



A Brief History

The Kennel Club of Wilmington was founded in 1935 by a small select group of dog enthusiasts from the Wilmington, Delaware area. From 1935 though 1941 a benched show was held each October on the estate of Club President S. Hallock DuPont. On March 8, 1938 The Kennel Club of Wilmington, as the Club was then named, became an AKC member club. Mr. DuPont was elected the clubs first delegate.

In 1943 the show was canceled due to WW II. In May of 1948 the Club was renamed and incorporated as The Wilmington Kennel Club. In 1949 the Point Show was moved to the spring and was held on the grounds of the Hercules Powder Co. Farms. On April 25, 1953 the first Obedience Trail was held in conjunction with the point show.

1956 was the last year the WKC's Point Show was benched. The Point Show was held at Delaware Park from 1956 through 1985. In 1986 the Point Show moved to the Concord High School grounds, where it stayed through 1990.

In 1991 the point show moved again, this time out of state, to the Fair Hill Fairgrounds in Maryland.

In 1996 the Point Show was again moved to a third state. The shows from 96-98 were held as part of the Liberty Trail Cluster at the Ft. Washington Expo Center in Ft. Washington, PA.

1999 saw the return of the WKC point show to Delaware. The first ever Back to Back shows were held at Lums Pond State Park in Bear, DE. This was the first time in 9 years the WKC held it's show in it's home state! The July issue of the AKC Gazette featured the show.

In February, 1999 the Club made perhaps it's boldest move to date. A large building at 2035 Sunset Lake Rd. in Newark, DE became the home base for all WKC activities except the Match and Point Shows. Training classes in agility, obedience and handling were begun on a year round basis.

1999/2000 saw a George Alston Handling Seminar, a AKC Obedience Seminar, a Canine Good Citizen test, a Microchip/Tattoo Clinic held in conjunction with the annual eye screening clinic, monthly Show & Gos, the first rental of the WKC building, involvement in canine legislative issues and enormous growth in the membership.

2001/2002 A Pat Trotter "Born to Win" Seminar was added to the many other events held in the building. Our Agility A Match was held in Oct. '02

2002/2003: The Health Clinic held in Feb of '03 added many new services.

In Oct of '03 the first WKC Agility Trials were held at Lums Pond State Park.

The Club returned to holding an AKC Sanctioned Match in 2006

In Oct. of 2007 the Club expanded into a 2nd building, making the WKC one of the largest training facilities in the area.

2007/08 Saw the addition of several WKC sponsored seminars.

The 2009 Point Shows will mark out 10th anniversary at Lums Pond State Park. It has been a fruitful partnership.

The Club also donate a new K-9 officer to the New Castle County Police Dept.

The Club also began to hold Indoor Obedience Trials in our buildings.

2010 saw Penn Treaty KC joining WKC to create 3 days of shows and obedience trials at Lums Pond State Park..