

American Kennel Club, Inc.
MEETING of the BOARD OF DIRECTORS
AKC Offices at 101 Park Avenue, New York, NY
November 13-14, 2023

The Board convened on Monday, November 13, 2023, at 8:30 a.m. Eastern Time.

All Directors were present in the New York office. The Executive Secretary was also present.

Copies of the October 9-10, 2023, Board Meeting minutes had been previously provided to all Directors for review.

Upon a motion by Mr. Powers, seconded by Mr. Sweetwood, the October 2023 Board Meeting minutes were unanimously approved as amended.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Sprung updated the Board on several business matters and on past action items.

Registration: September YTD Litters are at 249,436, and Individual Dogs are at 524,936. Mark Dunn reports that economic uncertainty seems to be negatively affecting litter volume. This, combined with demographic shifts, presents significant challenges, making our decisions to seek out diversification into other profitable endeavors more meaningful. Mark will be presenting today on these issues and opportunities.

Sports and Events is experiencing a record level of activity. September YTD Events are up 7% or 1,286, and entries increased by 5% or 126,080. These increases are led by Fast CAT®, Scent Work, Conformation, Agility, and Rally (in that order). It should be noted that just one of our traditional sports is in the top five.

There are many more advances for our Brand from the Media and Sponsorship department that will be presented later in the meeting.

AKC Meet the Breeds® will be held again at the Javits Center on January 27-28, 2024. Fortunately, there will be 10,000 additional square feet for our use.

Staff under the leadership of Heather McManus, AKC General Counsel, conducted a comprehensive review and renewal of AKC's insurance policies.

Mr. Sprung reported that he had suggested that the library sell excess book inventory, which includes multiple copies of editions that are not necessary to own nor to pay for warehousing, with the first offers going to Parent Club members. It was a success, and the initial orders received from Parent Club members were over 30. Mr. Sprung has also discussed with the Museum a similar opportunity for artwork in storage that is not Museum quality and will most likely never be displayed in the Museum. Many of these pieces would be in demand by members of the fancy and proceeds

could be used to enhance each collection further.

The new 23rd edition of *The American Kennel Club's Complete Dog Book* is now available for sale in bookstores and online, including on Amazon.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was an EXECUTIVE SESSION to discuss sensitive business matters. Nothing was reported out of this session.

Board Governance

David A. Shevlin and Maura L. Whelan from Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP presented information on Board Governance and the Responsibilities and Legal Duties of Directors.

2024 Budget

The 2024 Budget, as described in Mr. Sprung's introduction letter to the Board, was built upon a plan that will allow AKC to continue to invest in the corporation, to take actions to drive long-term growth, and to be stronger than ever. This Budget will allow us to focus on investing in and supporting our Clubs, Breeders, Systems and Technology, Customer Service, Data, Brand, and Employees. It also allows us to continue making donations of over \$5 million to the AKC Canine Health Foundation, AKC Museum of the Dog, AKC Humane Fund, and other dog-related organizations. This budget was constructed with the understanding that there are still many economic unknowns as we head into 2024 that are outside of AKC's control, including the cost-of-living crisis, interest rate hikes by the Federal Reserve Bank, continuing war in Ukraine, and the lingering COVID-19 pandemic.

Following questions on registration and new business opportunities, Mark Dunn presented the Staff positions.

After discussion, there was a motion by Mr. Smyth, seconded by Mr. Powers, and the Board VOTED (unanimously) to approve the 2024 Budget.

Legal Update

The Board reviewed the Legal Department update as of October 2023.

CMS Upgrade Project

Doug Ljungren, Executive Vice President, of Sports & Events; Keith Frazier, Executive Vice President, Business Support Services; Torraine Williams, Director of Engineering; and Alan Slay, Director of Event Programs, participated in this portion of the meeting via video conference.

A year-end progress report for the CMS Upgrade Project was presented. The purpose of the CMS Upgrade Project is to provide a comprehensive system that enables all users to collaboratively exchange information to manage their involvement with AKC Sports and events efficiently. It is a three-year project. Key accomplishments in 2023 were reviewed, as well as program development that is currently underway.

FINANCE

Ted Phillips, Chief Financial Officer, presented preliminary financial statements (unaudited) as of September 30, 2023.

Unaudited Financial Results for the nine months ended September 30, 2023.

Net Operating Income is \$10.2 million.

REVENUES:

Total Revenues of \$76.3 million are lower than budget by 2%, excluding Interest & Dividends.

Registration Fees, excluding Registration-Related revenues, total \$29.7 million and trail by 4%.

Registration-related Revenues exceeded budget by \$77k or 1%.

Recording & Event Service fees, Title Recognition, and Event Application fees total \$12.9 million and are higher than budget by 6%.

Product & Service Sales total \$8.9 million are lower by 11%.

Advertising, Sponsorship, and Royalties total \$14.3 million, which are higher than the budget by <1%.

EXPENSES:

Controllable Expenses total \$59.4 million and are lower than budget by \$4.5 million or 7%.

Non-controllable expenses are higher than budget by \$25k or <1%.

Non-Financial Statistics for the 9 months ended September 30, 2023

Registrations: 2023 YTD Litter Reg. <1% higher than budget, 9% lower than 2022 YTD.

2023 YTD Dog Reg. 9% trailing budget, 15% lower than 2022 YTD.

Events & Entries

Compared to the same period in 2022, Events are 7% ahead, and Entries are 5% higher YTD.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Gina DiNardo, Executive Secretary, and Brandi Hunter-Munden, Vice President, Communications and Public Relations, participated in this portion of the meeting. Mari-Beth O'Neill, Vice President of Sports Services, and Sheila Goffe, Vice President of Government Relations, participated in this portion of the meeting via video conference.

2024 and 2025 Delegate and Board Meetings

The Board reviewed the 2024 Board meeting dates, which were approved in October of 2022, and the proposed Board and Delegate meeting dates for 2025. Following a motion by Dr. Davies, seconded by Dr. Battaglia, the Board VOTED to move the May 2024 meeting dates to Thursday

and Friday, May 9-10. They also approved the proposed Board and Delegate meeting dates for 2025. (Appendix A)

Delegate Bylaws Committee Recommendation to require a Fee to File a Complaint

The Delegate Bylaws Committee voted unanimously to send a memo to the Board, which asks the Board to consider requiring a \$50 fee to file a complaint at an AKC event. They concluded that requiring a small fee to file a complaint might deter the most frivolous ones. They also suggest that AKC Judges and show committee members be exempt from this fee.

Following a motion by Dr. Garvin, seconded by Mr. Powers, the Board VOTED (In favor: Biddle, Davies, Garvin, Knight, McAteer, Powers, Sweetwood, Tatro, Wallin; Abstained: Battaglia, Carota, Hamblin, Smyth) to accept the Staff recommendation to keep the current procedures in place and not to require a fee to file a complaint at an AKC event.

Schipperke Proposed Breed Standard Revision

The Schipperke Club of America, Inc. (SCA), submitted a proposed revision to the sections of the Schipperke standard that addresses the tail. The standard was last revised and approved by the AKC Board on November 13, 1990.

Following a motion from Mr. Powers, seconded by Dr. Garvin, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to approve the proposed revision to the Schipperke Standard to be published for comment in the December Secretary's Page of the *AKC Gazette* for comment.

Parent Club Designation for Eurasier

The United States Eurasier Club requests to be designated as the Parent Club for the breed, allowing them to hold FSS Open Shows.

The United States Eurasier Club has an active membership, participating in Companion Events and FSS Open Shows when available.

This will be discussed further at the January 2024 Board meeting.

Jindo Name Change

The Korean Jindo Association of America has requested that the breed's name be officially changed to Korean Jindo Dog instead of Jindo to be consistent with the country of origin and foreign kennel clubs worldwide.

This will be discussed further at the January 2024 Board meeting.

Appointment of Trial Boards

Under the AKC Bylaws, Article XIII, Section 1, the AKC Board is to appoint Trial Boards and an Appeal Trial Board from time to time. The last time the AKC Board appointed Trial Board members was in 2019, and before that was June 2014.

The Board will discuss this further at the January 2024 Board meeting.

Vet Outreach 2023 Update

The Board was provided with an update on the accomplishments of the Vet Outreach program in 2023.

"Meet The AKC"

AKC Chief Veterinary Officer Dr. Jerry Klein, conducted virtual presentations for vet students entitled "Meet The AKC". AKC offers 12-14 presentations per semester. Utilizing this format assures consistency in the presentations and minimizes the need for travel. AKC provides a Breed ID Guide to each student attending the presentation and will provide a meal. 27 presentations have been given to date in 2023.

Vet Students Tours of Dog Shows or Other AKC Events 2023

Students from 10 different Vet Schools participated in tours at local dog shows or other AKC events.

Communications Quarter 3 2023 Review

Total Clips:

Clips Evaluated in Q3: 5,890 (+0.6% from 5,852 in 2022)

Q3 Estimated Audience Reached: 48,048,800,980 (+264% 13,196,474,696 in 2022)

Q3 Totals Comparison

Year Clips Evaluated Estimated Audience

2020 **3,540 6,722,492,060**

2021 **4,754 8,501,194,293**

2022 **5,852 13,196,474,696**

2023 **5,890 48,048,800,980**

*Numbers and values provided by media monitoring platform Cision

Media Coverage Highlights Resulting from Proactive Pitches:

Date	Media Outlet	Subject
7/6	CNN.com	Mary Burch expertise
7/12	Yahoo! Finance	AKC World Agility Team
7/24	USA Today	AKC Reunite/Adopt A K-9 Cop program info
Summer '23	Modern Dog	Mary Burch expertise
9/16	Newsweek	AKC expertise

Weekly "AKC Tips" articles written for McClatchy-Tribune reaching 700 newspapers, including the *Chattanooga Times Free Press*, *Dayton Daily News*, *Duluth News-Tribune*, *Fresno Bee*, *Idaho Statesman*, *Kingsport Times-News* and *Rochester Democrat and Chronicle*, among others.

2023 Q3 Highlights

- 5.1% increase in media relations and press coverage in Mandarin and Spanish publications.
- Maintained a 98% positivity rating.

- Proactive PR Campaigns for AKC Reunite Adopt a K-9 Cop, AKC Meet the Breeds® Chicago and Columbus, and the AKC Museum of the Dog's *Fashionable Dogs* exhibit.

Government Relations (GR) Q3 2023 Update:

Sheila Goffe highlighted numerous active priority legislation and administrative regulations in Congress and State Legislation for Q3, 2023.

She noted that additional information is available on the AKC legislative action center microsite: <https://www.akcgr.org>.

The AKC GR team has been monitoring more than 1,500 legislative bills this year that could impact responsible dog ownership, the health and wellbeing of dogs, the rights of dog owners, and/or the interests of the Sport and The American Kennel Club.

To date, AKC GR has published 236 legislative alerts online and via geo-targeted emails to impacted constituents and social media. GR has provided oral or written testimony or comment on more than 200 of these measures.

GR is also monitoring approximately 914 actively pending proposed regulations (administrative or implementing changes): 127 from the federal government and 787 at the state level.

In the third quarter, GR prepared and published 30 geo-targeted legislative alerts and provided direct advocacy to lawmakers or written and/or oral testimony or official comments on the same.

The most common legislative issues GR is tracking include: breeder regulation/cruelty (204), working dogs (201), animal control (148), veterinary (105), and hunting/field and land use (87).

The most common type of regulations impacting dogs and AKC events continues to be changes in hunting/land use policy (280), followed by veterinary (147), breeder regulations and restrictions (67) and dogs in public (65).

Policy Blogs and Updates

AKC GR published 21 blogs in Q3 covering policy issues and resources for advocates and the public. Blogs are published on the AKC GR blog site at www.akcgr.org.

A number of new GR advocacy and educational resources were introduced in the third quarter, including a breeder regulations policy analysis and recommendations white paper regarding federal, state and local breeder regulation and restrictions.

AKC Political Action Committee (PAC) Rebranding

The Board was advised that the AKC PAC will undergo a rebrand campaign.

AKC Pure Bred Preservation Bank (AKCPPB)

The Board reviewed a memo requesting to appoint members to the AKC PPB Board of Directors.

Following a motion by Mr. Hamblin, seconded by Dr. Battaglia, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to consider the matter at this meeting, waiving the normal notice procedures.

Following a motion by Dr. Battaglia, seconded by Mr Hamblin, the Board VOTED (unanimously; Mr. Powers abstained) to adopt the following Resolution:

Resolution:

Whereas: The AKC, acting in its capacity as sole member of the AKC PPB must elect members to its Board.

Therefore: the AKC Board of Directors approves the appointment of the following individuals to the Board of Directors of the AKC PPB:

- a. Thomas Powers as the first AKC Board Director, as defined in the Bylaws, to serve a term of three years.*
- d. Vanessa Skou as the first AKC Staff Director, as defined in the Bylaws, to serve a term of three years.*
- g. Dr. Jerold Bell as the first Community Director, as defined in the Bylaws, to serve a term of three years.*

Following a motion by Dr. Battaglia, seconded by Mr. Sweetwood, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to adopt the following Resolution:

Resolution:

Whereas: The American Kennel Club founded the AKC Purebred Preservation Bank and is permanently committed to the long-term success of its mission to ensure the viability of purebred dogs. This valuable service is necessary to salvage or restore endangered dog breeds now and in the future.

Therefore: While coordinating efforts with non-profit breed-specific clubs, the AKC PPB will educate breeders, clubs, and the public about the importance of safeguarding frozen semen and protecting purebred dog breeds for future decades.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was an EXECUTIVE SESSION to discuss sensitive business matters. Nothing was reported out of this session.

The Board adjourned at 5:12 p.m.

The Board Meeting reconvened on Tuesday, November 14, at 8:30 a.m. All Directors were present in the New York office. The Executive Secretary was also present.

REGISTRATION DEVELOPMENT

Mark Dunn, Executive Vice President of Registration, and Seth Fera Schanes, Director of Planning, participated in this portion of the meeting.

Population Age Pyramids

The Board was presented with a memo outlining AKC breeder population data. This information is helpful in the objective to continue to grow the number of AKC breeders and, thereby, to supply the puppies that younger generations are demanding.

BUSINESS INTELLIGENCE

Mark Dunn, Executive Vice President of Registration, and Seth Fera Schanes, Director of Planning, participated in this portion of the meeting.

AKC Corporate Project Roadmap Review

The AKC Board of Directors has asked the President for multiple roadmap status updates during the year. This presentation was the third of 3 project check-ins for 2023.

Staff gave an overview of work that has been completed between August 2023 and October 2023 as well as several projects that are currently listed as work in progress. The 2024 budget process was also reviewed.

COMPLIANCE

Bri Tesarz, Director of Compliance and Jessica Lopez, Compliance Specialist, participated in this meeting portion via video conference.

(Final Board Disciplinary actions are reported on the Secretary's Page.)

MARKETING

Kirsten Bahlke, Vice President of Marketing; Jake Sisskind, Group Product Manager; Somya Udeh, Product Manager; and Nikhil Kanoor, SEO Manager, participated in this portion of the meeting.

AKC Marketplace and Current Systems

Staff presented the history of AKC Marketplace, current issues, and advancements, as well as Marketplace Statistics for 2023, which are the highest since its beginning in 2004.

Enhanced AKC Marketplace Security

Fifteen new security features have been rolled out since October 2022. Some of the most effective new features have been:

1. "Report Spam" Button – Breeders can now report spam accounts, which informs MP Admins and blocks the breeder from having to interact with the scammer.
2. Automatic Rate Limiting and Freeze Periods to limit Scammers
3. ReCAPTCHA: "Are You a Robot" verification boxes have been installed on "Message Breeder," which trip-up automated bots.

Parent Clubs Education Initiatives

A complimentary ad on every breed page on Marketplace is offered to each Parent Club. Each AKC Parent Club can deploy a free ad at the top of their breed's Marketplace listings page at no cost to the Parent Club. This ad allows Parent Clubs to direct puppy seekers browsing Marketplace to visit their website and/or contact their breeder referral representative.

There has been an increased emphasis on Paid Search and SEO in 2023 that has benefitted the traffic results to Marketplace.

AKC MEDIA and SALES

Ron Furman, VP of Broadcasting, Sponsorship & Media; Daphna Straus, Vice President of Business Development; and William Ellis, Director of Broadcasting, participated in this portion of the meeting.

The AKC's over-the-top video network, AKC.tv, has experienced growth in plays across all platforms, including Web plays on AKC.tv via desktop or mobile (745K), AKC.tv app plays (over 518K) and plays on AKC.org via our digital content matching system (over 51M). The channel continues to grow in reach as well as in breadth and scope of content.

AKC Good Dog TV, our weekly show produced for AKC.tv, is now distributed as a syndicated show on broadcast television. *AKC Good Dog TV* premiered as a syndicated show in the New York City market on July 8-9, 2023 on channels Fox 5 and My 9, respectively. Since premiering in July, *AKC Good Dog TV*'s syndication has successfully expanded and includes:

- ☐ 87 total markets
- ☐ 107 total television stations
- ☐ 37MM total TV homes

AKC's dog sports programming on ESPN continued to deliver new audiences to AKC sports across demographics with 11 new shows premiering since the beginning of 2023, and four shows premiering in Q3*:

- ☐ AKC National Championship
- ☐ AKC National Championship Highlights
- ☐ AKC Flyball Dog Challenge
- ☐ AKC National Agility Championship
- ☐ AKC Diving Dogs Highlights
- ☐ AKC Flyball Dog Challenge Highlights
- ☐ AKC Disc Dog Challenge
- ☐ AKC National Agility Championship Highlights*
- ☐ AKC Fastest Dogs USA*
- ☐ AKC Agility Premier Cup*
- ☐ AKC Fastest Dogs USA Highlights*

Through the first nine months of 2023, AKC had a total of 187 hours broadcast hours on ABC, ESPN, ESPN2, and ESPNEWS, a 17% increase compared with the first nine months of 2022.

The total of 187 hours represents 101 broadcasts, an increase of +14 broadcasts compared with the first nine months of 2022.

The AKC National Championship will premiere on New Year's Eve, December 31, 2023 at 2pm ET on ABC. This year's show marks the fourth consecutive year that the AKC National Championship will be broadcast on the ABC Television Network.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was an EXECUTIVE SESSION to discuss sensitive business matters. Nothing was reported out of this session.

Review of IRS Form 990

The Board was provided with a draft of the 2022 IRS Form 990. KPMG participated via video conference to review the Form 990 with the Board.

COMPANION and PERFORMANCE

Displaceable High Jump – Obedience and Rally

The Board reviewed a recommendation to modify the Obedience and Rally Regulations to change the design and construction of the high jump to allow displaceable panels. If approved, clubs will have until July 1, 2025, to complete this transition.

This will be discussed further at the January 2024 Board meeting.

CONFORMATION

Doug Ljungren, Executive Vice President, Sports & Events; Tim Thomas, Vice President of Conformation; Glenn Lycan, Director, Event Operations Support; and Alan Slay, Director, Event Programs, participated in this portion of the meeting via video conference.

Groups - Rules Applying to Dog Shows, Chapter 3, Section 1

The *Rules Applying to Dog Shows*, Chapter 3, Section 1, provides the breeds and/or varieties of breeds, divided groups, for which regular classes may be offered at AKC Conformation dog shows. The rule assigns the authority to add breeds to, transfer breeds from one group to another, or delete breeds from a group to the AKC Board of Directors. The Rule defines the number and name of groups, and any change or modification requires approval by the Delegate Body.

The Board reviewed a request from the Delegate Parent Club Committee to modify Chapter 3, Section 1, of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* to assign the authority to the Board of Directors to revise the name and number of groups.

After discussion, there was a unanimous sense of the Board that this issue was not in the purview of the Delegate Parent Club Committee per the Delegate Standing Rule on Committees and that the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee should be sent the proposal for its consideration. This issue could also be brought before the Delegate Body by the Board or by a Delegate on the instruction of her/his club.

Handlers in the Four-to-Six Month Beginner Puppy Competition

The Sanctioned Four-to-Six Month Beginner Puppy Competition Regulations define entry and eligibility requirements and limitations for this competition. Action Items emanating from the Board's October 2023 meeting directed staff to investigate possible enhancements in participation by Professional Handlers and their households in the Four-to-Six Month Beginner Puppy Competition.

Staff was directed to bring back a recommendation in January that includes allowing Professional Handlers to exhibit dogs that they own for "exhibition-only".

Special Attraction Ribbons

Currently, ribbons for special attractions may be any unassigned color. This is not stated in any AKC documentation. Event Operations will add a section to the *AKC Show Manual* advising clubs that they may use any unassigned color for special attractions. There was no objection to this action.

JUDGING OPERATIONS

Tim Thomas, Vice President of Conformation, and Doug Ljungren, Executive Vice President, Sports & Events participated in this portion of the meeting.

Conformation Judges Assignment Conflict Policy

The Board reviewed a Staff recommendation to modify the Board Policy, which defines the minimum time and distance between assignments to judge the regular classes for the same breed, group, or Best in Show at AKC Conformation Dog Shows. Under current policy, Conformation Judges may not be approved to judge the regular classes for the same breed, group, or Best in Show at AKC Conformation events held within 30 days and 200 miles. Staff recommends the policy be modified to events held within 21 days and 200 miles.

There was a motion by Mr. Powers, seconded by Mrs. Wallin, to consider this matter for a vote. Following the motion, the VOTE to approve the recommendation failed and the policy change was not approved (In favor: Carota, Sweetwood; Opposed: Battaglia, Biddle, Davies, Garvin, Hamblin, McAteer, Powers, Smyth, Tatro, Wallin).

Conformation Judging Approval Process

The Board reviewed recommendations brought forth by the Chairman's Committee on the Judging Approval Process to modify aspects of the Judging Approval Process specific to prerequisite requirements for first-time applicants and applications for additional breeds.

Keeping with its evolutionary approach, the committee is presenting to the Board proposals to (1) modify the New Breed Application Procedures related to pre-requisite requirements for first-time applicants, (2) modify details concerning the weight assigned to an assignment to judge a breed sweepstakes for additional breed applicants, and (3) modify details concerning the acceptance of Virtual Tutoring experiences on applications for additional breeds.

This will be discussed further at the January 2024 Board meeting.

Junior Showmanship Judge Application Requirements

The Board reviewed a recommendation to modify the criteria to judge Junior Showmanship by augmenting the experiences that may be accepted to meet the requirements to apply. Staff recommends that the Board approve the addition of “Two ringside junior showmanship procedural observations with different members of the Executive Field Staff within two years preceding application.” as an experience criteria option for Junior Showmanship applicants.

This will be discussed further at the January 2024 Board meeting.

Rules, Policies, and Guidelines for Conformation Dog Show Judges

The *Rules, Policies, and Guidelines for Conformation Dog Show Judges* is a handbook for all judges and aspiring judges that summarizes Rules, Policies, and Guidelines as they relate to procedure and conduct. The Board reviewed the suggested changes to the contents of this booklet intended to be inserted with the next reprint unless directed otherwise by the Board.

There were no objections to the updates.

Conformation Judges Recertification Requirement

Action Items from the Board’s August 2023 meeting included the direction to “Institute the format provided to the Board for Conformation Judges recertification test. The test should contain information on best practices for taking a test and links to the booklets or forms where answers may be found. When finalized, distribute as an FYI to the Board.”

This Board was provided with an update on the measures instituted to enhance the learner experience for those completing the recertification requirement.

This will be discussed further at the January 2024 Board meeting.

Format

A proposed reformatting of the exam questions suggested by Mr. Sprung to the Board was discussed. To address the sense of being overwhelmed that some judges reported upon seeing a list of six resources, the exam will be modified to direct all learners to *The Rules, Policies and Guidelines for Conformation Dog Show Judges* as their primary resource as essentially all questions can be answered from this booklet. The exam will continue to include a link to *The Rules Applying to Dog Shows*, as much content overlaps between it and *The Judging Guidelines*, and *The Rules* may provide a different phrasing of the same concept that works better for some. The link to access the NOHS flowchart will also remain, as many find it helpful. Links to *Dealing with Misconduct*, *The NOHS Regulations* and *The Occupational Eligibility Addendum* will be removed as they are not necessary. Any questions currently present in the exam that can only be answered using one of the three documents being removed will be deleted from the exam. The “Resources to Study” page and “Instructions” will be updated to emphasize which resources to review prior to and during the exam.

Learner Tools

To assist learners in becoming more comfortable and familiar with completing the recertification exam, a practice quiz is being generated. This practice quiz can be completed an unlimited number of times, will show correct answers, and will provide feedback for selected answers that will point the learner to where in the resources they should have looked for the correct answer. The practice quiz will contain 10 questions – eight (8) multiple choice and two (2) scenario-based questions. This quiz will give learners the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the exam interface, the questioning style/phrasing, and the effort required to find correct answers. This quiz will clearly state that it is optional but encouraged and mimics what the learner will see in the full exam.

In addition, a tutorial video is being produced to help learners navigate the exam, answer questions, pause vs cancel, open resources, and complete the exam. This video will include voice over and video/screenshots of actual exam questions. This video can be shared with learners in a variety of places, including the resources page, exam instructions page, and welcome popup upon enrollment.

To implement the enhancements detailed in this memorandum, the recertification exam will be shut down for a two-week period at the end of December. All learners currently enrolled in a version of the exam will be notified the week of November 27th of the need to complete by December 18th otherwise any progress in that exam will be lost. The target date to relaunch the exam with all enhancements is January 2, 2024.

CLUBS**REPORT ON NEWLY LICENSED CLUB APPROVED IN SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER**

Great Lakes Working Group Dog Association, greater Detroit, MI (including communities north to Saginaw, south to Jackson, west to Route 127), 38 total households, 18 local.

Irish Wolfhound Association of the Carolinas, Asheboro, NC (including communities in North and South Carolina, Virginia communities of Danville, Suffolk, Newport News and Norfolk), 22 total households, 17 local.

CONSENT

After pulling the memo on the Lancashire Heeler out of the Consent section for further discussion; there was a motion by Mr. Powers, seconded by Mr. Sweetwood, it was VOTED (unanimously) to approve the following Consent items:

Delegates Approved

Wayne Bond

To represent Peninsula Dog Fanciers Club

Published October 2023, November 2023

Alfred Ferruggiaro
To represent National Capital Kennel Club
Published September 2023, October 2023

Leslie C. Gelesh
To represent All-Breed Training Club of Akron
Published August 2023, September 2023

Claire Parker
To represent American Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Club
Published August 2023, September 2023

Joan Payton
To represent German Wirehaired Pointer Club of America
Published August 2023, September 2023

Susan Sorbo
To represent Old Dominion Kennel Club of Northern Virginia
Published October 2023, November 2023

Exploring Options for Existing Local Specialty Club Territories

The American Kennel Club expands existing club territories upon written request followed by in-house research. The basis for warranting these territory expansions includes household membership shifting over time, event site issues, and the proximity of local specialty clubs of the same breed. Only newly accredited local specialty clubs are eligible for statewide and multi-state territories to help newly forming clubs meet AKC's minimum household requirements. The Board reviewed a recommendation to permit existing clubs to expand their territories in the same manner as newly accredited local specialty clubs, provided certain parameters are met.

The Board VOTED to permit expanding territories for existing local specialty clubs with the following parameters:

1. Club membership changes and/or event site changes warrant the need for an expansion.
2. Expansion may include statewide or communities in multiple states if necessary to meet the minimum of 12 local households required for local specialty clubs, as long as it does not infringe on another local specialty club's territory.
3. As with all territory expansion requests, AKC reserves the right to adjust club territories by reducing a territory should the breed become more popular in the future and another club in the area is justified.
4. All other policies and standard practices will remain unchanged.

Conflict Distance National Specialty

The current Show Conflict Distance Policy imposes a 500-mile limit on local specialty clubs when participating with the National Specialty. The Board VOTED to remove the 500-mile restriction.

Danish-Swedish Farmdog Eligibility to Compete in the Working Group

The Board VOTED to approve the petition from the Danish-Swedish Farmdog Club of America, to accept into the the Danish-Swedish Farmdog into the AKC Stud Book so that it may be registerable and eligible to compete in the Working Group. The Board also approved the breed standard. The Danish-Swedish Farmdog will be eligible to compete in the Working Group on January 1, 2025. The breed will be moved from the Foundation Stock Service into the Stud Book of the American Kennel Club on January 1, 2025. The Stud Book will remain open until January 1, 2030.

Perro de Presa Canario Name Change

The Board VOTED to officially change the name of the Perro de Presa Canario to Presa Canario, at the request of the Presa Canario Club of America, to be consistent with the country of origin.

West Highland White Terrier Proposed Breed Standard Revision

The West Highland White Terrier Club of America, Inc. (WHWTCA), submitted proposed revisions to the breed standard. The Board VOTED to approve the WHWTCA to ballot the membership in accordance with the club's Constitution and Bylaws.

AKC/AKC-CHF Canine Sports Residency Program

The Board VOTED to approve a 3-year AKC/AKC-CHF sponsored veterinary Residency Program in Canine Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation, starting in 2025. The AKC/AKC-CHF Residency in Canine Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation will entail AKC funding a total of \$300,000 via \$100,000 for each of fiscal years 2025, 2026, and 2027.

AKC Bylaw Amendment to Article XII, Section 1

The Board VOTED to approve the recommended changes to Article XII, Section 1 of the AKC Bylaws to make the complaint process easier and uniform for all individuals by removing the requirement of an oath and replacing it with an affirmation.

ARTICLE XII, SECTION 1. Any club or association or person or persons interested in purebred dogs may make a complaint against any other club or association or person or persons for conduct alleged to have been prejudicial to the best interests of purebred dogs, purebred dog events or the AKC, which complaint shall be made in writing setting forth the circumstances. The complaint shall be verified by the complainant stating that the complainant has read the complaint, has knowledge of the facts stated in the complaint, and affirms and verifies under penalty of perjury that the complaint is true and correct. The complaint shall then be sent to the AKC, (ATTENTION: Executive Secretary) with a deposit, the amount to be established annually by the Board of Directors. The deposit shall become the property of the AKC if the Board of Directors does not exercise jurisdiction; or in the event the Board of Directors exercises jurisdiction and the complaint is not sustained to any extent. The deposit will be returned if the Board of Directors exercises jurisdiction and the complaint is sustained to any extent. The Board of Directors has the authority to determine whether the AKC shall exercise jurisdiction.

This will be read at the December 2023 Delegate Meeting to be voted on at the March 2024 Delegate Meeting.

Lancashire Heeler – Eligibility for Earthdog Tests

The Board reviewed a recommendation to approve the request from the United States Lancashire Heeler Club (USLHC) to allow their breed to be eligible to participate in Earthdog Tests. It has been documented that the breed was used and developed to be a successful ratter by local farmers. They helped farmers hunt vermin and control rat populations in rural areas.

Following a motion by Mr. Tatro, seconded by Dr. Davies, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to not approve the breed to participate in Earthdog Tests.

It was VOTED to adjourn on Tuesday, November 14, 2023, at 12:30 p.m. Eastern Time.

Adjourned

Attest: _____

Gina M. DiNardo, Executive Secretary

Appendix A



BOARD & DELEGATE MEETINGS 2024

As of November 13, 2023

All meetings, except December, are in the NYC/NJ area. The December meeting is in Orlando, FL.

JANUARY 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

January

- 8 Board Meeting
9 Board Meeting

July

- 8 Board Meeting
9 Board Meeting

JULY 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

FEBRUARY 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		

February

- 12 Board Meeting
13 Board Meeting

August

- 12 Board Meeting
13 Board Meeting

AUGUST 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

MARCH 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

March

- 11 Delegate Committee Meeting
12 Delegate Meeting

September

- 9 Delegate Committee Meeting
10 Delegate Meeting

SEPTEMBER 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

APRIL 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

April

- 8 Board Meeting
9 Board Meeting

October

- 7 Board Meeting
8 Board Meeting

OCTOBER 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
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13	14	15	16	17	18	19
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MAY 2024						
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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

May

- 9 Board Meeting
10 Board Meeting

November

- 11 Board Meeting
12 Board Meeting

NOVEMBER 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
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24	25	26	27	28	29	30

JUNE 2024						
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16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

June

- 10 Delegate Committee Meeting
11 Delegate Meeting

December

- 12 Delegate Committee Meeting
13 Delegate Meeting

DECEMBER 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				



BOARD & DELEGATE MEETINGS 2025

As of November 13, 2023

All meetings, except December, are in the NYC/NJ area. The December meeting is in Orlando, FL.

JANUARY 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

January

- 13 Board Meeting
14 Board Meeting

July

- 7 Board Meeting
8 Board Meeting

JULY 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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FEBRUARY 2025						
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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	

February

- 10 Board Meeting
11 Board Meeting

August

- 11 Board Meeting
12 Board Meeting

AUGUST 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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2	3	4	5	6	7	8
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16	17	18	19	20	21	22
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30	31					

MARCH 2025						
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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

March

- 10 Delegate Committee Meeting
11 Delegate Meeting

September

- 8 Delegate Committee Meeting
9 Delegate Meeting

SEPTEMBER 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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APRIL 2025						
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16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

April

- 7 Board Meeting
8 Board Meeting

October

- 13 Board Meeting
14 Board Meeting

OCTOBER 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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MAY 2025						
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16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

May

- 12 Board Meeting
13 Board Meeting

November

- 10 Board Meeting
11 Board Meeting

NOVEMBER 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
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JUNE 2025						
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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

June

- 9 Delegate Committee Meeting
10 Delegate Meeting

December

- 11 Delegate Committee Meeting
12 Delegate Meeting

DECEMBER 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					