

MEMORANDUM

To: AKC, To Whom It May Concern

From: Julie Sandoval, Secretary, on behalf of the Board of Directors of GLASWC

Date: July 11, 2019

Re: AKC preferring charges against Ms. Daneen Fox re: GLASWC May 19, 2018 Scent Work Trial

We as individuals and as a club adore the sport of Scent Work and we are truly grateful to AKC for adding this sport, allowing so many dogs and their people so many opportunities to play. We are thrilled to be a part of helping to make this happen. We want nothing more than to put all this behind us and look forward to moving past this and continue to learn and grow and host more amazing scent work trials - we just want to do so without the targets on our backs.

The following is a timeline of our club's experiences with Ms. Penny Scott-Fox at our early Scent Work trials that caused GLASWC board and members to feel the need to document (videotape) our trial on May 19, 2018. At that trial Ms. Penny Scott-Fox was acting as the AKC Field Rep ("AKC Rep".) The Board of GLASWC voted to videotape the trial, and Ms. Scott-Fox, because the actions of Ms. Scott-Fox and of Ms. Stephanie Kennerley, AKC Sports Development Manager, leading up to the trial as described below. The character of Ms. Scott-Fox was well known to us because of her personal dealing with the club and its members. Her character included unsportsman-like behavior, vindictiveness, and a real desire for retaliation against her enemies. While some of our bad experiences with Ms. Scott-Fox are detailed here as examples, we have documented evidence of many other examples of her unsportsmanlike behavior and poor character. Her reputation is well known in the Southern

California Scent Work community, as you can see by the many letters we have received in support of Ms. Daneen Fox (in an attached exhibit).

The GLASWC never had any malicious intent in creating the videos that are at issue here. We just wanted to protect our club and have the chance to play the videos for the rest of the club so that we were able to learn from what the AKC Rep was offering as suggestions to run better trials.

I would also like you to note that Ventura County Scent Work Club, which we are also involved in, had great experience with a different AKC Rep, Ms. Lisa Russell, at our Scent Work ("SW") trials Sept. 1-3, 2018. We learned so much from her. She was wonderful - willing to roll up her sleeves and help in any way. It was evident that she was there to help the club be successful. Ms. Russell is an example of what we believe an AKC Rep *is supposed to be* and demonstrates what we think the AKC expects from their Reps. Ms. Scott-Fox is not cut from this cloth. We, as a club and as individual club members, feel we have been unfairly targeted and persecuted by Ms. Kennerley because of her **personal friendship** with Ms. Scott-Fox, and because Ms. Scott-Fox has a personal vendetta against our club members and our club. I hope the following helps shed light on why we feel Ms. Scott-Fox has a personal vendetta against us and why we feared reprisals from her and the AKC under these circumstances.

1st trial GLASWC 12/30/2017 Simi Valley, CA (Ms. Stacy Barnett, AKC Rep)

After our first GLASWC SW trial on 12/30/2017, I called Ms. Kennerley and voiced our concerns with how inappropriate it looked for Ms. Stacy Barnett (a personal friend of Ms. Scott-Fox) to act as she did. Our concerns included seeing an AKC Rep staying at a competitor's home (that of Ms. Scott-Fox), driving to the event with Ms. Scott-Fox, and then previewing the search areas in advance of the trial, and attending trials

prior to this trial and posting information and photos about them spending the week together on Facebook. Also, Ms. Barnett watched all the search areas and hides and then proceeded to stand with Ms. Scott-Fox in the staging areas and chat with her, as well as watch Ms. Scott-Fox's searches.

I never thought that they were cheating, or accused them of it, but it looked very bad. I believe an AKC Rep should stay at a hotel, or at the very least not at a competitor's home, prior to an event and should get a rental car and drive themselves to the event. It all looked like there was preferential treatment being given to one competitor to our the rest of our competitors.

Another concern I shared with Ms. Kennerley was that Ms. Barnett changed the hide in one of the search areas herself. The judge, Ms. Natalie McManus, voiced her concern to Ms. Barnett as to why she thought that it was not a good hide placement. Ms. Barnett said she wanted the hide where Ms. Barnett had put it. (In other words, "Don't argue with me.") The next competitor was Ms. Scott-Fox, who then ran it and her dog did not find the hide. As Ms. Scott-Fox was leaving the search area she was muttering loudly " Well, I have a few things to say about this hide." Ms. Scott-Fox was then reported to have told her SW students about that search. I heard that Ms Scott-Fox said that the Judge, Ms. McManus, was later suspended from AKC for that hide. This was not true and I believe Ms. Scott-Fox knew that.

I was assured by Ms. Kennerley that my concerns would be handled discreetly, because I told Ms. Kennerley the GLASWC club had a real fear of retaliation from Ms. Scott-Fox.

2nd trial GLASWC 1/20/2018 & 1/21/2018 Acton, CA

In this trial, Ms. Scott-Fox was a competitor, but behaved as if she was acting as the AKC Rep that day. She was not the AKC Rep that day. During her run, her dog missed the buried hide and she then making loud and rude comments about the hide while spectating. This clearly made our judge, Jeri Embery and other spectators feel uncomfortable.

Additional displays of poor sportsmanship that I witnessed at this trial included snapping at volunteers when instructed to move to and from staging areas, visiting search areas out of turn, speaking to judges about hide placement, and making disparaging comments about club members in the parking area. These incidents were witnessed by multiple competitors and it is unfortunate that we chose not to call a bench hearing at the time in an attempt to keep the peace. We often have public spectators at our events and actions like this reflect poorly on the sport and on AKC as a whole. Ms. Scott-Fox was also overheard in the competitor parking lot area speaking very badly about GLASWC members and I am sure that if a family came to see what AKC Scent Work was all about, witnessing this poor sportsmanship would have made them not want to be a part of this sport. Knowing what we know now, we should have called a trial committee hearing over this and all of her unsportsmanlike behavior.

Again, I called Ms. Kennerley after this trial and reported Ms. Scott-Fox's behavior. Ms. Kennerley told me that when Ms. Scott-Fox is a competitor she is not an AKC Rep and should be treated accordingly. Again, I reminded Ms. Kennerley that all this was over the phone and to be kept under the radar because we feared retaliation by Ms. Scott-Fox, and thought it very likely. In hindsight, I should have written all my concerns in an email because the retaliation is here now.

3rd trial GLASWC 3/10/2018 Moorpark, CA

Ms. Kennerley attended this trial and viewed all the search areas, staging areas, and hides, and made some recommendations while she was there. The trial ran smoothly and efficiently and competitors were pleased even though the conditions were less than perfect (it was a rare rainy day.) We were shocked to receive a strongly critical letter, forwarded from Ms. Kennerley from one of our judges, Mr. Steve DeTata. We later learned he is a close friend of Ms. Scott-Fox. Mr. DeTata's email addressed multiple issues with our trial. Ms. Kennerley knew these issues were incorrect, including the size of the interior search area being inadequate and there being insufficient cover from the elements for staging the competitors. These were issues that, if they were factual, should have been raised by the judge and/or Ms. Kennerley at the trial. We question why this letter was sent to the club at all, instead of being handled by Ms. Kennerley directly, firstly since it was her job to ensure these things did not occur to begin with, and secondly since she was at the trial to witness that these claims were false. At that point the club responded by stating we felt it was in our best interests to document, with photos and/or videos, our trials going forward or we might lose our permission to run AKC SW trials.

4th trial PCSC 4/14/2018 & 4/15/2018 Acton, CA

While Ms. Scott-Fox did not attend these trials, a number of competitors with known affiliation to her did attend and filed complaints with the AKC about minor, correctable issues. We feel that to improve the growing sport of scentwork, the community needs to group together and as such, if competitors found that the club made mistakes, we welcomed input so we could fix things at the trial. These competitors chose to bypass the trial committee and judges and instead complain about things such as a judge's error in setting handler discrimination boxes in a single row. Our club then received a critical letter outlining errors that were made by judges as though the trial committee, not the individual judges, were responsible. There were thirteen items listed in that letter and only three

were correctable by the club itself. When we responded to point that out, we never got a response. It isn't hard to see how one can feel that the person responsible for growing the sport was not interested in helping clubs to grow and improve, at least, not the clubs we were involved with.

THE TRIAL IN QUESTION

5th trial GLASWC 5/19/2018 & 5/20/2018 Moorpark, CA

We received an email from Ms. Kennerley that Ms. Scott-Fox would be at our trial on May 19, 2018 as our AKC Rep. The trouble began when Ms. Scott-Fox apparently hit "reply all" to this email and wrote:

"WOW - Great letter, Now let's see what they do. They are already non compliant for the trial this weekend."

We read this reply and it was very clear to us that as our AKC Rep Ms. Scott-Fox did not want our club to be successful. I replied to Ms. Kennerley saying that

"GLASWC respectfully requests another AKC Rep be sent to our trial, as this one clearly wants us to fail."

Ms. Kennerley wrote back, saying:

"Ms. Scott-Fox will be your rep."

As a club we decided that because of the history we had with Ms. Kennerley (attending our trial #3, March 10, 2018 and repeating problems with trial that were not true, and us having photographs proving the problems were not true, and knowing Ms. Scott-Fox spreads untruths about our club, that she has behaved in a rude and unsportsmanlike ways at our previous trials, and in light of the above emails **that the AKC was setting us up to fail.**

The club decided that due to the history of multiple incidents with Ms. Scott-Fox, as well as Ms. Kennerley failing to back us up, that we would need to protect ourselves as well as have a resource to learn from by recording the contractor visit. This would allow anyone watching to determine if we were or were not in compliance with no bias from any parties that may have had ulterior motives. Ms. Scott-Fox moved freely between search areas and comfortably chatted with others and texted during this time, in no way displaying any signs of discomfort. She did not request that the video cease or indicate it was unacceptable, and in fact had her own party recording at times, which the club freely allowed.

After the trial and taping we were told by the AKC that Ms. Scott-Fox felt intimidated and uncomfortable. However, we feel the video shows quite the opposite. Ms. Scott-Fox was moving about freely and was quite comfortable sitting at the searches chatting with people and texting on her phone. Ms. Scott-Fox never once asked anyone in the club or Ms. Daneen Fox to not video or to stop taping.

We, as a club, do not understand how one member of our club can be singled out and punished by the AKC for conduct that the club voted to do. Our club truly felt that taping was prudent and necessary for the well being of our club as a whole.

I and the GLASWC respectfully and sincerely request that the AKC reconsider preferring charges against one of our members, Ms. Daneen Fox. Ms. Fox is one of the hardest working people I know and her main focus in everything that she does, is that the dogs have fun. Penalizing her when hearing only one side of the story is not the American way. Not giving Daneen Fox the chance to face her accuser and question her or even tell her side of the story is not the American way.

We thought that since all the sanctions against the GLASWC were

dropped by Ms. Kennerley on Oct 8, 2018 in her letter, the investigation by the Compliance Department was only about getting Daneen Fox's and Julie Sandoval's SW judging license reinstated. We were never once informed that the AKC was considering charging new personal charges against two club members.

Your decision today is important. Dog clubs are shrinking and it is so hard to get new members, let alone get members to volunteer to do tasks for the club. Our local SW community is well aware of this matter. We received over 60 letters from competitors saying they think it is unfair. We think this action by the AKC is toxic to the future of dog training clubs who member pools are so small to start with. How can that be in the best interest of the AKC?

Summary

The Board and members of the GLASWC believe that the AKC hiring Ms. Scott-Fox to act as an AKC Rep while being allowed to compete in the same sport, host events and judge is a huge ***conflict of interest***. We also believe that Ms. Scott-Fox wants GLASWC to go away. We are her competition in her eyes. This action by the AKC is like allowing the fox to guard the hen house. It took a bad situation and made it worse. GLASWC took the action it thought was in its best interest under this unfortunate circumstance. Now one member, Ms. Daneen Fox, is facing a very harsh penalty for something that wouldn't even be an issue if Ms. Scott-Fox did not have a vendetta against us. We ask the AKC to drop the charges against Ms. Fox and let us all move on and try to develop better relations, or at least stay out of each other's way, so we can continue to promote the mission of the AKC and host excellent AKC SW events.