



Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever Club (USA)
ONLINE BOARD BUSINESS SESSION
Beginning Monday, March 30, 2020
AGENDA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

December 2019 Online Board Meeting Minutes

(Please see: Attachment A – December 2019 Online Board Meeting Minutes)

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

None submitted

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Scent Work License

(Please see Attachment B)

TREASURER'S REPORT

None submitted

COMMITTEE REPORTS

None submitted

REGIONAL DIRECTOR REPORTS

None submitted

AGENDA ITEMS:

OLD BUSINESS

Proposal #1: Step Up Award

Submitted by: Rev. Elizabeth Meacham

This proposal was tabled to allow for the Records Chair and the Treasurer to provide a list of dogs that would qualify and provide an estimate of time involved in providing on going results. The Treasurer to provide the costs.

NEW BUSINESS

Proposal #1: NSDTRC (USA) Membership Facebook Page Proposal

Submitted by: Danielle Winship, Region 3 Director. Email: hansend777@gmail.com

Proposal Description: Create a private Facebook page for active NSDTRC(USA) members only. The page will be setup so that only admins can create posts. Members can submit topics to the admin team to bring forward. An admin will post a new topic every other week for members

to comment on and discuss. See examples of topic posts below. There will also be a monthly post to allow members to share brags/wins.

Topic Examples:

Discussion topic of the week: What are your experiences with Addison's Disease in Tollers? When was the onset and how was it diagnosed? What was the treatment course for your dog?

Discussion topic of the week: The board recently reviewed a proposal to allow the club to host nosework events. Do you compete in nosework with your Tollers? How did you get started?

Discussion topic of the week: As of February 2020, Tollers are allowed to be judged on the ground or on a ramp in conformation events. Do you find judges are aware of this change? What has your experience been either showing dogs on the ramp or observing them?

Brag and updates of the month! Let's hear about your recent wins, qualifying runs, training successes, and adventures with your Tollers. Photos encouraged but please limit to one photo per person.

The rules and guidelines listed below will be listed on the facebook page. The admin team will be composed of three club members, at least one who is a board member. The team will review post suggestions from the membership and decide on a post topic every other week. The team will review comments that potentially violate the page Rules and Guidelines and determine by majority vote how to proceed. Danielle Winship, Laurie Geyer, and Joy Annunziato will be the page administrators (admins).

NSTDRC(USA) Membership Facebook Page Rules and Guidelines

Be Kind and Courteous

We're all in this together to create a welcoming environment. Let's treat everyone with respect. Healthy debates are natural, but kindness is required. Remember this page is open to all club members: breeders, exhibitors, and owners.

Volunteers Are the Heart of a Club

Please remember our board members, delegates, committee chairs, and event chairs are all hardworking people who dedicate their time toward the club and the betterment of the breed. Want to see something improve? Make constructive suggestions, write a proposal, and/or step up for a club position!

No Hate Speech or Bullying

Make sure everyone feels safe. Bullying of any kind isn't allowed, and degrading comments about things like race, religion, culture, sexual orientation, gender or identity will not be tolerated.

Tollers Are Our Priority

In alignment with the purpose of our club we seek the following:

- (a) To encourage and promote quality in the responsible breeding of purebred Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retrievers and to do all possible to bring their natural qualities to perfection.
- (b) To urge members and breeders to accept the Standard of the breed as approved by the Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever Club (USA) and subsequently approved by The American Kennel Club as the only standard of excellence by which Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retrievers shall be judged.
- (c) To encourage the organization of independent local specialty clubs in those localities where there are sufficient fanciers of the breed to meet the requirements of the American Kennel Club.
- (d) To do all in its power to protect and advance the interests of the breed and to encourage sportsman-like competition at dog shows, obedience trials, tracking tests, hunt tests, agility trials and any other events in which the breed may participate.
- (e) To conduct sanctioned matches, specialty shows, obedience trials, tracking tests, hunt tests, agility trials and any other events the Club is eligible to hold under the rules and regulations of the American Kennel Club.
- (f) To encourage and support research into the genetic and health related issues that impact Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retrievers.
- (g) To develop programs needed to provide for the welfare of the breed and of individual dogs in need.

Members who make comments that go against these rules and guidelines will be contacted by an admin with a verbal reminder. A second offense will require the member to read a copy of the rules and regulations and sign to acknowledge they have read them and agree to the terms. A third offense will result in expulsion from the page for a three month period.

Proposal Justification:

- Membership engagement: Currently it is difficult to engage with members. Although great for getting information out, email conversations and chains can be difficult to follow. Plus members do not see emails from other regions. The ability for members to communicate with each other will lead to a sense of club camaraderie and engagement. This may be the start of club involvement for many members currently sitting on the sidelines as ideas and suggestions are shared from across the country.
- Professional setup: Rather than just allowing people to post at random the page will be setup to allow for professional, thoughtful discussion. Admin only posts also help to keep the page organized and from becoming “oversaturated”. There is a fair, disciplinary process if needed.
- Incentive for membership: Members who are not already active in the club are likely asking, “What’s in this for me?” Having a private facebook page for members only encourages people to become and stay members so they can stay up to date on club activities and provide input on topics. This is especially important as we are in transition for a new Quackers editor.

- **Popular platform:** Many people are already active on and familiar with Facebook. There are direct apps for iPhone and Android so people can easily access it. Social media is extremely popular. Any person can become a Facebook member for free. There is no cost to setup a private Facebook group.
- **Possible Quackers substitute:** If the Facebook page shows a strong start and success it could potentially be used to present articles, ads, and announcements if the Quackers editor position is still not filled.

Administration: This proposal requires on-going administration by the Club most specifically in maintaining a qualified admin team. Admins should be professional, familiar with Facebook use, strong advocates of the breed, and facilitators of positive, productive conversation.

Financial Implications: There is no cost to create a Facebook group. A Facebook group would likely bring in more club funds by encouraging new members to join and providing existing members an incentive to stay.

Specific Board Action Requested: Review the proposal and provide approval to initiate a club Facebook page. Review and approve the NSTDRC(USA) Membership Facebook Page Rules and Guidelines.

Proposal #2: Review the Application to hold a Specialty in 2023
Submitted by: Joy Annunziato
(Please see Attachment C)

Specific Board Action Requested: Approve the Application.

Proposal #3: Review the Application to hold a Specialty in 2023
Submitted by: Lauren LaPoint
(Please see Attachment D)

Specific Board Action Requested: Approve the Application.

Proposal #4: Criteria to Hold a NSDTRC (USA) Specialty
Submitted by: Francine Kaplan on behalf of the Specialty Guidelines Committee
(Please see Attachment E)

ADJOURNMENT

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Proposal #1: Review the Application for Trophy Chair.

Proposal #2: Review the Application for Field Chair – 1st applicant.

Proposal #3: Review the Application for Field Chair – 2nd applicant.

ADJOURNMENT