

## **2019 The 82nd<sup>t</sup> Annual Beagle Advisory Committee Meeting**

The teleconference meeting was called to order at 10:00 am on Wednesday June 19, 2019.

Mel Stewart called role. All members were present.

Mel then introduced the AKC staff in attendance. They included Jim Odle and Robert Oliver, AKC Field staff, Caroline Murphy, Karen Reuter, Lisa King and Dawn Salpeck Performance Events Operations Staff and Doug Ljungren, E.V.P. of Sports & Events.

Mel Stewart and Doug Ljungren welcomed and thanked the committee members.

Format	2017 Trials	2017 Entries	2018 Trials	2018 Entries	Change in Trials	Change in Entries
Brace	265	10,506	257	10,261	-8	-245
Gun Dog Brace	77	8,058	86	9,171	9	1113
Large Pack	64	5,521	65	5,199	1	-322
Small Pack	9	150	8	135	-1	-15
Small Pack Option	297	24,499	298	24,390	1	-109
Two Couple Pack	77	4,592	78	4,300	1	-292
Total	789	53,326	792	53,456	3	130

**Mel Stewart:** We voted a couple of years ago, to license the derby and allow 1 win and 40 points, mainly for our friends in the brace world. I would like to call on Russ Arend to give us a status report.

**Russ Arend:** As you know about four years ago, the brace Beagling people asked the BAC to support us in trying to get the AKC to license our derby trials at the federations. I thank you so much, because it was a help. 2017 was the last time we ran federation derby trials that were not licensed. In 2018 was the first licensed trial, we increased some. In 2019 comparing to 2017 we went up 60 entries in the derby classes at the federations. It helped get enthusiasm from some of our people. It has been a great help. We are looking for more next year, and I just cannot say how nice it was. We appreciate AKC's help.

Agenda Item #1 - Traditional Brace only to have option to run 2 classes - male class and female class.  
*Chapter 9, section 1. Page 14 of the Brace/SPO Rules.*

At a licensed or member Beagle field trial, the regular classes shall be:

- Open Dogs not exceeding 13 inches in height.
- Open Bitches not exceeding 13 inches in height.
- Open Dogs over 13 inches but not exceeding 15 inches in height.
- Open Bitches over 13 inches but not exceeding 15 inches in height.

However, if when the entries are closed, it is found that there are fewer than six hounds of a sex eligible to compete in any class, the Field Trial Committee shall have the option of combining that class either by gender or size into a single class.

However, only in the case of Traditional Brace trials, the Field Trial Committee has the option to offer only two classes - Open Dogs and Open Bitches. The advertisement for the trial must clearly identify the classes offered. Once approved by the AKC, a club may not decide to split a class by size.

**Mel Stewart:** We will move into the agenda now. Item one is for traditional brace only, to have the option to run two classes, a male class and a female class. Let's open the floor for discussion.

**Russ Arend:** I hope Bob Miller gets on the phone because he proposed this. My concerns since I have been talking to people about it, is I don't think that the people understand that if you decide to combine you have to have two classes. I think some are under the impression you can combine males and not combine females. I know the rule is you are going to combine them both, but I am not sure they understand that. It makes it hard for me to vote. I don't know if they would still support it under those conditions. Right now, I have a tendency to vote against it and leave it like it is. They can skip most of this and accomplish the same thing by scheduling.

**Mel Stewart:** There is already a rule that says when entries close the field trial committee can combine them by size or gender if there are less than six entries in the class. So as Russ mentioned scheduling both males and females the same day. Anyone else?

**John Edwards:** I have talked with several people in my area. Some were neutral because it was an option. As Russ says I think there is some confusion about when you combine. I see some clubs are doing this through the scheduling. It really boils down to the field trial committee. It depends on what they can handle and do. It being an option I don't have a problem.

**Russ Arend:** I went back and looked at where there are small entries, there are six in a combined class I would think they will end up with five in a combined class and then they run all your males. That causes a problem with the fact that females in heat would have to be pulled out. I know it sounds silly but some of those male classes are just barely making it. Sometimes they are sticking in two field champions just to make a class a six. That's not everywhere. That is just another concern. We need to think about this.

**Bob Kimber:** The way I understand it, you have a choice to have open dogs and open bitches those two classes only no option here to run by size combining by size, is that correct?

**Mel Stewart:** Yes. You have a male class and a female class.

**Bob Kimber:** I will say the majority of the people I represent want me to vote for it providing it was very clear that it had to be advertised. The secretary would have to apply for that option and once it gets approved, they cannot go back and switch. The majority of the people I represent want me to vote for it.

**Doug Ljungren:** As I recall it would save the clubs some money because they did not have to have a set of judges.

**Mel Stewart:** That is the reason I have heard repeatedly.

**Mark Malloy:** I presented this to our guys and clearly told them it had nothing to do with the SPO and Large Pack. I got kick back on it. They are afraid if we start doing this, its going to bring this into the other formats. The North East guys had a lot of kickback on it.

**Russ Arend:** Now that this is written down, I suggest we put on the table again for next year. I am concerned that the people really did not understand what was going on.

**Mel Stewart:** Let's put it out to the beaglers and you, as a representative of the beaglers will know. Let's take a vote here. If you vote yes it means we are tabling until next June.

Jessica Anderson	Yes
Bob Kimber	Yes
Jim Campbell	Yes
John Edwards	Yes
Russ Arend	yes
Wayne Heckley	Yes
John Stuckwisch	Yes
Mark Malloy	Yes
Rick McDonald	Not on phone when vote was taken
Bryan Bush	Yes
Raye Ann Cole	Yes
Robert Miller	Joins call at the end of the vote.

**Mel Stewart:** Robert, we voted on item one that you brought up last year regarding two classes. It seems there was some confusion to committee members. We voted to table it until next year to make it clear to beaglers and committee members. That is what we voted on. We did not vote it down, we just voted to table it to next year.

**Robert Miller:** I don't understand what the confusion is, it just gives the clubs the option to run two class trial. It's on your agenda that way.

**Mel Stewart:** There were several question, we felt we needed to table it to next year.

**Russ Arend:** The one thing that was brought up to me, a lot of real small classes sometimes when they combine them they have less than six. They have to get a field champion sometimes to get the six. I am saying if they cannot combine them at that time then they can move over to bitch class because then they can go by sex. If you have guys in females' classes and if you have a female in heat they will have to withdraw the dog and I am saying this has to be worked out ahead of time. We need to know how that will be handled, that was the confusion was on my part.

**Doug Ljungren:** Russ, you are saying that the current rules gives the clubs more flexibility, is that correct?

**Russ Arend:** Yes

**Mel Stewart:** The second item on the agenda is to clarify that the street addresses for the judges, trial chair and club officers do not need to be included in the premium list or announcements regarding the event. This is a housekeeping item since it will make the Rule consistent with the current practice.

Agenda Item #2. *Chapter 6, Section 4, last sentence. Page 9 of the Brace/SPO rules.* (Same change will apply to Large Pack Rules.) The premium list and/or announcements for each licensed or member field trial shall contain all the information set forth on the official AKC Event Application questionnaire form, ~~as approved by The American Kennel Club~~ except the addresses of the judges, trial chair and club officers need only include the city and state.

**Mel Stewart:** This is a concern for home safety. I am not sure we need to know street addresses of judges. Anything that goes public does not need to have this information on it. Any questions?

**Mel Stewart:** We are now going to vote on item number 2. All in favor of omitting the street address in our advertisement for the judges, field trial sec, and chairman please vote yes.

Jessica Anderson	Yes
Bob Kimber	Yes
Jim Campbell	Yes
Robert Miller	Yes
John Edwards	Yes
Russ Arend	Yes
Wayne Heckley	Yes
John Stuckwisch	Yes
Mark Malloy	Yes
Rick McDonald	Not on phone when vote was taken
Bryan Bush	Yes
Rae Ann Cole	Yes

**Mel Stewart:** Now let's talk about item number 3 on the agenda. Official measurement card. We started three or four years ago trying to straighten out the problem with the cards, it got bad. We had to stop that because it was really abused. We stopped using the cards to enter your dog. I know that has inconvenienced some of you. We are now ready to bring the cards back but here is the way you have to do it. The official card works the same way it always did before. You request the three forms from Lisa King. When you have the hounds measured, either Mel Stewart, Robert Oliver or Jim Odle will have to sign off on that form just like the judges do. We are not measuring the dogs; we are verifying their measurements and sign off on it. You have three years from the time the forms are mailed to you to get these done. You can measure at the 2CP hunt test and of course you don't have to enter your hound. Once those forms are verified and completed you send back in you will receive a different color card that will tell all field trials secretaries that this has met all the requirements. We had to do something because it really escalated over the last 2 to 3 years. The rule changed from 1 year to 3 year to get that done. We do attend all of the federation championships, we attend several trials every

month throughout. You can go to a trial and have it measured and not enter your hound. All of the other rules apply as they now exist in the rule book. Questions?

**Wayne Heckley:** I am fine with the change, I think that is great. The wording here, is it going to include the large pack format?

**Mel Stewart:** Yes, it does

**Wayne Heckley:** It does not right now I was wondering if you can add it in.

**Mel Stewart:** That was an oversight I will add that.

**Wayne Heckley:** Ok, next question regarding the AKC field reps witnessing the measurements. How do we know where you are?

**Mel Stewart:** We will be at all the nationals. You just had the large pack national, Mr Odle was there.

**Doug Ljunggren:** That is why we changed it from 1 year to 3 years because they may not run into you frequently.

**Wayne Heckley:** What about existing official measurement cards, will they be honored?

**Mel Stewart:** We have checked some, over the past. We have signed off and dated those cards if they were legitimate. If you have one of those cards that we have signed off on, please mail the card to the field rep and we will verify it and mail it in, and you will receive a new card. Mail the cards if signed by Robert to Robert, Jim to Jim and Mel to Mel.

**Wayne Heckley:** Otherwise if they don't have a signature, they have to start all over?

**Mel Stewart:** Yes, because we are cancelling those cards. If you want a new card, send a request in to the office with \$15.00 to Lisa King and Lisa will mail you 3 forms.

**Wayne Heckley:** Some people when you stop doing this, some were halfway through the process. If someone is halfway through the process, do they have to start over and pay the AKC \$15.00?

**Mel Stewart:** Yes, they would get in touch with Lisa King and get new forms to start the process again. All the old cards, all the old forms are cancelled.

**Wayne Heckley:** Do they have to pay their \$15.00 again?

**Mel Stewart:** Yes, they would have to pay again

**Doug:** The sport complained that the measurement cards had a high number of incorrect measurements. The only way to handle that is to start all over again.

**Wayne Heckley:** I don't think the people that already paid once should have to pay again.

**Mel Stewart:** You're not talking about very many people, it's an option you don't have to have one. You can measure each time.

**Jim Campbell:** You stated the ones that you have signed, the white card that you checked and you signed off on them. I am concerned there will be people trying to duplicate signatures.

**Mel Stewart:** There is no one who can duplicate my signature. Send the measurement cards to the rep that signed them.

**Jim Campbell:** I just left the deep south meeting and asked the members to let me know what they wanted me to bring up at today's meeting and they voted at deep south meeting to discontinue the measurement cards. They can do without cards (Deep South). They asked me to vote against the measurement.

**Mel Stewart:** It's not a vote, we are just going to tell you how we are doing it.

**Mark Malloy:** I have had a lot of phone calls about scheduling, I understand you cannot do that, send out a schedule. The championship trials and chance they will run into you at one of those events, I guess that is how that will have to be, a solution to people complaining about having to pay for cards could be if Mel, Robert or Jim are at the championship trials and one of them had one of the white cards on them, if they presented to you as one of the old white cards, had his/her hound measured and you observed you take that card from that man that day and send him a brown one in return. That would alleviate him having to pay again. I have a bunch of guys that do not want to pay again.

**Mel Stewart:** If he has an existing white card and the hound measures in compliance with size and if Jim, Robert or I are there we can take that card and sign it. You have to have a card already.

**Doug Ljungren:** Any card that comes in from Mel, Jim or Robert there would not be a fee for a duplicate card if you already have a card.

**Jim Campbell:** If you have a card that Mel, Robert or Jim have already marked off on, then I understand but if you have a card that Mel, Robert or Jim have not already marked off on? Do you mean that person can come up to you and get a new card too?

**Mel Stewart:** If Jim Campbell has an official card on a hound and you present that hound at the measuring stand and I am standing there observing that, that hound is within 13" size and he measures 12.5 and that matches his card under 13" , then I am going to sign that card and send to Lisa King. If it measures over 13" then I am cancelling everything and he has to go through the process again.

**Mel Stewart:** Any more comments?

**Wayne Heckley:** That is a good idea

**Doug Ljungren:** There will be an announcement, an email that goes out to all the clubs once the staff has the new cards ready to go.

**Jim Campbell:** What about judges we have that are intentionally violating the standards by measuring those dogs. When a dog is ½ inch or inch taller, don't you think we should do something to these judges?

**Mel Stewart:** I think you are saying if Jim Campbell sees a judge measure a dog wrong, how does one complain about that? The first step would be to complain to field trial committee.

**Mel Stewart:** That brings us to the items for next years agenda? Is there anything you want to add? Any comment on agenda for next year? We have one item that we tabled until next year.

**Rae Ann Cole:** I have been asked because there has been interest in either a modification or addition. I was asked to present if AKC would explore a possibility of creating a gun dog brace to small pack option format?

**Mel Stewart:** It already exists.

**Rae Ann Cole:** Can someone reference where that is in the rulebook?

**Mel Stewart:** Gun Dog Brace to SPO because it was discussed and changed in 2017, I believe.

**Doug Ljungren:** Rae Ann, why would your people want to do that?

**Rae Ann Cole:** I think if its run correctly, they think one trial you can test a dog in both in brace where you see more individual characteristics as well as can they handle the pack pressure when you put them in a pack setting. I think their thought whether right or wrong is that you are gaging a completing hound in one event.

**Doug Ljungren:** That makes sense

**Rae Ann Cole:** I think part of the confusion was, its not on the application.

**Mark Malloy:** On the official measurement card it says the AKC will issue the owner 3 forms of certification. I don't see a reason, if it has to be observed by one of the three reps why we don't just take the one you observed?

**Mel Stewart:** The process stays the same as it always has been.

**Mark Malloy:** So, you need to observe 3 different measurements in order for them to get certified?

**Mel Stewart:** If you measure a hound one time and he is over, you measure again he is over again, that is two times we have to see those two times. He does not have to have the 3<sup>rd</sup> one. Somewhere in 3 years you can get it done. That is the only way we can do it. We have to see all the measurements.

**Wayne Heckley:** I think the change of making the AKC reps witness it, is a good change. It will really cut down on the amount of bologna that goes on. It's a good change and we should go forward with it.

**Mel Stewart:** Anything for next years agenda? Nothing for next year. I appreciate the discussion on the sport of Beagling. Thank you for your help and suggestions.

Meeting adjourned at 11:17am