

Delegate Survey – Summary

Question 1: Current restrictions should remain in place. A slim majority of delegates indicate that they do not support this (53%), but certainly nowhere near the number needed to support a bylaws change. There is no significant difference by either geographic region or length of time as a delegate in response to this question. It should be noted that geographic regions were reduced to four broader regions, Northeast which includes the Northeast and Middle Atlantic States, the Midwest which includes the East North Central and the West North Central, the South which includes the South Atlantic, East South Central, and the West South Central regions, and the West which includes the Mountain and Pacific Regions.

Question 2: The vast majority of delegates (95%) indicate that the board's lack of recommendation had no impact on how either his/her club instructed them to vote. Again there is no significant difference by either geographic region or length of time as a delegate in response to this question.

Question 3: This looked at whether delegates were instructed to vote. One of the things not addressed by this question is the nature of the direction of the vote, that is "In Favor" or "Against." A little more than 37% were instructed how to vote, 45% were allowed to vote as they thought best, and 17% were instructed how to vote but if the proposition was amended, they could they make whatever decision they thought best. There is no significant difference by geographic region on this question. However, delegates with between 5 and 9 years of services were instructed how to vote more often than would have been expected, while delegates with 20 or more years of experience were permitted to vote as they thought best more than would have been expected.

Question 4: This question looked at whether clubs might be open to having delegate judges charge a nominal fee, no fee limit, or no fee. 11.5% indicated that they would favor a nominal fee of \$100; a little over 12% indicated they would accept a fee up to \$200.00. Almost 45% of delegates indicated there should be no restrictions on delegate judges being able to charge a fee, while almost 32% indicated that a delegate judge should not be able to charge a fee. This suggests an interesting option relative to a bylaws change, which is that it might be possible to have enough support for a bylaws change either by setting the fee at \$100, or convincing the \$100 group to join the \$200 group and the no restrictions group in favor of a nominal fee of \$200. There are no significant differences in response to this question by either geographic region or length of service as a delegate.

Question 5: This question addresses the idea of the delegate body once again having the responsibility for approving delegates. Almost 58% of delegates indicated that they would favor this change. However, this is still well short of the required 66% needed to support a bylaws change. Here again there is no significant difference in response pattern by either geographic region or length of service as a delegate.

The next series of responses under Question 6 look at support for removing an eligibility restriction for a particular profession. Each will be discussed separately.

In terms of professional handlers, 54% of the delegates who answered this item indicated that they would support professional handlers being able to serve as delegates. This falls short of the required 66% support that would be needed for a bylaws change to pass. While there is no significant difference by geographic region, there is a significant difference related to length of service as a delegate, delegates with less than five years of service are more likely to be supportive of the idea of professional handlers serving as delegates, while the other service categories tend to be less supportive of the idea.

When delegates were asked whether they would support delegate judges who charge a fee, with no restrictions on the amount of the fee, about 55% of delegates indicated they would support this. This is still 10% under the needed 66% for a bylaws change to be successful. While there is no significant difference based on length of service in the delegate body, there is a significant difference in response pattern for geographic region. Delegates from the Northeast and West were more supportive of this option than delegates from the Midwest or the South.

Delegates indicated that when it came to delegate judges who charge a fee, but where the fee was nominal, in this question nominal was not defined, but given the previous question means something between \$100 and \$200, 62% of delegates supported this option. While still below the 66% threshold for a bylaws change, it suggests that we might be able to work to garner support for this option. There is no significant difference by either geographic region or length of service as a delegate in response to this occupational inclusion.

Delegates indicated by 66.5% that they would support the inclusion of delegates who engage in the retail sale of dog food or dog supplies. This is the one occupational category that clears the 66% threshold for a potential bylaws change. Here again, there is no significant difference in response to this item by either geographic region or length of service as a delegate.

When it comes to publishers or those who promote kennels or show dogs through soliciting or accepting advertisements in commercial dog publications slightly more than 52% indicated that they would be in favor of delegates from this group. Well below the 66% threshold for a bylaws change. While there is no significant difference by length of service as a delegate in response to this question, there is a difference by Geographic region, with the South being the least accepting of this option and the West being the most accepting of this option.

Interestingly, Dog Show Superintendents received the least amount of support for inclusion in the delegate body, other than the last three areas, which represent areas that for most delegates represent groups that are regarded as antithetical to the sport of pure bred dogs. Only a little more than 45% of delegates indicated they would be in favor of Superintendents being allowed to serve as delegates. While there is no significant difference by geographic region for this option, there is a significant difference by length of service as a delegate, with delegates with 5 or fewer years of service being the most open to this option.

The other three groupings have the least support overall for inclusion in the delegate body with only 28% indicating they would be agreeable to persons trading or trafficking in dogs being a delegate, 26% indicating that they would be agreeable to persons with a significant interest in another registry or show giving organization being a delegate, and 23% indicating that they would find it acceptable for a person who embezzled or misappropriated funds from the AKC or a sanctioned, licensed or member club being a delegate. There were no significant differences by either geographic region or length of service as a delegate to these three categories.

Of the persons who responded to the question on geographic location, 35% were from the Northeast, 17% were from the Midwest, 28% were from the South, and 20% were from the West. Of the persons who responded to the length of service question, 27% had 5 or fewer years as a delegate, 28% had between 5 and 9 years of service, 17% had between 10 to 14 years of service, 12% had between 15 and 19 years of service, and 16% had 20 or more years of service. There was no significant difference in terms of distribution of length of service by geographic region.