

American Kennel Club, Inc.
MEETING of the BOARD OF DIRECTORS
AKC Offices at 101 Park Avenue, New York, NY
July 10-11, 2023

The Board convened on Monday, July 10, 2023, at 8:30 a.m. Eastern Time.

All Directors were present in the New York office except for Dr. Garvin who participated by videoconference. The Executive Secretary was also present.

Copies of the May 5, 2023, Board Meeting minutes were provided to all Directors for review.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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

Events and Entries Continue to increase. An anomaly continues with litters increasing. However, individual dog registration is lower than expected.

Financials are in good shape; however, our eyes are focused on the headwinds of a possible recession and disposable income.

From a media branding perspective:

Over the July 4, 2023 weekend we were featured on *CNN*, *Axios*, the *New York Times* and the *Insider* as experts on dogs and fireworks and discussing pet theft.

This past weekend featured AKC on *Fox 5* announcing the launch of *Good Dog TV* in syndication on *Fox 5 New York* and *My9*. Carrie DeYoung was on *Good Day Columbus* promoting the AKC Agility Premier Cup held in Columbus, Ohio. Also, at the same time, Carolyn Mano and Bill Ellis were onsite filming the Premiere Cup for ESPN and live in Dallas on AKC.tv was the Lone Star Classic dog shows featuring Kelly O'Donnell and Gina DiNardo.

Legal Update

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

CMS Upgrade Project

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

In November, the decision was made to move ahead with shifting the Competition Management System (CMS) to the updated PowerBuilder web-based platform. Using an outside consulting firm to assist with this upgrade, the work started on November 28, 2022. The transition has been completed in a staged environment, verified, and deployed on June 6, 2023 for Operating Staff usage. This is a major milestone in the CMS Upgrade Project. This included automated letters for Agility, Rally, and Scent Work, an upgraded Judge Panel Management (JPM) System, and three reports to assist Conformation Judges. The reports collectively display what the individual is approved to judge, information about past assignments, and the education data recorded in a judge's file.

The next five enhancements were outlined to the Board.

AKC Canine Health Foundation Report to AKC Board

Stephanie Montgomery, AKCCHF Chief Executive Officer and Andrea Fiumefreddo, Chief Operating Officer participated in this portion of the meeting. An update was provided on recent Staff changes, development, and the process improvements made in the Finance department in terms of accounting, budgeting, and financial reporting.

Scientific Programs & Program Awareness Update: Thus far in 2023, sixteen new grants have been awarded, with CHF committing nearly \$1.2M of the annual budgeted goal of \$3.8M.

The 2023 AKCCHF National Parent Club Canine Health Conference sponsored by Purina will run from the afternoon of Friday, August 11, 2023, through noon on Sunday, August 13, 2023. Registration is open with options for in-person or virtual attendance, with a limited number of remaining seats for in-person attendance.

FINANCE

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

Unaudited Financial Results for the 5 months ended May 31, 2023

Net Operating Income is \$6.6 million due to lower controllable costs.

REVENUES:

Total Revenues of \$44.3 million are lower than budget by 1.6%, excluding Interest & Dividends. Registration Fees excluding Registration related revenues, total \$17.4 million, and trail budget by 1%.

Registration-related Revenues exceeded budget by \$261k or 6%.

Recording & Event Service fees, Title Recognition, and Event Application fees total \$6.7 million and are lower than budget by <1%.

Product & Service Sales total \$5.3 million are lower than budget by 7%.

Advertising, Sponsorship, and Royalties total \$7.9 million are lower than budget by 2%.

EXPENSES:

Controllable Expenses total \$33.1 million and are lower than budget by \$2.2 million or 6%.

Non-Controllable expenses are higher than budget by \$66k or 1%.

Non-Financial Statistics for the 5 months ended May 31, 2023

Registrations: 2023 YTD Litter Registrations are 3% ahead of budget, and 6% lower than 2022 YTD.

2023 YTD Dog Registrations are trailing the budget by 7% and are 15% lower than 2022 YTD.

Events & Entries

Compared to the same period in 2022, Events & Entries were up by 7% and 2% respectively.

2023 Nominating Committee

Following discussion, the Board elected the Nominating Committee to select candidates for vacancies on the Board of Directors, which are to be filled at the March 2024 meeting. There are three (3) vacancies for the Class of 2028.

Nominating Committee:

Patti Strand, Chairperson
Dog Fanciers Association of Oregon Inc.

Marilyn DeGregorio
Taconic Hills KC, Inc.

Florence Duggan
Sussex Hills KC, Inc.

Don James
Leonberger Club of America

Barbara Shaw
Greater Collin Kennel Club, Inc.

Alternates:

Terrie Breen
Farmington Valley Kennel Club, Inc.

Douglas Johnson
Colorado Springs Kennel Club

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Gina DiNardo, Executive Secretary; Mari-Beth O'Neill, Vice President of Sports Services; Sheila

Goffe, Vice President of Government Relations; Penny Leigh, Director of Registration Development and Kassandra McCombe, Business Intelligence Manager participated in this portion of the meeting via video conference.

AKC Agility League Regulations Revisions

The Board reviewed recommendations from the AKC Agility League Staff to make minor revisions to the AKC Agility League regulations to (1) provide clarification and align nomenclature across the document and (2) update the scoring calculations.

If approved, these regulation changes will go into effect for the Fall 2023 AKC Agility League Season.

This will be discussed further at the August meeting.

Request to Increase Delegate Committee Member Stipend/Reimbursement

The Board reviewed a request from the Delegate Coordinating Committee to increase the amount allowed to be reimbursed quarterly to Delegates serving as Delegate Committee members from \$200 up to \$400. The last increase was from \$100 to \$200 in October 1997.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was an EXECUTIVE SESSION to discuss sensitive business matters. It was reported out of this session that following a motion by Dr. Knight, seconded by Dr. Battaglia, the Board VOTED to consider the matter at this meeting, waiving the normal notice procedures; Dr. Garvin was opposed.

Following a motion by Mr. Sweetwood, seconded by Dr. Battaglia, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to approve the request to increase the amount allowed to be reimbursed quarterly to Delegates serving as Delegate Committee members from \$200 up to \$400 and to evaluate the reimbursement level at least every five (5) years.

Expense Reimbursement Policy

In compliance with the original intent of the expense reimbursement to help defray the cost of additional expenses incurred by the committee members who are required to attend an extra day for the quarterly meeting, there was a motion by Mr. Tatro, seconded by Mr. Carota to establish an *Expense Reimbursement Policy* for the payment of additional expenses incurred by our Delegate Committee members, adhering to current IRS rules.

The Board approved this new policy by a unanimous VOTE.

Expense Reimbursement Policy (July 2023)

The American Kennel Club has an established expense reimbursement policy for additional expenses incurred by our Delegate Committee members. All members seeking reimbursement without receipt substantiation are required to provide a form W-9 to the AKC Finance Department which will result in a Form 1099-NEC being issued annually for the total amount paid to the committee member. For such income to be excluded from Form 1099 reporting, we require receipts

to support expense reimbursement which must be provided to the AKC Finance department with your bill when submitting the reimbursement request form. AKC will make a copier/scanner available at the Delegate meetings for your use if needed. Effective January 1, 2024.

Proposed AKC Bylaw Amendment to Article XII, Section 1

The Board reviewed a proposal from the Delegate Bylaws Committee to amend the wording in Section 1 of Article XII to make the complaint process easier and uniform for all individuals by removing the requirement of an oath and replacing it with an affirmation.

The current wording requires that a complaint shall be signed and sworn by an officer of the club or association or by the person or persons making the same before a person qualified to administer oaths. The requirements to administer oaths greatly vary from county to county and state to state, and this makes it difficult for the complainant. The suggested modification asked the complainant to affirm and verify their statement under penalty of perjury. This is a more universal procedure that can apply to all individuals.

This will be discussed further at the August meeting.

Proposed AKC Bylaw Amendment to Article XIII, Section 2

The Board reviewed a proposal from the Delegate Bylaws Committee to amend the wording in Section 2 of Article XIII to add clarity to the Trial Board process and bring it in line with current practices.

This will be discussed further at the August meeting.

Proposed AKC Bylaw Amendment to Article XIII, Section 7

The Board reviewed a proposal to remove the italics and parenthesis from the words, *(except where it is acting as the appellate body for an Event Committee appeal, where its decision is final)* in Article XIII, Section 7. This does not change the meaning of the section.

This will be discussed further at the August meeting.

Proposed AKC Bylaw Amendment to Article XIV, Section 1

The Board reviewed a proposal from the Delegate Bylaws Committee to amend the wording in Section 1 of Article XIV to add clarity to the Event Committee process and bring the wording more in line with current practices.

This will be discussed further at the August meeting.

American Eskimo Dog Stud Book

The American Eskimo Dog Club of America has submitted a request to the Board of Directors to open the Stud Book for the Breed. Staff recommends that the Board approve the American Eskimo Dog Club of America to ballot its membership in accordance with the club's Constitution and Bylaws to open the Stud Book.

This will be discussed further at the August meeting.

American Bolognese Club – Recommendation to Advance to Miscellaneous

The Sports Services Staff recommends that the American Bolognese Club (ABC) be approved to advance to the Miscellaneous Class effective June 26, 2024.

The Board of Directors approved the Bolognese to be eligible for recording in the Foundation Stock Service® (FSS®) program with a Toy designation in 1999. The ABC has met the requirements of the Recognition of New Breeds Board Policy approved in February 2017.

Requirements include an active Parent Club, with serious and expanding breeding activity over a wide geographic area, and documented club activity.

This will be discussed further at the August meeting.

Czechoslovakian Vlcak Club of America – Recommendation to Advance to Miscellaneous

The Board reviewed a request from the Czechoslovakian Vlcak Club of America to move the Czechoslovakian Vlcak into the Miscellaneous Class.

The Board of Directors approved the Czechoslovakian Vlcak to be eligible for recording in the Foundation Stock Service® (FSS®) program with a Working designation in 2001. The Czechoslovakian Vlcak Club of America has met the requirements of the Recognition of New Breeds Board Policy approved in February 2017.

The Sport Services Staff recommends that the Czechoslovakian Vlcak be approved to advance to the Miscellaneous Class effective June 26, 2024.

This will be discussed further at the August meeting.

Pyrenean Mastiff Association of America – Recommendation to Advance to Miscellaneous

The Board reviewed a request from the Pyrenean Mastiff Association of America (PMAoA) to move the Pyrenean Mastiff into the Miscellaneous Class.

The Board of Directors approved the Pyrenean Mastiff to be eligible for recording in the Foundation Stock Service® (FSS®) program with a Working designation in 2014. The PMAoA has met the requirements of the Recognition of New Breeds Board Policy approved in February 2017.

The Sport Services Staff recommends that the Pyrenean Mastiff be approved to advance to the Miscellaneous Class effective June 26, 2024.

This will be discussed further at the August meeting.

Yakutian Laika Club of America – Recommendation to Advance to Miscellaneous

The Board reviewed a request from the Yakutian Laika Club of America (YLCA) to move the Yakutian Laika into the Miscellaneous Class.

The Board of Directors approved the Yakutian Laika to be eligible for recording in the Foundation Stock Service® (FSS®) program with a Working designation in 2017. The YLCA has met the requirements of the Recognition of New Breeds Board Policy approved in February 2017.

The Sport Services Staff recommends that the Yakutian Laika be approved to advance to the Miscellaneous Class effective June 26, 2024.

This will be discussed further at the August meeting.

New Breed for Foundation Stock Service® - Large Munsterlander

The Board was advised that the Staff Foundation Stock Service (FSS) Committee recently approved a petition for the Large Munsterlander to be accepted into the FSS® program.

The Large Munsterlander has evolved from the ancient longhaired hawking and retrieving dogs found across Europe, where they can be seen depicted in paintings from the 16th and 17th centuries. In most areas in Germany, out-crosses with English Setters and Pointers were very popular, but by 1879 the German breeders decided to take control and establish proper breed standards. Setter-like in appearance when viewed from a distance, the Large Munsterlander is a versatile and cooperative hunting dog that hunts and points upland game birds, tracks feathered and furred game, and retrieves both waterfowl and upland birds.

There are approximately 20 dogs in the United States that are eligible for recording with FSS®.

New Breed for Foundation Stock Service® - Thai Bangkaew Dog

The Board was advised that the Staff Foundation Stock Service (FSS) Committee recently approved a petition for the Thai Bangkaew Dog to be accepted into the FSS® program.

The Thai Bangkaew Dog is an older breed that originated from a village located in the Bang Rakam District, Phitsanulok Province in the central region of Thailand. The breed traces back roughly 100 years ago to a Buddhist abbot's local black and white female dog that was crossed with a now-extinct wild dog, producing the first of the breed.

There are approximately 40 dogs in the United States that are eligible for recording with FSS®.

Government Relations (GR) Monthly Update

Sheila Goffe highlighted active, priority legislative issues that AKC Government Relations (GR) is actively working on and a status update on current department activity, major projects, and legislative successes. Fourteen state legislatures, Congress, and the District of Columbia are currently in session, and four state legislatures are in special session. AKC Government Relations is currently tracking more than 1,400 local, state, and federal bills. Federal priorities include

potentially harmful bills such as the Puppy Protection Act (HR 1624) and Goldies Act (HR 1788), as well as positive measures such as the Healthy Dog Importation Act (HR 1184/S 502) and the Beagle Brigade Act (HR 1480/ S 759). Legislation in California, Pennsylvania, Texas, Florida and other states were touched upon. She noted that additional information is available on the AKC legislative action center microsite: www.akcgr.org.

COMPLIANCE

Jessica Lopez, Compliance Specialist and Marcus Bach, Director of Investigations & Inspections, participated in this meeting portion via video conference.

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

COMPANION and PERFORMANCE

Doug Ljungren, Executive Vice President, Sports & Events, and Caroline Murphy, Director, Performance Events participated in this portion of the meeting via video conference. Dr. Mary Burch, Director of the AKC Family Dog Program, participated via conference call.

Pointing Breed Hunting Tests – Master Hunter Excellent Test

The Board reviewed a recommendation to add a fourth testing level to the Pointing Breed Hunting Test program called the Master Hunter Excellent test. The purpose of the Master Hunter Excellent test is to recognize the most accomplished dogs in the Pointing Breed Hunt Test (PBHT) program and provide experienced owners with an additional activity to strive toward. Retaining these owners in the sport will strengthen clubs and enhance the knowledge available to current participants. Currently, many owners in PBHTs stop running a dog after it has earned the Master Hunter title. The Field Trial/Hunt Test Delegates Committee discussed the Master Hunter Excellent test and agreed it is a good idea.

This will be discussed further at the August meeting.

Beagle Bench Shows

The Board reviewed a recommendation to create an AKC Beagle Bench Show to be held in conjunction with field trials at the club's option. The purpose is to bring focus and emphasis to both form and function at the same setting. Any licensed club for Beagle field trials or two-couple pack events can hold a Bench Show. A Beagle Bench Show will utilize the Conformation Assessment (CA test) format that AKC has approved for the Golden Retrievers, West Highland White Terriers, and Leonbergers. This is a pass-fail test where the dog is evaluated against the major characteristics as identified in the AKC Breed Standard. The combination of three passes of the CA test and three placements in field events would result in a Bonafide Hunting Beagle (BHB) title.

If approved, Bench Show applications will be accepted on January 2, 2024 for events held after March 2024.

This will be discussed further at the August meeting.

Regulation Clarifications for Course D

The Board reviewed a recommendation to provide additional clarifications to Chapter 8 of the *AKC Herding Regulations*, which covers Course D. These clarifications, as highlighted below will give more specific information about the herding work required for this course. These clarifications will benefit our judges when scoring each performance and allow exhibitors to gain more technical information about what will be required to earn a qualifying score. This recommendation also includes permitting cattle as livestock.

This will be discussed further at the August meeting.

AKC Therapy Dog Program Update

The Board reviewed an update from Dr. Mary Burch about recent developments and the status of the AKC Therapy Dog Program.

The American Kennel Club launched the AKC Therapy Dog program on June 27, 2011. It has grown over the years to include six titles which are:

- AKC Therapy Dog Novice (THDN). Must have completed ten visits.
- AKC Therapy Dog (THD). Must have completed 50 visits.
- AKC Therapy Dog Advanced (THDA). Must have completed 100 visits.
- AKC Therapy Dog Excellent (THDX). Must have completed 200 visits.
- AKC Therapy Dog Distinguished (THDD). Must have completed 400 visits.
- AKC Therapy Dog Supreme (THDS). Must have completed 600 visits.

The total number of AKC Therapy Dog titles to date = 18,516, an average of 1,500 titles per year. AKC currently has a positive working relationship with 250 therapy dog certification organizations. These are the organizations that deploy therapy dogs to local facilities.

The United States Capitol Police Department contacted the AKC Therapy Dog Program. Dr. Burch assisted the department in developing a therapy dog assessment program specific to their needs. These dogs serve officers at the United States Capitol. Unique needs include the acceptance of gunfire, sirens, and the ability to sit with investigators or witnesses while reviewing violent or disturbing evidence.

The Fort Belvoir Therapy Dog Program contacted the AKC Therapy Dog Program.

Fort Belvoir wanted to bring greater consistency to the skills and training of the therapy dogs used on the base, including Walter Reed Hospital. Dr. Burch worked with the officer in charge to develop an assessment specifically designed for the Fort Belvoir Therapy Dog Program.

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.

Limited Number of Events Policy – Limited Breed Shows

The Board reviewed a request submitted by the Big Apple Working Group Club to modify the Limited Number of Events Policy to allow all limited-breed clubs to hold up to four Conformation dog shows in a calendar year. Staff suggests modifying the allowance for limited-breed clubs in a similar fashion to the prior policy for specialty clubs such that limited-breed clubs would be permitted to hold two shows or two days of shows in a calendar year.

This will be discussed further at the August meeting.

The Board adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

The Board Meeting reconvened on Tuesday, July 11, at 8:30 a.m. All Directors were present in the New York office, except for Dr. Garvin who participated via conference call. The Executive Secretary was also present.

Major Reserve at Specialty Shows - Rules Applying to Dog Shows Chapter 16, Section 1

The Board reviewed a proposal to modify Chapter 16, Section 1 of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows*, which would allow specialty clubs the option to offer the awarding of a three-point major to Reserve Winners provided that the number of dogs competing in the regular classes of the Reserve Winner's sex totals at least twice the number required for a five-point major at any specialty show for its breed.

Following a motion by Mr. Carota, seconded by Mr. Powers, the Board VOTED (Dr. Garvin and Mr. Hamblin opposed) to approve the recommendation. This rule change will be read at the September Delegate Meeting for a VOTE at the December Delegate Meeting.

Sweepstakes and Futurity Judges – Rules Applying to Dog Shows – Chapter 11, Section 13

The Board reviewed a Staff recommendation to modify Chapter 11, Section 13 of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows*, removing the statement related to sweepstakes and futurity judges and replacing it with italicized text below clarifying restrictions involving judges of special attraction competitions are defined by Board Policy.

Judges of sweepstakes and futurities, and all other special attractions held with a conformation show should refer to the "Rules, Policies and Guidelines for Conformation Judges" for any applicable exhibiting restrictions as they are defined by Board policy.

Following a motion by Mr. Tatro, seconded by Mrs. Wallin, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to approve the recommendation.

This rule change will be read at the September Delegate Meeting for a VOTE at the December Delegate Meeting.

AKC Show Manual: Examination Ramps and Tables

Staff provided updated wording that will be included in the *AKC Show Manual* to describe ramps and tables.

Ramps

General guidelines for the construction of a judging ramp.

- Construction: Any stable material may be used including the use of folding legs.
- Surface: Rubber matted or another slip-resistant surface safe for a dog's paws.
- Length: 4 feet
- Width: 2 feet
- Height: 15 - 24 inches

Tables

General guidelines for the construction of a judging table.

- In all instances the table size should be appropriate for all breeds being judged at the event.
 - Small breeds may be examined on a 24-inch by 18-inch table or larger.
 - Large breeds may be examined on a 36-inch by 24-inch table or larger.
- Constructed of stable material
- Surface: Rubber matted or another slip-resistant surface safe for a dog's paws

The construction of the ramp and table is paramount to the safety of the dog. The ramp should provide good footing in any kind of weather. Failure to provide structurally sound and safe equipment is subject to a reprimand and potential fine.

Rules Applying to Dog Shows Chapter 2, Section 8 Parent Club Permission

The Staff provided an overview of the rules requiring Specialty Clubs to obtain permission from the Parent Club to hold specific events.

The current version can be found in the following rule books:

- ☐ **Rules Applying to Dog Shows**
- ☐ **Basset Hound Field Trial Rules**
- ☐ **Dachshund Field Trial Rules**
- ☐ **Pointing Breed Field Trial Rules**
- ☐ **Spaniel Field Trial Rules**

In 2022 Specialty Clubs held the following number of events:

Conformation Specialties: 2,422

Basset Hound Field Trials: 23

Dachshund Field Trials: 81

Pointing Breed Field Trials: 239

Spaniel Field Trials: 14

Since 2015 only Conformation Clubs have utilized the appeal process outlined in the rule. 8 Specialty Clubs have not been able to obtain permission from the breed Parent Club which has

resulted in an appeal. Of those 8, the Board Appeals Committee has approved 4 appeals and denied 4 appeals.

AKC Titles by Sport

Based on a request from the Board, the Staff prepared a memo on the number of titles offered by AKC Sport. In total, 438 titles are offered in 16 different Sports, 5 Family Dog Programs and 8 Title Recognition programs.

JUDGING OPERATIONS

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

Conformation Judges Recertification Requirement

Action Items emanating from the Board's April 2023 meeting included for staff to provide statistics on the percentage of Judges passing the five-year recertification program. Staff provided a memorandum with metrics related to the Conformation Judges recertification exam and answers to previously posited Board member questions.

The department constantly reviews analytics related to completion data and individual question responses provided by the Learning Management System to determine if there are questions that are problematic that may require removal or modification. In addition, users are encouraged to contact the department with questions or if they feel a specific question is unfair, or if they contest the results of their exam or individual questions. Edits have been made to a small number of questions based on this feedback.

Staff strongly believes the requirement for Conformation Judges to be tested on procedures and policies every five years will result in greater comprehension of the procedures and policies associated with judging AKC Conformation dog shows. This will ultimately be measured by a reduction in procedural issues, canceled awards, exhibitor complaints, and matters that must be addressed by the AKC following events.

Staff will continue to monitor questions and feedback from users, making appropriate edits when warranted. It will also revise, and update questions based on changes to rules, policies, and regulations.

Mr. Sprung requested that if a judge sent feedback to Board members regarding the test to please send that information to Tim Thomas or himself to be immediately addressed.

Conformation Judges Daily Limit

Following its discussion at its February 2023 meeting, the Board directed Staff to draft a white paper memo on the potential benefits of a rule change lowering the daily limit for Conformation Judges to 150 entries. This memo would be forwarded to the Delegate Dog Show Rules and All-Breed Committees for feedback if the Board should choose to consider this matter further. The

most recent version of the draft memo was reviewed in May and was represented in July following edits based on the Board's discussion.

After thorough and thoughtful discussion, the sense of the Board was not to continue discussing this concept.

Conformation Judging Statistics

YEAR-TO-DATE APPROVAL STATISTICS

Following are the 2023 monthly individual summary statistics for New Breed and Additional Breed applicants and the year-to-date accumulative totals for both:

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
NB TOTAL	30	28	1	1	0	0	84	78	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
AB TOTAL	200	194	4	2	0	1	1070	1047	0

FINAL REVIEW ACTION SUMMARY 2023 YEAR-TO-DATE									
	APPLICATIONS						BREEDS		
	Total	Fully Appr.	Limited	Denied	Wthdrn	Held	Req.	Appr.	Pend.
NB	30	28	1	1	0	0	84	78	0
AB	200	194	4	2	0	1	1070	1047	0
TOTAL	230	222	5	3	0	1	1154	1125	0

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

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.

REPORT ON MEMBER CLUB BYLAWS APPROVED IN MAY AND JUNE

- Corn Belt Kennel Club, McLean County, IL (1954)
- Port Chester Obedience Training Club, White Plains, NY (1947)
- Richland Kennel Club, Benton County, WA (1953)
- Rockford-Freeport Illinois Kennel Club, Stephenson and Winnebago Counties (2000)
- Scottsdale Dog Fanciers Association, Scottsdale, AZ (1983)
- Silky Terrier Club of America (1966)
- Terre Haute Agility Club, Terre Haute, IN (1937) – formerly known as Terre Haute Kennel Club
- Vizsla Club of America (1971)

REPORT ON NEWLY LICENSED CLUBS APPROVED IN MAY AND JUNE 2023

Dog-On-It Agility Club of Greater Orlando, greater Orlando, FL (including communities north to Sanford, south to Kissimmee, west to Winter Garde, east to Route 417), 34 total households, 19 local.

Great Lakes Border Collie Club, greater Ann Arbor, MI (including communities within the Interstate 69 loop from Port Huron south to Michigan southern state line), 27 total households, 16 local.

Magnolia Pumi Club of North Carolina, greater Charlotte, NC (including communities east to Salemburg, north to Danville, VA and southwest to Landrum, SC), 29 total households, 13 local.

Mudi Club of America, 73 total households (41 households in 13 states west of the Mississippi River, 32 households in 16 states east of the Mississippi River).

Queen City Newfoundland Club, greater Charlotte, NC (including communities north to Mooresville, west to Shelby, southeast to Monroe), 28 total households, 16 local.

Sunshine State Bichon Frise Club, greater Orlando, FL (including communities north to Ocala, south to Tampa, east and west coasts), 26 total households, 12 local.

Wabash Ridge Coonhunters Club of Indiana, Grant County, IN, 17 total households, 8 local.

MEDIA & SPONSORSHIP

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

Mid-Year Report on Media and Sales Activities

The AKC's digital video network, AKC.tv, has experienced growth in plays across all platforms, including web plays on AKC.tv via desktop or mobile (495K), AKC.tv app plays (over 233K) and plays on AKC.org via our digital content matching system (over 37M). The channel continues to grow in reach as well as in breadth and scope of content.

The AKC.tv website recently launched design updates to improve user experience, consistent with the design and functionality of the AKC.tv app.

AKC's dog sports programming on ESPN continued to deliver new audiences to AKC sports across demographics, with eight new shows premiering since the beginning of 2023:

- 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

Through the first six months of 2023, AKC has received a total of 130 broadcast hours on ABC, ESPN, ESPN2, and ESPNEWS, a 44% increase compared with the first six months of 2022. The total of 130 hours represents 69 total broadcasts, an increase of +25 broadcasts compared with the first six months of 2022.

AKC Advertising, Sponsorship and Licensing Activities

The initial six (6) months of 2023 saw new sponsorship agreements launch across the full spectrum of AKC's media platforms including video, network, digital and experiential activities. AKC televised events that premiered and re-aired during this period provided share-of-voice audience reach for our sponsorship partners.

REGISTRATION DEVELOPMENT

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

AKC Corporate Project Roadmap Review

Mr. Fera Schanes presented the second of three annual updates on the Corporate Roadmap. The presentation included a sample of work that has been completed between January 2023 and July

2023 as well as a look ahead at the remainder of 2023 and an update on some projects that are currently in development.

The American Kennel Club uses a corporate roadmap to prioritize projects across departments. The roadmap serves multiple purposes including understanding cross-team dependencies, highlighting the status of projects, ensuring transparency, and optimizing decision making, and serves to correlate the roadmap with objectives and budgets. As we move into budget season, we will continue to use this established procedure to develop the roadmap for the following year.

Registration Update

Ms. Duncklee provided an update on registration.

2023 May YTD Litters were 3% better than budget and -6% below 2022

2023 May YTD Dogs were -7% worse than budget and -15% below 2022

As of May 2023, YTD Registration and Registration Related Revenues are \$26MM, \$401K (or – 1.5%) worse than budget. However, Net Operating Income is \$19MM, a 73% Net Operating Income Margin (Profit) which is \$920K (or +5.0%) better than the budget.

Online Applications now average 84%.

Modernization in Call Center

An English version of Artificial Intelligence Chatbot Technology went live on AKC REG URLs in early June 2023. A Spanish version will go live in Q3 of 2023.

Updated Hold Time Solicitation in both English and Spanish is live on Call Center Lines.

A new software called Surfly Co-Browse will go live for agents in Q3 allowing additional white-glove customer service opportunities.

Email Campaigns

Breeder of Merit, Abandoned Cart and Unregistered Dog campaigns continue to increase with improved conversion rates.

New Online Litter Process

The Online Litter process has been simplified from a 10-step process to a 4-step process with updated and enhanced à la carte options. All litters may now be registered online.

Registration Enhancements

Breeder Toolkit, and Prepaid Dog Registration has been enhanced to be more user-friendly.

CONSENT

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

Delegates Approved

Kathy Del Grande

To represent Pacific Coast Bulldog Club

Published April 2023, May 2023

Ylisa Kunze

To represent Ladies' Kennel Association of America

Published April 2023, May 2023

Sean McCarthy

To represent Westminster Kennel Club

Published May 2023, June 2023

Jean Pero

To represent Pyrenean Shepherd Club of America

Published April 2023, May 2023

Nanette J. Prideaux

To represent Windham County Kennel Club

Published April 2023, May 2023

Sheri Wright

To represent Southern Colorado Kennel Club

Published May 2023, June 2023

Robert Zorzi

To represent Sammamish Kennel Club

Published April 2023, May 2023

Tracking Tests - Recording Devices, and Protective Eye Goggles

The Board VOTED to modify the AKC *Tracking Regulations*, Chapter 2, Section 19 to state that:

1) that recording devices are not allowed on the tracking field and 2) that dogs may wear eye goggles. This is effective August 1, 2023.

There has been an increase in exhibitors using various recording devices, while on the tracking field, and then challenging the decision of the judges both at the test, and after the test on social media.

Exhibitors have asked that we allow the dog to wear protective eye goggles to avoid eye injury from various plants and seeds found in tracking areas across the country. Protective coats and footwear are currently allowed.

Section 19. Praise, Play, and Items on the Track and Dog. Praise and petting of the dog are allowed after the dog finds the article(s). However, exhibitors will not excessively play

with articles as toys, toss them to the dog, or throw them on the ground, which may be construed as a restart. Once the track is complete, playing with any of the articles is allowed.

The only items permitted on the tracking field are those items considered by the judges to be essential to conducting the test and permitted by these Regulations. Judges will not allow any motivational items such as food, balls, or toys to be used or carried within 30 yards of a track. Judges will not allow any type of recording devices that film video, capture pictures and/or locations, to be carried by the handler or attached to the dog. The carrying or use of

motivational items or recording devices will require the dog to be failed and excused from the field.

Dogs may wear a protective coat, eye goggles, and/or footwear. If worn, the coat, tracking harness, goggles and/or footwear must be put on in the presence of both judges.

Change to Gordon Setter Walking National Gun Dog Championship

The Board VOTED to amend *Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedure for Pointing Breeds*, Chapter 14, Section 29, to remove a condition regarding the Gordon Setter Club of America's Walking National Gun Dog Championship, that states if the Parent Club fails to hold its traditional horseback National Championship the right to hold the walking event may be rescinded by the Performance Events Department.

This change ensures a National Championship stake for walking handlers can continue to be held for the Gordon Setter if the Parent Club so chooses, regardless of if they host a traditional horseback National Championship stake.

It will be read at the September Delegate Meeting for a VOTE at the December Delegate Meeting.

Lure Coursing - Change to Muzzle Description

The Board VOTED to update the description of acceptable muzzles that may be worn in Lure Coursing, CAT and Fast CAT® events. The dog must be able to open its mouth to breath freely.

This change to the *Regulations for Lure Coursing Tests and Trials* will become effective August 1, 2023.

Chapter VIII, Section 9. Handlers. – Paragraph 4. Starting with sentence #3.

Dogs may be muzzled at the owner's discretion. Muzzles must not have sharp, hard edges and must be of a basket type that allow the hound to open its mouth to pant and breath freely. The huntmaster is responsible for ensuring and checking the muzzles are used appropriately.

Pointing Breed Hunt Tests/Field Trials – Tracking Devices

The Board VOTED to clarify three items in the *Regulations Governing the Use of Tracking Devices* for pointing breed field trials and hunting tests to: 1) Discontinue Staff from having to approve each brand of tracking receiver. 2) Clarify that a scout may not carry a device which can be paired to a

receiver. 3) Clarify that receivers when left in various locations during an event, cannot be turned on. This is effective August 1, 2023.

Retriever Hunting Tests – Talking to Dog in Junior Level

The Board VOTED to allow handlers in the Junior level test to speak quietly to their dog and to be allowed to touch their dog for reassurance or positioning anytime during the test. This is effective August 1, 2023.

There are three testing levels in the retriever hunting test program. Junior is the most basic and entry-level. In examining what could help handlers at this level, AKC received feedback from attendees during AKC judging seminars. Staff learned that some handlers from other programs enjoy talking to their dog or petting it during a test. They found it made for a better experience for their dog during the entry level and gave their dog more reassurance and confidence before preparing for the next level.

Chapter 4. Standards for Junior, Senior and Master Hunting Tests, Section 6.

(3rd paragraph)

The handler of the working dog shall remain silent from the time handler signals for the first bird to be thrown until the judges release the dog. Except handlers in the junior test level may speak quietly to their dog and be allowed to touch their dog for reassurance or positioning.

Sussex Spaniel Breed Standard Revision

The Board VOTED to permit the Sussex Spaniel Club of America to ballot its membership on the proposed Breed Standard change to the Tail section of the standard. The proposed change reads: Tail-The tail is set low. When gaiting, 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.

FSS Open Show Regulations

The Board VOTED to modify Chapter 2, Section 4 of the *FSS Open Show Regulations*, deleting the term “agent” and inserting verbiage clarifying that the eligibility restriction for professional handlers also applies to members of a professional handler’s household and current assistants.

Two Path Event Process for New Club Accreditation to License Status

The Club Relations Department proposed a two-path event process from accreditation to license status for all new clubs. Currently, there are eight event paths for clubs to reach license status. The event path assigned to a club will depend on their experience in the sport. The Board VOTED to approve this recommendation which will simplify the licensing process for clubs and Staff.

The path assigned to a new club depends on the level of event management experience within the club. The standard path for new clubs, excluding Parent Clubs, would require up to two A matches, eliminating the requirement for B matches, which would become optional. The Mentored Path would require a set number of individuals with event management experience as opposed to the current

process of a percentage of total membership for each club type taking into consideration the competition type and level of complexity to hold a successful event.

Clubs that are currently moving through the process will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis to determine if adjusting their current event path is warranted.

Amend Board Policy Regarding Referral

The Board VOTED to revise AKC Board Policy referring to *Registration: Referral and Cancellation* which was last updated in 1995. The revision will allow Staff to align the privileges affected by any Referral with the privileges that are in jeopardy of suspension in accordance with *AKC Disciplinary Guidelines*.

The revised policy reads:

AKC Board Policy regarding Referral and Cancellation:

Referral and Cancellation

Referral:

When a person is suspected of a violation of AKC rules or policies which might result in a suspension of privileges for that person, AKC may place a hold on the person's applicable privileges. Such a hold is called a Referral and may apply to Registration privileges, Event privileges, or both.

If the offense in question could result in the suspension of Registration privileges, then all dogs owned or co-owned by that person will be placed on Referral, preventing them from registering progeny or transferring dogs and thus from evading the consequences of a subsequent suspension of privileges while the matter is in an investigative stage. If the matter is dismissed or otherwise adjudicated such that there is no suspension of Registration privileges, the Referral will be removed.

If the offense in question could result in the suspension of Event privileges, then the person's Event privileges will be placed on Referral while the matter is in an investigative stage. If the matter is dismissed or otherwise adjudicated such that there is no suspension of Event privileges, the Referral will be removed.

If the offense in question could result in the suspension of both Registration and Event privileges, then the person's Registration and Event privileges will be placed on Referral while the matter is in an investigative stage. If the matter is dismissed or otherwise adjudicated such that there is no suspension of privileges, the Referrals will be removed.

Cancellation:

Cancellation is the removal of registrations from the registry when AKC determines the affected dogs to not be purebred AKC registrable dogs. This occurs most often in cases of impure breeding or fraud but may also result from a serious violation of the rules requiring accurate record-keeping and identification. When a registration is canceled, all progeny of that dog is also canceled.

It was VOTED to adjourn Tuesday, July 11, 2023, at 12:20 p.m. Eastern Time.

Adjourned

Attest: _____

Gina M. DiNardo, Executive Secretary