

**American Kennel Club, Inc.**  
**MEETING of the BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**AKC Offices at 101 Park Avenue, New York, NY**  
**May 13-14, 2019**

The Board convened on Monday, May 13, 2019 at 8:34 a.m.

All Directors were present, except for Ms. McAteer and Mr. Wooding. Mr. Wooding participated in the entire meeting by teleconference but could not vote by Board policy. Also present was the Executive Secretary.

The April 2019 Board minutes, copies of which had been provided to all Directors, were discussed.

At the April Board meeting the Board reviewed an amendment to ***Rules Applying to Dog Shows Chapter 7, Section 12***. There was a sense of the Board in reviewing the minutes that the wording approved in the proposed rule change would be clearer with the addition of the word "schedule" in the last sentence.

Following a motion by Dr. Garvin, seconded by Mr. Powers, the Board VOTED (unanimously; absent Ms. McAteer; Mr. Wooding not voting) to amend the April minutes to include the addition of the word "schedule" to the proposed amendment to in ***Rules Applying to Dog Shows Chapter 7, Section 12***:

The program shall be based on the judging of about 25 dogs per hour by each judge. Each judge's breed and variety assignments shall be divided into periods of about one hour, except in those cases where the entry in a breed or variety exceeds 30. The final segment of a ring schedule may be expanded but may not exceed 50 dogs unless the entry is in a single breed or variety.

Upon a motion by Ms. Biddle, seconded by Mr. Powers, the April 2019 minutes were unanimously approved as amended (absent Ms. McAteer; Mr. Wooding not voting).

### **Louis Auslander**

A moment of silence was observed to mark the passing of Louis Auslander, AKC Board Chairman from 1987-1992 and AKC President 1991-1992.

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

#### **Board Action Items**

Mr. Sprung reviewed Action Items and reported on Staff initiatives.

#### **Legal Status Report**

The Board reviewed a status report on pending litigation and other Legal activities for the month of April 2019.

### **FINANCE**

Joseph Baffuto, CFO, presented AKC's unaudited financial results for the period ended April 30, 2019. Total revenues of \$25.6 million were approximately equal to budget but were 2.2% greater than 2018. Dog Registrations' volume of 213,102 was 3% below budget, but 2% higher than 2018, along with Total Litters processed of 85,797 being 1% below budget and 3% higher than last year. Total operating expenses of \$23.8 million were 6.6% below budget, and 1.7% lower than 2018. YTD Operating income of \$1.8 million is significantly exceeding the 2019 budget year to date and is well above 2018's operating income of \$819,000 during the

comparable four-month period. Additionally, our investment portfolio reflects year to date unrealized gains on investments totaling \$10.8 million dollars.

Ms. McAteer joined the meeting at 9:43 am.

### **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 and Ashley Jacot, Director of Education participated in this portion of the meeting via video conference.

### **Lagotto Romagnolo Proposed Breed Standard Revision**

The Lagotto Romagnolo Club of America, Inc. (LRCA) submitted proposed revisions to the breed standard for review. The original standard was approved November 2012. Following a motion by Mr. Sweetwood, seconded by Mr. Powers, the Board VOTED (unanimously; Mr. Wooding not voting) to publish the proposed revisions for comment in the Secretary's page of the May AKC *Gazette*.

### **Norwegian Buhund Proposed Breed Standard Revision**

The Norwegian Buhund Club of America (NBCA) has submitted proposed revisions to the Norwegian Buhund breed standard. The current standard was approved April 11, 2006. Following a motion by Mr. Sweetwood, seconded by Mr. Smyth, the Board VOTED (unanimously; Mr. Wooding not voting) to publish the proposed revisions for comment in the Secretary's page of the May AKC *Gazette*.

### **Revision to the Delegate Credential Forms Candidate/Club**

The Board reviewed the current Delegate Credential Forms. There are two types of Delegate Credential Forms, one filled out by the Candidate and one filled out by the Club. Previous revisions to the Delegate Credential Forms were as follows: Candidate, December 2005 and Club, October 1998.

Based on a review of these forms, Staff is suggesting that the Board approve revisions to both documents.

This will be discussed further at the July meeting.

### **Requirements for AKC Membership - Bylaws Article IV, Sections 1, 2, 3**

The Board reviewed the requirements for AKC membership which are describe in ARTICLE IV, SECTIONS 1, 2 and 3, of the AKC Bylaws. There is no restriction in the current Bylaws which would prohibit a local Specialty Club from applying to AKC for Member Club status in accordance with Article IV of the Bylaws.

The section of the Bylaws enabling local Specialty Clubs to become members (Article IV, Section 4) was removed as part of the 2000 Bylaw overhaul, with the intent of making the Bylaws consistent with practice. However, while removing the provision to enable them to become members, ARTICLE IV, SECTION 1, remained in place, and un-amended which does not prohibit local Specialty Clubs from becoming members.

This will be discussed further at the July meeting.

**Appointment of Trial Boards**

Under the AKC Bylaws, Article XIII, Section 1, the AKC Board is to appoint Trial Boards and an Appeal Trial Board from time to time. The last time the AKC Board appointed Trial Board members was June 2014.

Over the past three years AKC has lost 2 Trial Board Chairs and 4 Trial Board Members. AKC currently has three (3) Trial Board Chairs and six (6) Trial Board members and a Performance Event Trial Board, consisting of a designated chair who must be an attorney, 2 members and 2 alternates. The Board reviewed the list of trial board members.

This will be discussed further at the July meeting.

**Plott Name Change**

The Board reviewed a request from the Plott Association of America (PAA). The PAA has requested that the breed name be officially changed to Plott Hound to be consistent with the other Coon Hound Breeds.

**Q1 2019 Communications Report**

The Board reviewed a report from the Communications department highlighting results for the first quarter of 2019.

**TOTALS:**

**Clips Evaluated in Q1: 12,154**  
**Q1 Audience Reached: 30,353,407,816**

**Publicity Value for Q1: \$20,894,449.46**

\*Numbers and values provided by media monitoring platform Cision

**Select Media Coverage:**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Media Outlet</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Audience</b>
1/2/19	<i>Good Morning America</i>	AKC National Championship winner	4,151,585
1/11/19	<i>Associated Press</i>	AKC Museum of the Dog	8,453,616
2/1/19	<i>TODAY Show</i>	AKC Museum of the Dog	2,748,202
2/7/19	<i>The New York Times</i>	AKC Meet the Breeds	483,701
2/8/19	<i>CBS News online</i>	AKC Museum of the Dog	26,142,377
3/20/19	<i>PEOPLE.com</i>	Most Popular Breeds announcement	43,514,974
3/20/19	<i>Fox &amp; Friends</i>	Most Popular Breeds announcement	2,007,034

**AKC B.A.R.K. Program**

The Board reviewed a memo outlining the new AKC B.A.R.K. (Be A Reading Kid) Program. The AKC B.A.R.K. Program was launched in April 2019 and is designed as a fun activity that

connects children with dogs and has the potential to improve a child's reading ability and overall confidence.

The program is primarily designed for children to read to their own dog or to the dog of a family member or friend. For those children who do not have a dog to which they can read, AKC Public Education provides a list of carefully vetted and qualified AKC Canine Ambassadors whom their parent/guardian can contact regarding a school/community organization visit.

To ensure that volunteers are qualified to take part in the AKC B.A.R.K. Program, they first must be registered AKC Canine Ambassadors, which stipulates that their dog is CGC certified.

### **AKC Education Q1 Report**

The Board reviewed a report of the work completed by the Education Department in Quarter 1 of 2019.

The AKC Canine College created and launched fifteen courses and exams and gathered more than 9,000 assets for courses that will be developed through 2020.

Public Education launched four new successful programs, while continuously growing longstanding programs.

In Q1, the following four webinars were aired through the AKC Education Webinar Series:

- Using the Online Education Management System (OEMS)
- Misconduct
- Working with Other Clubs
- Finding Your Social Media Voice

### **GR Update First Quarter 2019**

The Board reviewed an update from the AKC Government Relations Department (GR) on activity for the first quarter of 2019 and a status update on current department activity, major projects, significant legislative issues and accomplishments.

Legislative/Regulatory Tracking: As of April 19, 2019, Congress and legislatures in forty-two states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico are in session. Five states have already adjourned for the year. The AKC GR team is currently monitoring more than 2,100 legislative bills that could impact responsible dog ownership, the health and wellbeing of dogs, the rights of dog owners, and/or the interests of the American Kennel Club.

To date, GR has published more than 60 legislative alerts online, to social media, and through geo-targeted emails to impacted constituents. AKC GR provided written or in-person testimony or comments, recommendations, or alternatives for the majority of these measures as well.

AKC GR is also monitoring approximately 756 active proposed regulation changes at the state and federal level, with some 450 actively pending. Updated, "hot" issues highlight as of May 9 were provided in the Board member mailboxes.

The number of active pieces of proposed legislation, legislative alerts and active implementing regulation changes represents a significant increase in activity over the same time last year.

Planning for Legislative Conferences: The AKC GR team is planning for a national GR conference in Alexandria, VA and a celebration of purebred dogs at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, DC on June 23-24.

Canines at the Capitol/ State Lobby Days. AKC GR provided extensive assistance to our new *Maryland* federation in organizing and participating in our first lobby day/ canines at the capitol event at the state capitol in Annapolis, MD. AKC GR also began planning for: the first-ever *California* Canines at the Capitol in California; the 7<sup>th</sup> annual event in Raleigh, *North Carolina*, and a lobby day at the State capitol in Augusta, *Maine* scheduled for early in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter.

Service Dog/ASDAC Initiative: AKC GR worked with colleagues at the American Service Dog Access Coalition to continue to develop all aspects of a new authoritative, voluntary and verifiable credential for service dogs that have met specific standards. First quarter highlights include the development of a national service dog standards test. The test was created by a team of service dog and canine behavioral experts led by Dr Mary Burch. Extensive ongoing outreach regarding regulatory policy, related legislation, industry outreach, product and program development continued in the first quarter and remain ongoing. Sheila Goffe participated in an airline industry meeting in Dallas with Airlines for America, American, United, Delta and Southwest Airlines to obtain ongoing feedback and industry buy-in for the program.

Model Legislation/Introductions: AKC worked with legislators to provide model legislation or assist key partners in introducing legislation and major amendment language in Ohio, New Jersey, New Hampshire, Connecticut, Tennessee, North Carolina, Alabama, and elsewhere to establish reasonable breeder regulations, create consumer protections for pet purchasers, pre-empt anti-breeder proposals and address other issues at the local or state levels.

Meet and Compete: More than 100 Lawmakers, including members of Congress, state, and local lawmakers participated as Honorary Chairs at the AKC Meet the Breeds event in February in New York City. U.S. Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer provided the official welcome in the Meet & Compete program. AKC GR staff provided tours, introduced lawmakers to their constituents and favorite breeds and staffed educational booths at both the Saturday event and the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show.

### **State Dog Designations**

The AKC Board had inquired about possible AKC efforts to designate breeds of dogs for each state to raise awareness about purebred dogs.

Currently, 12 U.S. states have designated a breed of dog as their “state dog”. The permanent designation of a state dog or other official mascot is accomplished by an act of that state’s legislature.

AKC supports the concept of appointing a breed of purebred dog as a state dog. The Government Relations Department can provide advice and guidance for clubs or other groups seeking to pursue such legislation. However, our current procedure, particularly where there are competing proposed breeds for state dog, is to not get involved in supporting any specific breed designation.

## **COMPANION AND PERFORMANCE**

Doug Ljungren, Executive Vice President, Sports and Events, and Caroline Murphy, Director, Performance Events, participated in this portion of the meeting via video conference and Mark Sjogren, Senior Field Representative, Agility, participated in this portion of the meeting via teleconference.

### **Agility Recommendations from Advisory Committee**

The Board reviewed recommended changes to the ***Regulations for Agility Trials and Agility Course Test (ACT)*** intended to remove barriers to participation to a subset of exhibitors, address safety concerns, and better align AKC agility with common practices in the sport. The recommendations originated with the Agility Advisory Committee, were agreed to by staff and received strong support in a poll of agility participants.

The following amendments were approved:

Following a motion by Ms. McAteer, seconded by Mr. Smyth it was VOTED (unanimously; Mr. Wooding not voting) to amend Chapter 2, Section 4 of the ***Regulations for Agility Trials and Agility Course Test (ACT)*** to allow dogs to be entered in different jump heights on same day as follows:

#### **Chapter 2, Section 4. Height Divisions, Measurement, Measuring Devices.**

Dogs may be entered in any height division they are eligible for but may only enter each class offered once per day. If a dog is entered in different jump heights the owner must submit separate entry forms, one for each height.

Effective: October 1, 2019

Following a motion by Mr. Powers, seconded by Mr. Tatro it was VOTED (unanimously; Mr. Wooding not voting) to amend **Chapter 3, Section 3** of the ***Regulations for Agility Trials and Agility Course Test (ACT)*** to require all weave poles be tapeless and allow poles to be of alternating solid colors as follows:

#### **Chapter 3, Section 3. Obstacles.**

The pole shall be made out of Schedule 40 PVC or furniture grade PVC material that provides an equal amount of flex when set in the fixed base. Single color poles must be striped with a contrasting color so as to be visible to the dog. At a minimum, stripes must be placed at approximately 10 inches and 20 inches from the ground. Tape may not be used for stripes. Stripes may only be painted on or extruded in the pvc. Solid color poles may be used if they are of alternating colors. Poles that are of alternating solid colors are not required to have stripes.

Poles that flex at the base (spring type designs) are not allowed.

Effective: January 1, 2020

Following a motion by Mr. Sweetwood, seconded by Mrs. Wallin it was VOTED (unanimously; Mr. Wooding not voting) to amend **Chapter 4, Section 9** of the ***Regulations for Agility Trials and Agility Course Test (ACT)*** to allow the use of head halters as follows:

#### **Chapter 4, Section 9. Collars.**

At the handler's option, dogs may run a course with or without a collar. The only collars allowed when running a course are flat buckle or rolled leather collars, but there shall be no attachments hanging or otherwise allowed on the collar. This shall not preclude painted or stitched designs or information on the collar. Dog's names and/or identifying information may appear on the collar. No title, awards, or advertising may appear on the collar. Dogs may be brought to the start line on slip leads, choke chains, body harnesses, head halters or other collars that are permitted on the trial grounds. Pinch/prong and electrical collars (dummy or not), and special training collars are not allowed anywhere on the trial grounds.

Effective: June 1, 2019

Following a motion by Ms. Biddle, seconded by Mr. Carota it was VOTED (unanimously; Mr. Wooding not voting) to amend **Chapter 8, Section 3** of the **Regulations for Agility Trials and Agility Course Test (ACT)** to allow dogs to be entered in Regular and Preferred classes on the same day as follows: **Chapter 8 Section 3. Eligibility.** The Preferred classes are open to any dog eligible to enter an agility trial as defined in Chapter 1, Section 3. The owner may choose to enter their dog in a mix of Preferred and Regular classes on the same day. A dog may only be entered once in each class offered. They may not enter the same class in both Preferred and Regular (ie a dog may not be entered in both Premier JWW and Preferred Premier JWW on the same day). If a dog is entered in Preferred and Regular classes, the owner must submit two separate entry forms, one for Regular classes and one for Preferred classes. ~~Dogs are allowed to switch back and forth between the Preferred classes and the Regular classes, but not at the same set of trials. This change may not be made~~ After the close of entry for a trial a dog may not be moved between Regular and Preferred classes except as noted in Chapter 1, Section 21

Effective: October 1, 2019

### **Assessing a Dog's Ability to Retrieve in Pointing Breed Field Trials**

The Board reviewed a recommendation to change the retrieving requirements in the Pointing Breed Field Trial Rules. To be awarded a FC title, a dog must earn 10 points by placing first place in Open stakes. For the four retrieving breeds (German Shorthaired Pointers, German Wirehaired Pointers, Vizslas and Weimaraners), they must additionally demonstrate their ability to retrieve by earning four retrieving credits.

The recommendation is to change how a dog's ability to retrieve is assessed in Pointing Breed Field Trials by awarding retrieving credits for placements in addition to those that currently earn points, depending of the size of the stake. To be awarded a FC or AFC title, a dog must earn 10 championship points by placing in Open or Amateur stakes. Additionally, the four retrieving breeds (GSP, Vizsla, Weimaraner, GWP) must demonstrate their ability to retrieve by earning four retrieving credits according to the following schedules:

<u># of Starters</u>	<u>Open Stakes</u>				<u>Amateur Stakes</u>			
	<u>1<sup>st</sup></u>	<u>2<sup>nd</sup></u>	<u>3<sup>rd</sup></u>	<u>4<sup>th</sup></u>	<u>1<sup>st</sup></u>	<u>2<sup>nd</sup></u>	<u>3<sup>rd</sup></u>	<u>4<sup>th</sup></u>
4 to 7	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
8 to 12	2	1	0	0	2	1	0	0
13 to 17	3	1	1	0	3	1	1	0
18 to 24	4	1	1	1	4	2	1	1
25 or more	5	2	1	1	5	3	1	1

Retrieving credits earned in amateur stakes may count toward a dog's Field Championship title provided the credits were earned by winning first place in an amateur retrieving stake.

This recommendation is a change to the retrieving requirements in the Pointing Breed Field Trial Rules. The section is in italics since it is a breed-specific activity that is done at the request of the parent clubs and is not subject to a delegate vote. If approved by the Board, the change would become effective January 1, 2020. Retrieving credits will not be calculated retroactively prior to the effective date.

This will be discussed further at the July meeting.

### **CONFORMATION**

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

### **Collars and Leads - Rules Applying to Dog Shows – New Chapter 19**

The Board reviewed a recommendation from the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee to create a new chapter, Chapter 19, in ***Rules Applying to Dog Shows***, that would contain the current Board Policy regarding Training Collars at Conformation Events.

There was discussion by the Board about why it is important that some subjects should be policies rather than rules and how best to provide clear and easy access to these policies for the fancy without adding policy into the Rule Book. There was a sense of the Board that only Rules should be in the Rules Book and that Board Policy and clarifications should be available in another document or in an addendum to the current Rule books.

Following a motion by Dr. Garvin, seconded by Mr. Tatro the Board VOTED (in favor: Ms. Biddle, Mr. Carota, Ms. Cruz; Mr. Feeney, Dr. Garvin, Mr. Hamblin, Ms. McAteer, Mr. Powers, Mr. Smyth, Mr. Tatro, Mrs. Wallin; opposed: Mr. Sweetwood; Mr. Wooding not voting) to implement a housekeeping change to the ***Rules Applying to Dog Shows*** such that the Board Policy on Training Collars and the Board Policy on Stewards (currently printed in the rule book with a heading of Chapter 18) will be listed as Addendums following the rules.

### **Event Show Hours**

The Board reviewed a Staff recommendation to establish a policy regarding the published show hours for events and the scheduling of judging within those show hours to set a clear expectation which will help clubs manage their events. The ***Rules Applying to Dog Shows, Chapter 6 Section 1*** and ***Chapter 12 Section 1***, requires that every show committee shall publish the show hours (opening and closing of the event) in the premium list and show catalog.

This will be discussed further at the July meeting.

### **4-6 Month Beginner Puppy Exhibitor Update**

The Board reviewed a memo which provided information regarding 4-6 Month Beginner Puppy (BPUP) exhibitors; specifically, what percent of the BPUP exhibitors are new to the sport and what percent go on to exhibit in regular conformation shows. "New to the sport" for this analysis is defined as the primary owner of the dog had not exhibited in conformation in the previous three years, nor had any person in that household. Based on this criterion, it was determined that 28.5% of the BPUP exhibitors are new to conformation. This is an increase of 2.5% from a previous analysis done in 2014.



**Monitoring Two AB Shows in One Day Under the New Policy**

Effective January 1, 2019, the two-shows-in-one-day policy was modified to (1) require clubs to provide at least one ring per 100 entries, (2) limit judging assignments to 100 dogs per event, with a maximum of 175 dogs per day, (3) limit to no more than one special attraction with group competition between the two shows, and (4) limit show size to 500 entries per show. These changes were made to ensure events were completed in a reasonable manner. Staff has established a monitoring system to follow the success of these events under the new criteria. The analysis will be shared with the Board in early 2020.

**Junior Showmanship Regulations Housekeeping**

The board reviewed proposed changes to the ***Junior Showmanship; Conformation Junior Showmanship Regulations, Guidelines for Judging Juniors in Conformation, Juniors in Performance Events Regulations***. These changes will to bring the regulations in line with ***Rules Applying to Dog Shows*** and provide clarity to sections that have caused confusion.

This will be discussed further at the July meeting.

**JUDGING OPERATIONS**

Doug Ljungren, Executive Vice President, Sports and Events, participated in this portion of the meeting via video conference. Tim Thomas, Vice President of Dog Show Judges, participated in this portion of the meeting.

**CEU Credit for Seminars at National Specialties**

The Board reviewed request from the Doberman Pinscher Club of America asking the Board to consider modification to the Continuing Education Unit credit that is awarded to attendees of breed seminars presented at parent club national specialties as assigned in accordance to the current Judging Approval Process.

The request was submitted to the Chairman's Committee on the Judging Approval Process for its input.

The committee agrees that attendance of a National Specialty does provide the greatest educational opportunity for prospective judges. The committee noted the Judging Approval Process as currently constructed does recognize the merit of attending a breed's national specialty. Presently, prospective judges who attend a national specialty and engage themselves in the educational programs offered may earn up to six (6) CEU at one event; the most CEU that may be received from any one category.

The committee was consistent with its position from January 2018, and emphatic in its view that further modification to the CEU values does not warrant consideration or discussion at this time.

The Board will not entertain the Doberman Pincher Club of America's request to modify the Judging Approval Process assigning additional CEU for attending a Judges Education seminar at a National Specialty.

**The Board adjourned at 5:20 p.m.**

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**The Board Meeting reconvened on Tuesday, May 13, 2019 at 10:03 a.m.**

All Directors were present, except for Mr. Wooding. Mr. Wooding participated in the entire meeting by teleconference but could not vote by Board policy. Also present was the Executive Secretary.

**CLUBS**

Lisa Cecin, Director, Club Relations, participated in this portion of the meeting.

**Delegates and Member Clubs**

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

**Report on Member Clubs Bylaws Approved in March and April 2019**

Durango Kennel Club, La Plata and Montezuma Counties, CO (2015)

Lawrenceville Kennel Club, Gwinnett County, GA (1998)

Mid-Continent Kennel Club of Tulsa, Tulsa, OK (1935)

Mount Bachelor Kennel Club, Bend, OR (2008)

**Report on Newly Licensed Clubs Approved in March and April 2019**

All-Breed Herding Club of Lower Michigan, greater Ann Arbor, MI (north to Interstate 69, west to Route 127), 35 total households, 19 local households.

Eastern PA Scent Work Club, greater Stroudsburg, PA, 32 total households, 25 local households.

Heartland Afghan Hound Club of Greater Kansas City, greater Kansas City, KS (west to Topeka, northeast to St. Joseph, MO, south to Independence, MO), 27 total households, 12 local households.

**COMPLIANCE**

Heather McManus, Vice President and Deputy General Counsel, participated in this portion of the meeting. Wanda Forlines, Director of Compliance, and Marcus Bach, Director, Inspections and Investigations, participated by teleconference.

**Article XII Complaint filed by Cress and Sheaffer Against the American Boerboel Club**

The Board reviewed a complaint submitted by Anita Cress "Cress" and Bob Sheaffer "Sheaffer" against the American Boerboel Club "ABC" on May 3, 2018, in accordance with Section 1, Article XII of the Charter and Bylaws of the American Kennel Club.

The Board of Directors VOTED to deny jurisdiction of Cress and Sheaffer's complaint.

**Modification of Wording for the Offense of Harassment**

The current AKC Discipline Guidelines expressly state the penalties for harassment for "verbal" and "physical" harassment. The current Disciplinary Guidelines do not expressly state a penalty for written harassment (in print, electronic or social media posts).

Following a motion by Mr. Tatro, seconded by Mr. Sweetwood, the Board VOTED (unanimously; Mr. Wooding not voting) to consider the matter at this meeting waiving its normal notice procedures. Following a motion by Ms. Biddle, seconded by Mr. Carota the Board VOTED (unanimously; Mr. Wooding not voting) to modify the wording of the offense in Section IV of the

current Discipline Guidelines for Harassment, verbal to be “Harassment, verbal or written” and to maintain the current penalties in place for Harassment, verbal.

### **New Penalty for the Offense of Creation, Falsification or Alteration of an Official AKC Document**

The current Disciplinary Guidelines do not have a penalty for unauthorized creation, falsification or alteration of an official AKC document, such as Champion Certificates, Title Certificates, Registration documents, and Inspection Reports.

Following a motion by Ms. Biddle, seconded by Mr. Tatro, the Board VOTED (unanimously; Mr. Wooding not voting) to consider the matter at this meeting waiving its normal notice procedures. Following a motion by Mr. Sweetwood, seconded by Dr. Garvin the Board VOTED (unanimously; Mr. Wooding not voting) to approve penalties for the offense of “Creation, falsification or alteration of an official AKC Document.” It would cover Champion Certificates, Title Certificates, Registration documents, Inspection Reports, AKC designations, and others generated by the AKC. The new violation will read:

V. Violation in regard to official AKC documentation.

a. Creation, falsification or alteration of an official AKC document

Mitigated: 1yr/\$500 Standard: 3yr/\$1000 Aggravated: Up to life/up to \$5000

### **Changes to AKC Discipline Guidelines to Include Restitution**

Based on a Board request, Staff reviewed AKC’s process with respect to an accused paying monetary compensation to a club when the accused’s misconduct causes damages to an event site, as a condition of the accused’s AKC privileges being reinstated. The current AKC Discipline Guidelines have no express requirement that restitution be made or that restitution is a condition of reinstatement of AKC privileges. Staff recommends that the Board approve an additional note be added to the Explanatory Notes in the AKC Discipline Guidelines regarding restitution.

This will be discussed further at the July meeting.

The following AKC Management actions were reported:

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

### **REGISTRATION DEVELOPMENT**

Mark Dunn, Executive Vice President, participated in this portion of the meeting.

#### **Registration Update**

Registration figures have increased for the last five years in a row. Staff provided an update to the Board on registration metrics and presented a list of actions that were being implemented to try to increase registrations even more.

These include:

- Improvement to the Breeder EZ Reg user experience
- Improvement in the Mobile Online Dog Application user experience
- Improve Email Campaigns using new technology and software platforms
- Implement the use of text and chat to support and updates customers throughout the registration process
- Improve breeder record-keeping on AKC.org with launch of the New Breeder Toolkit

- Improve customer support for breeders with new chat and co-browse functions now available within Online Litter Applications
- Improve awareness of Bred with H.E.A.R.T. and Breeder Education

### **AKC Breeder Survey**

Staff provided a memo which detailed information regarding a survey that was sent to breeders who registered at least one litter with the AKC between August 1, 2017 and August 1, 2018. The survey was conducted in the interest of gaining a better understanding of breeders who registered litters with the AKC, particularly the Casual breeder segment. Based on the survey staff finds that there are clear opportunities for growth among all breeder segments. These opportunities include an opportunity to increase Casual breeder involvement and engagement with the AKC, and an opportunity to increase the fancy breeder's participation in AKC sports.

### **CONSENT**

Following a motion by Mr. Hamblin, seconded by Mr. Powers it was VOTED (unanimously; Mr. Wooding not voting) to approve the following Consent items:

Airedales Eligibility - Retriever Hunt Tests

Group Placement Move-Ups Rules Applying to Dog Shows Chapter 14, Section 9

Rewording Rules Applying to Dog Shows Chapter 14, Section 2 Identification of Person/Dog in the Ring Hunt Test Titles - Petit Basset Griffon Vendéens

Working Aptitude Title - Doberman Pinschers

Delegate Approvals

### **Airedales Eligibility – Retriever Hunt Tests**

The Board VOTED to approve a request from the Airedale Terrier Club of America (ATCA) to allow Airedales to be eligible to participate in Retriever Hunt Tests. In the 1980's the ATCA formed a special committee to focus on preserving the Airedale's ability to locate and retrieve game. They developed a parent club gun dog test which is still used today. This led to the eligibility of Airedales to participate in AKC spaniel hunt tests starting in 2009. Since that time, the ATCA has hosted spaniel hunt tests for all eligible breeds. Though the number of Airedales in spaniel hunt tests remain relatively low, there is no question the breed can flush and retrieve both upland birds and waterfowl. These traits are documented in the breed's history and are demonstrated by dogs whose owners/handlers take the time to train and expose them to field work.

### **Group Placement Move-Ups Rules Applying to Dog Shows Chapter 14, Section 9**

The Board VOTED to approve an amendment to ***Rules Applying to Dog Shows Chapter 14, Section 9*** which addresses move-ups when awards are cancelled to include move-ups when group placements are cancelled. Proposed wording changes follow (underlined):

**SECTION 9.** If an award in any class is canceled, including non-regular classes, groups and Best in Show, the dog(s) judged next in order of merit in all placements of that class shall be moved up. The award(s) to the dog(s) moved up shall be counted the same as if it had been the original award. If there is no dog of record to move up, the award shall be void.

The proposal will be read at the June Delegates meeting and voted on at the September Delegates meeting.

### **Rules Applying to Dog Shows Chapter 14, Section 2 Identification of Person/Dog in the Ring**

The Board VOTED to approve the rewording of **Rules Applying to Dog Shows Chapter 14, Section 2**, which addresses armbands and identification of people and dogs in the ring. **Chapter 14, Section 2** addresses the requirement to wear an armband in the ring and that no means of identification of the person or dog may be displayed in the ring. Proposed wording changes follow (underlined):

**SECTION 2.** Any club or association holding a dog show must provide armbands displaying the catalog number of the dog being exhibited which must be worn by each exhibitor while in the ring. No exhibitor in the ring may display any identification of the person or the dog. Identification includes the name of the breeder, owner, kennel name or past awards the dog has won. Lapel pins denoting membership in local, national or charitable organizations are permitted.

The proposal will be read at the June Delegates meeting and voted on at the September Delegates meeting.

### **Hunt Test Titles - Petit Basset Griffon Vendéens**

The Board VOTED to approve a request from the Petit Basset Griffon Vendéen Club of America (PBGVCA) to approve their breed to be eligible to apply for AKC Hunting Hound (HH, SHH, MHH, MHE) titles after having successfully passed a hunt test conducted by the Basset Hound Club of America.

### **Working Aptitude Title – Doberman Pinschers**

The Board VOTED to approve a request from the Doberman Pinscher Club of America (DPCA) for AKC to recognize a Working Aptitude (WAC) title for Dobermans who have passed the parent club's Working Aptitude Evaluation test. This (WAC) title would be offered under the AKC Parent Club Title Recognition Program.

Since the late 1970's, the DPCA has been administering a temperament test they call the Working Aptitude Evaluation (WAE). The WAE was designed as a tool to assist breeders and owners in obtaining and producing a Doberman Pincher whose temperament meets the standard. The elements of this evaluation test are similar to that of the American Temperament Test Society (ATTS). The test is broken into 5 categories; social attraction, sound sensitivity, sight sensitivity, touch sensitivity, and protective response.

The DPCA's request is being made so that breeders and owners can have the WAC title designation included on their AKC pedigrees.

### **Delegate Approvals**

Elizabeth A. (Betty Ann) Brown  
To represent Hendersonville Kennel Club

George Falkner  
To represent St. Bernard Club of America

Carol Lynn Johnson  
To represent Grand Rapids Kennel Club

Shirley Petko  
To represent Havanese Club of America

Tammy Russell-Rice  
To represent Silver State Kennel Club

Nancy Zinkhan  
To represent Dog Owners' Training Club of Maryland

**Scottish Terrier – Draft Dog Title**

The Board agreed to pull this item out of the published CONSENT AGENDA for further discussion. The Board reviewed a request from the Scottish Terrier Club of America (STCA) to approve their breed to be eligible to apply for an AKC Draft Dog (DD) title for any dog which passes a draft dog test conducted by the Greater Swiss Mountain Dog Club of America (GSMDCA). The (DD) title is currently recognized under the AKC Parent Club Title Recognition Program. The Scottish Terrier is clearly not a drafting breed. However, this draft dog test held by the GSMDCA is open to any breed or mixed breed that is at least 18 months old. The STCA views this test not so much as a drafting test but more like an obedience/rally exercise involving a cart and obstacles.

Following a motion from Mr. Smyth, seconded by Mr. Tatro, it was VOTED (unanimously; Mr. Wooding not voting) to direct Staff to contact the Parent Clubs of the breeds that currently earn AKC Draft Dog titles for their opinions regarding permitting non-drafting breeds to earn AKC drafting titles.

It was VOTED to adjourn Tuesday, May 14, 2019 at 12:20 p.m.

Adjourned

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_

Gina M. DiNardo, Executive Secretary