



**ESAA Board of Directors
Teleconference
May 4, 2020**

In attendance: Colleen Bell, Julie Brimble, Lynda Chase, Kathy Cunningham-Roy, Jane Danek, Tony DiSiena, John Fabelo, Jane Flynn, Judi Hunter, Susie Kerwin-Bush, Sandy Miller, Mary Nowak, BJ Parsons, Anna Quigley, Julie Quirk, Coleen Raber, Lori Whorff.

The meeting was called to order at 8:05 PM EDT.

The sole purpose of this meeting is to consider options for the 2020 ESAA National due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Factors to consider are as follows:

As of today (May 4, 2020) we are 132 days out from our event. If we were to cancel today, we would be responsible for a penalty of \$35,815.00 to Founders Inn.

As of May 15th (120 days out from our event) our penalty to Founders Inn would be \$53,722.50.

If we go forward with our plans and Founders Inn has to cancel our event due to Virginia issuing a stay at home order or limiting the size of groups during that week (i.e. it is illegal or impossible for the dog show to take place), we would have no penalty due and any money paid would be refunded. Depending on the timing, ESAA would have to calculate out of pocket costs from the budget, return of entry fees and third-party contracts such as Rau and judges.

Founders Inn has agreed to modify our commitment on room nights from 80% guaranteed to 75% guaranteed. 75% of 500 room nights is 375 room nights.

The table below demonstrates what penalties ESAA could be assessed if we do not meet the 375 room nights minimum. Column One is how many rooms we would occupy – Column Two is at a 5-night stay – Column Three is our minimum required – Column Four is the differential and Column Five is what ESAA would be responsible for that line item.

Total Rooms	X 5 nights	Our minimum	Differential	@ \$135	Room rental
20	100	375	275	\$37,125.00	\$10,000.00
25	125	375	250	\$33,750.00	\$10,000.00
30	150	375	225	\$30,375.00	\$5000.00
35	175	375	200	\$27,000.00	\$5000.00
40	200	375	175	\$23,625.00	\$5000.00
45	225	375	150	\$20,250.00	\$5000.00
50	250	375	125	\$16,875.00	\$5000.00
75	375	375	0	\$0	\$2500.00

Our food and beverage commitment to Founders Inn is \$5000.00

ESAA budgeted expenses for the National no matter the attendance is \$26,000

26 people have currently made room reservations for a total of 126 room nights

Additional options to consider if ESAA decides to hold the show during the pandemic:

Move the show outdoors. This would be subject to approval of Founders Inn (we have been told nothing can be staked due to underground cables) and increase cost by renting a tent. It could eliminate the ballroom cost from the contract subject to the approval of Founders Inn. Weather would be an issue.

Spread the reserved grooming indoors with each spot spaced 6 feet apart. This would decrease income. It may have to be done anyway depending on the mitigation required by Virginia during that week.

Do away with any indoor grooming and encourage our members to bring their own EZ ups with provisions to rent EZ ups to those flying in. (As in the past we could then sell any EZ ups that we would have had to purchase for rental.) It could eliminate the grooming room cost from the contract subject to the approval of Founders Inn and save the cost of renting a generator.

Pandemic related legal liability. Should ESAA provide masks or require masks be worn? What about gloves? What about disinfecting areas, tables or objects touched during the course of judging? The Senate this week will be taking up legislation to shield businesses opening up from pandemic related legal liability. Will dog clubs be covered? What is the risk to ESAA if someone gets sick and can trace the infection back to the National Specialty? We need to guard against the Association being exposed to liability if someone gets sick at our event. We cannot say it will be safe because the risk of infection exists until there is a vaccine. We cannot avoid liability by putting a waiver in our premium list. We are always held to a duty of care. The problem right now is there is no clear guidance on what is our duty of care that gets us into a safe harbor.

If ESAA would sponsor a regional specialty at Founders Inn in the spring of 2021, we could do so without penalty. It could possibly be in cooperation with the National Capital and/or the Central Carolina clubs.

DISCUSSION

- ✿ The initial discussion in early April with the hotel indicated we would not have penalties for cancelling. Later we found out that there WOULD be penalties for ESAA cancelling.
- ✿ Disappointment was expressed at a possible "regional" ESAA being suggested for the Spring of 2021. We would be afraid that we would not be able to fulfill room nights at either the Founders Inn or Seattle.
- ✿ The opinion of the finance committee chair is that ESAA NOT cancel the 2020 National. If Founders Inn has to cancel we would not incur a penalty.
- ✿ The only events special to the National that are year-specific events are the futurity, maturity, and Top 20. We have options of other ways to handle these events.
- ✿ It was asked if the Founders Inn could be moved to 2021 and move the other site contracts to one year later.
- ✿ Some feedback from members indicated hesitancy to attend a mid-September National in 2020. Several who were judges will not be accepting any assignments and putting themselves at risk for the remainder of this calendar year.
- ✿ Disappointment was expressed over Founders Inn's unwillingness to work for a win-win solution rather than to assess penalties.
- ✿ There were several opinions expressed as to who should vote on whether to cancel the 2020 National. Some were of the opinion that it should be voted on by the membership, while others felt the Board members were entrusted with the responsibility to make these kinds of decisions on behalf of the membership.

Tony DiSiena made a motion for the Board to cancel the 2020 National at Founders Inn, seconded by John Fabelo.

- ✿ If Founders Inn is open in September, they may very well be open with limitation on the number of people who are permitted to gather.
- ✿ We have not asked our judges if they are willing to accept the contracted assignment for mid-September.
- ✿ The Virginia Beach Public Health Department is anticipating still have a 6-foot proximity limit through the remainder of 2020 which would affect all handlers, judges, and spectators.
- ✿ The motion was passed on a 14 yeas to 2 nays vote to cancel the National for 2020.

A Kerwin-Bush/Fabelo motion was made to investigate, by May 12, whether the future contracted National sites for 2021 (Seattle), 2022 (Ashville), and 2023 (Roberts Center) would be willing to reschedule for a year later. The report will be made to the Board during a conference call Wednesday, May 13. The motion passed unanimously.

Colleen Bell is attempting to contact Rau to see what the process would be for cancellation of the superintendent in 2020.

There was a brief discussion regarding what might be the best solution for holding futurity and maturity for 2020 eligible dogs. There were several ideas put forward for a future discussion.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:16 EDT on a Quirk/Fabelo motion.

Respectfully Submitted,

Coleen M. Raber

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ESAA Secretary