estimated 5000 licensed clubs. The WCA is currently working to reorganize our committee structure which will afford us the opportunity to collaborate with the local clubs to fill this monitoring void. Local club officers must familiarize themselves with the rules for maintaining their AKC status. The lack of a proactive compliance function within the AKC mandates that local club members that are concerned about their club's compliance with AKC recognition rules contact the WCA's AKC Delegate and the AKC to report on the club's activities.

If a local club fails to hold at least one show in the events in which they are licensed within a two year time period, this should be reported to the WCA's AKC Delegate and the AKC. If your local club fails to hold any events over a consecutive three year time period, you should report this to the WCA's AKC Delegate and the AKC.

Parent Club Approvals

For Parent Club Approval of AKC Specialty Shows, AKC Field Trials and WCA Rating Tests the WCA requires:

- Current contact information for local club Officers, Directors, Legislative Liaison and the Club Contact person for the magazine and website.
- Weimaraner Club of America & Weimaraner Foundation Fund fees must be paid for prior Specialty Shows, Field Trials and WCA Rating Tests:
 - WCA Fees: Specialties and Field Trials; \$.50 per dog entered. Rating Tests; \$3.00 per entry.

Resources:

AKC Website at www.akc.org

“How to Form an AKC-Accredited Dog Club”

AKC Club Relations at 212-696-8211 or clubrelations@akc.org

WCA’s AKC Delegate, Jennifer Martin, graydogs@me.com

WCA Website for Constitution, By-Laws and Organization