

PRESERVING THE FUTURE, ENLISTING THE PAST

**A Panel Discussion
led by Cassandra de la Rosa**

As you are well aware the topic of this year's forum is preserving the future by enlisting the past to expand our gene pool. The Lhasa Apso is one of the few breeds that has the opportunity to expand the gene pool outside the existing registered dogs by incorporating dogs from region of origin. The Salukis have done it. The Basenjis have done it. The Tibetan Mastiffs have done it. And all these breeds have done so successfully. It's an opportunity to enrich the gene pool with some diversity because we are well aware that every dog that we have, owned by anybody in this room is at some point related to a very small number of dogs. We may have our own lines but they're only little twigs that have branched out from one trunk of the tree.

You may or may not be aware that the American Lhasa Apso Club petitioned AKC to allow us the opportunity to incorporate region-of-origin dogs. Now just petitioning doesn't grant that opportunity, there is a process, a very involved process. However AKC has approved the petition. The next step is to have the members vote. We believe that an informed vote is the best thing that can happen. We have been told that people think this is only about registering the Gompa dogs. That is not the case. This is about two different sets of incorporation. One would be the Gompa colony. And the other would be region-of-origin dogs whether they come from the actual geographical area where the breed originated irrespective of political boundaries as they exist today or they come from some other part of the world where dogs from the region of origin are currently going through the process of being validated as purebred from the registry of that region. A lot of registries are recognized by more than one country. They have reciprocating registrations.

This is an opportunity to really open things and give us opportunity. This is not about breeder choices. This is about purebred status. The issues that breeders consider when they make choices whether to incorporate a dog into their breeding programs is not the topic of discussion. Health issues. Conformation issues. This is about purebreds. This is about what AKC requires to prove the dog is purebred and meeting that qualification or those qualifications.

So what we're going to do is we're going to read through the script (handout) about the process, what it involves. We're going to watch a film and then we're going to have a discussion based upon the questions you submit. We hope to answer all of your questions as they relate first and foremost to the registration eligibility issues. If you ask questions that involve breeder choices we're going to put those aside and if time permits we'll get to some of those questions and perhaps discuss them, but those aren't our primary concern. You have cards to submit your questions and we're going to take them as soon as you have them so that we can sort them out so if there are two or three or four questions related to one topic we can address all of those at one time. However if you have a question that comes up, write it down and we'll pick it up and try to address it. We scheduled this for 90 minutes. The film, I'm told, takes 40, so that should give us a good healthy time for discussion. We do have a deadline to be out of this room because it's scheduled for another use by 6 o'clock, so we need to give them time to set up.

Does anybody have any questions before we proceed? Everybody's cell phone on stunned or off? Okay, with that I'm going to introduce the panel first and let them tell a few things about themselves and their experience in the breed, then I'm going to move on to the script.

Julie: I'm Julie Timbers. I've been in the breed for 26 years. A Register of Merit breeder. And I'm an AKC approved judge for 10 breeds.

Susan: Susan Giles. Started in '73 in Lhasa Apsos and its remained my single solitary breed and I still just show.

Don: I'm Don Schwartz, a veterinarian. I'm an approved judge for Lhasa Apsos. I've been in the breed since I married Barbara. How many years Barb? 26 I think. 26 years.

Vickie: Vickie Kuhlmann. I have owned the breed for 25 years. I am a regional coordinator for the American Lhasa Apso Club Rescue. I've been doing that for the last ten years. I've been on the Board of Directors for ALAC the last two years. I'm also on the Board of Directors for the Gompa Lhasa Apso Preservation Program. I am on the Native Stock Committee. I owner-handled my first Champion recently. And also your reservation coordinator, so if you need reservations for the banquet tonight please see me.

Arlene: I'm Arlene Miller. I got my first Lhasa in 1969. I'm president of Lhasa Apso Canada. I did see the original Gompa Lhasa Apsos as part of the first examination committee.

Cass: And I'm Cassandra de la Rosa, Suntory Lhasa Apsos since 1970. And I'm moderator today.

I really don't like reading to people, but the script was carefully crafted to convey the message and process, so we're going to go through this before we do the video.

Within the AKC setting allow the current breeding stock within the Gompa Lhasa Apso Preservation Program with intact United Kennel Club pedigrees full AKC registration. And to allow use of the AKC Foundation Stock Service (AKC FSS[®]) to record region-of-origin Lhasa Apsos.

The AKC Foundation Stock Service allows us to find region-of-origin Lhasa Apsos, they're not registered with an AKC recognized registry, undergo ALAC Native Stock Committee Critique Process to become eligible for recording, to establish a full three generations using the AKC FSS and fourth generation are eligible for full AKC registration.

The Gompa Lhasa Apsos entered the western hemisphere in 1982. They entered the Canadian Kennel Club program in 1986. They entered the UKC – that's the United Kennel Club – registry in the 1990s and continue to be UKC registered. They entered the Gompa Lhasa Apso Preservation Program database in 2001 and there is 25 years of work and recording already done with this colony.

In August the Native Stock Committee (NSC) submitted the American Kennel Club petition to the Board of Directors of the American Lhasa Apso Club. With unanimous approval it was submitted to the AKC Board of Directors. On October 21, 2010 the NSC was informed that the AKC Board voted to allow ALAC to ballot the membership to accept the proposal. It is important to have a complete understanding of what you will be asked to vote on.

The proposal is:

- Allow the current breeding stock within the Gompa Lhasa Apso Preservation Program, with intact United Kennel Club pedigrees, full AKC registration.

It is also to:

- Allow use of the AKC Foundation Stock Service[®] (FSS[®]) to record region-of-origin Lhasa Apsos.

A two-fold purpose.

The Gompa Lhasa Apso Preservation Program (GLAPP), a 501(c)(3) organization, is a small population genetics management program perpetuating the genetic lineage of the Gompa Lhasa Apso. For nearly a decade the breeding program has been under the supervision of Debby Rothman, an ALAC Register of Merit breeder of nearly 30 years, with over 100 AKC Champions to her credit. The current GLAPP breeding stock – 12 dogs; four males and eight females – represents at least four generations of breeding from the original western imports. Information extending back to 1982 is available in the Registry section of the GLAPP website (www.GompaLhasaApso.com). A timeline found there provides links to

documentation following the early years of the lineage in the western hemisphere. Tables link to information on the current breeding stock.

FSS[®] was created by AKC as a record-keeping service, traditionally used by rare breeds working towards full AKC recognition. Recently, AKC allowed the American Tibetan Mastiff Association use of FSS[®] for dogs without full three-generation pedigrees from an AKC recognized registry, therefore not eligible for registration with AKC. The NSC FSS[®] Procedures were developed with the help of the American Tibetan Mastiff Association, the Society for the Perpetuation of the Desert-Bred Saluki, the Basenji Club of America and have been reviewed by the AKC registration department.

To be eligible for consideration, the Lhasa Apso must be considered pure-bred with ancestry traceable to the region of origin. All Lhasa Apsos in any generation to be recorded by FSS[®] must go through the same Critique Process. The owner must submit, to the NSC Registrar (a position approved by the ALAC Board of Directors) a completed FSS[®] Recordation Application, color photographs, copies of import/export documentation, DNA profile, microchip identification, pedigree if available, copies of any registration certificates and pertinent background documentation useful in proving the dog is a pure-bred Lhasa Apso. The dog will be assigned a Critique Case Number (CCN). The owner will be informed of scheduled dates and locations where the Lhasa Apso may be presented for critiquing by a panel of three pre-qualified Critique Judges. Upon receipt of three Judges Critique Forms, all judging the dog to be a pure-bred Lhasa Apso, the NSC Registrar will forward the FSS[®] Application, photographs, supporting documents and a letter confirming that the Lhasa Apso was found to be a pure-bred Lhasa Apso.

It is extremely rare to be able to expand your breed's gene pool and increase viability with individuals and/or recent descendants developed in their original environment. The NSC very much appreciates your interest and taking the time to consider this matter.

The discussion centers around three categories: How will this affect the breed, the Gompa Lhasa Apso Preservation Program and the Foundation Stock Service.

How will this affect the breed?

There is concern the introduction of unknown genes could be detrimental, that landrace traits can be found within the established population, that introducing an inbred population won't help diversify the gene pool and those dogs may have nothing of quality to offer the breed.

Given the above concerns, the NSC – that's the Native Stock Committee – sees the need to further educate the membership about the benefits of genetic diversity. This will be done through the Club's magazine, *The ALAC Bulletin*, ALAC Online and with each scheduled Critique Process.

Gompa Lhasa Apso Preservation Program. These acronyms sort of read like Tibetan language.

Concern has been expressed about the authenticity of the dogs within the Gompa Lhasa Apso Preservation Program. Several ALAC members have asked that three generations be bred before allowing the current breeding stock within the Gompa Lhasa Apso Preservation Program to enter the AKC Studbook.

Members can access information and documentation extending back to 1982 through the Registry section of the GLAPP website. There is a timeline providing links to documentation from various sources and letters following the early years of this lineage in the western hemisphere. Tables providing detailed information, particularly on the current breeding stock within GLAPP, are being further developed. Included are photographs of the 12 adult dogs that would receive full AKC registration along with pedigrees, including United Kennel Club registration numbers, extending back into each dog's region-of-origin ancestors. A film titled *Ancient Treasure – The Remake* documents the dogs' journey and is available to regional clubs.

Given this lineage has bred true to type, that the original imports and their descendants were monitored in Canada by government and CKC – that's Canadian Kennel Club – officials and examination committees of Lhasa Apso breeders in the 1980s, that the dogs entered the UKC Registry in the 1990s and that the breeding program has been under the direction of an ALAC ROM breeder since 2001, the Native Stock Committee believes these dogs have more than proven their purebred status.

Foundation Stock Service

Members want strict guidelines for dogs entering AKC FSS® recordation.

The Native Stock Committee Procedures for AKC FSS® Recordation and AKC FSS® Litter Recordation were developed with the help of the American Tibetan Mastiff Association, the Society for the Perpetuation of the Desert-Bred Saluki and the Basenji Club of America and have been reviewed by AKC's registration department. To be eligible for AKC Foundation Stock Service® Recordation, dogs undergo a Critique Process with three pre-qualified individuals examining each dog. Critique judges must determine whether they consider each dog to be a purebred Lhasa Apso and rate the dog from excellent to unacceptable. Details on the Critique Process can be found in the Petition.

So that's the process, that is the program, the proposal. Now we will move to the film and then have our discussion. Marsha will come around, if you have questions write them on your cards. We will collect them and start sorting them.

Technical problems ... with computer ...

Cass: Let's do a question while we're getting this going.

Marsha: The question is in the petition the Gompa dogs that will be entered into the AKC Studbook will not be required to be evaluated by a non-biased committee. However any subsequent import will need to be subjected to an evaluation. My question: why should the Gompa dogs be exempt from an evaluation by an independent committee not tied to the Gompa committee?

Cass: Do you want to take that one Susan?

Susan: Do I look like a deer in the headlights? I would assume the answer to that question would be they've done 25 years of recording, working and breeding prior to getting to this point where a native origin stock would be something totally new and different, no background to refer to. That would be my assumption on that.

Cass: My take on that is the Gompa dogs currently have United Kennel Club registration.

Don: Right.

Cass: And..they ... United Kennel Club dogs go through an evaluation process. The American Eskimo, for example, were United Kennel Club registered before they ever became AKC recognized. So, the United Kennel Club registration is a validation that the dogs already have been determined to be purebred through proper record keeping evaluations and so forth. They are registered already with a recognized registry. There's also talk of UKC and AKC actually merging and that would automatically create that sort of a situation. But that only conjecture. It's not that they haven't been evaluated. They have been evaluated already by a recognized registry.

Are we almost there or should we do another question?

Marsha: The question is will this affect the standard?

Susan: I'll field that one. Being on the breed standard committee, dogs do not affect our standard. Our standard is written by the parent club initially and owned by the American Kennel Club. A particular group of dogs can't change the standard. It's not possible. No, it will not change the standard.

Marsha: Okay, should we go with another? Who determines what judges are used in the critiquing process?

Susan: Are they judges? Or just a committee?

Marsha: Well they were called judges in one place in part of the presentation. A critique judge...

Cass: They're experts.

Don: I believe they're ROM breeders.

Cass: They're ROM breeders. They could be AKC judges. The Board of Directors of the American Lhasa Apso Club is responsible for determining how the panels will be made up, forgetting names of people who are willing to do this, who they find acceptable. If you have dogs in remote regions or various geographical regions you have to have people in those areas who are willing and able to do the critiquing. But the ALAC Board of Directors ultimately controls the process.

Marsha: I have a DNA question. Should we go with that? Are all the dogs being DNA'd by an unbiased source of authenticity, said dogs are indeed Gompa dogs? Did I read that right? From audience: You know how you have dogs in stud registries, stud dogs and brood bitches, are they really who they are out of?

Julie: Yes, they have all been DNA tested

Don interjected: and microchipped

From audience: I'm just asking.

Cass and Julie: It's a good question.

From audience: I'm newly informed on this.

Cass: Believe me, the recordation requirements are very, very stringent. They're far more stringent than the records we keep as breeders or are suppose to keep as breeders.

From audience: I just didn't know if there's a DNA trace that follows each dog, that they are who they say they are.

Cass: Yes.

Marsha: And it was required that they be microchipped before they were DNA'd, so there's no chance to mess up.

From audience: Thank you.

Marsha: Any other questions?

The film was shown.

Marsha: ... cannot decipher ... prove a history with any Lhasa lines in the US?

Audience: What?

Marsha: Okay, when they do the DNA testing can they prove that that dog comes from a certain line of Lhasa Apsos?

Julie, Don and Cass: No.

Don: No, all the DNA can do is if you have a puppy from a breeding the DNA can tell you if the parents are the parents of that puppy. So, it just gives you that bit of information. Once you have a dog with certain DNA you can predict in any offspring, in any puppy you get, you can tell if that puppy goes back to that original dog or bitch. If you had one of our registered Lhasas and you did a DNA on it and down the road someplace you got a Gompa puppy and you did DNA on it, you could prove that puppy did or did not come from one of our registered Lhasas but you have to have a starting point. And the reason to DNA the Gompa dogs is so that you have a starting point ... so somebody can't come in later and say this puppy is from Gompa dogs. You DNA the puppy. You DNA the supposed parents and it can tell whether that puppy came from those two parents. Once you get DNA on these dogs all you have to do is DNA any offspring that you want to register and you can tell if it comes from those dogs. So it does prove the lineage of the puppies, but you have to have the DNA from the parents. That's why all the Gompa dogs are DNA'd. It gives you a starting point.

Julie is reading: ... cannot hear ... from other countries with three-generation pedigrees can they come into the registry or will they have to have another three-generation proven through FSS?

Julie answers: If they come from a country, it's my understanding, that has a registry that AKC recognizes, they would be welcome in with three-generations that has already been proven by another registry that AKC accepts them. But here's the cool part. Let's say you get a dog that only has two-generations proven ... enter that dog into FSS and now you only have to do one generation of the breeding program.

Julie: This is concerning the Gompas. Have any outside dogs entered the program? Well, if you listen. Yes. One. One only. Ch. Kai-La-Sha Keepsake from Cathy Marley. That's the only outside dog that's been brought into the Gompas.

Julie: A two part question. Wait, wait, wait. It's one, two, three, four.

Don interjects: I'd like to make a comment. I'd like everybody here just to keep an open mind about this. I've talked to people and they've decided already they don't want it. And then I've talked to other people that do want it. I advise everybody just keep an open mind and think about it. You say these dogs here. Does anybody think that they're not Lhasas 'cause I think they are. I'd like the straight front on some of them. There's a lot of things that I think may be offered to us and, as breeders, we don't have to breed to them. But I think it would be a shame to let a gene pool that goes back to those ancient dogs that we all have ... I think it would be a crime to just let that wither away. Just keep an open mind.

Marsha: The question is if DNA can determine what breeds make up a mutt, something that is now done regularly why can DNA tests done on Gompa dogs not be tied to any Lhasas DNA before this group of Gompa dogs? Let's let the veterinarian handle that please. He's on the panel.

Don: I don't think you take DNA from a mongrel dog, a mixed breed dog and tell what breeds it comes from. And I've had people in the office that have had that sort of dog and there was absolutely no way that the dog they showed me went back to those dogs. I had a dog that's about that big (demonstrated a small, short dog) It had Mastiff and Barbara ... Doberman, Rotweiler and Mastiff. Nothing in the head looked like a Doberman or a Mastiff. And I don't know if anyone has mixed breeds and they want to find out, but I wouldn't waste my money.

Vickie: One of the things about the Canine Heritage Test, it has gone through and sampled 100 breeds in North America. If you have a dog that falls outside those 100 breeds and those results, it's going to go even further back in the dog. From the Canine Heritage website, "The test is not designed to use as a purebred or paternity verification test. It is not an established legal tool." Not only that, but if you're bringing dogs in from outside the region where this data pool was developed, you're going to get a whole different set of genes. It's not going to tell you that that is a Lhasa Apso or something completely different.

Marsha: I'm a pharmacist. One of the things that is big and hot is marketing. Okay. Most pharmacies will sell drug kits. They'll sell DNA testing kits. They'll sell all this stuff. The fact of the matter is unless those tests are done in controlled circumstances in a certified laboratory all you're doing is giving somebody money and making somebody rich. You cannot rely on those results.

Question from the floor: Who's funding this ... Marsha: Where's the funding coming from for all the DNA testing and those things? From the floor ... and taking care of these dogs ...

Julie: That's the Gompa Lhasa Apso Preservation Program. They do fund raisers and things like that.

Vickie: A lot of it's out of pocket. Debby has kept the dogs for years on her own.

Marsha: ALAC has not paid a dime.

From the floor ... well ... no ...

Julie: We did a raffle for a shawl one year and that raised money for them.

Vickie: There's been several raffles.

Julie: They've sold tote bags. They're raising their own money.

Marsha: It's a 501(c)(3) so that it's tax deductible if you make a donation.

Cass: Okay, we have what appears to be a series of questions. Some of them have already been answered here. One is why is the petition limited to opening the studbook to only the Gompa dogs. I think we've already answered that several times. That is not the case. Is there documentation showing that the Gompa dogs are direct descendents from the Lhasa Apsos from the Drepung Monastery? When will this be available for review? As the petition stands there's no evaluation critique, medical testing, documentation about the authenticity ... prior to either accept or reject the petition.

Cass: We don't make AKC rules about registration. We follow them. And AKC says if the dogs are registered with a recognized registry, then they are accepted ... they are eligible for AKC registration. So, the Gompa dogs are UKC registered and that is a recognized registry. What the petition would do is allow those dogs that are UKC registered AND dogs that go through the FSS process to be registered.

Cass: If you have a follow up question would you write it ...

...cannot hear what's being said from the audience ... The Basenji Club did it that way ... but we're not doing it that way ... Julie and Cass: We're not doing it that way. From the audience ... what I'm saying is that is okay. Cass: But we're not going that way. From the audience ... but that is a viable option.

Cass: Why isn't evaluation by qualified judges and voting by the ALAC membership required for any dog not bred out of an AKC registered dam and an AKC registered sire prior to the recordation into the AKC studbook?

Again ... from the audience ... not discernable ... Cass responds: No, but they are of an AKC recognized registry. UKC is ... from the audience ... so then can we bring in any UKC Lhasa?

Don and Cass: You have to go through the process. You have to go through the process. Cass: If there are other UKC registered Lhasas ... Julie: They would go through the FSS, that's how they would get in.

From the audience ... I guess I'm not understanding ... if there is a UKC registered Lhasa ... cannot hear. Julie: that is DNA'd and microchipped and all the other stuff ... cannot hear ... Don: No, no. it would have to go into FSS ... right, Barb? From audience ... cannot hear ... From the audience (another person): I have an answer. Cass: You have an answer for us? That person: We use import dogs all the time. If your registry is recognized by the AKC, you present pictures, you give a 3-generation pedigree ... cannot hear ... any AKC recognized registry ... if they recognize UKC, I don't know personally ...

Vickie: It was set up only to accept the Gompa dogs. AKC will accept in some cases UKC registration. Cass: Not in all cases. Vickie: No, it's not a blanket. So therefore ...

Barbara interjects: What we're asking is to open up the studbook for 12 very specific dogs at this point. Okay? If we chose to open it again that is another consideration AKC could make. But right now we are asking only for those 12. Anything else is going to have to go through FSS unless, as you pointed out, the AKC recognizes that registry. Which, they recognize over a hundred different registries.

Cass: We're running out of time. Will the litter examinations and dog evaluations from the years of breeding Gompa dogs be available for review by the ALAC membership?

Julie and Cass: It's online. You can see it online. Everything is available online if you choose to go look.

Cass: What association exists between the Dalai Lama that had provided the first Lhasas being brought to the US and the Tibetan man providing the original Gompa dogs to the Canadian Gerry?

Leslie: Cass, would you like me to address that?

Cass: Oh, sure! You're here!

Julie: The other panel member!

Leslie: What is the association between the two. When the Dalai Lama was selected as a child, the regent who ran the country during the time that he was growing up was from the Drepung Monastery. It is a monastery that is right outside of Lhasa. It's in the same valley with Lhasa. So that's the first connection. Baba Yeshe who had the dogs was a member of the resistance as you saw on the film and he also, I believe, was of the Drepung tradition. Right? Or not? No. But his association as far as being a member of the resistance. The Dalai Lama was certainly well-versed in what was going on with the resistance the whole way. Part of the resistance was to get him out of the country at that one point in time.

Cass: Have there been any successful litters from the Gompa dogs other than the ones from the outside dog? Yes.

Julie: Yes, yes. We have two litters on the ground as we speak.

From the audience: How many puppies? I think that's relevant because why register ...

Julie: Each bitch had 3 puppies, which is what they previously had with the outcross Keeper.

From the audience? Nice, healthy puppies?

Julie: Yep, nice healthy puppies.

Cass: We just answered this and the film answered this question. Have any outside dogs entered the program? The film specified there was one used to test fertility.

Julie: The one they felt ... have the litters been evaluated? No, because the parents were evaluated, the parents were DNA'd and all the puppies - you just saw them on the video . Every single puppy that Debby has had was in that video. They look like Lhasa Apsos. Debby has had open houses. You're welcome to go up and see them anytime. The parents were evaluated and DNA tested. Therefore subsequent litters don't need to be evaluated.

Cass: I think we are ready to wrap it up. The Apso fancy has a rare opportunity afforded only a handful of breeds. To obtain genetic material from region-of-origin dogs, incorporate it into existing breeding programs should one so desire. As guardians of the breed we're charged with preservation on a physical and genetic level. Once the genetic diversity is gone and the political situation in that part of the world is also deteriorating fast and the likelihood of long-term existence of this breed in its region of origin is limited. Like the hands of a clock time is ticking away for the fancy, for the breed and for Apsos of the Himalayan plateau. We hope that you would take time to get more answers, more information. The website is available. All of us are available for conversation. Ask questions. Probe. We certainly had a lot of that and that's good. We thank you very much for being here and being interested in this process.

One last comment? From audience: I would just ask the board ... hard to hear ... outreach ...

Cass: That's a good suggestion. Sometimes you do outreach and people don't notice it. But you have to repeat, repeat, repeat, repeat and then people will tend to notice. So we'll make sure that happens. Okay, thanks very much.

Don: I have one more comment. Just one little comment. When you go home, when you back to your room, take a look at your Lhasa and you can look at that Lhasa and you can do a pedigree back years. Here you have Lhasas that have come from Tibet that go back thousands of years probably. And I just think it would be a crime ... you don't have to breed to these dogs if you don't want to ... but I just think it would be a crime to let the bloodlines die out.