

the BEARDIE BULLETIN

VOL 3 NO 4



Bearded Collie Club of America

THE BEARDIE MAKES IT - ILP!

It is with the greatest of pleasure that the Bearded Collie Club of America makes the official announcement to the general membership, that Bearded Collies will soon be eligible to be shown in the Miscellaneous and Obedience Classes at dog shows. This comes as a result of action taken at a meeting of the Board of Directors of the American Kennel Club on January 8, 1974. Below are excerpted portions of a letter from the Executive Secretary of the AKC, Mr. William F. Stifel.

"Please be advised that at its recent meeting, our Board of Directors authorized the addition of the Bearded Collie to the list of those breeds that are eligible to be shown in the Miscellaneous Class at dog shows.

The effective date for this authorization has been set at June 1, 1974. This means that the breed will be eligible to compete in the Miscellaneous Class in dog shows, and in obedience trials and tracking tests, held on or after that date. Notice to this effect will appear in the February Gazette."

This is, indeed, the most significant milestone in the short history of the Bearded Collie in this country. We have worked with the anticipation of this event since the Club was organized in 1969. We have directed the primary efforts of the Club to this goal. Club members, Beardie owners and breeders can all be justifiably proud of this achievement.

A first reaction may be to sigh, mop our brows and sit back with the feeling of a job well done. This accomplishment, as important as it is, is only a few steps up the ladder to our ultimate goal - that of full recognition by the American Kennel Club. It is now our task to double our efforts for the greater glory of the Bearded Collie.

ILP - SO WHAT?

It is important for each Beardie owner to understand just what the action by the AKC was and what it was not. The AKC recognized the Bearded Collie as a distinct breed; they have not admitted the breed into their stud book. Beardies can participate in AKC approved shows and matches and obedience trials; they cannot compete beyond the Miscellaneous Class. The AKC will give Indefinite Listing Privilege numbers to Beardies; they did not take over the registration of litters and individual dogs. In brief, they have cracked the door and let us put one foot in.

Before discussing what this means to us, a little background information. The AKC's mission is to promote the breeding of pure-bred dogs and to encourage the improvement of each such breed according to its standard. To accomplish the first, the AKC has a registration procedure for specific breeds and it maintains a Stud Book in which the genealogy of each registered dog is documented. For the second purpose it supervises the holding of dog shows and matches in which the excellence of dogs within each breed is judged.

Before it grants full recognition and privileges to a breed, the AKC wants to be very certain:

1. that the breed is indeed a distinct one which breeds true,
2. that it will be nationally accepted and generally continue a reasonable growth, and,
3. that among owners of the breed there is sufficient interest in improving the breed.

Obviously it takes time for the AKC to be satisfied that a new breed in this country meets all three conditions. So, when there is sufficient evidence that a breed will probably qualify in time, the AKC grants what amounts to a probationary status called "Indefinite Listing Privilege" (ILP). This means that individual dogs of this breed may be "listed" with the AKC and be given an ILP number upon submitting an application and two pictures as evidence. Then the dog may compete in the Miscellaneous Class and/or Obedience trials at approved shows and sanctioned matches.

So, on January 8, 1974, the AKC challenged Beardie owners to prove that theirs is a breed worthy of being associated with the one hundred and twenty breeds currently in the Stud Book. Thereby, the AKC acknowledged the first condition above - they recognize the Beardie as a true and distinct breed, that is, a Beardie bred to a Beardie always produces a Beardie.

The second condition, nation-wide acceptance and continued growth, will come in time. However, since it is provable statistics which impresses the AKC, we must get all of our Beardies registered with the BCCA. As can be seen in the statistics shown later in this Bulletin, there are still far too many un-registered dogs from registered litters. Actually, according to AKC figures, Beardie owners are doing just a little better in this respect than are the owners of the AKC registered breeds who no longer have anything to prove. We must do much better. There is possibly an even more important reason for making sure that all Beardies are registered with the BCCA. When Beardies are finally admitted to the AKC Stud Book, the BCCA will be responsible for certifying the applications for AKC registration and verifying the genealogies from their records.

The third point is the real challenge. The AKC feels that anyone really interested in improving his breed will want to compete in shows where knowledgeable judges assess the qualities of the dogs. The measure of such interest in a breed will be the number of dogs of that breed competing in dog shows. Every Beardie owner owes it to the breed to enter and exhibit in as many shows as possible. But it is necessary first to obtain an ILP number. Get an ILP application form for Bearded Collies from the AKC and submit it with the two required photographs. By the way, the AKC has asked that we wait until the latter part of February before asking for ILP application forms.

Then we must enter and exhibit in as many shows as possible. At first this will be easy and probably fun. The difficulty will be in keeping it up, especially if the main competition is from other breeds in Miscellaneous because no other Beardies were entered or showed up. It can also be discouraging to get the feeling that the judge doesn't really yet know Beardies. But despite disparate competition or apparently uninformed judging, it is important to remember that the purpose for showing is to help speed the day when the AKC fully recognizes the Beardie and when neither of these conditions will be true. And also remember that it is showing, not just entering a show, that counts.

One suggestion is for each regional club to select one show a month (preferably one in which the Miscellaneous Class will be judged by a working group judge) and for as many Beardies as possible to compete at that show. The other breeds in Miscellaneous will probably be much in the minority and it will be almost a Beardie show. What better way is there to introduce the Beardie to the general public! Perhaps the regional club could also offer trophies for the highest placing Beardies in the Miscellaneous Class.

So there is the challenge. We should establish a goal of full acceptance by the AKC within two years. Let me be more explicit. By January, 1976, we should have at least 1000 Beardies registered, in at least 40 states and have had at least 1000 Beardie entries competing in Miscellaneous Classes. These are the kinds of statistics we could proudly present to the AKC. It will not be easy, but it can be done. This will mean making a particular effort to get all Beardies in the US registered with the BCCA. Then we must get ILP numbers and show as many Beardies as we can. If you don't, you cannot assume that the other fellow will. Let's all try to set a record for the shortest time any breed has stayed in Miscellaneous.

WHAT ELSE CAN WE DO?

Thus, we have established the necessity of showing our Beardies at AKC dog shows. What else can we do? For some time now, the Bearded Collie Club of America has been actively urging the formation of local Beardie clubs wherever there are sufficient fanciers. As you know, there are now organized functioning clubs in the Chicago area, the southern central New England area, and the greater New York city area. (For information regarding these local clubs, the addresses of the respective secretaries are included at the end of this Bulletin.) These clubs hold periodic meetings and matches and disseminate breed information to members. They will now provide an even more important function - that of organizing Beardie people for the purpose of exhibiting at area AKC shows. There are most certainly other areas of the country where such clubs can be formed.

It is also important that we now become somewhat more involved in all-breed functions. By joining an all-breed club, we will have an excellent opportunity to learn the operations of a dog show and the business of exhibiting at these shows. We will establish contact with knowledgeable and experienced breeders and exhibitors who can provide guidance to us in our canine activities. This will help us learn proper ring procedure and methods of training our dogs for the show ring. By these associations, we will learn what will be expected of us when the day comes that not only will Beardies be fully recognized by the AKC, but the BCCA will also be granted AKC license.

One very important task we must undertake immediately is the training of our dogs (and ourselves) for the show

ring. In order to compete successfully, we all have much work to do. As any exhibitor will tell you, there is nothing more frustrating than the feeling that your dog could have placed better had it behaved better.

A few points about dog shows and the Miscellaneous Class:

1. If you are not already on the mailing lists of the Superintendents of dog shows in your area, go to a show, find the superintendent's table or tent and fill out their form. They will send you Premium Lists of future shows in your area about six weeks before the show dates. Several entry forms will be included.
2. Send in your entry form well before the closing date shown on the Premium List. Note that you must use the ILP number assigned to your dog by the AKC - not the BCCA registration number. Also don't try to enter a show taking place before June 1, 1974.
3. You will receive confirmation of your entry and a Judging Schedule showing the times of judging and rings for each breed and for Miscellaneous.
4. In the Miscellaneous Class, all of the breeds are judged together. The class may be divided by sex or may be judged as one class. This will be indicated on the Premium List. Note that the winners in the Miscellaneous Classes do not compete further in the show. (After Beardies are admitted to the regular classes, they will compete in the Working Group.)

This is our first real opportunity to show the American public what a really delightful breed we have. Let's make the most of it!

BCCA AND ILP - HOW AND WHY?

The membership will be interested in a brief history of the Club and its activities directed towards achieving this first step - AKC Miscellaneous recognition.

The Bearded Collie Club of Amercia was organized in July of 1969 by five charter members. Since then the membership has steadily increased as shown below:

July, 1969	5	members
December, 1970	45	"
December, 1971	78	"
December, 1972	104	"
December, 1973	147	"
February, 1974	168	"

These increases reflect total membership, but in addition, examining the continuing membership, one sees a steadily increasing number of dedicated Beardie fanciers.

In 1970, we had members in ten states. Today, our membership covers 25 states from Maine to California.

In the middle of 1970, the Club began its current registration records. At the end of this report are year by year registration statistics of Beardies in the United States. It is significant that the total known Beardies in the US have increased by 400% in three years since December of 1970. It is dismaying that the number of unregistered puppies has also increased by the same percentage. In this same time the number of breeders has increased by 500%. The geographical distribution of Beardies in the US has shown excellent advancement. In 1970, there were Beardies in seven states. Today there are Beardies registered in 25 states (a 250% increase).

Our first contact with the American Kennel Club was made in mid 1970. At that time our request for recognition was withdrawn at the suggestion of the AKC. From that time until December of 1972, the Club periodically provided the AKC with information relating to Beardies and Beardie activities. Then, at that time, your President, the Club Registrar and the founding President of the Club met with the Executive Secretary of the American Kennel Club at their offices in New York. A presentation and another request for recognition was made at that time. We were well received and given much encouragement, but no action was taken on our request. In October, 1973, your President and the Registrar again presented the AKC with information on the Club and on Beardies at the New York offices. A third request for recognition was made. After careful consideration of the material presented, the Board of Directors of the AKC met and approved our request. One condition of recognition requires slight modification of our breed standard to eliminate reference to other breeds. There will be a referendum of Club members to authorize these changes in the very near future.

Thomas M. Davies, President
Bearded Collie Club of America

D. Ian Morrison, Registrar
Bearded Collie Club of America

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BEARDED COLLIE CLUB of AMERICA

Comparison of Annual Statistics

	12/70	12/71	12/72	12/73
Registered:				
US Born	32	63	108	194
Imported	<u>19</u>	<u>41</u>	<u>63</u>	<u>84</u>
Total Registered	51	104	171	278
Un-registered puppies	27	51	96	140
Beardies not re-registered	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>
Total known Beardies in US	83	160	272	422
% Known are US born	72%	71%	75%	79%
% Registered are US born	63%	61%	63%	70%
Total puppies	59	114	204	334
% of puppies registered	54%	55%	53%	58%
Breeders	5	7	17	29
Litters	11	19	32	55
Stud Book Register				
Males	5	10	18	27
Females	7	12	23	37
States with Registered Beardies	7	17	22	25
States with Breeders	5	7	10	13