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

All Directors were present in the New York office, except for Ann Wallin. The Executive Secretary was also present.

The February 13-14, 2023, Board Meeting minutes, copies provided to all Directors, were reviewed.

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

**PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

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

Mr. Sprung reported that the first-quarter numbers are strong across the organization thanks to the diligent efforts of Staff in each department. Full updates will be provided today.

It was reported that the Rally and Obedience Stewards eLearning course was launched on Friday, April 7, 2023 and the Conformation version called *Stewarding at the Dog Show* was added to the course catalog in the AKC Canine College in early March. These eLearning programs are available at no cost to learners and are ideal for individuals interested in stewarding and those currently working as stewards who want to enhance their knowledge and skills. It is also suitable for anyone who wants to learn more about the world of dog events and the role of stewards in ensuring their success.

The Kennel Club announced that it has been granted a Royal Prefix to mark the 150th anniversary of its existence. Henceforth, the organization is named The Royal Kennel Club.

**Legal Update**

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

**Trial Board Expenses**

Staff reported the amount that was paid in Trial Board expenses in 2022 at under $3000.

**AKC Canine Health Foundation**

Dr. Charles Garvin, AKC CHF Chairman, gave an update on the foundation.

AKC CHF continues to have good success and response to its outreach programs and event attendance, which has continued to improve the visibility and reputation of the Foundation. It has continued to receive significant donations during Q1 2023, and the wonderful Canines and Cocktails...
event in December 2022 was extremely popular and showed record revenue. There has been continued success with our primary purpose of funding excellent canine health research.

Scientific Programs & Programs Report:
CHF Staff are currently managing 171 active grants totaling $13.4M. They completed 2022 with 54 new awards totaling $3.4M in new research and education grants. In 2023, $800K has already been committed to new awards with a 2023 budgeted goal of $3.8M.

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

**AKC Reunite**
Tom Sharp, President & CEO of AKC Reunite, presented updates. In 2022, 731,000 pets were enrolled. Reunite has enrolled over 10 million pets in total and reunited over 650,000 lost pets to date.

Through the AKC Reunite Pet Disaster Relief Trailer program, $2.4 million in pet-related disaster preparedness/relief grants have been provided. 102 trailers have been provided to date with another 16 trailers coming soon. 453 AKC Clubs have made donations for these trailers.

Reunite has donated 4535 microchip scanners to animal shelters, and over $12 million has been donated since 2022.

Through the Adopt a K-9 Cop program over $3 million in grants have been provided. 414 grants have been made to date. Reunite has increased its 3 to 1 match in this program to $7500 per grant.

These programs continue to garner positive PR for AKC and AKC Reunite.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS:** The Executive Officers of the American Kennel Club were re-elected to the following positions:
Dennis B. Sprung - President and Chief Executive Officer
Gina M. DiNardo - Executive Secretary
Theodore E. Phillips - Chief Financial Officer

**FINANCE**

Unaudited Financial Results for the 2 months ended February 28, 2023
Net Operating Income is $3.3 million due to lower controllable expenses and increased registration and Sports & Events revenue.
REVENUES:
Total Revenues of $17.5 million are lower than budget by 1%.
Registration Fees total $7.4 million, exceeding the budget by 4%.
Recording & Event Service fees, Title Recognition, and Event Applications fees total $2.1 million, and are lower than budget by 1%.
Product & Service Sales total $2.4 million and are lower than budget by 5%.
Advertising, Sponsorship and Royalties total $2.8 million are lower than budget by 17%.

EXPENSES:
Controllable Expenses total $12.4 million and are lower than budget by $939k or 7%.
Non-Controllable expenses are lower than budget by $36k or 2%.

Non-Financial Statistics for the 2 months ended February 28, 2023
Registrations: 2023 YTD Litter Registrations are 5% ahead of budget, and 4% lower than 2022 YTD.
2023 YTD Dog Registrations are trailing the budget by 3% and are 12% lower than 2022 YTD.

Events & Entries
Compared to the same period in 2022, Events & Entries were up by 6% and 1%, respectively.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
Mari-Beth O’Neill, Vice President of Sports Services, and Sheila Goffe, Vice President of Government Relations, participated in this portion of the meeting via video conference.

Parent Club Designation for Shikoku
The American Shikoku Ken Club requests to be designated as the Parent Club for the Breed, allowing them to hold FSS Open Shows.

This will be discussed further at the May meeting.

New Breed for Foundation Stock Service® – Braque St. Germain
It was reported that the Foundation Stock Service® (FSS) Committee recently approved a petition for the Braque St. Germain to be accepted into the FSS program with a Sporting Group designation.

Government Relations 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. She noted that additional information is available on the AKC legislative action center microsite: www.akcgr.org.

Forty state legislatures and Congress are currently in session. GR is monitoring and responding to more than 1200 dog-related bills that have been introduced throughout the country since the start of the year.
Examples of active priority legislation and implementing regulations include but are not limited to:

**U.S. Congress**

The Puppy Protection Act (HR 1624), which AKC has strong concerns about, would add numerous arbitrary new requirements for dog breeders subject to USDA licensing. Specific requirements include:

- Prohibitions on breeding a female unless pre-screened by a vet and for more than 2 litters in 18 months,
- Arbitrary breeding restrictions based on an animal’s size or age.
- It also requires unfettered access from a primary enclosure to a run in which the dog can reach a running stride, yearly dental examinations and arbitrary kennel temperature requirements.

While many of these requirements sound reasonable on their face, one-size fits all mandates can have harmful, often unintended, impacts on the health and wellbeing of individual dogs. AKC GR has been active in sharing our concerns with the measure.

The Healthy Dog Importation Act, (HR 1184/ S. 502) which AKC supports, would require owners/importers of all dogs imported into the United States to submit a valid health certificate from a veterinary agency recognized by the USDA. Certificates would demonstrate that dogs being imported are microchipped and fully vaccinated or protected against contagious diseases and pathogens of concern to the USDA, including rabies.

The Beagle Brigade Act of 2023, which AKC supports, provides permanent congressional authorization for the United States Department of Agriculture’s National Detector Dog Training Center, which administers all aspects of the USDA’s program using detection dogs to detect pests and diseases harmful to American agriculture imported into the United States.

**USDA APHIS/Regulatory:** AKC submitted comments in support of future proposed changes to the federal Animal Welfare Act’s (AWA) requirements for individualized, performance-based environmental enrichment for dogs.

A few examples of legislation from the states include highly problematic legislation in Florida, Illinois and Texas that would vastly expand regulation of the ownership of intact females and hobby breeding.

- Sponsors of Florida HB 1581/SB 1492, which would require licensing and regulate ownership of intact female dogs, recently indicated they would not advance the legislation following a strong outcry by opposition; however, the bills do remain active.
- In Illinois, House Bill 3200, which would have required genetic testing for all dogs owned by dog breeders, has been moved to rules. It is unlikely to advance this year.
- Texas HB 274/ SB 876/HB 2238 would require anyone with 5 intact females to become a state licensed dog breeder, thereby subjecting hobbyists to commercial regulation. Both bills have been heard in committee in the last two weeks. AKC staff and clubs’ members attended both hearings and testified in opposition. The measures continue to move, and AKC is working with local constituents to express strong concerns.
Detection Dog Task Force Update
The AKC Detection Dog Task Force (DDTF) studies and implements actions that address underlying causes of the shortage of domestically bred, raised and trained detection dogs. Efforts are broken into 3 general areas:
1. Public policy/Government Relations
2. Conferences, webinars and general outreach; and

The entire Board was provided with an update, at the request of AKC Board members serving on the Detection Dog Task Force, on DDTF initiatives and accomplishment in the last year, with an emphasis on current status and activities.

Since the August 2022 AKC National Detection Dog Conference, GR has experienced increased interest from the public and media about the DDTF and its programs. They have been contacted by media outlets, industry players, conducted a number of interviews and continued the work to raise awareness.

In 2023, the DDTF and Patriotic Puppy Program will hold a series of regional one-day seminars and workshops to further expand our reach throughout the country. Content will include hands-on training/mentoring and problem-solving skills for breeders, puppy raisers and handlers, as well as the opportunity for both buyers and sellers to meet and develop crucial industry relationships.

Detection Dog Bulletin launched: A new quarterly newsletter, the Detection Dog Bulletin, was developed to provide quarterly information and updates for those who want to learn more about the breeding, development and training of dogs needed for detection work. The goal of the newsletter is to keep interested individuals apprised of advances and opportunities in breeding, development and training of detection dogs as well as information and updates about public policy, standards, and other factors that play an important role in decreasing U.S. dependence on the acquisition of foreign dogs to protect our national safety and security. The inaugural Detection Dog Bulletin was launched in December 2022. The second edition of the Detection Dog Bulletin in March 2023.

Confident Puppy E-learning Course
In 2022, GR launched Confident Puppy E-learning course in conjunction with AKC Canine College. This 7-module online course is a major tool for breeders and puppy raisers that teaches the foundational principles for raising a confident puppy that is equipped to go on for advanced training: as a detection dog with a government agency, a range of other jobs, or as a high-level performance dog.

The course leverages expertise from the AKC Patriotic Puppy Program and the task force’s work with leading experts on working dog research, breeding, training, deployment and numerous other areas to educate and assist anyone interested in raising or training self-confident puppies. More than 1,000 people have registered for this course and 200 have completed this course so far.

The Patriotic Puppy Program (PPP)
In 2019, the AKC Detection Dog Task Force (DDTF) created the Patriotic Puppy Program (PPP) as a project to educate AKC breeders about breeding and raising detection dogs; and to determine if AKC Breeders could consistently produce puppies suitable for advanced training and success as government working dogs. The project was broken into several phases.

Phase 3 began with the start of 2023. It builds on the success of phase 2 and focuses on scaling up
the program to make it bigger and better.

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.

Mrs. Wallin joined the meeting at 1:30 p.m. Eastern Time.

Delinquent Member Club Dues
Pursuant to Article V of the Charter and Bylaws of The American Kennel Club, the officers of all clubs including the Delegates, were sent three standard email notifications concerning the payment of their 2023 Member club dues. A regular USPS mailing was sent to those clubs whose officers do not have an email address on record. There are two Member Clubs which have not paid their dues to date.

Normally a club would be returned to licensed status on April 30, 2023.

Following a motion by Mr. Tatro, seconded by Ms. McAteer, the board VOTED (unanimously) to extend the deadline to both clubs in question to June 30, 2023. They will be advised that unless the dues are paid and received by June 30, 2023, their membership in The American Kennel Club will be revoked and the clubs will return to licensed status.

Back Mountain Kennel Club – Member Club Dissolved
The Board was advised that Back Mountain Kennel Club was dissolved on August 8, 2022. It was a Member Club of the American Kennel Club since March 1949, and served the Kingston, PA area.

REPORT ON MEMBER CLUB BYLAWS APPROVED IN FEBRUARY AND MARCH
- Basset Hound Club of America (1937)
- Belgian Sheepdog Club of America (1949)
- Birmingham Kennel Club, Birmingham, AL (1935)
- Carolina Kennel Club, Greensboro, NC (1938)
- Catoctin Kennel Club, Frederick County, MD (2000)
- Dandie Dinmont Terrier Club of America (1910)
- German Wirehaired Pointer Club of America (1973)
- Great Barrington Kennel Club, Great Barrington, MA (1941)
- Hendersonville Kennel Club, Hendersonville, NC (2016)
- Southern Colorado Kennel Club, Pueblo, CO (1988)

REPORT ON NEWLY LICENSED CLUBS APPROVED IN FEBRUARY AND MARCH
- Australian Shepherd Fanciers of Arizona, greater Phoenix, AZ (including communities northwest to Surprise, southeast to Gilbert), 28 total households, 18 local.
  - French Bulldog Club of Georgia, greater Atlanta, GA (including communities north to Jasper, south to Centerville, east to Athens, west to Douglasville), 57 total households, 15 local.
• Natural State Golden Retriever Club, greater Russellville, AR (including communities northwest to Bella Vista, southeast to Little Rock/Hot Springs, in proximity to Interstates 40 and 49), 32 total households, 15 local.

• Navesink River Hunting Retriever Club, Somerset County, NJ (including communities north to I-80 and south to I-195), 61 total households, 23 local.

• Northwest Cardigan Welsh Corgi Fanciers, greater Seattle, WA (including communities in proximity to Interstate 5, north to Bellingham, including Custer, south to Centralia), 39 total households, 14 local.

• South East Texas K9 Coonhound Club, Crockett, TX, 15 total households, 8 local.

• Sporting Dog Club of Indiana, greater Indianapolis, IN area (including communities north to Cedar Lake, IN, south to Bloomington, IN including Casey, IL and Mt. Vernon, IL), 28 total households, 12 local.

• Sunshine State English Cocker Spaniel Club, greater Orlando, FL (including communities north to Ocala, South to Bradenton and East/West to the State Line), 27 total households, 14 local.

**JUDGING OPERATIONS**

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

**Sweepstakes and Futurity Judges**

The Board reviewed a recommendation to modify the exhibiting restriction for Sweepstake and Futurity Judges so that the restriction would apply only to the breed(s) judged. Current policy prohibits individuals assigned to judge Sweepstakes or Futurities from exhibiting any breed within 200 miles the same day they judge. This restriction applies to the judge personally exhibiting any dog, and any dogs owned or co-owned by them being shown regardless of who handles it or where it resides and includes all members of the judge’s household. When held as part of a multi-day specialty, the restriction expands to the entire length of the event.

This will be discussed further at the May meeting.

**Conformation Judges Daily Limit**

Based on the November 2022 Board meeting discussion, Staff was asked to examine the possible effects of changing the dog limit per judge to 150 dogs if that judge was also assigned any group.

Staff researched how this may affect a show timewise, financially, etc. Background on the applicable rules and policies impacting a judge’s daily assignments at Conformation dogs shows, data reflecting the frequency of judges being assigned 150 or more entries at Conformation events, and points for the Board’s consideration were presented and discussed.
The Board reviewed a memo outlining the potential benefits of lowering the daily limit to 150 and any associated rule, policy and procedural changes needed to implement such a change.

**Conformation Judging Statistics**
The Board reviewed statistics related to Conformation Judging applications considered by the Department the preceding three months.

Following is the list of New Breed (NB) and Additional Breed (AB) applicants whose applications were presented for final approval from January through March 2023.

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<th>Applications</th>
<th>Breeds</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>2023 NEW BREED JUDGING APPLICANTS</strong></td>
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<td>January</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>87</td>
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**COMPANION and PERFORMANCE**
Doug Ljungren, Executive Vice President, Sports & Events; Dr. Mary Burch, Director, Family Dog Program; Caroline Murphy, Director, Performance Events; and Diane Schultz, Director Obedience, Rally, and Tracking participated in this portion of the meeting via video conference.
**Pointing Breed Hunting Tests – The Buddy Hunt**
The Board reviewed a recommendation to allow for a Buddy Hunt in the Junior Hunter level test in Pointing Breed Hunting Tests. In a Buddy Hunt, a Junior, family member, or friend may accompany the handler. In addition, this opportunity can help to offset the inhibition many new owners feel prior to handling their own dog for the first time. The buddy cannot assist in handling the dog or flushing the birds. There is a limit of one buddy per handler. There would be no change to the running of the event.

This will be discussed further at the May meeting.

**Pointing Breed Hunting Tests – Providing Flexibility in Finding Judges**
Test levels in Pointing Breed Hunting Tests can be divided into divisions at the discretion of the host club. This is usually done if the club expects a large number of entries. The Board reviewed a recommendation to allow Pointing Breed Hunting Test judges to enter in a division of a testing level that they are not judging. Currently the Regulations state a judge may not enter the testing level they are judging. This change will provide clubs additional flexibility in securing judges.

This will be discussed further at the May meeting.

**Dachshund Field Trials – Request to Hold Eight Trials Per Year**
The Board reviewed a request from the Dachshund Club of America to increase the number of field trials a local club can hold per calendar year from four to eight.

This will be discussed further at the May meeting.

**AKC Fetch, a New Family Dog Activity**
The Board reviewed a recommendation to add a new titling program in AKC Family Dog called “AKC Fetch.” Beginning with the premise that one of the most popular activities that dog owners do with their dogs is retrieving a ball, AKC Fetch will be a fun program with four titling levels including Novice, Intermediate, Advanced, and Retriever.

By providing a source of exercise for dogs and owners, AKC Fetch has clear health benefits. Further, the skills learned for each of the titles (e.g., remaining steady at the line until the ball is released) are related to future success in other AKC sports. AKC Fetch titles will be a valuable addition to the existing AKC FIT DOG program.

This will be discussed further at the May meeting.

**Tripod Dogs in Rally and Obedience Classes Without Jumps**
The Board reviewed a Staff recommendation to allow three-legged dogs (tripods) to participate in the non-jumping classes in Rally and Obedience. There are two classes in Obedience and three classes in Rally that do not involve jumping. Currently they are not allowed to participate as they are considered lame. The Rally and Obedience Regulations define lame as any irregularity of locomotion.
There was a motion and a second to consider this matter at the meeting waiving the normal notice procedures. This motion was defeated.

This will be discussed further at the May meeting.

**Rally Results Processing Has Moved to Event Operations**
The Board was provided with an update that Sports & Events has reassigned the processing of Rally results in order to equalize the future workload between departments. Rally results were previously processed by the Companion Event Operations Department. Starting with trials held after February 1, 2023, the results are being processed by the Event Operations Department.

**Obedience - Three Quarter Jump Heights for All Breeds**
At the January meeting, the Board reviewed a request from three Parent Clubs to allow the breeds to jump three-quarters height of the dog at the withers in Obedience. 55 breeds are now allowed to jump three-quarters height. The Board ask if the standard jump height in obedience should be lowered to three-quarters for all breeds. At the March Delegate meeting, the Companion Events Committee was asked if they supported lowering the minimum required jump height in the regular obedience classes to three-quarter for all breeds. They replied they do not. They believe the lowering of the jump height should continue to be at the request of the Parent Club with justification provided to the Staff. The current procedures for requesting three-quarters jump height for a breed will stay in place.

**Fast CAT® – Board Action Items**
The Staff provided information to the Board on questions they had in a previous meeting about aspects of Fast CAT® procedures and regulations.

The following is a list of the major Fast CAT® service providers in the U.S. and the percentage of events they handle.

- Clubs themselves or using AKC lure coursing clubs: 30%
- Time To Fly: 17%
- Sugarloaf Mountain Racing: 14%
- Hudson Valley Coursing: 7%
- Fast and Fun: 6%
- Speed Dog: 5%
- American Lure Coursing: 4%
- Black Knight Coursing: 3%
- Dog Sports America: 3%
- All the rest: 11%

**CONFORMATION**
Doug Ljungren, Executive Vice President, Sports & Events; Mari-Beth O’Neill, Vice President of Sports Services; 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.
Required Documents at Shows – Rules Applying to Dog Shows Chapter 2, Section 14
The Board reviewed a recommendation from the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee (DSRC) to amend Chapter 2, Section 14, of the Rules Applying to Dog Shows, which, if adopted, would modify the list of documents required to be available at shows.

Following a motion by Dr. Garvin, seconded by Mr. Hamblin, the Board VOTED (Unanimously) to amend Chapter 2, Section 14, of the Rules Applying to Dog Shows as follows:

SECTION 14. All clubs holding shows under American Kennel Club rules must at each event have available or access to: the current applicable breed standards, the Rules Applying to Dog Shows, Rules Applying to Registration and Discipline, Dealing with Misconduct at AKC Events, the Show Manual, and any other applicable rules, regulations and/or guidelines for the competitions being held.

This will be read at the June Delegate meeting for a vote at the September meeting. If approved by the Delegate Body, the effective date will be September 27, 2023.

Request from the Labrador Retriever Club of the Potomac
The Labrador Retriever Club of the Potomac is asking the Board to support a change to Chapter 16, Section 1, of the Rules Applying to Dog Shows to allow the Reserve Winners at their show, which is the world’s largest Labrador Retriever Specialty, to be awarded a three-point major if the number of exhibitors competing in the regular classes for the sex is at least twice the number required for five points.

Following a motion by Mr. Tatro, seconded by Mr. Powers, the Board VOTED (Unanimously) to deny this request. The Board, in May, will continue to consider a rule change to allow all specialty clubs this option.

Conflict of Interest Statements Across the Sports
The Board requested the Staff review the conflict-of-interest statements across the sports for possible recommended changes. Following this review, the Staff recommended the Board approve the proposed modifications to the policies that define exhibiting restrictions in Conformation for (1) those who attend training classes presented by judges, and (2) judges who use the services of a handler.

This will be discussed further at the May meeting.

List of Special Attractions with Standing Approval
The Board reviewed suggested modifications to the to the Special Attractions Application and Special Attractions with Standing Written Approval list to insert the direction, “Health services and breed characteristic evaluations held with AKC events may not be conducted in a ring and should be held in a location away from and heavy traffic to provide a conducive atmosphere.”

This will be discussed further at the May meeting.
Eligibility Criteria for Special Attraction Competitions

Clubs may offer Special Attraction Group competitions with their Conformation dogs shows of which they may define the eligibility criteria. The Staff recommends the establishment of standardized eligibility requirements for special attraction group competitions unless defined otherwise in the premium list. Forming default criteria will benefit clubs, exhibitors and superintendents/show secretaries by providing standardized information for premium lists, while still permitting a club to establish its own criteria if it wishes.

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

Following a motion by Mr. Powers, seconded by Mr. Hamblin, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to approve the following default criteria:

Special Attractions Competitions

Eligibility for Best Bred-by Exhibitor, Best Puppy, Best Veteran, and Best Amateur-Owner-Handler competitions is predicated upon entry into the following class(es) and all divisions of:

- **Best Bred-By Exhibitor** – the Bred-by-Exhibitor class including the Bred-by-Exhibitor Puppy and Bred-by-Exhibitor Adult age divisions
- **Best Puppy** – any class limited to dogs six months and older and under 12 months of age; Puppy, 6-9 Puppy, 9-12 Puppy, and Bred-by-Exhibitor Puppy
- **Best Veteran** – any non-regular Veteran Class Best Amateur-Owner-Handler – the Amateur Owner-Handled Class

For Best Bred-By Exhibitor and Best Amateur-Owner-Handler competitions, the eligibility criteria involving the individual handling the dog applies only to the original class entered and all competition specific to the special attraction (i.e., BBE Groups and BBE BIS). There are no restrictions as to who may handle the dog in any subsequent classes it may become eligible.

Any modifications by the club to the eligibility criteria must be clearly defined in the premium list.

The standardized criteria will be effective August 30, 2023.

Junior Showmanship Regulations – Section 7 Dog Eligibility

The pilot program, approved by the AKC Board at the May 2022 Board Meeting, revising the Conformation Junior Showmanship Regulations, Guidelines for Judging Juniors in Conformation, Juniors in Performance Events Regulations, Section 7. Dog Eligibility, eliminating the ownership requirement for a dog to be entered in Conformation Junior Showmanship has been very positively received. Staff is recommending making this a permanent revision effective July 1, 2023.

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

Following a motion by Mr. Powers, seconded by Mr. Carota, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to make this making this a permanent revision effective July 1, 2023.
**Conflict Distances**
Based on a Board request, Staff presented a memo to provide the Board information about the current processes used to administer the Board Policy for conflict distances and information to contemplate when considering potential alternatives to the current processes.

Sports require minimum distances between their events on the same date and some sports have minimum distance and number of days required between judging assignments. The process of verifying these minimums is referred to as “conflict checking.” The current conflict checking process uses a straight-line method to measure the distance between two points. The system has worked well over the decades as it applies a consistent method for measurement.

Further, the Board has taken measures to allow Staff to address reasonable exceptions via the approval of policy amendments, the most notable being an amendment to the Show Conflict Distance Policy in February 2014 which allows clubs to agree to co-exist if the distance between their events is less than the minimum required for the sport. More recently, in July 2022 the Board approved an amendment to the Show Conflict Distance Policy that allows clubs to appeal for an exception of the minimum distance between events if the shortest driving between the events is approximately 25% greater than the minimum distance required for the sport. This amendment provided the AKC an avenue to approve events where there are extraordinary geographic features between them that are not considered in the calculation of straight-line measurement.

With Board consent, Staff will continue to process the Board Policy for conflict distances in its current manner.

**Post-Closing Overload and Cancellation Resolution**
Staff wishes to explore the option to allow clubs post-closing to remove a judge from an assignment to judge Miscellaneous, Sweepstakes, Futurity, Junior Showmanship, Four-to-Six Month Best Puppy, or FSS Open Show to rectify a judge change in a breed due to overload or cancellation.

The Board concurred and Staff will implement the following procedure concerning the resolution of judge changes post-closing due to overload or cancellation.

To resolve breed assignment changes after closing due to overloads or judge cancellations, clubs may remove assignments for Miscellaneous, Sweepstakes, Futurity, Junior Showmanship, Four-to-Six Month Best Puppy, or FSS Open Show, to provide sufficient room under the daily entry limit. This is allowed with the requirements there are no other eligible and available judges on the judging panel who would not require the removal of other assignment(s), and that any replacement judge for the removed Miscellaneous, Sweepstakes, Futurity, Junior Showmanship, Four-to-Six Month Best Puppy, or FSS Open Show assignments must be eligible to judge that competition. Where applicable, exhibitors would be eligible to receive a refund for a judge change under the parameters defined in the Rules Applying to Dog Shows or the regulations for that competition.

The AKC Show Manual will be revised to include this information and posted on the AKC website. Notification will also be posted on the various AKC social media platforms.
Onsite Show Secretary Program Update
As of the date of the meeting, AKC has approved 6 new Onsite Show Secretaries.

Superintendent Equipment
The Board, in discussion, noted that the tables and ramps used at conformation dog shows are inconsistent in construction. The Board expressed interest in the AKC evaluating the availability of tables and ramps. This option could improve the ability to source tables and ramps which are consistent, safe, secure, and available for all events. Staff will use the information gathered to provide clubs with a list of potential vendors.

Centennial Clubs
AKC is pleased to recognize the following Centennial Clubs. Centennial Clubs are clubs in existence for 100 years.

- Arkansas Kennel Club
- Cincinnati Kennel Club
- Delaware County Kennel Club
- Genesee Valley Kennel Club
- Kennel Club of Riverside
- Lancaster Kennel Club
- Minneapolis Kennel Club
- Nebraska Kennel Club
- Shreveport Kennel Club

The AKC will add these clubs to the list of Centennial Clubs on our website and we will provide a Centennial Banner for display at their upcoming club functions. In total there are 116 AKC Centennial Clubs.

Juniors Committee Annual Report to the Board
The Juniors Committee was formed by the AKC Board to continue to review and recommend means to attract, engage and maintain Juniors in AKC Sports and Events and in AKC Clubs. They provided a written report to the Board on their activities for the period of December 2021 to February 2023.

Some initiatives include:

- Successfully requesting that the Board streamline the process to amend bylaws if only adding class(es) for Juniors.
- Successfully recommending that the ownership requirement be deleted from the Junior regulations.
- Write articles relating to Juniors for various magazines.
- Adding stewarding for Juniors into the Canine College Steward Course.
- Placing the 4-H Dog Project Manual on the Delegate Portal. This suggests activities that could involve 4-H children into the AKC world.
- Explore the establishment of Junior Clubs run by Juniors as sponsored by All-Breed Clubs.
- Form a Junior Judging subcommittee to explore ways to encourage and mentor Juniors to become Judges.
- Form a Junior Breeding subcommittee, chaired by Doug Johnson, to explore ways to encourage and mentor Juniors to become breeders.
- Bi-monthly newsletter for Junior Coordinators featuring success stories including seminars for Juniors, programs to shadow on-site veterinarian, Best Junior competition for the cluster.

The Board adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

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

REGISTRATION DEVELOPMENT
Mark Dunn, Executive Vice President; Jill Zapadinsky, Director, Call Center and Registration Support; Linda Duncklee, Director, Registration Services; Seth Fera Schanes, Director of Planning and Kassandra McCombe, Business Intelligence Manager, participated in this portion of the meeting.

How AKC Business Intelligence is Transforming Data to be Accessible and Informative
The American Kennel Club’s business is built upon the collection, retention, and processing of data. How data, reports, and data visualizations are generated and shared impacts the organization’s ability to use data to inform and drive business decisions and enhance customers’ positive experiences. Kassandra McCombe gave a presentation highlighting how Business Intelligence is building Tableau dashboards to support all channels of the organization. The Tableau dashboard cross-departmental uses of and the dynamic and automated features enable departments to drill-down into data, a data-driven workforce. Tableau provides access to aggregation of granular data to support decision making across the organization with real-time information.

2023 April Registration Initiatives Report
Jill Zapadinsky and Linda Duncklee gave an update on the success of the newly implemented registration initiatives including the upcoming launch of the Haptik ChatBot, the newly update on-hold messages in English and Spanish and the Call Center Upsell program.

Updates were provided on a program to contact customers who have abandoned their carts in the middle of a transaction and steps that have been taken to increase awareness and usage of the Breeder Toolkit.

COMPLIANCE
Bri Tesarz, Director of Compliance and Jessica Lopez, Compliance Specialist, participated in this meeting portion via video conference.
Approval of Annual Fees
The Charter and Bylaws of The American Kennel Club, Inc. “Charter and Bylaws” require that the Board of Directors set deposits annually for the submission of complaints pursuant to Article XII, Section 1; as well as deposits for appeals to an Appeal Trial Board pursuant to Article XIII, Section 7. The current deposit to file a complaint pursuant to Article XII, Section 1 is $500. The current deposit to file an Appeal to an Appeal Trial Board is $200.

Following a motion by Mr. Tatro, seconded by Mr. Sweetwood, the Board VOTED (unanimously) approve the annual fee to submit a complaint pursuant to Article XII, Section 1 of the Charter and Bylaws to be increased to $625, effective immediately; and to approve the annual fee to submit an appeal pursuant to Article XIII, Section 7 of the Charter and Bylaws to be increased to $250, effective immediately.

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

MARKETING
Kirsten Bahlke, Vice President of Marketing; Brandi Hunter Munden, Vice President of PR & Communications; Melissa Olund, Director of Digital Marketing; and Jacqueline Taylor, Director of Marketing, participated in this portion of the meeting.

Update on Development of AKC Brand Positioning Statement
During a January Board meeting discussion of brand awareness planned and potential programs for 2023, the group discussed the need for an aligned internal AKC brand positioning statement. The Staff provided an update on the progress of that request. All the draft statements reflect a purposeful move away from a product service (a.k.a. transactional) focus to a lifestyle and connection focus.

Staff presented the results of its consumer research on a robust set of brand positioning statements. Staff will continue the work needed to draft final brand positing statements for Board review in July.

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

Canine Partners in Conformation Junior Showmanship Pilot
The AKC Board approved an eighteen-month pilot program allowing Canine Partners to be exhibited in Conformation Junior Showmanship. The trial period ended on December 31, 2022.

The Board VOTED not to continue with the program but will continue to allow Canine Partners to be exhibited in Conformation Junior Showmanship Showcase events.
**National Owner-Handled & Junior Ribbon Colors**
The Board VOTED to update the NOHS and Junior Regulations to allow clubs to provide the winners of the NOHS Best in Show and Best Junior award a more distinguished ribbon. update the NOHS and Junior regulations to mimic the wording for Best in Show and Reserve Best in Show ribbon colors.

Ribbon colors for NOHS competition are:
- NOHS Best in Show – Turquoise or any unassigned color or combination of colors not used at that event is permitted.
- NOHS Reserve Best in Show – Light Green or any unassigned color or combination of colors not used at that event is permitted.

NOHS Best in Show and Reserve Best in Show ribbons must be different colors then the Regular Best in Show and Reserve Best in Show ribbons on the day.

NOHS Rosettes: clubs are encouraged to offer the same size rosettes as offered for the regular groups.

Ribbon colors for Juniors competition:
- Best Junior: Rose and Green or any unassigned color or combination of colors not used at that event is permitted.
- Reserve Best Junior: Rose and Gray or any unassigned color or combination of colors not used at that event is permitted.

**Entlebucher Mountain Dog Proposed Breed Standard Revision**
The Board VOTED to approve the proposed revisions to the Entlebucher Mountain Dog breed standard as submitted and approved by the National Entlebucher Mountain Dog Association, Inc. in accordance with the club’s Constitution and Bylaws. The effective date will be June 13, 2023.

*See Approved Standard in Appendix A.*

**Lancashire Heeler Eligibility to Compete in the Herding Group**
The Board VOTED to approve a request from the United States Lancashire Heeler Club, to accept the breed into the AKC Stud Book and for the Lancashire Heeler to be eligible to compete in the Herding Group. The Board also approved the breed standard. The breed will be moved from the Foundation Stock Service into the Stud Book of the American Kennel Club on January 1, 2024. The Stud Book will remain open until January 1, 2029.

**Appointment of AKC PAC Board Members**
The Board VOTED to reappoint Mrs. Gail LaBerge, Ms. Karolynne McAteer and Mr. Daniel Smyth, Esq. for new 2-year terms.

The Board VOTED to reappoint Dr. Carmen Battaglia for a one-year term, ending in 2024.
Member Club Approval
American Toy Fox Terrier Club
1st Licensed Show: May 16, 2003
Total Households: 99
Bylaws: Acceptable
Published in February 2023 and March 2023 AKC Gazettes

Delegate Approvals
Jean A. Boyd
To represent Bayou Kennel Club
Published January 2023, February 2023

Zac Crump
To represent Lexington Kennel Club
Published January 2023, February 2023

Linda Gagnon
To represent Pioneer Valley Kennel Club
Published January 2023, February 2023

Dr. Marthina Greer
To represent Waukesha Kennel Club
Published February 2023, March 2023

Jessica Ricker
To represent Mahoning-Shenango Kennel Club
Published January 2023, February 2023

EXECUTIVE SESSION
There was an EXECUTIVE SESSION to discuss sensitive business matters. It was reported out of this session that the Delegate application submitted by the Ashtabula Kennel Club for Lisa Diane Summers was not approved.

NEW BUSINESS
DACC Proposal to increase Delegate Committee Expenses
The Board discussed this request. As this request should come from the Delegate Coordinating Committee, it will be referred to it for the June Agenda.

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

Adjourned
Attest: ________________________________________
Gina M. DiNardo, Executive Secretary
## Appendix A

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current Entlebucher Mountain Dog Standard</th>
<th>Proposed Entlebucher Mountain Dog Breed Standard</th>
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### General Appearance:
The Entlebucher Mountain Dog (Shepherd Dog from Entlebuch, or Dog of the Alpine Herdsman) is a native of Switzerland, and the smallest of the four tricolored Swiss Sennenhund breeds. Swiss farmers have historically used the Entlebucher to move cows from pasture to pasture in the Alps. Their keen intelligence, speed and agility also made them useful for the management of other large animals such as horses and hogs.

The Entlebucher is a medium-sized, compact, strongly muscled, elongated drover with ample bone. He has a short, hard and shiny coat, bright black with symmetrical markings of pure white on blaze, muzzle, chest, and feet; shades of rich fawn to mahogany are present on the eyebrows and between the black and white markings.

Prized for his agreeable nature, ease of training, and devotion to family, the Entlebucher possesses an excellent work ethic, and the ability to work alone or in harmony with his master. Given a job, he transforms from a lively, high-spirited playmate, to a serious, tireless, self-assured dog of commanding presence. Although primarily a drover, Entles excel at competitive sports and are willing and enthusiastic partners in any athletic canine activity chosen by their master.

Purpose and heritage have resulted in an unusually intense bonding between the Entlebucher and his master; however the Entlebucher should not be considered a breed for the casual owner. He will remain an active, highly energetic dog for his entire lifetime. Because of the guardian traits of this breed, thorough socialization is required during puppyhood; typically Entles are indifferent to, or somewhat aloof with, strangers.

**Size, Proportion, Substance:** Dogs - 17 to 21 inches, Bitches - 16 to 20 inches. Ratio of height at withers to length of body, 8:10 - length to height ratio 10 to 8 measured from point of shoulder to point of rump and ground to withers.

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**Size, Proportion, Substance:** Dogs - 17.5 – 20.5 inches, Bitches - 16.5 to 19.5 inches. Ratio of height at withers to length of body, 8:10 - length to height ratio 10 to 8 measured from point of shoulder to point of rump and ground to withers. Strongly muscled, agile, balanced dog with ample bone; but never overdone. Size alone
Strongly muscled, agile, balanced dog with ample bone; but never overdone. Size alone should never take precedence over type, balance, soundness and temperament. Note that too small a dog generally lacks the power required and too large a dog may lack the agility and mobility desired in a herding dog. Head: In harmonious proportion to the body, slightly wedged-shaped; clean.

**Head**: planes of muzzle and skull more or less parallel. Ratio of muzzle to skull 9:10. 
**Expression** - Alert, attentive, and friendly. **Eyes** - Must be brown, darker eye preferred. Slightly small, almond shaped, with well fitted, black pigmented rims. Disqualifying fault - Blue eyes or yellow hawk eyes. Ears - Not too big, set on high and wide. When alert, are slightly raised at set-on, turned forward; in repose lay flat and close to head and form a nearly level plane with topskull. Firm, well developed ear-cartilagae. Flaps pendulous, triangular, rounded at tips. **Skull** - Flat on top, broadest between set-on of ears, slightly tapering towards muzzle. Occipital bone barely visible. Frontal furrow barely pronounced with minimal stop. **Muzzle** - Strong, well chiseled, clearly set off from slightly pronounced cheeks, tapering but not pointed or snipey. Bridge of nose is straight. Whiskers to be left natural. Nose - Black. Lips - Close fitting to jaw, with complete black pigmentation. **Bite** - Scissor bite preferred, even bite tolerated. Disqualifying faults - Overshot or undershot jaw; wry mouth.

**Neck, Topline, Body**: Pleasing smooth merge of neck into topline. Neck - Medium length, strong and clean, merging smoothly with the body. **Topline** - Sturdy and level. **Body** - Strong, slightly elongated, length to be in rib cage and not in loin; length to height ratio 10 to 8 measured from point of shoulder to point of rump and ground to withers. Chest - Capacious, broad, deep, and reaching to the elbows; well sprung ribs. **Underline** - Slightly tucked up. Back - Straight, firm, broad. **Loins** - Strong, flexible. Croup - Slightly sloping, relatively long. **Tail** - Natural tail or docked tail is equally acceptable. Natural tail set-on in continuation of the gently sloping croup. In motion can be elevated but never curled over back. Ring-tails highly should never take precedence over type, balance, soundness and temperament. Note that too small a dog generally lacks the power required and too large a dog may lack the agility and mobility desired in a herding dog. **Oversize**: A male over 20.5 inches will be disqualified. A bitch over 19.5 inches will be disqualified. 
**Undersize**: A male under 17.5 inches will be disqualified, a bitch under 16.5 inches will be disqualified. The minimum height ranges set forth shall not apply to dogs or bitches under twelve months of age.

**Head**: In harmonious proportion to the body, slightly wedged-shaped; clean. Head planes of muzzle and skull more or less parallel. Ratio of muzzle to skull 9:10. **Expression** - Alert, attentive, and friendly. **Eyes** - Must be brown, darker eye preferred. Slightly small, roundish shaped, with well fitted, black pigmented rims. Disqualifying fault - Blue eyes or yellow hawk eyes. **Ears** - Not too big, set on high and relatively wide. When alert, are slightly raised at set-on, turned forward; in repose lay flat and close to head and form a nearly level plane with topskull. Firm, well developed ear-cartilagae. Flaps pendulous, triangular, rounded at tips. **Skull** - Flat on top, broadest between set-on of ears, slightly tapering towards muzzle. Occipital bone barely visible. Frontal furrow barely pronounced with minimal stop. **Muzzle** - Strong, well chiseled, clearly set off from slightly pronounced cheeks, tapering but not pointed or snipey. Bridge of nose is straight. Whiskers to be left natural. Nose - Black. Lips - Close fitting to jaw, with black pigmentation. **Bite** - Scissor bite preferred, even bite tolerated. Disqualifying faults - Overshot or undershot jaw; wry mouth.

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discouraged.

**Forequarters:** Strongly muscled but not too heavy. Shoulders are laid back, flat lying, well-muscled and never loose. Upper arm length equal or slightly shorter than shoulder blade. Angle of shoulder blade forming as nearly as possible a right angle. Elbows lying well onto the body, turning neither in nor out. Forelegs are short, sturdy, straight and parallel; neither too wide nor too close together. Seen from side placed well under the body. Pastern seen from front in straight continuation of the forearm; seen from side slightly angulated and relatively short. Paws point straight forward; compact, slightly rounded with well-arched toes. Pads coarse and robust. Dewclaws - May be removed on the front legs. Nails - Short, strong; any combination of black or white.

**Hindquarters:** Well-muscled. Hind legs not too close together; from behind, straight and parallel. Upper thigh - Fairly long, broad and strong. Lower thigh - Approximately equal length to upper thigh; clean. Stifle - Well angulated. Hock joint - Strong; turns neither in nor out. Hock - Relatively short, perpendicular to the ground when dog is standing naturally; from the rear, parallel to each other. Rear dewclaws - Must be removed. Rear feet - Overall description same as front.

**Coat:** Double coat. Topcoat short, close fitting, harsh and shiny. Undercoat dense; of varying color. Wavy or soft coat tolerated but not preferred. Disqualifying fault - Single coat.

**Color:** Tricolor. Basic color must be black with tan (fawn to mahogany) and white markings, which should be as symmetric as possible. The tan markings are placed above the eyes, on cheeks, muzzle, either side of the chest, under the tail, and on all four legs. On legs, the tan is situated between the black and the white. Small tan oval islands on cheeks are desired. White markings include a distinct small blaze, which runs without interruption from top of head over bridge of nose, and can wholly or partially cover the muzzle. White from chin to chest without interruption. An inverted cross on chest

Natural tail or docked tail is equally acceptable. Natural tail set-on in continuation of the gently sloping croup. In motion can be elevated but never touching the back. Ring-tails highly discouraged.

**Forequarters:** Strongly muscled but not too heavy. Shoulders are laid back, flat lying, well-muscled and never loose. Upper arm length equal or slightly shorter than shoulder blade. Angle of shoulder blade forming an angle of 110 to 120 degrees. Elbows lying well onto the body, turning neither in nor out. Forelegs are short, sturdy, straight and parallel; neither too wide nor too close together. Seen from side placed well under the body. Pastern seen from front in straight continuation of the forearm; seen from side slightly angulated and relatively short. Paws point straight forward; compact, slightly rounded with well-arched toes. Pads coarse and robust. Dewclaws - May be removed on the front legs. Nails - Short, strong; any combination of black or white.

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desirable. In full-length tail, tip of tail is normally white. White on all four feet. Undesirable but tolerated - small white patch on the nape of the neck (not more than 2 inches), high boot, socks and bib. Color and markings should not take precedence over overall soundness, balance and temperament.

Gait: Ground covering, free, fluid movement with good reach and strong drive from rear. As the speed of the gait increases, legs converge - the rear more pronounced.

Temperament: The Entlebucher is a confident cattle dog, neither shy nor vicious; may be reserved with strangers. He is lively, active, persistent, self-assured and determined. Cheerful and capable of learning, he is loyal and protective of family, herd and property. He is highly intelligent, versatile and adaptable with a strong willingness to work; is quick and responsive to commands from his owner making him especially suited as a companion, herding and general all-purpose dog.

Faults: Any departure from the foregoing points must be considered as a fault, and the seriousness with which the fault should be regarded should be in exact proportion to its degree.

Disqualifications: Absence of undercoat. Blue eyes or yellow hawk eyes. Overshot or undershot jaw. Wry mouth.

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