

American Kennel Club, Inc.
MEETING of the BOARD OF DIRECTORS
AKC Offices at 101 Park Avenue, New York, NY
October 9-10, 2023

The Board convened on Monday, October 9, 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 August 7-8, 2023, Board Meeting minutes had been previously provided to all Directors for review.

Dr. Garvin asked that the language for the proposed revision to the Tail section of the English Springer Spaniel Breed Standard be included in the August Minutes. The Board VOTED to approve this addition.

Upon a motion by Mr. Powers, seconded by Ms. McAteer, the August 2023 Board Meeting minutes were unanimously approved as amended.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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

Entries are now open for the America's National Championship, which will take place in Orlando on December 16-17, 2023.

Litter Registration is at the level planned, while individual dog registration is trailing. The aggregate financials are level.

Through August, Events and Entries are both positive, with a 5% increase in events and a 3% increase in entries led by Fast CAT®, Scent Work, Rally, and Conformation in that order.

Mr. Sprung will distribute a new quarterly email for Delegates and Club Officers reminding them of tips for their Club's fiduciary responsibilities, to continue to be watchful for email Phishing scams, and an explanation that Pop Ups ads on akc.org are not generated internally. He will also provide information to Parent Clubs to take advantage of the Grants for Breed rescue that are offered through the AKC Humane Fund.

The Executive Secretary introduced the new Executive Director of the AKC Museum of the Dog, Christopher Bromson.

Legal Update

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

2024 Budget

The Board reviewed the draft of the 2024 budget.

It will be discussed further at the November Board meeting.

Canine Health Foundation 2023 Q3 Update

Stephanie Montgomery, AKC Canine Health Foundation (CHF) Chief Executive Officer, and Andrea Fiumefreddo, AKC CHF Chief Operating Officer, participated in this portion of the meeting.

Alongside the 2024 budget preparation, CHF is conducting strategic planning. The immediate focus is a 1-year 2024 plan to guide a coordinated effort across the organization and promote the success of each department in achieving CHF's mission. The focus is on actualizing CHF's mission through strengthening our partnerships, thoughtfully expanding our constituency and sponsors, funding impactful research, and providing educational resources and communications to meet needs that align with CHF programs.

This past quarter, Susan Childs, MSA, CPA, CHF Director of Finance, prioritized completing 2022 financial statements in preparation for CHF's 2022 financial audit.

Thus far, in 2023, 24 new grants have been awarded, totaling \$1.65M in new funding.

The Theriogenology selection committee met in July to evaluate this year's applications. Two programs were selected, one supporting a resident at the Ohio State University and one supporting a resident at Colorado State University. The Theriogenology Residency continues to be a fruitful collaboration between AKC, CHF, and the Theriogenology Foundation.

Invitations for the 2024 CHF Clinician-Scientist Fellowship Program were sent to selected institutions. This program supports Clinician-Scientist trainees who work with CHF-funded mentors. Applications for this program are due in mid-October.

CHF's most recent call for proposals was on infectious disease and One Health. CHF currently has an open request for Early Career Investigators, who can submit proposals in any of the 23 established program areas. The purpose of this award is to advance the health of dogs while investing in outstanding early career individuals who have the potential to be tomorrow's leading canine health researchers.

The 2023 National Parent Club Conference was held in St. Louis on August 11-13, 2023, made possible through the support of AKC, Purina, and the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA).

In July, CHF celebrated the 1,000th scientific article stemming from CHF-funded studies.

CHF presented a proposal for a 3-year AKC/AKC-CHF sponsored veterinary Residency Program in Canine Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation, starting in 2025.

This will be discussed further at the November Board meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

FINANCE

Ted Phillips, Chief Financial Officer, presented preliminary financial statements (unaudited) as of August 31, 2023.

Unaudited Financial Results for the 8 months ended August 31, 2023

Net Operating Income is \$9.6 million.

REVENUES:

Total Revenues of \$68.8 million are lower than budget by 1%, excluding Interest & Dividends.

Registration Fees excluding Registration-Related revenues total \$26.9 million, and trail by 3%.

Registration-related Revenues exceeded budget by \$104k or 1%.

Recording & Event Service fees, Title Recognition, and Event Application fees total \$11.4 million and are higher than budget by 7%.

Product & Service Sales total \$8.2 million are lower by 9%.

Advertising, Sponsorship, and Royalties total \$12.8 million, which are higher than the budget by 1%.

EXPENSES:

Controllable Expenses total \$52.9 million and are lower than budget by \$3.8 million or 7%.

Non-controllable expenses are higher than budget by \$44k or 1%.

Non-Financial Statistics for the 6 months ended June 30, 2023

Registrations: 2023 YTD Litter Registrations are 1% ahead of budget and 8% lower than 2022 YTD. 2023 YTD Dog Registrations are trailing the budget by 8% and are 15% lower than 2022 YTD.

Events & Entries

Compared to the same period in 2022, Events are 5% ahead, and Entries are 3% higher YTD.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Gina DiNardo, Executive Secretary, participated in this portion of the meeting. Mari-Beth O'Neill, Vice President of Sports Services; Sheila Goffe, Vice President of Government Relations; and Ashley Jacot, Director of Education, participated in this portion of the meeting via video conference.

Beagle Proposed Breed Standard Revision

The National Beagle Club (NBC) has submitted a proposed revision to the color section of the

Beagle standard. The Board has additional questions, which will be directed back to the Parent Club.

This will be discussed further at the November Board meeting.

Keeshond Breed Standard Revision

The Board reviewed the proposed revisions to the breed standard as submitted by the Keeshond Club of America.

Following a motion from Mr. Sweetwood, seconded by Dr. Battaglia, the Board VOTED (Unanimously) to approve the proposed revisions to the Keeshond Standard to be published for comment in the November 2023 Secretary's Page of the *AKC Gazette*.

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 complaints. They also suggest that AKC judges and show committee members be exempt from this fee.

This will be discussed further at the November Board meeting.

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.

This will be discussed further at the November Board meeting.

Danish-Swedish Farmdog Eligibility to Compete in the Working Group

The Board reviewed a petition from the Danish-Swedish Farmdog Club of America, which is seeking acceptance into the AKC Stud Book for the Danish-Swedish Farmdog so that it may be registerable and eligible to compete in the Working Group.

This will be discussed further at the November Board meeting.

Perro de Presa Canario Name Change

The Presa Canario Club of America has requested that the breed's name be officially changed to Presa Canario, as opposed to Perro de Presa Canario, to be consistent with the country of origin.

This will be discussed further at the November Board meeting.

AKC Education Quarter 3 Review**Online Education*****Breed-Specific and Breeder Courses and Exams***

A total of 65 breed-specific courses and 27 breeder courses, webinars, and exams are now available on Canine College. In Q3, one course was completed and launched, four courses are under final Parent Club review, and five breed courses are under development.

Breed-Specific Courses Launched in Q3

- o Pembroke Welsh Corgi

Breed-Specific Courses Updated in Q3

- o Dachshund
- o English Cocker Spaniel

Breed-Specific Courses under Parent Club Committee Review

- o Manchester Terrier
- o French Bulldog
- o Beagle
- o German Shorthaired Pointer

Breed-Specific Courses in Development

- o Alaskan Malamute
- o Beauceron
- o Biewer Terrier
- o Borzoi
- o Bracco Italiano

Breed-Specific Course in Queue

- o Lancashire Heeler
- o Leonberger

Public Education**Major Work in Q3**

- Releasing “AKC Read with Bailey” Videos
- Processed New AKC Canine Ambassador Members
- Hosted Art Contest at AKC Meet the Breeds® - Chicago
- Hosted Information Booth at AKC Meet the Breeds® - Chicago
- Preparing for AKC Meet the Breeds® - Columbus
- Updated AKC PupPals Program
- New Issues of AKC Kids News and AKC Canine Corner

New “AKC Read with Bailey” Videos Released

During Q3, three new “AKC Read with Bailey” videos were released, each celebrating a different holiday (French Heritage Month, National Dog Month, and Hispanic Heritage Month). Related resources were also provided. The videos reached a total audience of over 1,300.

AKC Canine Corner & AKC Kids News Newsletters

During Q3 we released three new issues of the AKC Canine Corner Newsletter and made visual updates. Additionally, a new issue of AKC Kids News was released with information about Pee Wee events.

AKC Education Webinar Series

In Quarter 3 of 2023, AKC Education hosted four webinars for 2,230 participants, bringing the total number of participants to 60,665 since March 2020.

The following webinars were offered in Quarter 3 of 2023:

- Managing Your Litters in AKC Breeder Toolkit
- Club Development Presents: Using Technology to Teach 'Old Dogs' New Tricks!
- Review & FAQs on Conformation Judging Procedures, Policies & Guidelines
- Judges Education Webinar: Sloughi

AKC Breeder Education

A presentation was given on the new AKC Breeder Education course called Breeding Fundamentals. The course content was Streamlined from 7 courses into 1 course.

This new format will:

- Increase participation with badges and a leaderboard.
- Foster peer engagement and new connections.
- Better track learner progress.
- Drive actionable marketing messages.

A digital badge is now available for every module the learner finishes.

The following content has been moved from Canine College to AKC.org and is available on a Complimentary basis:

- The revised, original breeder education courses
 - Dog Breeding and Health Articles
 - Breeder Webinars
 - AKC Breeder Newsletters
 - AKC's Guide to Responsible Dog Ownership
 - AKC Breeder to Breeder Presentations

Government Relations (GR) Monthly Update:

Sheila Goffe highlighted numerous active priority legislation and administrative regulations in Congress and in State Legislation as of September 14, 2023.

She noted that additional information is available on the AKC legislative action center microsite:

<https://www.akcgr.org>.

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.)

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

MARKETING

Kirsten Bahlke, Vice President of Marketing, participated in this portion of the meeting via video conference. Jacqueline Taylor, Director of Marketing and Dylan Gibbons, Brand Marketing Associate, participated in this portion of the meeting.

There was a presentation on Sports & Events Marketing initiatives through September 2023. The focus was on entry-level activities for dog owners, including the AKC Canine Good Citizen test, AKC FIT DOG, Fast CAT®, Scent Work and AKC Trick Dog. There was also a campaign to promote multiple sports that new dog owners could attend as spectators. It was noted that the majority of CGC titleholders typically achieved their first title through CGC. Among these initial titleholders, 42% later earned additional AKC Titles.

A nurturing Sports and Events email series was highlighted, which targeted new dog registrants to foster engagement, education, and enthusiasm in AKC Sports & Events.

There was also an initiative to increase the number of Parent Clubs and local specialty clubs participating in the Pupdate Newsletter. This program helps establish AKC Clubs as a lifelong resource for new puppy owners. Currently, there are over 100 clubs participating; over 20 have joined this year.

CLUBS

Doug Ljungren, Executive Vice President, of Sports & Events; Glenn Lycan, Director of Event Operations Support; and Lisa Cecin, Director of Club Relations, participated in this portion of the meeting via video conference.

Exploring Options for Existing Local Specialty Club Territories

The American Kennel Club expands existing club territories upon written request. 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.

Staff is recommending 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.

This will be discussed further at the November Board meeting.

REPORT ON MEMBER CLUB BYLAWS APPROVED IN AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER

Chicago Collie Club, Chicago, IL (1914)

Dachshund Club of America (1895)

Irish Terrier Club of America (1897)

Lowchen Club of America (2018)

Mensona Kennel Club, Santa Rosa, CA, (1973)

REPORT ON NEWLY LICENSED CLUB APPROVED IN AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER

Cane Corso Club of the Pacific Northwest, greater Enumclaw, WA (including communities north to Sedro-Wooley, south to Vancouver and east to Yakima), 26 total households, 13 local.

Central Florida Dogo Argentino Club, greater Lakeland, FL (including communities north to Ormond, northwest to Cedar Key, southeast to Pierce, southwest to Bradenton), 29 total households, 18 local.

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

Piedmont Bernese Mountain Dog Club of South Carolina, greater Greenville, NC (including communities south to Anderson, east to Rock Hill and north to the North Carolina state line), 20 total households, 14 local.

Rocky Mountain Saint Bernard Club, greater Colorado Springs, CO (including communities north to Cheyenne, WY, southeast to Strasburg, CO, and west to Buena Vista, CO), 35 total households, 12 local.

Swan Lake Retriever Club, Marceline, MO (including towns of Brookfield, Sumner, Rothville, Mendon Salisbury), 22 total households, 13 local.

CONFORMATION

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

Sweepstakes Age Limit

Currently, The *AKC Show Manual* restricts sweepstakes to dogs less than 18 months old. The Staff recommends updating the guideline to allow dogs less than 24 months old to compete in sweepstakes.

Following a motion from Dr. Battaglia, seconded by Mr. Powers, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to update the *AKC Show Manual*.

Sweepstakes or Futurity Classes

A specialty club that has been approved by the AKC to hold sweepstakes and futurities may hold these events in conjunction with its event or with an All-Breed event. The following conditions must be met:

- An application is submitted by the specialty club.
- Entries for sweepstakes or futurity are only accepted for dogs that are at least six months of age.
- Sweepstakes entries are for dogs up to 24 months of age.
- The class divisions are specified in the premium list. Age divisions are determined by the specialty club. Classes must be divided by sex.
- All other qualifications for the dogs and handlers may be set by the specialty club and must be stated in the premium list.
- The club may retain for expenses up to 50% of the sweepstakes entry fees collected. The club should only retain enough of the entry fee to cover the expenses of the competition.

Clubs have the flexibility to determine certain aspects of the sweepstakes competition. The following criteria may be adjusted by the club: age (up to 24 months), Dog (titled or not), Handler (professional or not). These items must be clearly defined in the premium list.

Catalogs - Rules Applying to Dog Shows, Chapter 12, Sections 1 & 4

Pursuant to the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* ("Rules"), **Chapter 12, Section 1** and **Chapter 12, Section 4**, dog show catalogs must publish the names and addresses of the owners for all dogs entered. The Board reviewed a Staff recommendation to modify the *Rules* removing the requirement to publish the owner's complete address and replacing it with the publication of the name, city, state, and email (if provided) of the owners for all dogs entered.

Following a motion by Mr. Tatro, seconded by Mr. Hamblin, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to approve the Staff recommendations.

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

Judging Programs for Multi-Day Events

The Board reviewed a Staff recommendation to establish Board Policy to require judging programs for single shows with multiple days of judging to include the day or date and time for which transfers to Best of Breed/Variety must be completed.

There was a motion by Dr. Battaglia, seconded by Mr. Powers to consider the matter at the meeting waiving the normal notice procedures. This motion was unanimously passed.

Following a motion by Dr. Battaglia, seconded by Mr. Tatro, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to approve the Staff recommendation effective January 1, 2024.

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. However, the Parent Clubs Committee has proposed the elimination of this limit. The Staff supports the Parent Clubs Committee's request to remove the 500-mile restriction.

This will be discussed further at the November Board meeting.

The Board adjourned at 5:17 p.m.

The Board Meeting reconvened on Tuesday, October 10, at 8:30 a.m. All Directors were present in the New York office. The Executive Secretary was also present.

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.

This will be discussed further at the November Board meeting.

Conformation Judging Statistics

Judging Operations provided statistics related to Conformation judging applications considered by the Department in the preceding three months. Following are the statistics for New Breed (NB) and Additional Breed (AB) judges whose applications were presented for final approval in the months of July through September 2023.

FINAL REVIEW ACTION SUMMARY 2023 NEW BREED JUDGING APPLICANTS									
APPLICATIONS							BREEDS		
	Total	Fully Appr.	Limited	Denied	Wthdrn	Held	Req.	Appr.	Pend.
January	1	0	1	0	0	0	13	10	0
February	3	3	0	0	0	0	3	3	0
March	5	5	0	0	0	0	5	5	0
April	10	10	0	0	0	0	17	17	0
May	3	3	0	0	0	0	3	3	0
June	8	7	0	1	0	0	43	40	0
July	8	8	0	0	0	0	9	9	0
August	8	7	0	1	0	0	15	14	0
September	10	9	0	1	0	0	24	23	0
NB TOTAL	56	52	1	3	0	0	132	124	0

FINAL REVIEW ACTION SUMMARY 2023 ADDITIONAL BREED JUDGING APPLICANTS									
APPLICATIONS							BREEDS		
	Total	Fully Appr.	Limited	Denied	Wthdrn	Held	Req.	Appr.	Pend.
January	22	21	1	0	0	0	134	131	0
February	39	38	0	1	0	0	183	180	0
March	21	20	1	0	0	0	120	117	0
April	57	55	1	1	0	1	342	332	0
May	41	40	1	0	0	0	215	211	0
June	20	20	0	0	0	0	76	76	0
July	30	27	2	1	0	0	122	115	0
August	19	19	0	0	0	0	90	90	0
September	27	23	4	0	0	0	134	128	0
AB TOTAL	277	263	10	3	0	1	1416	1380	0

FINAL REVIEW ACTION SUMMARY 2023 YEAR-TO-DATE									
APPLICATIONS							BREEDS		
	Total	Fully Appr.	Limited	Denied	Wthdrn	Held	Req.	Appr.	Pend.
NB	56	52	1	3	0	0	132	124	0
AB	277	263	10	3	0	1	1416	1380	0
TOTAL	333	315	11	6	0	1	1548	1504	0

COMPANION and PERFORMANCE

Doug Ljungren, Executive Vice President, Sports & Events; Diane Schultz, Director of Obedience, Rally and Tracking; and Caroline Murphy, Director, Performance Events participated in this portion of the meeting via video conference.

\$3.50 Recording/Service Fee for all Entries

The Board reviewed a recommendation to adopt a consistent recording/service fee of \$3.50 per entry across all sports. Currently, all Performance Events are \$3.50 per entry, while Conformation and Companion Events are \$3.50 for the first entry and \$3.00 for all subsequent entries of a dog at the same event.

The change would result in consistency across all sports. Since July 1, 2013, all Performance Events have had a \$3.50 fee for every entry of a dog in the event. If the \$3.50 fee implemented in 2008 for Conformation was adjusted for inflation, it would be \$4.76 today.

Following a motion by Mr. Tatro, seconded by Mr. Powers, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to adopt the recommendation effective January 1, 2024.

Parent Club Request for Three-Quarter Jump Heights in Obedience – Australian Terrier and Old English Sheepdog

The Australian Terrier Club of America (ATCA) and the Old English Sheepdog Club of America (OESDCA) have submitted documentation to support their request to have the jump height requirement in obedience for their breed to be lowered to three-quarters the height of the dog at the withers.

In the Obedience regular classes with jumps (Open and Utility), the minimum required jump height is the height of the dog at the withers. However, based on each breed's structure and the impact jumping has on the dog's body, Parent Clubs can request to have their breed approved to jump three-quarters the height of the dog at the withers.

Australian Terrier – Under current regulations, the breed's regular jump height is 10-12 inches; with the requested change, they will be allowed to jump 7-9 inches. The request is consistent with previously approved breeds with a similar height/length/weight ratio of the Australian Terrier.

Old English Sheepdog – Under current regulations, the breed's regular jump height is 22 inches and up; with the requested change, they will be allowed to jump 16 inches and up, depending on the height of the dog. The breed is thickset and heavy-boned. The request is consistent with previously approved breeds that are heavy in bone and have a thickset body.

There was a motion by Mr. Sweetwood, seconded by Mr. Smyth to consider the matter at the meeting waiving the normal notice procedures. This motion was unanimously passed.

There was a motion by Ms. Biddle, seconded by Mr. Sweetwood, and the Board VOTED (unanimously) to approve the requests of the ATCA and the OESDCA to have the jump height requirement in Obedience for their breed to be lowered to three-quarters the height of the dog at the withers. This change will become effective January 1, 2024.

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 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.

CONSENT

Following a motion by Dr. Garvin, seconded by Mrs. Wallin, it was VOTED (unanimously) to approve the following Consent items:

Delegates and Approved

Cameron R. Capozzi

To represent Queensboro Kennel Club

Heidi Kilgore

To represent Evansville Kennel Club

Teresa Nash

To represent American Belgian Tervuren Club

Helen Norton

To represent Greater Fredericksburg Kennel Club

Dr. LeeAnn Podruch

To represent Silky Terrier Club of America

Renee Lynn Popkey

To represent Pasco Florida Kennel Club

Sandra Schumacher

To represent Papillon Club of America

Elizabeth Szymanski

To represent Wallkill Kennel Club

Member Club Approved**Barbet Club of America**

155 Total Households

1st Licensed Show: November 18, 2021

Bylaws: Acceptable

Recommendation: Approve – Published in August 2023 and September 2023 *AKC Gazettes*.

Junior Showmanship Regulations - Junior Showmanship Judging Guidelines

The Board VOTED to approve a Staff recommendation to revise the *Junior Showmanship Conformation Junior Showmanship Regulations, Guidelines for Judging Juniors in Conformation, Juniors in Performance Event Regulations* to clarify and specifically state that dogs with breed disqualifications may be shown in Junior Showmanship competition.

German Spitz Club of America – Recommendation to Advance to Miscellaneous

The Board VOTED to approve the request from the German Spitz Club of America to move the German Spitz into the Miscellaneous Class effective June 26, 2024.

Sussex Spaniel

The Board VOTED to approve the proposed revision to the Tail Section of the breed standard with an effective date of January 1, 2024.

Revision to the Tail Section:

Tail-The tail is set low. When gaitting, the Sussex Spaniel exhibits nice tail action, but does not carry the tail above the level of the back. The tail may be docked or undocked. If docked, the tail is 5 to 7 inches long.

Catalog Class Order – Obedience

The Board VOTED to approve a Staff recommendation to modify Chapter 1, Section 3 of the *Obedience Regulations* to state that the Regular and Preferred Open and Utility class entries may be listed together in the catalog, the same as they are in the judging program and judge's book.

Awarding a Fifth Placement – Beagle Field Trials

The Board VOTED to amend *AKC Beagle Field Trial Rules* to allow judges to award a fifth placement rather than an NBQ designation for the next best-qualified hound per class in Beagle field trials except for brace trials. This placement would award 1/5 of a champion point for each starter (minimum six required), which would be applied towards a Field Champion title. The Beagle Advisory Committee voted unanimously for this change.

This is a change to the *AKC Beagle Field Trial Rules*, it will be read at the December 2023 Delegate Meeting to be voted on at the March 2024 Delegate Meeting. If approved, this would become effective May 1, 2024.

Remove 30 Day Restriction – Beagle Field Trials

The Board VOTED to approve a recommendation to amend *AKC Beagle Field Trial Rules* Chapter 3, Section 3 to remove a 30-day waiting period that restricts a Beagle Field Trial Club from holding its second trial in the same year.

Previously, Beagle Field Trial Clubs could hold a maximum of two trials per year and were required to space trials out a minimum of 30 days. The 30-day restriction has been in the regulations for over 20 years and was originally intended to spread trials throughout the calendar.

This will be read at the December 2023 Delegate Meeting to be voted on at the March 2024 Delegate Meeting. If approved, this would become effective April 1, 2024.

Parent Club Beagle Hunt Test Titles – Title Recognition

The Board reviewed a request from the National Beagle Club of America to offer two Beagle Hunting Test titles. The National Beagle Club of America has taken the initiative to develop a Beagle Hunt Test Program in hopes of encouraging more beagle owners to work with their Beagles

in the field. The Parent Club recognizes there has been no dual champion Beagles in over 20 years.

The Parent Club is requesting AKC recognize two titles under the Parent Club Title Recognition Program – 1) Hunting Beagle Novice (HBN) and 2) Hunting Beagle Advanced (HBA). A Hunt Test evaluates a dog's abilities against a standard of performance. It is a pass/fail event, there are no placements.

The Board VOTED to approve this request. This will become effective December 1, 2023.

NEW BUSINESS

4-6 Month Puppy Class

There was discussion of the 4-6 month puppy class and the Board asked Staff to consider means to enhance the program.

Recording of Colors on Registrations

The Board asked Staff to review the registration process with respect to how standard and nonstandard colors are recorded and to make recommendations.

It was VOTED to adjourn on Tuesday, October 10, 2023, at 10:45 a.m. Eastern Time.

Adjourned

Attest:_____

Gina M. DiNardo, Executive Secretary