

June 28, 2020

Dear GWPCA Members,

As a board, we realize that we did not communicate the reasons and the input we received about canceling nationals well. This was a difficult, stressful decision and we wanted to let the membership know quickly. We apologize for the poor communication.

The board of GWPCA made the decision to cancel Nationals based on the best information available, keeping the safety of the membership and others paramount.

We received information on the show restrictions and requirements from the committees. This information included limited entries for that weekend, GWPs (or any breed) cannot have preferred entries or early notifications, masks would be required inside at all times, and spectators might not be allowed. Our timing partially reflects that Cornhusker KC meeting on July 8th. We wanted to let them know our status and not have them expecting our entries if we would not be there.

Other concerns about the show included that COVID 19 precluded GWP community gatherings. Meals would be on one's own or a boxed pick-up-and-go meal. There would be no general meeting, no awards banquet, no group lunches, or time spent together. While individuals might choose to spend time together, the GWPCA could not hold these meetings and risk a lawsuit if anyone fell ill or died. There is no insurance liability that covers these issues. The raffles and auctions would be limited, with only a few in the room at one time. If the show was cancelled at the last minute, the loss of revenue to counter expenses would be devastating for GWPCA.

And finally , there is COVID 19. We've all read about this pandemic and know the issue isn't one person being or falling ill, but rather that person infecting dozens more. The health of the membership and their families was always on our mind.

We do want the membership to know that their GPWCA and other parent clubs are petitioning AKC to allow the 2020 nationals to take place in 2021, with the 2021 Nationals to take place as planned. This is a new joint effort from the many parent clubs that had to cancel this year's nationals - even Morris and Essex rescheduled to 2021. Our petition will include both the Show and Field events.

We will keep you updated on the status of the AKC petition.

The GWPCA Board