Policy Update on Developmental Duplication (DD) and the Display of Information Relating to Genetic Conditions on Pedigrees

On September 12th, the Board of Directors took up the issue of the registration status of those animals that tested homozygous for the DD mutation ("DDA"). Following discussion on the issue, the Board voted to temporarily suspend Section III of the Association's DD policy and to temporarily suspend the operation of Rule 103d, solely as it relates to DD. As a result of the Board's action, DDA animals shall be eligible for continued and prospective registration.

The Board's action and its directives resulted from certain findings regarding the phenotypic expression of the condition and the realization that it might be more complex than originally reported. Specifically, some DDA animals appear to have nearly normal development while others display a variable set of duplications ranging from conjoined twins to polymelia to extraneous skin folds. The Board directed Association staff to closely monitor the ongoing research in the scientific community on this subject.

Management of DD animals, generally, may be impacted by further scientific developments. Therefore, members are encouraged to consider all available information as a component of their selection strategies in connection with this genetic condition.

In related developments, the Board also discussed at length the display of information relating to genetic conditions currently in use. Recognizing that our members and their customers have become accustomed to looking for information primarily in the area immediately below the registration number, but mindful of the Association's continued desire to make key information available in a clear and simple format, the Board directed the Association staff to take the following five steps:

- Remove the diagonally-placed phrase "Genetic Defect Carrier" from ***all*** registration papers.
- Remove and relocate revised "pop-up" language from the front of ***all*** printed registration papers to the reverse side.
- In addition to creating a revised common "pop up", revise the genetic conditions definition section on the reverse side of ***all*** printed registration papers. On electronic pedigrees, such language will be accessed through a link.
- On ***all*** pedigrees, once an individual animal is tested or determined to be pedigree free, remove the specific genetic condition codes on ***all*** of its ancestors.
- On ***all*** pedigrees, add a new designation 'P' for any individual animal identified as a potential carrier (e.g., DDP, M1P, and D2P).

These changes will be implemented as soon as practicable.