The State 4-H Dog Advisory Committee met Saturday, September 20, 2008, in the Normandy Barn at the Indiana State Fairgrounds in Indianapolis, IN.

The meeting was called to order at 1:15 p.m. by Vice-President Bob Holt. The 27 people in attendance introduced themselves. The Minutes of the April 5 meeting were read. Jan Cochard moved to accept the Minutes. Mike Burton seconded. The Minutes were approved unanimously.

State Fair Director, Steve Patterson thanked the Committee for their support. He talked about the 2009 State Fair, which will be expanded to 17 days, as not only a time of change but of opportunity. The final State Fair Board assignments will be made on Oct 10 at their re-organization meeting. The fair schedule is on-line at www.indianastatefair.com.

Show Manager, Cindy Barnett shared her list of show needs and comments from committee members, parents and 4-Hers that she collected during the show. Particular concerns were the deadline for changes, whether any changes should be allowed after that date, and that many people said they did not receive a confirmation letter. Jan Cochard said that the emailed summary of a county’s entrants was helpful in catching mistakes and verifying that entries were correct. LeeAnn Pollock asked if July 1st would still be the entry deadline. Steve Patterson answered that it is likely to remain July 1st because of the time needed to process entries and send a book of state fair tickets to each exhibitor. Rob Myers said we need to check that the Confirmation Letter contains new information for the show. Rob also suggested that we have a message line on the web entry page that indicates a person to contact if their confirmation letter fails to arrive by a specific date. Carol Garringer asked how to get the correct county name for a 4-Her who lives out of her county. If the 4-Her doesn’t have an in-county address, then it can be corrected after the confirmation letters are received. Christy Jones asked if volunteers will be given complimentary state fair tickets. Steve Patterson said that he expects to be able to send each volunteer two tickets. LeeAnn Pollock asked that the method of lining up the 4-Hers for the awards presentation be improved so that families and spectators can see the 4-Hers receive their awards. Steve Patterson said that we did have a few misprinted ribbons and that correct ribbons were mailed to the affected exhibitors.

We received reports that some of the showmanship comment sheets are missing. It seems that the 4-Hers who were brought back for run-offs are missing their comment sheet. Bob Holt polled leaders on our Yahoo group list and the majority of respondents suggested that the comment sheets should be used with changes. Showmanship Chairman, Kim Bachert wants the judges to be consistent with their marks on the comment sheets. A Comment Sheet Revision Committee was formed with Kim Bachert – Chairman, Christy Jones, Sherry Mitchell, Rob Myers, and Carol Newberry. The Committee was asked to report at the next meeting.

Ed Mitchell asked that agility score sheets be checked for accuracy. Vet Check Chairman, Bob Holt reported that eight calls were made to veterinarian’s and Extension offices to verify information. Bob noted that because we’ll have a Saturday show in 2009, he wouldn’t be able to contact any Extension Office staff. Three dogs were temperament tested – and passed, one dog was rejected for having fleas, and two bitches in season were denied entrance.

Chris Roeder questioned the attention of the agility judge in the Advanced/Intermediate ring. Handlers were not being required to follow the walk-through rule of one attempt per obstacle, and there were dogs being dragged over obstacles during the walk-through and their run. Agility Chairman, Joe Reese said the judge should be watching the walk-through. Joe stated he had some concern about the judge’s back problems. Sharon Reese reported that the judge
warned several exhibitors, as they were exiting the walk-through, about unacceptable handling. Dixie Harnishfeger asked if the speed of the Teeter-Totter could be adjusted. Joe described how the balance point could be changed. Joe also stated that he may be able to borrow the display board that goes with the electronic timing equipment, if the committee would want it used.

Carol Newberry commented that her 4-Hers came away with positive feelings from the obedience judges. Obedience Chairman, Rob Myers reported on a memorable day with no major problems. While most rings were running behind schedule in the morning, the rings finished at about the same time in the afternoon. Rob thanked all the volunteers who had a part in this grand show. Pat Fry said she questioned a judge about a handler wearing flip-flops and that the judge didn’t seem to know our footwear rules.

Drill Team Chairman, Sue Barlow gave a brief history of how we’ve arrived at the present Limited and Unlimited Divisions and summarized discussion of class descriptions that took place at the Drill Team Leaders Meeting.

Christy Jones shared concern about a dog that reportedly was unattended for most of its time at the show. Any concerns during the show should be brought to the attention of the Show Manager or the Advisory Committee Officers.

LeeAnn Pollock moved to accept the Obedience Guide as presented, with allowance to make editorial changes (spelling, grammar, etc.) as needed. Chris Roeder seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Approval of score sheets for the class changes is expected to come at the next meeting.

Because the June meeting was cancelled, the standing Nominating Committee met during a break in this meeting. Nominating Committee Chairman, Pat Fry reported that her committee nominates the current slate of officers for another term: President - Ron Gibson, Vice-President – Bob Holt, and Secretary – Sue Pfrank. There were no nominations from the floor.

Discussion of the 2009 Show in the West Pavilion . . . Steve Patterson, State Fair Director

Steve Patterson has asked the Show Manager, Officers, and the Obedience, Showmanship, Agility and Drill Team Chairmen to be his 2009 Show Advisory Committee. The ultimate responsibility for the show falls to Steve Patterson, Colleen Brady and Cindy Barnett. The State Fair Board is to have the final adoption of the Fair schedule at their October 8 meeting. A particular concern is accommodating our ten-year members and their college schedules. The dog show schedule will have to be finalized by December 15, as that’s when the premium book will go to press.

Steve envisions that exhibitors will enter Gate 3 and unload at the south end of the building. Tags and parking passes will need to be issued for early entry into the fairgrounds. The Fair is open to the public at 9:00. Steve’s biggest challenge is convenient parking. He hopes that we’ll be able to park in the lot across 38th Street. Cindy Barnett said that the other livestock exhibitors have to pay to park. [Questions: Can the building be locked overnight? Answer: Yes. Could we have a Meet & Greet area on show day? Answer: It’s a possibility.] The show schedule for Saturday may include obedience, some agility, awards presented for those competitions, and then followed by Drill Team. The building is expected to be set up with separate public and exhibitor-only areas. The state fair’s white picket fencing would be used to keep the public away from the rings. More matting may be needed. The cattle will be out of the building at 8:00 pm on Thursday. The building will be power washed, Odor-Ban applied overnight and ready at 9:00 a.m. on Friday for the change-over to the dog show. [Comment: Consider using Odor-Ban only on the show areas.] Exhibitors are allowed to bring fans. Big
fans may be used to keep the ring temperature comfortable. [Question: Will we have a baby pool for dogs available? Answer: We could have. We also have water and hoses available in a wash rack area.] Steve is requesting at least the same amount of bleachers. We'll need bleachers in both the exhibitor and public areas. The volunteers will need an admission ticket and a meal ticket (Dairy Barn food, possibly!). The meal ticket would replace the box lunches we've previously had supplied. Steve is looking at procuring compensation for key positions. Steve wondered if we wanted to have a Crating Service where exhibitors would pay to have their dog supervised while they go to see the Fair. It's expected that we'll have the help of the Poultry Barn crew for set-up. We have to decide whether we do the paperwork (exhibitor packets, labels on scoresheets, etc.) on Friday or whether that could be done earlier. Two information booths will be needed – public and exhibitor. There will be 4 or 5 head of cattle in an educational display at the north end of the Pavilion during the dog show. Average fair attendance on the last weekend of the fair is 90,000. This gives us an opportunity to educate. The State Fair Board would like to have activities or competition in the building on Friday night. Joe Reese is looking into the possibility of a UKC agility trial for that time period.

Carol Garringer led the committee in a round of applause to thank Steve for his efforts on behalf of the dog show.

Steve opened the floor to questions. Q: What’s in the West Pavilion at the start of the Fair? A: The cattle, and they must have their judging completed before the Sale. Q: Can we camp out in the West Pavilion? A: Yes. Q: What is the liability issue if someone gets bitten? A: The Premium Book states that the dog owner is ultimately responsible for their dog’s actions. The chance of problems is greatly reduced as long as dogs remain in their designated areas. Q: Will there be a form of identification for 4-Hers and their families so we know who is allowed inside the exhibitor area? A: Exhibitors would have their armband. Family members will need a tag or maybe a paper wristband for access to the exhibitor area.

Next Meetings:

Saturday, November 15, 2008 at 1:00 p.m. in the Normandy Barn at the Indiana State Fairgrounds. (The big, white barn on the north side of the fairgrounds.)

Leaders’ Seminar and Committee Meeting . . . Saturday, April 2009 (date to be determined)

send your ideas for topics to:

Cindy cbarnett@purdue.edu or Bob hollyhillstervs@yahoo.com

Mike Burton moved that the meeting be adjourned. Jan Cochard seconded. Meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Pfrank Secretary
State Fair
Steve Patterson

Purdue
Cindy Barnett

Adams
Keith Brunstrip
Carol Garringer
Jade Reynolds

Cass
Pat Fry

Fulton
LeeAnn Pollock
Terri Dennis

Hancock
Jan Cochard

Hendricks
Jessica Carson
Dixie Harnishfeger

Huntington
Ed Mitchell
Sherry Mitchell

Jackson
Carol Newberry

Johnson
Chris Roeder
Barbara Johnson

LaPorte
Joe Reese
Sharon Reese

Madison
Christina Jones

Marion
Sue Barlow

Morgan
Susan Ison

Pulaski
Jeanette Podell

Shelby
Mike Burton

Starke
Terri Holt
Bob Holt

Tipton
Rob Myers

Vigo
Sue Pfrank