



AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUBSM

June 22, 2006

Daniel L. Korengold, Chairman
Washington Performing Arts Society
2000 L Street, NW, Suite 510
Washington, DC 20036-4907

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The American Kennel Club (AKC), an organization established to promote the study, breeding and advancement of purebred dogs, has been informed that the Washington Performing Arts Society auctioned a puppy as part of your Annual Gala and Auction. The AKC has serious concerns about this method of raising funds, and we urge you to reconsider this practice.

Although your organization may have good intentions and the auction may generate donations, it is ill-advised and unfair to both the new owner and the dog. The AKC is strongly opposed to the practice of offering puppies or dogs as prizes or giveaways in auctions, raffles, contests or promotional events.

The American Kennel Club considers auctions and raffles not to be reasonable and appropriate methods to obtain or transfer dogs. We believe that dog ownership is a long-term commitment and that all potential dog owners need to carefully evaluate their lifestyle and financial situation before deciding what type of dog, if any, will suit them best. Impulse purchases or adoptions, including auctions like the one sponsored by your organization, are not responsible ways to obtain a new pet. They often have unhappy endings for the “disposable” animal involved. At least six states prohibit the use of live animals in raffles or contests.

The decision to obtain a dog should be made only after careful consideration, planning and research, rather than as the chance result of a game. We urge you to reconsider this promotion in future fundraisers, and thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Melissa Allcox
Canine Legislation, Research Coordinator

Cc: Sean Albert, Housatonic Cairn Terrier Club

