

# **The Bulldog Club of America**

## **1911 – 1930**

### **by Edna R. Secor**

In the 1952 Year Book, we tried to give you the history of The Bulldog Club of America during its first twenty years. In this Report, I have extracted from the minutes of the next twenty years the items, which I thought, might be of interest.

In 1911, with Mr. W. C. Codman as President and Mr. John F. Collins as Vice-President, there was a membership of 94. Mr. Collins and others at the annual meeting spoke on the recognition of all bulldog specialty clubs, and a committee was appointed to consider the matter. Also in April of that year, a committee was appointed to consider the revision of the standard. Both committees recommended no change at that time.

In 1912, the Philadelphia Bulldog Club was granted permission to become an active member of the American Kennel Club. The same request from the Bulldog Breeders Association of America, a national organization, was refused, and they were advised that "this Club has in mind a federation of Bulldog clubs and feels that refusal at this time will simplify the matter." However, the Breeders Association was granted permission to hold a 4-point Specialty Show.

Also in 1912, attempts were made to have miniature Bulldogs recognized as a separate classification. These attempts failed at that time. However, in 1914, the Board voted "to attempt to have the American Kennel Club accept the Miniature Bulldog Club of America to membership and to acknowledge the dog as a separate and distinct breed". In 1922, the following item appears: "The matter of separate regular and winners classes for miniatures was discussed and it was unanimously decided to request the American Kennel Club to refuse to allow in the future any separate regular or winners classes for miniatures".

In 1913, representatives of the Bulldog Clubs of New Jersey, Philadelphia, Western Pennsylvania and the Bulldog Breeders Association met with the Board of governors of The Bulldog Club of America to discuss the amalgamation of the various bulldog clubs. The consolidation did not materialize, although in 1914 the Bulldog Breeders Association did associate with The Bulldog Club of America. However, after a period of six months, it apparently failed to work and was dissolved.

The Bulldog Club of New Jersey was granted permission to hold a Specialty Show in 1913. Also in that year, The Bulldog Club of America ruled that in Specialty Shows, 75 or more bulldogs actually exhibited would constitute a 4-point show;

less than 75 would be a 2-point show.

In 1914, the Standard was changed to disqualify a Dudley. Attempts were made to have Match Shows monthly except for February, July and August. These were canceled in May, as they did not draw enough dogs. Regular quarterly meetings of members were instituted so that the members could administer the affairs of the Club directly, insofar as it was possible. These quarterly meetings also did not draw too many members and so were discontinued after a trial period.

The first mention of the Chicago Bulldog Club was made in 1916, and it was permitted to hold a 4-point Specialty Show in 1917. Financial difficulties beset The Bulldog Club of America in 1917, and as a result they discontinued holding specialty shows for a few years. Club members contributed to the Treasury in order to pay the outstanding bills, and after a few years, the Club was back on its feet financially.

The Bulldog Club of New England was first mentioned in 1921, and the Pacific Coast Bulldog Club in 1923 was granted permission to hold a Specialty Show. The request of the Chicago Bulldog Club to become a direct member of the American Kennel Club in 1923 was denied.

In 1924, The Bulldog Club of America started a practice, which we seem to have gone back to today—that of holding their specialty shows in various sections of the country. In 1924, it was held in connection with the Maryland Kennel Club in Baltimore; in 1925, with the Cincinnati Kennel Club. Then for two years it was held at the Waldorf Astoria in New York in conjunction with the Specialty Show of the French Bulldog Club of America, and in 1928 it was held in Chicago and managed by the Chicago Bulldog Club.

During many of these years, Annual Specials were offered to Club members as it is done today in so many Specialty Clubs. Names appearing as new members – names familiar to us today as well-known bulldoggers – are Mrs. Harry Brunt, Mr. Ferd Kramer, and Miss Brooke B. Bensberg II. Joining in 1926: Mr. Thomas Hayden, Mr. George Beckett, and Mr. Carey Lindsay joining in 1929.

In 1928, membership cards were given out for the first time to all members. Also in 1928, the Detroit Bulldog Club, Inc., the Bulldog Club of Buffalo, and the Bulldog Club of Maryland were recognized.

In 1929, a Puppy Sweepstakes was established. Each specialty club was to conduct matches to determine their finalists, the finalists then to compete in The

Bulldog Club of America Specialty Show, provided they were not one year of age at the time of the Specialty.

Looking back over these years, we find that many of the same problems in existence today were even then problems. Many of the problems then were simply tabled and forgotten, and others died a natural death through the trial and error method. We hope that 20 or 30 years from now, our present records will indicate to those following in our footsteps that we have made real progress in making The Bulldog Club of America an organization truly representative of the bulldog and the bulldog breeder and owner.

### ***SUBMITTED BY EDNA SECOR***

Mrs. Secor's name is well known to our Members through her service as Secretary of the Club, first Secretary of BCA, Div. I, and an active officer of Long Island Bulldog Club. A woman of charm and dignity, with many interests and accomplishments, she and her husband Slim have made the prefix Milsande familiar through breeding and showing many Bulldogs to their championships. She is a good competitor, and able and conscientious judge, and a tireless worker in the interest of the breed; a good example of the adage "When you want a job done well, give it to a busy person!"