

Motion from Committee to be submitted to 2021 AGM for Member show of hand voting at AGM : that an AFA Policy dealing with philanthropic donations to Charities be approved.

Background:

From time to time Clubs make decisions to support selected charities or “good causes” and do so by either taking part in a charity originated activity (like Million Paws Walks) or alternatively by actually conducting a sanctioned event (Competition or Demonstration) and donating part or all of proceeds to the selected cause. In a small number of cases this has also involved the Club requesting support from the AFA, via say requests for waiver of charges such as Lights Levy. Where this has occurred the AFA has been concerned that any such AFA support might set a precedent that could commit ongoing support for any similar requests. Whilst declining AFA involvement has avoided the issue of precedent, it also means that the AFA can seem non- responsive or non-supportive of the charity or cause.

Whilst the AFA needs to continually be aware that it is dealing with members funds, and must ensure appropriate stewardship, it has been suggested that the AFA also needs to acknowledge that philanthropic support for charity, especially those within the profile of our dog sports Clubs, is now an accepted part of the charter of many similar organisations. Many clubs and associations have adopted charities (or appeals) that they see as worthy of support and in some cases do so either on a semi- permanent basis or on an annual basis.

Rather than avoiding precedent by declining such requests it is suggested that the AFA establish a Philanthropic Policy, allowing it to establish a small annual charity support budget, under which the AFA could consider requests for support of propose events that clubs would like to organise in support of a relevant charity. To work effectively and equitably a set of criteria should be established under which Clubs could submit, by a nominated date, proposals for AFA support and these considered within an agreed maximum budget.

The envisaged criteria would include:

- AFA calling twice a year (Jan and June) for any submissions by member clubs for supported charity events – with bids to be submitted by clubs by a nominated cut-off date;
- The specification of the type of relevant charities that would be supported, namely Registered Charities that operate on a National, State or Regional basis and have animal support and welfare as their major objective;
- The determination of a maximum annual level of dollars that would be available for AFA donation –set at approximately 5 % of the AFA’s annual income of \$40,000 or \$2000 maximum;
- That the maximum individual donation being set at \$250, with this either being a waiver of AFA fees such as Lights levy for a nominated competition or a cash style donation by the AFA to the Club supporting the charity.

The above approach may result in Clubs considering and deciding to support more charity events – irrespective of AFA involvement. This would further promote flyball as a community responsive sport.

Such a Policy would also provide the AFA with an increased opportunity to publicise and promote its corporate good citizen commitment and to associate sponsors in that promotion. Promotion via club and the AFA web site would be just one opportunity.

Motion : that the AFA establish a Policy dealing with philanthropic donations to relevant Charities, via either waiver of light levy for a supported competition or direct donation to an appeal and with a maximum of \$250 per supported event and within an annual budget allocation of 5% of AFA annual income up to a maximum of \$2000 .