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Subject: Announcement from the WALA Board of Directors
Date: April 7, 2021 at 11:52 AM
To: juniperridgedoodles@gmail.com



Worldwide Australian Labradoodle Association

7 April 2021

To Our WALA Members:

Recently, the WALA Board of Directors has been made aware of a proposal by the **Australian Labradoodle Club of America (ALCA)** to change the name of the Australian Labradoodle, and to apply to the **American Kennel Club (AKC)** for Foundation Stock Service recognition. **The official position of the WALA is that these actions are not in the best interest of the Australian Labradoodle breed, our fellow Australian Labradoodle breeders around the world, or the consumers that recognize and adore our beloved breed.**

The officers of the **Australian Labradoodle Association of America (ALAA)** have notified the WALA that they have taken the action of sending notices to their membership and to the ALCA. We support them in these actions. **The WALA Board of Directors will be sending our own letter to the ALCA letting them know we do not agree with their proposed action and that we believe all the Labradoodle organizations need to work together to achieve what is best for our breed and breeders. The WALA is sensitive to our multiple dual members who also belong to the ALCA, ALAA, ALAEU, or ALA, and we have always supported these dual members in their chosen organizations. We believe that each of us has the capacity to flourish in the community or communities in which we choose to spend our time. This is the first time a major difference in foundational administration has come to our Australian Labradoodle collective community, and how we all respond has the capacity to bring us closer or divide us further.**

An important consideration for the WALA is that our breeder members, their programs, and their Australian Labradoodles are from around the world—not just the United States. In addition, **currently the WALA, ALAA, ALCA, ALAEU, and ALA all have established health standards and regulations for their members across the globe. The AKC is a USA**

organization with a registry only and has no requirement for health testing or health testing standards. Their emphasis is on conformation and dog shows/competitions. Aligning with the AKC could stand to divide and isolate our worldwide Labradoodle breeders, thereby weakening our breed as a whole, rather than strengthening our global efforts to develop our breed. The elevation of AKC breeders above all others serves to divide the breeding world further instead of uniting us. We see this with the “preservation” and elitist attitudes of many AKC and other “purebred” dog breeders around the country.

The strength and diversity we offer to this breed in being able to continue to build new lines cannot be understated. When a breed is accepted into the AKC, the stud book of that breed is closed by the AKC—this means NO infusions are allowed. Many breeders and geneticists feel strongly that this is the beginning of the end for any breed. The combined organizations of the WALA, ALAA, ALAEU, and ALA allow infusions under careful guidance, rules, regulations, standards of care, and health testing. We all have similar overall goals and direction for the breed.

Genetic diversity is the backbone and strength of our breed and allowing the AKC to become involved will only lead to a smaller genetic base, no infusions, and the future of our beloved breed being placed in the hands of another organization. The AKC’s past actions have already proven how easy it is to negatively impact a dog breed by closing stud books and not allowing any infusions or new lines to be created within breeds. Conversely, the WALA has encouraged the creation of new lines and supported genetic diversity as a benefit and strength of our breed.

This action by the ALCA may be a moot proposal, as it appears that acceptance into the AKC’s Foundation Stock Service program would not be allowed for several reasons, including that the AKC does not recognize new breeds made up of existing AKC breeds. However, the attempt is still very concerning for our entire Labradoodle community. Here is an outline of the program if you wish to look at it: [AKC Foundation Stock Service Program](#).

The WALA Board of Directors is also very concerned about the purported Australian Labradoodle breed name change and potentially upsetting decades of breed name recognition around the world. A name change serves to collectively remove the worldwide recognition of our breed under the name Australian Labradoodle. Our breeders and breed organizations have worked diligently to educate consumers, from defining the Australian Labradoodle, to helping families find a responsible breeder, and connecting all the dots in between. Disrupting that progress with a name change for one small group of breeders would only serve to confuse people further, to say nothing of what that would mean for our dual member breeders. Shining a positive light on our Australian Labradoodle breed and differentiating it from all things “doodle” is the responsibility of our breed organizations and every single breeder of our breed. We all hold the responsibility to look beyond today and the current high demand for puppies and imagine a world where we have to work hard to promote and sell our breed. Collectively, we have given the Australian Labradoodle the name and recognition it deserves, and we cannot start over with a new name, divided by location, breed organization membership, or support.

We have heard comments suggesting that somehow hiding under the protective umbrella of the AKC would shield us as breeders from the Animal Rights agenda. This is a myth. The AKC fights for all breeding rights, not just AKC purebred breeding rights, because they understand that a law limiting one group will morph into a law limiting all very quickly. The AKC efforts will benefit hybrid or mixed breed breeders and breed clubs without having to join their ranks, because they recognize the danger to all. Because the Animal Rights agenda is worldwide, and we have a worldwide base of Australian Labradoodle breeders and breed organizations, many in our community would not be covered or assisted by any affiliation with the AKC, which has a litigation arm that is fighting legislation in the USA only. It is incumbent upon us as breed clubs and individual breeders wherever we are in the world to join the fight

upon us as breed clubs and individual breeders wherever we are in the world to join the fight to protect our right to breed.

The WALA Board of Directors strongly believes that the ALCA's proposal to even consider a name change or an affiliation with the AKC is a major step backwards. The WALA has taken the stance that these actions are not in the best interest of the Australian Labradoodle breed, our fellow Australian Labradoodle breeders worldwide, or the consumers that recognize and adore our beloved breed. We will work together with other Labradoodle organizations and breeders around the world to ensure that breed diversity, strength, and longevity of the Australian Labradoodle continues far into the future.

Sincerely,

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