



**AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUBSM**

Doug Ljungren
Assistant Vice President
Performance Events

November 12, 2008

Virginia Latham Smith
President, Airedale Terrier Club of America
5051 E. Collier Road
Acampo, CA 95220

Subject: Airedales Approved to Enter Spaniel Hunting Tests

On November 10, 2008 the AKC Board of Directors approved the staff's recommendation allowing the Airedale Terrier to enter Spaniel Hunting Tests starting July 1, 2009. Given the long history behind this development, it is a significant milestone for the breed. This decision provides an enhanced opportunity for the breed to retain and improve its hunting abilities.

I wish to compliment the persistence and unwavering belief in the ability of the breed that has been shown by the ATCA and most particularly the Airedale Hunting / Working Committee. Without these persistent efforts, I doubt we would be where we are today.

This is both the culmination of the efforts of many supporters as well as the start of a new challenge. With over one hundred Spaniel Hunting Tests throughout the country, the opportunity for field testing has never been better for Airedale owners. Now is the time for Airedale supporters to step forward on behalf of their breed. This will be a new activity for many and one can expect there will be a period of learning. Hopefully the owners will show the same tenacity as their dogs. It is my hope that with time, the hunting instincts will be awakened in many Airedales and the breed will be able to broadly demonstrate its inherent hunting abilities.

The Board concurred with a recommendation that there should be a meeting between the Performance Events staff and the ATCA in two years to review the impact this decision has had upon the breed and the sport and to identify unintended consequences. This meeting will be held in the summer of 2011.

Congratulations to all those that have worked so hard in the past and good luck on meeting the challenges of the future.

Sincerely,

Doug Ljungren

Cc: Karen Copley, ATCA Hunting & Field Chair
David Morgan, Hunting & Working Airedales
Tom Meyer, AKC Field Representative