American Kennel Club, Inc.
MEETING of the BOARD OF DIRECTORS
AKC Offices at 101 Park Avenue, New York, NY
January 10-11, 2022

The Board convened on Monday, January 10, 2022 at 8:30 a.m. Eastern Time.

All Directors were present, except for Dan Smyth. The Executive Secretary participated via video conference.

The November 8-9, 2021 Board Meeting minutes, copies of which had been provided to all Directors, were reviewed.

Upon a motion by Mr. Powers, seconded by Mr. Sweetwood, the November 2021 Board Meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

**PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

Mr. Sprung reviewed with the Board the status of the action items emanating from the past Board meetings.

Mr. Sprung reported, that by any measure, 2021 was a phenomenal year even with increasing COVID hurdles. Events came back strong with entries increasing by over 1 million more than 2020. Staff expects the end of the year total to be 3.1 million with events numbering 22,412.

Many successes were achieved on behalf of our breeders, other fanciers and the public by Government Relations, Education and Marketing as well as successful PR outreach. In fact, just last week we were on Good Morning America three times within seven days covering the topic of Pet Theft; and a feature with the 2021 AKC National Champion, Bayou, the Giant Schnauzer.

We have had excellent results from our multiple ESPN broadcasts. Details will be provided by Ron Furman.

In the area of Registration, for the first time in 14 years we broke 800,000 dogs and 325,000 litters. Foreign Registration was up 43% over 2020, setting a new record for registered imports. GoodDog Helpline sales were up 30% over last year. Much of the credit for these accomplishments must be laid at the feet of the Registration Staff’s laser focus on the needs of our customers, providing excellent customer service, launching new online processes, no processing queues of more than a week, and, perhaps most importantly, managing their business diligently via use of daily metrics and analytics. Winning awards along the way.

From a financial perspective, our net operating income is expected to end as the best year ever, exactly where staff estimated about six months ago; this is against a budget of $2.144 million.
Separately, our investment performance has yielded a significant gain under the guidance of Ed Michelson from the Atlanta Consulting Group.

**Legal Update**
The Board reviewed the Legal Department update as of December 2021.

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

The Board has directed Staff to create a comprehensive computer system which enables all users to collaboratively exchange information to efficiently manage their involvement with AKC Sports and Events. Staff provided the following update:

**Staffing**
UX Designer: The User Experience (UX) lead on the CMS project has been brought in.
Additional Development Resources: Staff is working with a staffing agency to fill the Developer and Automated Quality Assurance (QA) roles. The Business Analyst/Project Manager has been hired.

**Initial Deliverables**
*Automated Letters for Companion Events.* The automation of letters will improve Staff efficiency and consistency.
Status: The business requirements have been defined and reviewed by the Business

**Improving the Coordination of Clusters**
This project will include the development of tools to allow a cluster coordinator to have more oversight by understanding the approval status of all the events in the cluster and allow for a designated cluster coordinator to receive event notices sent to clubs.
Status: The business requirements have been defined and provided.

Enhanced Information Management will be an ongoing series of projects that ultimately will cover all the information types identified in the project’s scope being available for management in the new CMS system. These projects require the skill of a user experience (UX) Designer. Event Site Information has been selected as the first project. This will include developing new reports and tools to be used to process, access, and report data. The first deliverable is notable as there will be several standards set for data management that will be replicated and reused when developing the solution for the other information types in the new CMS.

**AKC Canine Health Foundation – Quarterly Report**
The Board reviewed the Quarterly Financial and Department Reports that were submitted by the AKC Canine Health Foundation.
Mr. Smyth joined the meeting at 9:25 a.m.

FINANCE
Ted Phillips, Chief Financial Officer, presented interim financial statements (unaudited) through November 30, 2021.

Financial Results:
Net Operating Income is $28.5 million primarily due to higher revenue from most revenue lines along with lower controllable expenses.

Total Revenues of $95.3 million exceed budget by 35% led by Registration fees of $41.6 million, Pedigree and Registration related fees of $13.2 million. Recording & Event Service fees, Title Recognition and Event Applications fees total $13.3 million and exceed budget and prior year by 68% and 70% respectively. Product & Service sales total $11.4 million and exceed budget by 27%. Advertising, Sponsorship and Royalties total $14.8 million and exceed budget by 26%.

Controllable Expenses are slightly higher than budget by 1% or $491k due to higher cost of sales and fulfillment fees.

Non-Controllable expenses were lower than budget by 13% or $1.6 million due to timing of software development projects. Compared to YTD 2020 we see the continued positive trend of increased revenues.

Non-Financial Results:
Registration Statistics: 2021 YTD Litter Registration was 22% ahead of budget, 14% ahead of 2020 YTD.

2021 YTD Dog Registration was 30% ahead of budget, 26% better than 2020 YTD.

Compared to the same period in 2020, Events & Entries were up by 80% & 63%, respectively.

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

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
Mari-Beth O’Neill, Vice President, Sport Services; Sheila Goffe, Vice President, Government Relations, Seth Fera Schanes, Director, Planning and Penny Leigh, Program Manager, participated in this portion of the meeting via video conference.

German Pinscher Proposed Breed Standard Revision
The Board reviewed the proposed revisions to the General Appearance Portion of the German Pinscher breed standard as submitted by the German Pinscher Club of America (GPCA).

The GPCA, submitted the petition from the membership in compliance with the Constitution
and Bylaws of the club to revise the standard. The proposed revision is to the General Appearance section of the standard to delete the sentence that the German Pinscher is examined on the ground.

The current standard was approved November 7, 2005 with an effective date of January 1, 2006.

Following a motion by Mr. Hamblin, seconded by Mr. Sweetwood, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to approve the GPCA to proceed to ballot its membership on the proposed standard revisions in accordance with the club’s Constitution and Bylaws.

**Spanish Water Dog Proposed Breed Standard Revision**
The Board reviewed the proposed revisions to the Spanish Water Dog breed standard as submitted by the Spanish Water Dog Club of America, (SWDCA). The current standard was approved April 10, 2012.

Following a motion by Ms. Biddle, seconded by Mrs. Wallin, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to approve the proposed revision to the Spanish Water Dog Standard to be published for comment in the Secretary’s Page of the February AKC Gazette.

**Canine Legislation Position Statement on Due Process for Dog Owners**
Sheila Goffe, Vice President, Government Relations presented in this portion of the meeting via video conference.

The Board reviewed recommendations for a new canine legislation position statement that addresses the importance of due process protections for dog owners and underscores the value of recognizing pets as legal property. The statement addresses a growing trend in the introduction of legislation that requires individuals whose animals are seized by law enforcement or animal control or their designee to pay the cost of caring for these animals during pendency of their case.

Following a motion by Mr. Hamblin, seconded by Mr. Carota, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to approve a new policy position statement on Due Process for Dog Owners.

**Due Process Protections for Dog Owners**
The American Kennel Club believes that governments must protect constitutional rights and privileges of dog owners under American law. Owners must be afforded substantive and procedural due process protections and must not be permanently or unreasonably deprived of the property interests they have in their animals without first pleading guilty to, being found guilty of, or pleading “no contest” to, animal-related criminal charges.

In cases involving seized animals in which an owner does not voluntarily surrender ownership, “bond for care” or “cost of care” laws that provide for the assessment of care costs upon a finding of probable cause of criminal activity must: limit such assessments to amounts that are reasonable, substantiated costs directly related to care of the seized animals; allow courts to waive such fees in cases involving an indigent defendant; provide for full refund of fees and interest in any case not resulting in a final adjudication of guilt or pleading no contest; and, absent the owner’s written consent, shall prohibit the spaying or neutering of, or performance of other
elective non-therapeutic surgery on, any seized animal during pendency of a case.

**Russian Tsvetnaya Bolonka – Recommendation to Advance to Miscellaneous**
The Board reviewed a recommendation that the Russian Tsvetnaya Bolonka be approved to advance to the Miscellaneous Class effective January 1, 2023.

The Board of Directors approved the Russian Tsvetnaya Bolonka to be eligible for recording in the Foundation Stock Service® (FSS®) program with a Toy designation in 2015. The Russian Tsvetnaya Bolonka Club of America has met the requirements of the Recognition of New Breeds Board Policy approved in February 2017. Requirements include an active Parent Club, with expanding breeding activity over a wide geographic area, and documented club activity.

This will be discussed further at the February Board meeting.

**AKC Agility League**
Seth Fera Schanes, Director, Planning and Penny Leigh, Program Manager, participated in this portion of the meeting via video conference.

The Board reviewed a memo on a new Agility League Pilot Program and unanimously supported the program. The pilot program will establish an Agility League to create a new and exciting way for agility enthusiasts to practice, compete and earn recognition in their sport in a team format.

Today, AKC Agility is an individual sport, and any team events are held occasionally as fun additions at local trials. This new AKC Agility League Pilot Program allows clubs, training schools, and private trainers to have weekday competitions at their local facilities with the opportunity to earn regional and national rankings for individual competitors and their teams. This will culminate with regional competitions and winners progressing to a national televised event.

The AKC will launch the league program in mid-2022. The pilot will include a limited number of well-established AKC Agility competitors to field teams for a fun competition to run for a 12-week season. This pilot season will enable AKC to generate excitement about the league and prepare to offer it to all Agility exhibitors in Fall/Winter 2022.

- The League Season will be organized into a 12-week season.
- Teams will compete six times during each season.
- Course maps will be released every two weeks, and each team has a two-week window in which to run that course and report scores.
- All teams will run the same courses.
- Courses will vary and will include Standard, Jumpers with Weaves, Time2Beat, and Premier. Several different field sizes will be released for each course to help teams adapt the courses for their facility’s specifications.
- Teams will be categorized according to skill level: Senior; Sophomore; Freshman; and/or Junior (for teams comprised of all Junior handlers) and will be comprised of three to 10 dogs.
Dogs may compete on more than one team as long as they do not compete “down” in individual level.

- Each team will appoint a team captain and may also appoint a co-captain to assist. In addition, judges will be assigned to keep scores. Judges may also run dogs on the team. Judges do not have to be team members; guest judges are allowed. It is the captain’s responsibility to assign all jobs, including judges, timers, scribes, and ring crew. All crew members may be team members and compete with their dogs.
- Competitions may be held at any location that the club chooses. The location may change during a season.
- The league is a non-titling program. Participants compete for fun, camaraderie, rankings and to qualify for regional and national events.

**COMPANION and PERFORMANCE**

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

**Pointing Breed Field Trials & Hunting Tests – Gunners May Use ATVs/UTVs**

The Board reviewed a recommendation to allow gunners to utilize All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) or Utility Task Vehicles (UTVs) in Pointing Breed Field Trials and Hunting Tests when gunning on course is required. This will be at the option of the club, provided land use regulations allow ATVs/UTVs.

This will be discussed further at the February Board meeting.

**Defining Fitness to Participate in Fast CAT® and CAT**

The Board reviewed a recommendation to define fitness to participate in the AKC Fast CAT® and Coursing Ability Test (CAT) Regulations. In these sports, all dogs must be evaluated by an inspection committee prior to running. The recommendation is to define fitness to participate as a dog showing no signs of discomfort and, in the opinion of the inspection committee, appears to physically have the potential to safely complete the course. Under this definition, a dog with physical challenges (including amputees) would be given the same consideration by the inspection committee as four-legged dogs.

This will be discussed further at the February Board meeting.

**4-H Dog Project Manual: Facilitator Guide for Leaders and 4-H Members**

The Board was apprised of the Dog Project Manual which is a collaborative project between AKC Sports & Events and the Florida 4-H Extension Service, which is part of the University of Florida Agriculture Department – Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences. Currently, there is not a comprehensive document for 4-H leaders that explains the purpose and basic training involved for dog sports. The purpose of the Dog Project Manual is to make it easy for volunteer 4-H leaders to structure dog sport classes and lesson plans.
The manual (4-H Dog Project Manual: Facilitator Guide for Leaders and 4-H Members) is comprised of 17 chapters that feature basic background information on the science of dogs, health and nutrition, basics of care, and breed information. In addition, there is detailed coverage of CGC, Tricks, Obedience, Rally, Agility, and Conformation/Junior Showmanship. A chapter entitled “More Dog Activities” briefly covers the performance events and how these are related to a dog’s original function. The 4-H Dog Project Manual will provide an excellent outreach opportunity for AKC and will result in familiarization with AKC sports, hopefully attracting more young people to the AKC.

**CONFORMATION**

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

**Best Junior Judging Clarification**

The Sport Services staff is updating the Junior Showmanship; Conformation Junior Showmanship Regulations, Guidelines for Judging Juniors in Conformation, Juniors in Performance Events Regulations to bring them in line with Rules Applying to Dog Shows and provide clarity to sections that have caused confusion.

Staff proposes adding a new section to the Guidelines for Judging Juniors in Conformation to clarify that if the judge assigned to the Best Junior competition had judged all Junior Showmanship classes, individual examination is not necessary as the judge is only required to do enough procedurally to ascertain who should be awarded Best Junior.

This will be discussed further at the February Board meeting.

**Opportunity for Championship Points for Group 2-3-4 Placements**

The Board reviewed a Staff recommendation to amend Rules Applying to Dog Shows, Chapter 16, Section 2 to provide the opportunity for Championship points to be awarded to a Winners dog/bitch that is awarded BOB that places second, third, or fourth in group competition. Currently only the Winners dog/bitch that earns a group first has this opportunity. This recommendation will provide encouragement for all exhibitors to enter and will be especially attractive to low entry breeds who may have difficulty earning points due to lack of competition.

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

Following a motion by Dr. Garvin, seconded by Ms. Biddle, the Board VOTED to send the recommended language of the rule change to the Dog Show Rules Committee for their input.

**AKC Approved On-Site Show Secretaries**

The Board reviewed a proposal that outlined a plan to create a program called “AKC Approved
On-Site Show Secretaries”. Individuals qualifying for this program would have the option to work more than one All-Breed or Limited Breed Club’s shows in a calendar year.

The idea being considered is to create a list of AKC Approved Show Secretaries who would be allowed to perform the function of an On-Site Show Secretary for more than one club when the pre-show role is handled as a package show by one of the licensed superintendents. AB/LB clubs could contact individuals on this list to assist the club by acting as their On-Site Show Secretary.

This will be discussed further at the February Board meeting.

**Bred-By-Exhibitor Title**

The Board reviewed a Staff recommendation to amend Chapter 16 Section 4 of the Rules which would create a “Bred-By-Exhibitor” Title, for dogs that complete all points required for their conformation championship title by advancing to the Winners class from the Bred-by-Exhibitor class or any divisions of it.

It was the sense of the Board that the Bred-by-Exhibitor Medallion Program recognizes exhibitors earning their championship through competition originating in the Bred-by-Exhibitor classes and they did not wish to go forward with the proposed recommendation.

**Exhibition Only Entries in the 4-6 Month Beginner Puppy Competition**

Based on the Board’s October 2021 meeting, Staff presented a memo examining the options for professional handlers to enter the BPUP Competition for “Exhibition Only”, with a fee, allowing the opportunity to train and socialize their puppies.

It was the sense of the Board that having Exhibition Only shown in the same class as all other entries, but ineligible for awards, presented logistical challenges and the Board did not want to move forward with this consideration.

**Transfer Between Classes**

The Board reviewed a Staff recommendation to amend *Rules Applying to Dog Shows*, Chapter 11, Section 6 to allow transfer of dogs after closing within divisions of the Bred-by-Exhibitor and Veteran Classes. Currently transfer after closing is only permitted between divisions of the Puppy Class and between the Puppy and Twelve-to-Eighteen Month Classes, or to the Open Class. This recommendation will provide consistency in the application of the *Rules* in analogous situations with the recent rule change effective March 29, 2022 to allow clubs to divide the Bred-by-Exhibitor class by age.

This will be discussed further at the February Board meeting.

**Summary of 2022 Conformation Initiatives**

Several notable initiatives impacting conformation will be implemented or researched in 2022. Staff provided a memo that summarized the conformation initiatives that will be accomplished by the Sports & Events Staff in 2022.
**JUDGES**
Doug Ljungren, Executive Vice President, Sports & Events and Tim Thomas, Vice President of Dog Show Judges participated in this portion of the meeting via video conference.

**Conformation Judging Approval Process**
The Chair, at the July 2017 meeting of the Board of Directors established a committee to review the current Board Approved Judging Approval Process adopted by the Board at its June 2015 meeting and effective September 1, 2015, to determine where modifications may be warranted.

Modifications suggested by the committee were presented to the Board and subsequently approved at its November 2017, January 2018, August 2018, May 2020 and November 2020 meetings.

Consistent with the committee’s evolutionary approach to its task, the Board reviewed a memo with additional recommendations brought forth by the Chairman’s Committee on the Judging Approval Process to modify aspects of the Judging Approval Process specific to New Breed Judges, the Advancement of Approved Judges, and Visiting Judges applying under the AKC system.

This will be discussed further at the February Board meeting.

**Judges Misconduct Policy**
Following the Board’s discussion at its November 2021 meeting, Staff was asked to review the administration of the Judges Misconduct Policy and the procedures for handling complaints. The Board reviewed a memorandum with recommendations for the Board’s consideration based on those discussions.

This will be discussed further at the February Board meeting.

**Mandatory Ramp Examination – Kerry Blue Terriers**
The United States Kerry Blue Terrier Club has requested that the Board of Directors mandate the use of a ramp for all examinations of the breed including during group and Best in Show judging. Currently, Kerry Blue Terriers may be judged either on the ground or the ramp at the discretion of the judge.

The Board directed staff to contact the United States Kerry Blue Terrier Club and ask them to poll their membership on the requested change.

**Conformation Judging Statistics**
The Board reviewed the 2021 Year-End Statistics related to conformation judging applications considered by the Department.
### FINAL REVIEW ACTION SUMMARY
#### 2021 YEAR-END

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### FINAL REVIEW ACTION SUMMARY
#### 2021 NEW BREED JUDGING APPLICANTS

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### FINAL REVIEW ACTION SUMMARY
#### 2021 ADDITIONAL BREED JUDGING APPLICANTS

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<td>230</td>
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<td>1</td>
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**CLUBS**
Glenn Lycan, Director, Event Operations Support participated in this portion of the meeting via video conference.

**Delegates and Member Clubs**
The Board reviewed a report on the prospective Delegate credentials to be published in two issues of the *AKC Gazette*, requests for AKC membership applications, and a report on Member Club Bylaws approved and newly licensed clubs.

**Report on Member Clubs Bylaws approved in November and December 2021**
American Bouvier des Flandres Club (1971)
Channel City Kennel Club, Carpinteria, CA (1986)
Chinese Shar-Pei Club of America (1993)
Kern County Kennel Club, Bakersfield, CA (1949)
Otterhound Club of America (2004)
Salisbury Maryland Kennel Club, Wicomico, Worcester and Somerset Counties, MD (1967)
Superstition Kennel Club, Mesa, AZ (1966)

**Report on Newly Licensed Clubs approved in November and December 2021**
Barbet Club of America, 137 total households (36H in 11 states west of the Mississippi River; 101H in 22 states east of the Mississippi River)
Great Plains Kennel Club of Northwest Iowa, greater Sioux City, IA, 31 total households, 25 local.
Knickerbocker Bull Terrier Club, Nassau County, NY (including New York City and Long Island), 23 total households, 14 local.
Minnesota Coursing Association, greater Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN area, 26 total households, 22 local.
Mississippi Gulf Coast Working Group Club, greater Lumberton, MS (including communities north to Brookhaven, south to Gulfport, east to Ocean Springs, northwest to Alexandria, LA), 32 total households, 27 local.
Norwich Terrier Club of North Texas, greater Dallas/Forth Worth, TX (including communities north to Celina, south to Alvarado, west to Weatherford, east to Lone Oak), 24 total households, 17 local.
Oklahoma Green Country French Bulldog Club, greater Tulsa, OK (including communities along
Route 75, north to OK/KS state border, south to Glenpool), 22 total households, 17 local.

Scent Work Club of Ocala, greater Ocala, FL (including communities north to Sparr, south to Leesburg, east to Altoona, to west coast), 20 total households, 16 local.

Staffordshire Bull Terrier Club of Florida, greater Ocala, FL (including communities north to Yulee and south to Sarasota), 31 total households, 22 local.

Sunshine State Pomeranian Club, greater Orlando, FL area (including communities north to Ocala, south to Lake Wales, to west and east coasts), 25 total households, 18 local.

**COMPLIANCE**

Bri Tesarz, Director, Compliance, participated in this portion of the meeting via video conference.

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

**INTERNAL CONSULTING AND BUSINESS INTELLIGENCE**

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

**AKC Corporate Project Roadmap Semiannual Review**

The AKC Board of Directors has asked the President for roadmap status updates during the year. Staff presented a sample of work that has been completed between November 2021 and January 2022. Updates were provided on work remaining for the rest of Q1 2022 and into Q2 2022 as well as 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.

**MARKETING**

Kirsten Bahlke, Vice President, Consumer Demand participated in this portion of the meeting via video conference.

**Action Item Follow Up: Create a Master List of Available AKC Logo Signage**

Several departments worked together to create a master list of available signage with the AKC logo. The group has completed the work by creating a shared file that contains detailed information on each sign. In total, nearly 3,500 signs were identified and documented including but not limited to foamboard, vinyl banners, saddle flag, ring gate, pull-up banners, alter clothes, and table runners. The inventory list is a living document that will be updated as needed.

**CONSENT**

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

- Obedience Fix n’ Go Pilot Program Status Update
- Treeing Walker Coonhound Proposed Breed Standard Revision
- Rhodesian Ridgeback Proposed Breed Standard Revision
Obedience Fix n’ Go Pilot Program Status Update
At the February 2021 Board meeting, the Board approved a one-year “Fix n’ Go” Pilot Program for Obedience that became effective April 1, 2021. It allows Obedience handlers the opportunity to communicate with their dogs while performing in the ring at trials when a dog’s performance does not meet their expectation. The “Fix n’ Go” concept allows the team to reattempt one individual exercise and then leave the ring.

90% of the exhibitors that have used Fix n’ Go with their dogs at trials said it has been beneficial as way to improve their future performances in obedience. 98% of the obedience judges feel that Fix n’ Go is good for the dogs and it will have a positive impact on the sport.

The Board VOTED to amend Chapter 2, Section 27 of the Obedience Regulations to make Fix n’ Go a permanent enhancement to the sport of obedience at the end of the pilot program. This is a change to the Obedience Regulations will become permanent on April 1, 2022.

Obedience Regulations

CHAPTER 2
Section 27. Training and Handling in the Ring. When a handler is using excessive verbal commands, this could indicate the dog is not under control and is not working with the handler willingly. The judge must determine if this dog should be released for a lack of control. The handler is not allowed to correct or discipline a dog and will be released from the ring.

When the dog’s performance does not meet the handler’s expectation, the handler may choose to use a “Fix n’ Go” option once, which allows the exhibitor to immediately reattempt a single individual exercise. This allows the team to reattempt that one exercise, and then leave the ring. In a two-part exercise, the handler may choose only one part to reattempt. It is the handler’s responsibility to tell the judge they are choosing to “Fix n’ Go.” Using the Fix n’ Go option will result in a non-qualifying score (NQ). The handler may begin the reattempt from the start or at any point during the exercise.

The handler may choose to help the dog through the Fix n’ Go exercise. Helping the dog may be accomplished using verbal encouragement, including additional commands and praise, and/or approaching the dog in a friendly/positive manner without touching the dog. Harsh verbal and/or physical corrections will not be tolerated. If there is any determination of harshness by the judge, the handler will be immediately released from the ring.

Spectators form their opinion of the sport through seeing the action of the handler and the dog. Care must be taken to avoid any action that might reflect poorly on the sport.

Treeing Walker Coonhound Proposed Breed Standard Revision
The National Treeing Walker Coonhound Association, (NTWCA), submitted proposed revisions to the breed standard. The current standard was approved July 8, 2008.
The Board VOTED to permit the NTWCA to ballot the membership in accordance with the club’s Constitution and Bylaws.

**Rhodesian Ridgeback Proposed Breed Standard Revision**
The Rhodesian Ridgeback Club of the United States. (RRCUS), submitted proposed revisions to the eyes, nose and color sections of the breed standard. The current standard was approved August 9, 1988. The Board VOTED to permit the RRCUS to ballot the membership on the same proposed revisions to the breed standard in accordance with the club’s Constitution and Bylaws.

**Standard Schnauzer Proposed Breed Standard Revision**
The Standard Schnauzer Club of America, Inc. (SSCA), submitted the results of the ballot for the proposed revision to the Tail Section of the breed standard. The current standard was approved February 9, 1991. The Board Voted to approve the proposed revision to the Tail Section of the Standard Schnauzer breed standard with an effective date of March 30, 2022.

*Tail* is set moderately high and carried erect. When docked, tail should not be less than one inch nor more than two inches in length. When undocked, a Saber or Sickle tail is preferred. In a relaxed pose, the base of the tail is held in the 1:00 position. While it may be raised in excitement, the base should not incline towards the head. Fault-Squirrel tail.

**Delegate and Club Approvals**
The Board VOTED to approve the following individuals to serve as Delegates:

- Marie Murphy, Esq., Nashville, TN
  To represent Greater Murfreesboro Kennel Club

- Jeffrey Ryman, Snohomish, WA
  To represent Seattle Kennel Club

The Board VOTED to approve the following club’s request for AKC membership as published in the November and December *AKC Gazette*:

- Portuguese Podengo Pequenos of America
  99 Households
  First License Show: August 16, 2013

**Limited Number of Events Policy**
The Board VOTED to modify the Limited Number of Events Policy to allow Specialty Clubs the option to hold four independent specialties in a manner the club feels works best for their situation. Clubs may begin applying under this revised policy after March 1, 2022.

- Local specialty clubs may hold up to four shows per year, have the option to hold shows on two days per year or two shows per year, at their option. Local specialty clubs have the option to hold one additional show in conjunction with their breed’s national specialty. Local specialty clubs may hold up to four designated specialty events in addition to the shows allotted in this section. There is no limit on national clubs.
The Board adjourned at 5:07 p.m.

The Board Meeting reconvened on Tuesday, January 11, 2022 at 9:07 a.m. All Directors were present. The Executive Secretary participated via video conference.

NEW BUSINESS

March 2022 Delegate Meeting
The Board had an extensive discussion with legal, parliamentary, technology and travel planning experts on the feasibility of conducting hybrid meetings with the current available technology. It was determined that a hybrid meeting was not feasible at this time, but that virtual meetings using Zoom technology would occur if necessary. Following a motion by Mr. Powers, seconded by Ms. McAteer, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to hold the March 2022 Delegate Meeting as an in-person meeting.

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

It was VOTED to adjourn Tuesday, January 11, 2022 at 11:27 a.m. Eastern Time.
Adjourned
Attest:__________________________________________
Gina M. DiNardo, Executive Secretary