

November 29, 1995

Dear AKC Delegate,

The Doberman Pinscher Club of America is asking you to support the Restricted Registration amendment. The proposed Rule change will be voted on at the December meeting. Your affirmative vote will bring back the original vision of AKC as a **Club of Clubs**. This may be the **most significant issue** ever voted on by the Delegate Body. It will affect ALL breed clubs for which there is a color disqualification.

This rule change gives each breed club the **option** to request Restricted Registration with a 75% favorable vote of their membership.

Chapter 3, Section 4B. The entire section 4B as amended, would read:

Restricted Registration will be assigned to a dog when application for individual registration of the dog is submitted, if the breed Parent Club by at least 75% affirmative vote of their membership has requested that such registration be issued to dogs of a disqualifying color. No offspring of a dog for which restricted registration has been issued is eligible for registration. Each registration certificate for such a dog shall carry notice of the restriction and shall not be removed.

As the "keeper of our breed standard," the Doberman Pinscher Club of America is taking the initiative to regain control of our breed in order to protect its integrity and purity. Help us **pave the way** for all Parent Clubs to exercise the same control over their standard by voting "yes".

We were forced to fight for the preservation of our breed.

The AKC is registering Dobermans that display a mutant trait never previously described in the breed's history. Geneticists and examining veterinarians have determined that these dogs suffer from a deleterious form of partial albinism. The greatly reduced pigment in skin and eyes causes marked photosensitivity (squint or shut eyes in sunlight) and increased risk of solar skin damage including cancer.

HISTORICAL FACTS

- 1976 On Nov. 10, two black & rust parents produced 11 black & rust puppies and one female **mutant albino with translucent blue eyes, pink nose, eye rims, and pads.**
- 1979 The owner wrote **albino** on the registration application. The blue slip was returned with a letter from AKC explaining that **albino is not a color**. Photographs were requested and examined by the AKC's registration review committee. In their opinion the female was white. Without notifying the Parent Club, AKC registered the first "white" Doberman in its history. The owner began an incestuous breeding program designed to exploit this trait.
- 1981 Upon hearing of the existence of these animals, the DPCA asked the AKC to investigate. AKC's investigators determined that the mutant albino bitch was purebred.
- 1982 The AKC approved the DPCA's amendment to our Standard: **Disqualifying fault: Dogs not of an allowed color.**
- 1983 The DPCA's "White" Doberman Research Committee acquired two albinistic puppy bitches from albinistic parents. A five-year study showed:

- A. They were photosensitive, hyperactive fear biters, and prone to solar skin damage.
 - B. Calculated test breeding determined that the genetic fault is caused by a recessive masking gene and **not** related to the color black gene (B), the color red gene (b), the non-dilution gene (D), or the dilution gene (d) that produces our four allowed colors.
 - C. Microscopic examination of hair and skin revealed few color cells, hypomelanocytic.
These animals are members of the descriptive spectrum of albinism.
- 1990-94 During this 5 year period "white" registrations increased 475%. Even more alarming is the fact that possibly **six times that number of standard colored litter mates carry the hidden genetic defect.**
 - 1994 AKC asked the DPCA to poll its membership regarding this issue. 98.8% of the 1153 votes cast **opposed the breeding and registration of albinistic Dobermans.**

YOUR VOTE IS IMPORTANT TO ALL PARENT CLUBS

For almost fifteen years the DPCA has paid out thousands of dollars for scientific studies and requested assistance from the AKC and received no relief. During this time, these defective animals proliferated in our gene pools **unchecked.**

The AKC Board is **not** the appropriate body to determine the proper **appearance and function** of our breed. **THAT RIGHT BELONGS TO THE PARENT CLUB.** Parent Clubs are the originators of their standard. Its members are sworn to the protection of the breed and preservation of their standard. AKC should be supportive of the Breed Club's convictions involving the Breed Standard.

The action of the AKC's registration review committee appears to have created a **new type of Doberman** in direct violation of the AKC Constitution. Specifically it states, Article IV, Section 5: "It shall be the duty and privilege of each parent member Specialty club to define precisely the true type of the breed of purebred dogs which it was organized to promote and improve....."

The DPCA welcomes any tool offered by AKC to help us protect the future of our breed.

At its November 1995 meeting, the AKC Board approved a proposal to develop a mechanism to help breeders track disqualifying colors on AKC certified pedigrees and registration papers.

The DPCA representatives met with AKC's administrative staff in Raleigh, N.C. to devise a prototype tracking system to enable breeders to identify not only disqualifying colors by coded registration number, but also potential carriers of the albino gene. This will make it possible for DPCA breeders in the future to select mates and puppies free of the undesirable gene.

We are encouraged by the initial cooperation of the AKC Board. However, only immediate implementation of Restricted Registration and the genetic tracking system together will finally provide what neither can alone : The means by which to eliminate this flaw from our gene pool.

We are asking you, the Delegates, representing the best interests of purebred dogs to protect your own breed as well as ours by voting "yes" for Restricted Registration.

Sincerely,

President

AKC Delegate