

I want to thank you all, on behalf of the 26 members of the (now terminated) Hunting/Working Committee of the ATCA for your steadfast and generous support of the mission to maintain the breed standard in the field. None of our efforts over the past twenty years would have been possible without your help. Many of you have called or written asking for various clarifications of the committee's actions over the past several months and the ATCA Board's response to those actions. I no longer speak for the Hunting Working Committee, or any other group, and these thoughts are entirely my own.

In 1984 The Hunting/Working Committee of the ATCA was created by a motion made by Forbes Gordon at the Annual General Membership Meeting at MCKC and voted on by the membership. Since that time the ATCA Hunting/Working Committee has been protecting, promoting and defending the breed standard afield and has been executing this charge as a completely unfunded mandate with no intermingling of funds from the ATCA general treasury for more than twenty years.

While, as in many organizations, some members' activities overlap, the '07 Hunting Working Committee was not the 2007 WOTA Committee. WOTA was a Committee appointed by the board and chaired by the then-ATCA President. The WOTA event and committee were also confirmed and approved by the ATCA Board in 2004, 2005 and 2006. Neither was the '07 Hunting Working Committee the FOTA group who had rooms at two different hotels in October. In fact, I have been distressed to hear reported that anyone with a dissenting voice has become a "Hunting Working" person. I want to encourage you all to refuse to accept any restrictions to your freedom to associate with whom you like or the freedom to express your opinion.

The ATCA Hunting/Working Committee of more than twenty members has been responsible for the creation of a comprehensive all-in-one gundog testing program, the promotion and advertising of the Hunting Airedale, bred to the standard, and education and workshops for people who want to begin to evaluate their Airedales in the field. We have also had many tracking and protection demonstrations and workshops. The Committee has been entirely responsible for all expenses associated with this program, which includes as many as eight regional tests and a Field Nationals. The requirements include, but are not limited

to- Trophies, Certificates, Presenters, Judges, Property, Materials, Helpers, Website and Advertising.

2007 marked the most effective and successful year of the program, with more than 200 entries in tests and workshops and resulting in 24 new titles. The following is my understanding of the sequence of events which culminated in the termination of the committee by the ATCA Board:

1) In February '06, while Chairman of the ATCA HW Committee, I had an email exchange with ATCA President Charlie Foley in which he asked the HW Committee to investigate forming a separate corporation for tax purposes as ATCA Rescue had done in the past, and to report back to the Board. At this time the ATCA Board was greatly concerned with their tax status (since changed) and with non-member sales. I reported the actions at the '06 HW meeting in person to Charlie in May.

2) In March '06, at the HW Committee meeting (in open session with guests present), we voted unanimously to remain an integral part of the ATCA. We assigned a sub-committee to explore the incorporation issue.

3) In February '07 the sub-committee formed an Ohio corporation, Hunting Working Airedales, Inc., with Steve Gilbert as the only shareholder.

4) In March '07 at the HW Committee meeting (in open session with guests present) we voted unanimously to adopt the new corporation (as reported by the sub-committee) to operate the program of hunt tests. We instructed Sheila Mors to pursue Federal not-for-profit tax status. Following the HW Meeting in March, the members of the committee attended a dinner with more than 100 people and a day of hunt tests. At no time did we ask for, or have any expectation of, secrecy in regards to these actions.

5) In July '07 I filed the HW Committee's yearly Board Report with the ATCA Secretary (as requested), including the information outlined above, and copied the entire committee via US mail. No action was requested. President Virginia Latham-Smith emailed me a set of questions which I responded to, as I was able. I offered no information that had not been discussed in the March meeting and no personal speculation on future relationships.

6) In August '07 I filed the fiscal year financial report for HW ('06-'07) in the same format as provided in several previous years (since I believe Scott was ATCA Treasurer), and copied the committee. I reported that the following year's budget would continue to be \$0 in-\$0 out vis-à-vis the ATCA treasury. No funds were requested, no proposed budget was provided (also as in all previous years to my knowledge).

Following receipt of my Board report in August, two board members contacted me by phone. Other than Virginia's email requesting more information not yet available to me, no other officers or board members have contacted me about any of this information before or since.

7) In September '07 I received a certified letter from ATCA Asst. Treasurer, Pamela Macomber requiring me to bring my committee into compliance with three pages of new accounting and budgeting rules by October 15th.

8) In September '07 the Hunting Working Airedales, Inc. received approval as a Federal 501C4 corporation retroactively to the (February '07) date of incorporation. I notified the Board of the change in tax status and amended my financial report for tax filing purposes only, clearly stating that the previous ATCA fiscal year report remained correct and appropriate for ATCA yearly financial report.

9) On Wednesday, October 3rd, 2007, the ATCA Board voted (in closed session) to terminate the Hunting Working Committee and remand all ATCA property. They announced this action at the Annual Membership Meeting on Friday, October 5th, 2007. While I have not yet been notified by mail of this action, the announcement at the Annual Meeting makes me believe that it is so.

I regret the action of the board and believe it to be unnecessarily divisive and reactionary. I have had one conversation with Virginia Latham-Smith at MCKC, following the Board action, and numerous discussions with Forbes Gordon in an effort at reconciliation. While I am no longer in a leadership position, I am certain that the members of the committee have acted, and continue to act, with the unity of the breed and future well-being of the Airedale in their hearts. In any case, the ladies and gentlemen who managed the Field Nationals last March are largely committed to putting on a similar event in March of 2008.

We continue to welcome your participation. Please refer to the www.huntingworkingairedales.com website for supporting documentation that is available to me in this matter and updates on the future activities of Hunting Working Airedales, Inc.

Respectfully yours,

David W. Morgan October 17th, 2007