

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dr. Gerard C. Penta

WAITING HEAR IF APPROVAL PLAN WILL BE ENACTED

Everyone in the judging community is holding their collective breath waiting to hear if the AKC Board's current judging approval plan will be enacted. I, for one, believe the proposal now being pushed at the Board level would be a serious setback to the sport and anyone concerned about their own breed if implemented.

My negativity regarding the proposal is due to a complete lack of evaluation in the proposed approval process. There is something fundamentally wrong with a "judging approval process" which will allow an individual who demonstrates a lack of breed knowledge and an inability to do a minimally adequate job of judging his or her most recently approved breeds, to nonetheless rapidly advance through one group after another unimpeded by the established approval process. It does make one wonder why the very body responsible for the protection and preservation of purebred dogs would consider such a policy, let alone approve it.

With no reasonable rationale for this lack of accountability, there seem to be some rapidly spreading rumors regarding the personal motivations of some on the AKC Board. I will not repeat these rumors here, but if they are true, the possible corruption of the Board, which was a concern when the Board decided to award themselves additional breeds, may now have reached its full expression.

The ultimate blame for this undermining of the dog show world can be laid at the doorstep of the delegate

body. It is no secret that certain Board members would like to do away with even the most minimal standards of competency when it comes to judging approval. Yet they continue to be reelected by the delegates to the AKC Board. If the proposed judging approval process is passed, I fear the delegate body, and the sport, will soon reap what they have sewn.