

Georgia Boxer Club Special Board Meeting July 7, 2018

Attendance: Members - Sherry Johnson, Sherry Buchla, Sara Mathews, Jen McPhee

Welcome: Sara Mathews called the meeting to order and explained that the purpose of the Special Board Meeting was to consider the grievance filed by Michael Clifton against Susie Johnson on April 14, 2018. Specifically, the Board was to consider whether the action alleged in the charges, if proven, might constitute conduct prejudicial to the best interest of the Club or the Breed, and if so, what the next steps would be. Sara explained that the Board was not meeting to discuss the merits of the charges but to determine whether or not the Georgia Boxer Club entertains jurisdiction of the charges.

For background on the matter, Sherry Buchla referred the Board to the following relevant sections of the governing documents as the Board considered their duties:

Georgia Boxer Club Constitution

Article I

Section 2 - Objectives:

g) For the members of the Georgia Boxer Club to abide by those portions of the American Boxer club By-Laws and Code of Ethics which are applicable to members of member clubs.

Section 3 - The Georgia Boxer Club as an affiliate club shall support, and abide by the By-Laws, Rules and Regulations, and the Code of Ethics of the American Boxer Club as they apply to member clubs. Each member must agree to abide by the By-Laws of the Georgia Boxer Club and the Code of Ethics of the American Boxer Club. The members of the Georgia Boxer Club should support the activities of the American Boxer Club, the Parent club.

American Boxer Club Code of Ethics

“This CODE OF ETHICS is set forth to protect, advance the interests of, and improve the Boxer breed; to maintain sportsmanlike competition at dog shows and events; and to promote a respect for people and dogs. American Boxer Club members are to adhere to these canons when breeding, buying, selling or competing with and exhibiting their Boxers.

Members of the American Boxer Club will conduct themselves in such a manner as to reflect credit on the sport of purebred dogs and on Boxers in particular, regardless of the location or circumstances.”

After considering the above relevant documents, Sherry Buchla made a motion that the Board take a vote to determine if a majority of the Board felt the action alleged in the charges, if proven, might constitute conduct prejudicial to the best interest of the Club or the Breed, and if the Georgia Boxer Club entertains jurisdiction of the charges. The motion was seconded by Jen McPhee. Sherry Johnson confirmed that the

Board did have a quorum. The vote was unanimous that the Georgia Boxer Club entertains jurisdiction of the charges.

The discussion then moved to considering the next steps, based on the Georgia Boxer Club By-Laws, Article X Discipline, Section 3:

"If the Board entertains jurisdiction of the charge, it shall fix a date for a hearing by the Board not less than three (3) weeks nor more than twelve (12) weeks thereafter. The Secretary shall promptly send notice of the hearing and one copy of the charges to the accused member by certified mail, together with a notice of the hearing and an assurance that the defendant may personally appear in his/her own defense and bring witnesses if desired. The Secretary shall also send notice of the hearing to the accusing member/members."

Sherry Johnson suggested that the hearing be scheduled to coincide with the next Georgia Boxer Club meeting at the Jonesboro site on August 25, 2018. Sara Mathews pointed out that the venue could be quite noisy and there weren't private areas to conduct such a hearing but suggested that perhaps the hearing could be held in a member's RV. It was agreed to set the time for the hearing at 2:00pm, with the exact location of the hearing within the show site to be determined.

Sherry Johnson pointed out that while the Grievance was signed by both Michael and Claudia Clifton, only Michael Clifton is considered a member "in good standing" per the Georgia Boxer Club By-Laws, Article II Voting – Section 1, which state:

"Voting Eligibility: In order to be eligible to vote, nominate, make a motion ,or second a motion on any issue, a Regular member must have attended a minimum of two (2) meetings during the preceding twelve (12) months prior to said meeting that the member desires to vote, nominate, make or second a motion. Also a member whose dues are in arrears prior to that meeting shall not be entitled to vote, nominate, make, or second motion unless the dues are paid prior to the calling of the meeting to order. A Regular member who is eligible to vote shall be considered "a member in good standing". The secretary shall furnish the President or have available a list of members "in good standing" at each meeting."

Sherry Johnson informed the Board that in light of Claudia Clifton's status with the Club (not being a member in "good standing" at the present time), only Michael Clifton could file the grievance and be afforded the opportunity to address the matter with the Board.

Sherry Buchla agreed to send a copy of the charges to Susie Johnson by certified mail, along with notice of the hearing date and terms, and to also send notice of the hearing date and terms by regular mail to Mr. Michael Clifton.

Discussion then moved to considering the particulars of the hearing, referencing the Georgia Boxer Club By-Laws, Article X Discipline, Section 4:

"Board Hearing: The Board shall have complete authority to decide whether counsel may attend the hearing, but both complainant and defendant shall be treated uniformly in that regard. Should the charges be sustained, after hearing all the evidence and testimony presented by complainant and defendant, the Board shall, by a majority vote of those Board members present, suspend the defendant from all privileges of the Club for not more than six (6) months from the date of the hearing, and if the Board deems that punishment to be insufficient, it may recommend to the membership that the penalty be expulsion from

the Club. In such case the suspension shall not restrict the defendant's right to appear before his/her fellow members at the membership meeting, at which the recommendations of the Board shall be considered. Immediately after the Board reaches its decision, its findings and action shall be put in written form and filed with the Secretary. The Secretary in turn shall notify each of the parties of the decision and penalty, if any."

After some discussion, the Board unanimously agreed to allow both parties to have counsel attend the hearing, if they so choose.

Sara reminded the Board that the specifics of the grievance were not to be discussed among the Board until after both parties had been afforded the opportunity to state their case and present their supporting documents at the hearing.

Jen McPhee made a motion to adjourn the meeting and the motion was seconded by Sara Mathews.