

**American Kennel Club, Inc.**  
**MEETING of the BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**February 8, 2019**

The Board convened on Friday, February 8, 2019 at 8:12 a.m.

All Directors were present, also present was the Executive Secretary.

The January 2019 Board minutes, copies of which had been provided to all Directors, were discussed. Upon a motion by Dr. Battaglia, seconded by Dr. Davies, the January 2019 minutes were approved unanimously.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

**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 January 2019.

**EXECUTIVE SECRETARY**

Mari-Beth O'Neill, Vice President, Sport Services, participated in this portion of the meeting.

**Greyhound Club of America Proposed Breed Standard Revision**

The Board reviewed proposed revisions to the Greyhound Standard, submitted by the Greyhound Club of America (GCA) standard to replace the size reference in the standard with height measurements instead of weight. Staff recommends the proposed revisions be published in the Secretary's page of the AKC *Gazette* for comment.

Following a motion by Mr. Sweetwood, seconded by Mr. Powers, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to approve the proposed revisions for publication in the Secretary's Page of the AKC *Gazette* for comment.

**Communications Q4 2018 Report**

The Board reviewed a report from the Communications Department which presented media coverage totals and activities highlights for the Fourth Quarter of 2018.

**TOTALS:**

<b>Clips Evaluated in Q4:</b>	<b>4,961</b>
<b>Q4 Audience Reached:</b>	<b>6,195,623,262</b>
<b>Publicity Value for Q4:</b>	<b>\$9,399,615.48</b>

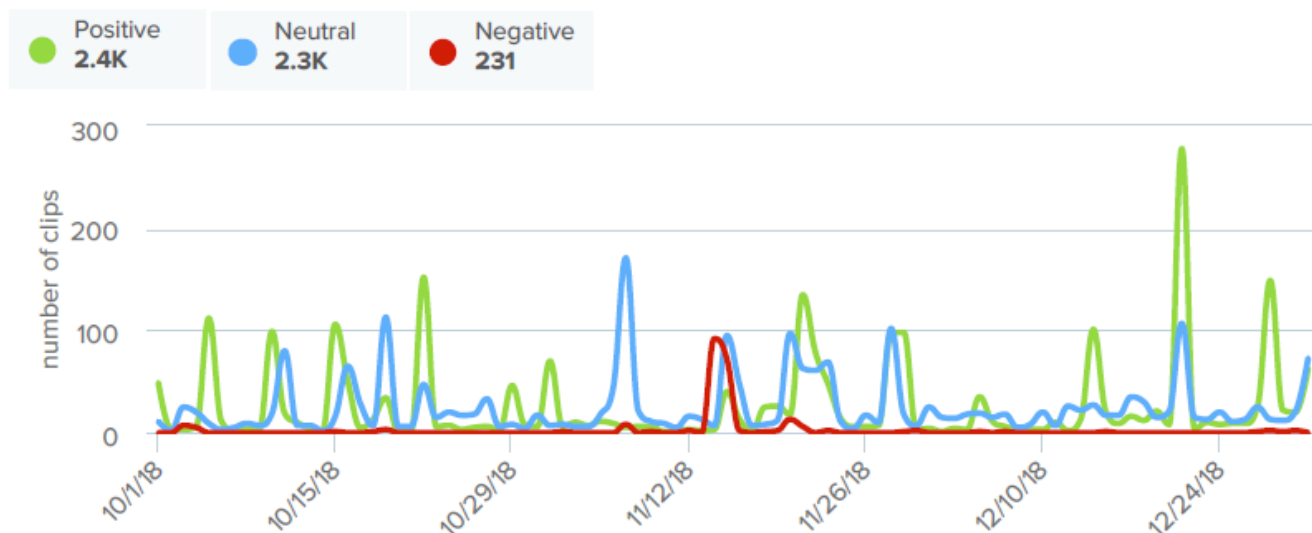
Clips increased 6.1% from Q3 to Q4. These numbers and values are provided by media monitoring platform Cision.

## Select Media Coverage:

Date	Media Outlet	Subject	Audience
12/27	WNBC-TV	AKC Museum of the Dog	104,000
12/26	am New York	AKC Museum of the Dog	460,152
12/15	The Weather Channel	AKC National Championship	251,008
12/14	WKMG News 6	AKC National Championship	15,459
12/13	Good Day Orlando	AKC National Championship	8,048
11/23	Staten Island Advance	AKC Meet the Breeds	1,503,494
11/21	Yahoo! Finance	AKC National Championship	1,834,222

- Aggressive PR campaign for the AKC National Championship presented by Royal Canin culminated with the event mid-December.
  - Placements include a segment on *Good Day Orlando* with Dr. Jerry Klein, an in-print piece with the *Orlando Sentinel*, broadcast coverage on *WKMG News 6*, *WOFL*, and *WESH 2 News*, among others.
  - Winner interview secured on *Good Morning America* and *FOX & Friends* after show airing in January 2019.
- Distributed 17 press releases to appropriate media outlets.
- Weekly “AKC Tips” articles written for McClatchy-Tribune reaching **600** newspapers, including the *Chattanooga Times Free Press*, *Dayton Daily News*, *Duluth News-Tribune*, *Fresno Bee*, *Idaho Statesman*, *Kingsport Times-News* and *Rochester Democrat and Chronicle*, among others.
- Posted 46 new videos to YouTube including 2018 AKC National Championship promos and highlights, AKC Live! videos, AKC Humane Fund, and Vet tips with Dr. Klein.
- AKC Responsible Dog Ownership Days continued successfully with events held by AKC clubs and dog related organizations nationwide.
- Worked with AKC Reunite to create press materials to promote unveiling of trailers through their Pet Disaster Relief program and completed outreach to clubs and media outlets in areas affected by the hurricanes and fires to inform them that AKC and AKC Reunite were there to help.
- Created a survey for the All-Breed Clubs Best Practices Subcommittee on Community Outreach and distributed to clubs.
- “AKC Communicates” newsletter distributed weekly – drives traffic to akc.org.
- Vet’s Corner continued:
  - Actively creating relevant content to populate Vet’s Corner
  - Optimizing SEO & Social components of Vet’s Corner articles
  - Drafted an editorial calendar to plan content for 2019

## Sentiment Over Time

**Education Annual Report 2018**

The Board reviewed a memo that provided an annual report of the work completed by the Education Department in 2018.

In 2018, the AKC Canine College created and launched fifteen courses and exams and gathered more than 9,000 assets for courses that will be developed in 2020.

**Canine College**

- The number of Breed Courses launched in 2018 nearly doubled that of 2017. Breed Courses launched in 2018:

Dalmatian	January 2018
American Hairless Terrier	January 2018
Otterhound	January 2018
Portuguese Podengo Pequeno	February 2018
Glen of Imaal	February 2018
Anatolian Shepherd	March 2018
Norwegian Buhund	March 2018
Chinese Shar-pei	June 2018
Siberian Husky	March 2018
Sealyham Terrier	May 2018
Azawakh	June 2018

Dachshund	July 2018
Pumi	July 2018
Shiba Inu	July 2018
Bergamasco	December 2018

- The Canine College now has over 15,000 learners and 437 courses and exams available for Conformation and Performance Judges, Breeders, Groomers, and the general public.
- Across all breed courses, ninety-two percent report in the course evaluations that they would recommend the course to others.
- Six Herding exams and a Lure Coursing exam were also added to the Canine College.
- At any one time the Canine College Team is collaborating with 25+ Parent Clubs on the development of future breed courses.

At the 2018 National Championship, 31 breeds participated in asset gathering with approximately 9,000 photos taken, 30 hours of movement video filmed, and 44 hours of Judge and Breed Expert interviews and Hands-on Breed Exams recorded.

### **Public Education**

- Hosted an art contest for K-12 schools in Orange County, Florida to coincide with the AKC National Championship. More than 300 entries were received, and more than 284 students, parents and teachers were welcomed to the National Championship.
- Four hundred and ninety-seven children from eight youth organizations (4-H, American Heritage Girls, Camp Fire, Trail Life USA, Frontier Girls, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and The Boys and Girls Club) participated in the 2018 National Championship Patch Program. More than 1,100 additional attendees came with these Patch Program participants.
- The Patch Program hosted by Clubs at their events throughout the year grew by 600%.

Several new programs were added in 2018:

### **Character Education**

- The AKC Canine Character Education Program is a complete character education unit designed for schools. The goal of this program is to provide schools with a quality character education program that results in measurable improvement in student behavior and peer relationships. AKC Public Education provides all lesson plans, activities and resources.
- In this program, children will take a short personality quiz which will identify the breed of dog with which they share the most character traits. This allows children to make a real-world connection to the idea of character and gives them a familiar lens with which to view each trait by learning about a dog that exhibits that trait. Each month, students focus on a different trait. Students will discuss what the trait means, see an example of what the dog looks like, and are encouraged to demonstrate the trait throughout the month. Finally, each student will have a chance to be recognized, along with “their” purebred dog, for embodying a particular trait.

- The Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District in Palmer, Alaska consisting of 47 schools and 18,800 students is the first to incorporate the AKC Character Education Program.

#### **AKC Canine Clubs**

- The AKC Canine Club is an after-school club for dog lovers that is hosted by a teacher or youth group leader at schools, libraries or community organizations. The AKC Canine Club is designed to include students who own a dog, have an interest in owning a dog, or just love dogs in general. The club teaches students about responsible dog ownership, training, canine science, canine jobs and more. All lesson plans, resources and materials are provided by AKC Public Education.

#### **Junior Mentor Program**

- The Junior Mentor Program was developed in collaboration with Sports Services to connect enthusiastic, experienced and caring Juniors with Juniors that are interested in learning more about the sport and/or improving their skills.

#### **Junior Ambassador Program**

- The AKC Junior Ambassador program was created in collaboration with Sports Services. The Program aims to more fully engage Juniors in the sport of purebred dog, as well as give clubs more resources to engage Juniors in these areas. In order to be eligible to be a Junior Ambassador, a Junior must complete at least six activities from the list provided. Juniors that successfully complete the requirements are eligible to receive a Junior Ambassador pin.

#### **AKC Education Webinar Series**

- Launched in June 2018, AKC Education Webinars are offered 1-4 times per month.
- Typically, over 150 attendees tune in to learn more from AKC Staff.
- Topics were initially determined by a survey sent to All-Breed and Parent Club Presidents, Secretaries, and Delegates. New topics are added to the schedule based on suggestions and questions from webinar participants, or when an AKC Department determines that there is a need.

The AKC Education Webinar Series topics and schedule are available here:

<https://www.akc.org/public-education/akc-education-webinar-series/>

#### **Government Relations 4th Quarter 2018 Update**

The Board reviewed a report from the Government Relations Department which is part of a series of regular informational updates on the Government Relations Department.

The memo provided an update for the fourth quarter of 2018 and a status update on current department activity, major projects, significant legislative issues and accomplishments in 2018.

#### **2018 YEAR-END UPDATE**

Legislative/Regulatory Tracking: At the end of 2018, the AKC GR team had reviewed, monitored and taken necessary action on more than 2,100 pieces of legislation 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.

### **Federal 2018 Trends and Key Issues**

AKC GR worked extensively on Capitol Hill this year on several important federal programs and legislative initiatives benefitting dogs, dog owners, and breeders, including tracking 86 bills that were introduced in the 2017-2018 session.

A significant victory was language included in the Farm Bill, which as signed by the President, includes AKC-requested priorities of requiring new reporting on the number of dogs imported into the United States and their health status. This is a significant first step in addressing public health problems associated with the importation of dogs into the United States.

The Farm Bill also included language from the Pets and Women's Safety Act, which adds protections for pets owned by victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and dating violence. The law creates a program to award grants to entities such as domestic violence shelters to assist victims in seeking shelter with a pet. This program is similar to a program established by the AKC Humane Fund a decade ago to provide support to domestic violence shelters so that victims can seek shelter with a pet that may be endangered in a domestic violence situation.

AKC has also played a key role by working with Congress, TSA, and other organizations, on a program to encourage production of domestically-bred detection dogs for federal, state and local law enforcement to close a vital security loophole and keep our country safe. (See legislative successes for more details.)

Another emerging federal issue relates to the use of service dogs. Issues include definitions of service dogs, service dog training, the rights of service dog users, and how should those who misrepresent pets as service dogs should be held accountable. AKC has been working closely with lawmakers, businesses, airlines, and members of the disability and service animal community to address these important issues. In June, AKC also provided formal written comments to the U.S. Department of Transportation on an Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking: Traveling by Air with Service Animals (DOT-OST-2018-0068).

### **State and Local 2018 Trends and Key Issues**

The volume of legislation tracked in 2018 on the state, county, and local levels (approximately 2100 bills total) is consistent with the number of measures in 2017 but represents a significant increase in the volume of legislation tracked even five years ago. It is clear that animal issues are on the minds of many activists and lawmakers throughout the United States.

On the state level the most common issue addressed was "animal cruelty". The term "cruelty" is being defined increasingly broadly and includes issues that previously would have been defined as breeder licensing, tethering, or other ownership/husbandry requirements. Some of these measures increase penalties or making clarifying changes. Others, such as Vermont Senate Bill 123, provide animal shelter and rescue organizations that assist in cruelty investigations or seizure of animals with immunity from liability for civil damages unless the care and treatment constituted gross negligence. (See chart, p 12, for breakdown by topic.)

Upcoming Legislative Conferences: GR staff are planning for conferences in Washington DC, April 30 – May 1, in conjunction with National Purebred Dog Day 2019 events at the national capitol as well as a national conference in Raleigh, NC; and a possible tri-state conference in the Southern New York area.

Legislative Testimony/Advocacy: Since September, regional staff and legislative analysts have provided written and/or oral testimony at some 50 hearings around the country on a broad range

of topics ranging from breed-specific bans and mandatory spay neuter, to breeder licensing and regulation, to fake service dogs, grooming, pet choice and other issues.

Legislator/PolicyMaker Conferences and Outreach Events: Throughout the year, AKC Staff sponsors educational booths, policy discussion and/or provide sponsorship at a series of major legislator/policymaker conferences. These conferences, which host large numbers of lawmakers, provide a unique opportunity to raise awareness about AKC, speak one-on-one with policymakers, offer legislative/policy solutions and model laws. In November, GR staff attended the National League of Cities annual conference, in Los Angeles, CA, once again hosting one of the most popular informational booths at the event. GR team members made excellent contacts with legislators from around the country which they are utilizing into the new year.

AKC staff also attended the National Animal Interest Alliance Conference. Staff spoke about legislative initiatives and successes in the AKC detection dog program.

Sheila Goffe provided a presentation to more than 150 state legislators at the Congressional Sportsmens Foundation (CSF) National Assembly of Sportsmens Caucuses. She spoke about the broad and shared impact of animal rights on dog breeding and sportsmens activities. She outlined tips for legislators to use in determining the difference between reasonable and extreme legislative proposals and presented numerous "fact versus fiction" scenarios that legislators are likely to encounter when dealing with animal extremists.

## **MARKETING**

### **Understanding the Demographics of AKC's Sports**

In the interest of better understanding our sports and how best to engage and retain current participants, the Board asked Staff to conduct a survey to gather demographic and psychographic information about the individuals that participate in the various AKC Sports.

Staff will design and field the research study such that results will be presented at the April board meeting.

### **February 2019 - Marketing Updates and Highlights**

A report covering 2018 accomplishments for AKC.org, digital content and social media was presented to the Board.

### **AKC.org**

The year closed on a high with December users and sessions up versus year ago (YAG), +9.3% and +10.3% respectively, positioning the website for continued growth in 2019.

Our organic\* traffic rebound (6.2+ YOY) to 6.9 million sessions in December, can be attributed to SEO work and a conscious shift in content strategy.

In December 2018 AKC.org hit a new all-time high in organic traffic with 1.6M visits, putting us at +35% over 2017 year, while Marketplace is up +20% over 2017.

### **Email Marketing**

In 2018 AKC sent 137.6 million emails\* (+10% v 2017) across 1,018 campaigns (+166 v 2017). The increase is primarily due to new mission-based mailings to enhance awareness of AKC.TV, AKC Museum of the Dog, AKC National Championship, AKC Agility and Rally National Championships, and other AKC events (e.g Peach Blossom Cluster, Houston KC).

**AKC Facebook**

Ended 2018 with a total of 3.9M followers. This represents a 2.4% increase year over year.

**2019**

Marketing has implemented a “Pillar Program” marketing strategy for 2019, focused on three mission-based areas:

- Registration and Unique Breeders
- Sports & Events
- AKC Brand Health

Marketing will, in partnership with the different AKC departments, focus its pillar programs on achieving three main objectives:

1. Increase ownership and registration of purebred dogs

Become the 1st choice source for breed knowledge and improve the perceived value of dog registration for breeders and dog owners

2. Increase awareness and participation in AKC sports and events

Increase awareness of AKC sport and events and provide an on-ramp to sports through training

3. Improve dog lover's perception of the AKC

Increase relevance of and affinity for the AKC and awareness of AKC Good Works.

**COMPANION AND PERFORMANCE**

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

**FAST CAT® Regulation Clarifications Re: Timing & Fencing**

The Board reviewed a recommendation originating from the Herding, Earthdog and Coursing Events Delegate Committee for two changes to be made to Section 10 of the Regulations for FAST CAT. The first is to clarify at which point the stopwatches should begin counting down and the second is to require clubs to communicate if a course is fenced.

D. Timing Devices: The time to complete the 100-yard dash is recorded to the nearest 1/100th of a second (e.g. 9.11). The club may use stopwatches or break-the-beam equipment to obtain the time. Clubs must specify in their premium list which timing method is to be used.

If stopwatches are used, there shall be two timers positioned at the finish line. An individual at the start line shall signal with an arm drop the moment the nose of the dog crosses the start line. The timers shall start their stopwatches at the start ~~bottom~~ of the arm drop. The timers shall stop their watches when the nose of the dog crosses the finish line. The times from the two stopwatches shall be averaged to determine the recorded time.

G. Course/Fencing: The course must be essentially flat and must be straight from beginning to end. The course can only be measured using a tape measure and no type of measuring wheel. The course must be free of any potential hazards. Pulleys are prohibited from placement inside the course. The club should consider fencing the course area, however this is up to the decision of the club given the specifics of the setting. The premium ~~should~~ must state if the course at the event is enclosed with fencing.



The Performance Event Department agrees with the HEC Committee's suggestion for these clarifications. The Board will discuss this further at the April meeting. If approved by the Board, these changes would be effective immediately upon communication from the Performance Events Department.

### **Amendments to Regulations for AKC Scent Work**

The Board reviewed recommendations from the Sports and Events Department for a number of changes to the Regulations for AKC Scent Work.

AKC Scent Work launched October 1, 2017 and has had over 500 trials and over 60,000 entries in its first twelve months. After a full year of trials and a detailed survey of all participants, certain modifications were identified by scent work staff. These include a reorganization of the Buried element, changes geared toward ensuring consistency between trials, modification of the daily judging limit, elimination of the hide steward position, adjustment to the High in Trial award, enumeration of Scent Work department's procedure for addressing repeated Regulations violations, and myriad clarifications of procedures.

The Board will discuss this further at the April meeting.

This is a change to Regulations and may be made by a vote of the Board. If approved these changes would become effective July 1, 2019.

### **Lure Coursing – Scratching at the Line**

The Board reviewed a recommendation to amend Chapter XII, Section 4 of the *Regulations for Lure Coursing Tests and Trials* to clarify that in the sport of lure coursing, a dog which scratches on the line is considered to have not competed and shall not count as a starter when determining championship points.

Chapter XII, Section 4. Determination of Championship Points.

Determining Points for Best of Breed. Calculation of championship points awarded to the BOB winner shall include the number of starters from the other stakes(s) provided the winner of the stake competes in the BOB runoff. The BOB winner shall receive no additional points through forfeiture. For example, if two hounds are eligible to compete for BOB and one chooses to forfeit, the calculation of championship points for the remaining dog shall not include the starters from the forfeiting dog's stake. A dog that "scratches on the starting line" has not competed in the run-off and shall not count as a starter when determining championship points.

This recommendation was discussed by the HEC Delegate Committee at their December meeting and there was unanimous agreement that the clarification was appropriate and in keeping with the intent of the current Regulations.

The Board will discuss this further at the April meeting.

This is a change to Regulations and may be made by a vote of the Board. If approved these changes would become effective immediately upon communication to the judges and clubs.

### **CONFORMATION**

Doug Ljungren, Executive Vice President, Sports & Events; Tim Thomas, Vice President, Dog Show Judges; Glenn Lycan, Director, Operation Support; Alan Slay, Director, Event Programs; and Bri Tesarz, Manager, Dog Show Rules & Programs, participated in this portion of the meeting via videoconference.

**Event Service Fees Rules Applying to Dog Shows Chapter 11, Section 2**

The Board reviewed a recommendation from the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee to change paragraphs regarding the event service fee in *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* Chapter 11, Section 2 from italics to part of the rule.

Following a motion by Mr. Feeney, seconded by Ms. Biddle, the Board VOTED (unanimously) not to approve the suggested policy changes:

1. Because the Board of Directors has the power to set fees from time to time (Bylaws Art. IX and Art. X, Sec. 15), the italic text pertaining to the event service fee should remain in italics as merely informative, and not as part of the Rule. The Delegates do not have the power over such fees; and

2. The wording of the proposed second paragraph improperly assumes event fees are part of the Rule (which DSRC is proposing). Also, it can more accurately describe “all other required event results” by reference to the Rule dealing with those requirements. To reflect the circumstances, the Board suggests it should read as follows:

“The event-giving club shall be responsible for collecting all recording fees and any other event-related fees that may be fixed from time to time by the American Kennel Club. That fact as well as the nature and amount of such fees shall be stated in the club’s premium list. Such fees shall be forwarded to the American Kennel Club along with those items required in Chapter 17, Section 2, of these Rules.”

**Stewards – Rules Applying to Dog Shows Chapter 18**

The Board reviewed a recommendation from the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee to amend *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* Chapter 18 to restrict who can steward for a judge. The change would prohibit anyone that has an entry under the judge that day or under whom an entry could become eligible or in the coming days of a cluster from being a steward under that judge.

The Committee is also suggesting the word ‘conformation’ be added to the first sentence of the chapter.

(Suggested changes underlined below)

*The following policy has been adopted by the Board of Directors regarding stewarding at conformation dog shows:*

*Clubs should appoint a chief steward well in advance of the date of their show whose duty it will be to invite a sufficient number of experienced persons to act as stewards in the judging rings on the day of the show. No person should be asked to serve as a steward whose judging or handling privileges are suspended or whose superintending privileges have been revoked. The chief steward should, as soon as practicable, confirm in writing, to each person who accepts an invitation to steward, the date and location of the show, the time at which they are to report for duty, and their particular ring assignment.*

*In preparing the schedule of ring assignments, the chief steward and other club officials should keep in mind that no person should serve as steward with a judge under whom he has an entry, or under whom, in the course of the day’s judging, such entry may become eligible to compete. If it becomes necessary during the show to reshuffle stewarding assignments, care should be taken to see that a person is not assigned to serve as steward with a judge if there is any*

*possibility that the judge, later in the show, or show cluster (when possible) will be passing upon an entry of the steward.*

Following a motion by Dr. Davies, seconded by Mr. Sweetwood, the Board VOTED (unanimously) not to approve the recommended policy changes.

### **Non-AKC Events – Addition to the Current Policy**

The Board reviewed a Staff recommendation to add wording to the existing Non-AKC Events Board Policy which would clarify that an AKC club or AKC activity evaluator (such as CGC Evaluators) cannot hold an AKC event in conjunction with events sanctioned by an organization not affiliated with the AKC without the approval of the applicable Sports & Events Department.

There was a motion by Dr. Battaglia, seconded by Mr. Sweetwood, to consider the matter at this meeting waiving the Board's normal notice procedures. The motion passed with Directors Battaglia, Carota, Davies, Menaker, Sweetwood, Tatro, and Wallin voting in favor, and Directors Biddle, Cruz, Feeney, McAteer, Powers, and Wooding voting against.

There was a motion by Dr. Battaglia, seconded by Mr. Sweetwood, to approve the additional wording as part of the Non-AKC Events Policy. (addition to policy underlined below)

The motion passed with Directors Battaglia, Biddle, Carota, Cruz, Davies, McAteer, Menaker, Powers, Sweetwood, Tatro, Wallin and Wooding voting in favor, and Director Feeney voting against.

### **Non-AKC Events (March 2004, amended April 2018, February 2019)**

New paragraph below

### **AKC Events Held in Conjunction with Events Sanctioned by Organizations Not Affiliated with the AKC**

To protect the best interest of the AKC, its clubs and its sports, AKC events may not be held in conjunction with events sanctioned by an organization not affiliated with the AKC without the approval of the applicable Sports & Events Department.

### **Miscellaneous Class Changes for Consistency**

The Board reviewed a Staff recommendation to change *Rules Applying to Dog Shows Chapter 3, Section 22, 4-6 Month Beginner Puppy Competition Regulations, Section 2, Obedience Regulations, Chapter 1, Section 13, AKC Rally Regulations, Chapter 1, Section 12, Tracking Regulations, Chapter 1, Section 2, and Regulations for Agility Trials, Chapter 1, Section 3* to allow foreign bred and registered dogs to participate in the Miscellaneous Class prior to AKC registration being completed.

Currently, in order to participate in the Miscellaneous Class a dog must have an AKC registration number. This means that dogs that are registered with an acceptable foreign registry organization are not eligible to participate until their AKC registration is complete. This differs from how recognized AKC breeds are handled (Chapter 11, Section 1 allows those dogs to participate for 30 days using their foreign registration number). This results in confusion and a number of award cancellations.

Staff is proposing to allow these dogs to participate in accordance with Chapter 11, Section 1 using their foreign registration number.

The recommendation is to change *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* Chapter 3, Section 22 to allow foreign bred and registered dogs to participate in the Miscellaneous Class in accordance with Chapter 11, Section 1.

If approved by the Board, the proposal will be read at the June Delegates' meeting and voted at the September Delegates' meeting. The recommendation to change 4-6 Month Beginner Puppy Competition Regulations Section 2, Obedience Regulations Chapter 1, Section 13, AKC Rally Regulations Chapter 1, Section 12, Tracking Regulations Chapter 1, Section 2, and Regulations for Agility Trials Chapter 1, Section 3 can be approved by the Board pending approval of the amendment by the Delegates. If approved, all changes would be effective October 1, 2019.

The Board will discuss this further at its April meeting.

### **Status Reports-Specialty, B-Match, and All-breed email campaigns in 2018**

The Sports & Events Department presented data from three conformation email campaigns conducted in 2018; the B-match campaign, the Specialty campaign and the All-breed email program.

Emails regarding B-Matches were highly successful. B-match emails are sent to registered owners of dogs, eligible for the match, whose primary address is within 100 miles of the match location. In 2018 clubs held slightly more B-matches than 2017, 542 compared to 538. Prior to 2018 the number of B-matches held in a calendar year has steadily declined by 10% a year for the last five years. Clubs reported an average increase in entries of 32%.

In 2018 seven (7) All-breed clusters requested email campaigns to support their events. The All-breed campaigns are focused on increasing entries and emails were limited to potential conformation participants within a defined radius (determined by the club and the area). Five of the seven clusters increased entries compared to the previous year.

Clubs were appreciative of AKC's effort to promote their events. The results of the conformation email campaigns are mixed in terms of increasing entries. Next Steps are to develop automated All-breed promotional email campaign to reach more potential exhibitors.

### **Status Report - 3rd All-breed Event Option**

In August 2018, the Board approved a new *Limited Number of Events* policy which would allow clubs in underserved areas to hold a 3rd All-breed or Group event. Sports & Events staff presented a status report regarding the number of clubs that have been approved and have applied for a third event.

As of January 9, 2019, 28 clubs have been approved to hold a 3rd event, 23 All-breed clubs and 5 Limited Breed clubs. 9 clubs have submitted applications, 8 AB clubs and 1 LB club.

### **Update on AKC Event Search & Results**

Sports & Events staff presented a status report on the new AKC Event Search & Results that was launched in January 2018 and enhanced in May 2018 with the addition of the map-based search feature.

The enhancements have been successful in increasing traffic to the AKC Event Search & Results website by providing additional event information and improved search features.

- The average daily users during March through December of 2018 increased by 31% when compared to pre-launch.
- Mobile device usage during March through December of 2018 increased by 128% when compared to pre-launch. This is more than double the mobile device usage from the prior year.
- Since document access tracking started in March, a total of over 109,000 premiums and 16,000 judging programs were accessed – an average of 436 event documents per week.

### **Update on Conformation Education Videos**

Sports & Events staff presented a report to update the Board on the educational videos developed and published in 2018 about the conformation sport.

In 2018, three videos were created and published about conformation.

1. **AKC Dog Shows** – a brief high-level introduction video about dog shows and what to expect at your first dog show.
2. **How Does a Dog Show Work?** – provides an explanation of how a dog shows works, explaining the tournament style process that leads to Best in Show.
3. **How Do I Get Started Showing Dogs?** – learn how to get started showing a dog, including handling classes, finding a mentor, entering an event, and what to expect at your first show.

These three videos are available on the Conformation & Getting Started pages of the AKC website. Future plans include adding links to these videos in specific welcome and event email campaigns in 2019.

### **2018 Sports & Events – Recap**

Sports & Events staff presented a summary of the 2018 Sports & Events highlights for 2018.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. Total Entries (all sports)                         | Highest in AKC history: 3,243,265                              |
| 2. Growth in Total Entries                            | Largest annual growth in 15 years: 106,370 (+3.4%)             |
| 3. Change in Conformation Entries (all types)         | Best year since 2003: down 366 entries (-0.02%)                |
| 4. National Owner Handled Series                      | Largest Number of NOHS events: 2,130 (+22%)                    |
| 5. CGC Certificates / Titles issued                   | Highest in program history: 85,000 (+ 21%)                     |
| 6. Number of CGC Evaluators                           | Highest in program history: 12,000 (+7%)                       |
| 7. Junior numbers issued                              | Up 10.4% from 2017   |
| 8. Entries in Junior Showmanship                      | Largest growth in 12 years: up 1,509 (+5.8%)                   |
| 9. Trick Dog titles issued                            | Up 33%   |
| 10. B-Match Events                                    | Flat (+4) after an average decline of 65 events/yr. since 2010 |
| 11. Perception of Conformation Judges                 | Best survey results: improved perception across all metrics    |
| 12. Title Recognition Program (NADD, Barn Hunt, etc.) | Highest in program history: 7,500 titles (+ 39%)               |
| 13. Scent Work  | Fastest new sport ramp-up in history of AKC                    |

## **JUDGING OPERATIONS**

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

### **Rules, Policies & Guidelines for Conformation Dog Show Judges**

The Board reviewed a Staff recommendation to revise specific sections of the *Rules, Policies and Guidelines for Conformation Dog Show Judges* to provide clarity to individuals who may be approved to judge AKC Conformation events.

Recommendations include the addition of language related to a judge's authority to withhold awards. Staff would like to include a clarification that the judge's authority to withhold awards is not without boundaries, and that there are certain times when awards should not be withheld:

Judging Operations is proposing the addition of the following to appear after the last paragraph of the excerpt provided above.

In addition, while judges may "*withhold at any point in the judging process...*", **there are times where it is not acceptable to withhold, for example:**

- Withholding Best of Winners with eligible Winners Dog and Winners Bitch in the ring
- Withholding Best of Breed after awarding Winners Dog and/or Winners Bitch
- Withholding Best of Opposite Sex after awarding Best of Breed and with eligible entries in the ring.

Other insertions of note include:

- The insertion of the definition of immediate family as found in **Chapter 11 Section 13** of the *Rules*, not previously included in the Judging Guidelines
- The restriction that judges at multiple all-breed/limited breed shows in one day are restricted to no more than 100 entries in any one event
- The restriction that judges assigned to regular groups may not be assigned special attraction groups excluding NOHS
- Clarification that the restriction for conformation judges to exhibit from three days before through three days after an assignment is specific to conformation, and that eligibility in other sports on the days before and after are determined by the rules, policies, and regulations that govern that sport.
- Language to clarify matters related to accommodations such as class eligibility where an individual assist in presenting a dog and circumstances where an individual should have a letter of accommodation from the AKC.

All other proposed revisions would best be classified as housekeeping or the minor addition of language to increase understanding.

The Board will discuss this further at their April meeting.

### **Conformation Dog Show Judges Annual Report**

Since 2015, the Board of Directors has directed Staff to provide an annual report based on a survey of the fancy concerning its perception of the competence of judges and comparisons of certain matrixes. With the Board's adoption of revisions to the Judging Approval Process at its November 2017 meeting, it was determined the report would be delayed until after one year had passed since the January 1, 2018 implementation of the revised policy.

The Judging Operations department provided the Board with the following applications data: Judging Operations saw a dramatic decrease in the number of Additional Breed applications submitted since the January 1, 2018 implementation of the revised Judging Approval Process as expected and directly attributed to modifications made to temper the rate at which judges could apply and the maximum number of permit breeds judges could have at one time.

#### **Number of Applications Received:**

	ADDITIONAL BREED		NEW BREED	
	Aps Received	Breeds Submitted	Aps Received	Breeds Submitted
1/18 thru 12/18	351	1808	101	154
9/16 thru 8/17	933	5537	84	119
9/15 thru 8/16	843	6009	93	146
9/14 thru 8/15	246	1938	74	102

The chart below displays the distribution of conformation judges based on the number of groups they may judge. Examination of the chart below shows a shifting of numbers where more judges can do more groups. It is noted that the drop in the total number of judges as of 8/31/2017 and 12/31/17 must be viewed in context. Judging Operations in the summer of 2017 attempted to contact all judges, approved for at least five years and who had not completed an assignment in the previous five years, asking if they wished to remain active. Almost 300 judges were marked resigned, emeritus, deceased or inactive removing them from the judging pool. Even with the removal of almost 300 judges from the pool of active judges, the number of total groups approved increased in 2017.

	NUMBER OF COMPLETE GROUPS APPROVED TO JUDGE								TOTALS	
	< 1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Judges	Groups
<b>7/31/2015</b>	2527	351	172	108	43	20	6	17	<b>3244</b>	<b>1446</b>
<b>8/31/2016</b>	2512	334	182	124	42	26	5	20	<b>3245</b>	<b>1538</b>
<b>8/31/2017<sup>1</sup></b>	2293	321	185	125	52	30	7	21	<b>3034</b>	<b>1613</b>
<b>12/31/2017<sup>1</sup></b>	2242	324	184	123	61	30	7	20	<b>2991</b>	<b>1637</b>
<b>12/31/2018</b>	2262	309	190	116	64	33	7	19	<b>3000</b>	<b>1633</b>

Distribution of assignments across the judging community. Overall, the variances from year to year are negligible

	7/14 - 6/15	9/15 - 8/16	9/16 - 8/17	1/18-12/18
<i>Total events (AB, LB, PS &amp; S)</i>	4092	4178	4,349	4428
<i>Total # of individual breed assignments</i>	303,029	301,049	312,263	317,210
<i>Total # of dogs in competition (D.I.C.)</i>	1,222,474	1,204,798	1,171,690	1,184,640
<i>Total # Judges w/assignment (AKC + Foreign)</i>	2226	2218	2178	2143
<i># AKC Judges w/assignment</i>	1908	1873	1856	1801
<i># Visiting Judges w/assignment</i>	318	345	322	342
<i>% of AKC Judges w/o assignment</i>	41.2%	42.3%	43.2%	40.0%
<i>% D.I.C. judged by AKC Judges</i>	90.4%	90.1%	89.9%	89.9%
<i>% D.I.C. judged by 20% of all Judges w/assignment</i>	78.6%	78.6%	78.4 %	76.2%
<i>% D.I.C. judged by 20% of total # of AKC Judges</i>	86.4 %	86.4 %	87.0%	80.4%
<i>% D.I.C. judged by 20% of AKC Judges w/assignment</i>	72.4 %	72.7%	72.3%	71.2%

#### PERCEPTION OF JUDGES SURVEY

Prior to implementation of the 2015 policy, per the Board's direction, staff distributed a survey to the fancy to establish a baseline of its perception of judges. This survey was sent to customers who had entered a conformation dog show in the preceding 12 months. The survey consisted of ten questions in total, with the first to establish the experience of the individual completing the survey. The intent was to utilize the results, and those received in subsequent surveys



conducted annually as a metric to gauge the effect, if any, the Conformation Judging Approval Process may have on the fancy's perception of judges. The 2018 survey displayed an increase in the perception of conformation judges (positive) across all metrics. The 2018 results exceeded the results in all prior surveys including the baseline.

## **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 December 2018 and January 2019**

Cardigan Welsh Corgi Club of America (1935)

Dog Owners Training Club of Maryland, Baltimore, MD (1947)

New England Old English Sheepdog Club, Weston, MA (1944)

### **Report on Newly Licensed Clubs Approved in December 2018 and January 2019**

- East Howellsville Beagle Club, East Howellsville, NC (communities north to St. Pauls, south to Bladenboro between Routes 87 and 301), 19 total households, 8 local.
- Labrador Retriever Club of Long Island, Suffolk County, New York, 26 total households, 24 local.
- Mayflower Portuguese Water Dog Club, greater Boston, MA (including Middlesex, Essex, Suffolk, Norfolk, Plymouth, Bristol and Barnstable counties), 60 total households, 37 local.
- Tarheel Leonberger Club, greater Charlotte, NC (communities north to Winston-Salem, east to Raleigh, southwest to Greensboro, SC), 25 total households, 18 local.
- Upstate South Carolina Scent Work Club, greater Greenville, SC, 20 total households, 14 local.

## **COMPLIANCE**

### **Changes to the Regulations for Record Keeping and Identification of Dogs**

Based a Board request, Compliance reviewed the necessity of paper records being kept by breeders.

The Compliance Department has reviewed the current Regulations for Record Keeping and Identification of Dogs ("Regulations") and recommended a change be made to the Regulations which would allow only electronic records be kept as long as: 1) the records be easily accessed and made available upon AKC's request; and 2) that a backup of the electronic records be kept on an alternate source such as a cloud-based service, external hard drive, or another dependable source. While updating the record requirements, staff has also made changes to the Regulations to make it gender neutral and change some wording to provide clarification of the instructions to our customers.

Following a motion by Mr. Sweetwood, seconded by Mr. Carota, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to amend Regulations for Record Keeping and Identification of Dogs, Section 2 to state, "*To provide a source of reference for registration or transfer applications which have been made or may later be made to The American Kennel Club, and to assure the accuracy of such applications, certain minimum written records must be maintained. Records can be kept on*

*paper and/or electronically. Electronic records must be kept in an industry standard format, such as Microsoft Word, Excel, Adobe PDF or Open Document Format, that is easily accessible and printable immediately upon AKC's request. Electronic records must be backed up on a consistent basis and the back-up copy kept in a separate secure location, such as a cloud-based service, external hard drive, DVD, or other properly secured dependable service."*

### **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.

Staff recommends that the Board of Directors approve the annual fee to submit a complaint pursuant to Article XII, Section 1 of the Charter and Bylaws to remain the same at \$500 for 2019. Staff further recommends that the Board of Directors approve the annual fee to submit an appeal pursuant to Article XIII, Section 7 of the Charter and Bylaws to remain the same at \$200 for 2019.

Following a motion by Dr. Battaglia, seconded by Dr. Davies, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to approve the Staff recommendation.

The following AKC Management actions were reported:

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

### **CONSENT**

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

- **Delegate Approvals**
- **AKC Temperament Test**
- **Entry Requirements Formatting Change – Rules Applying to Dog Shows Chapter 11, Section 4**
- **Grand Champion Points for Best of Breed - Rules Applying to Dog Shows Chapter 16, Section 6**
- **Rules Applying to Dog Shows Chapter 11 Italics Changes**
- **Rewording Catalog & Judges Book Entry Errors Rules Applying to Dog Shows Chapter 14, Section 8**
- **Obedience Trial Champion Title Modifications**
- **Group Club Special Attractions at Multiple Shows in One Day**
- **Tracking – "Making Life Easier" Recommendations**

- **Retriever Field Trials – Exempt First Dog of a Series**
- **Irish Red and White Setter Proposed Breed Standard Revision**
- **Standard Schnauzer Proposed Breed Standard Revision**

### **Delegate Approvals**

Sylvia Arrowwood, Moncks Corner, SC  
To represent Myrtle Beach Kennel Club

Cathy M. Driggers, Lake Helen, FL  
To represent West Volusia Kennel Club

Sally L. Fineburg, Yardley, PA  
To represent Hatboro Dog Club

Erika N. Wyatt, Maple Park, IL  
To represent American Sloughi Association

### **AKC Temperament Test**

The Board VOTED to approve a recommendation to implement an AKC Temperament Test (ATT) open to all breeds and mixed breeds.

### **Structure of the ATT Test**

The AKC Temperament Test will assess the dog's reaction to stimuli in the world. These stimuli will be in the following five categories: social, auditory, visual, tactile (touch), and proprioceptive (motion).

Desired traits are that the dog will be emotionally stable, inquisitive, appropriately social for its breed, and biddable.

The ATT is a pass-fail test. A dog must pass ten testing items. From a list of 15 test items, ten will be selected (2 in each of the five categories) for each event. Please see the last page of the memo for the testing items.

### **Administration of the ATT Test**

ATT events will be handled in a similar manner to a Farm Dog Certified test. ATT events may be held as a stand-alone test or in conjunction with any other type of AKC event. They will appear on the Event Search website. An event application fee will apply. Any type of AKC club may apply to hold an ATT test and the host club is responsible for the administration of the test.

Clubs do not need to be licensed for the ATT test. Clubs at their option may close entries prior to the event or may allow day of event entries. An entry limit per event may be determined by the club. Results will be submitted along with a \$3.50 per entry service fee.

CGC Evaluators will be the judges for ATT tests. They must attest that they have watched the instructional video on "How to Judge the ATT." Clubs may offer the test twice on the same day (morning/afternoon) or on two consecutive days. When tests are given back-to-back (same day or next day), the order of test items must be changed, and the ten test items shall not be identical and should be as different as possible from the previous test.

Dogs must be at least 1-year old to take the ATT test. Handlers may talk to and praise the dog in the ATT, although not excessively. Food or toys may not be used in the test, either as a reward or a lure. Dogs who do not pass the test may retest when ready.

### **Earning the ATT Suffix Title**

The dog must pass the test two times to qualify for the ATT title. The owner of the dog must apply for the title.

### **Entry Requirements Formatting Change – Rules Applying to Dog Shows Chapter 11, Section 4**

The Board VOTED to approve the recommendation of the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee to change the formatting of the entry requirements listed in *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* Chapter 11, Section 4.

SECTION 4. To be acceptable, an entry must:

- Be submitted with required entry fee
- Be on an Official American Kennel Club entry form
- Be signed by the owner or his duly authorized agent
- Include the name and date of show-giving club
- All of the following information on the dog:
  - Breed
  - Variety, if any
  - Sex
  - Name of class or classes entered (Classes must be entered in accordance with Chapter 3)
  - Full/Registered Name of Dog
  - Date of Birth
  - Place of Birth
  - Name of Sire
  - Name of Dam
  - One of the following:
    - AKC registration number
    - Or PAL number
    - Or foreign registration number and country for an unregistered imported dog
    - Or identification number issued by AKC
  - Name of Breeder(s)
  - Name of Owner(s)/co-owner(s)
  - Name of Owner(s) agent, if any
  - Address of Owner

The remainder of the section is unchanged. The proposal will be read at the March Delegates' meeting and voted at the June Delegates' meeting.

### **Grand Champion Points for Best of Breed - Rules Applying to Dog Shows Chapter 16, Section 6**

The Board VOTED to approve the recommendation of the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee to change the italicized sentence of *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* Chapter 16, Section 6 to be part of the rules. The proposal will be read at the March Delegates' meeting and voted at the June Delegates meeting. If approved, the effective date will be immediate.

A dog awarded Best of Breed will be credited with the number of Grand Champion points calculated for Best of Breed or for the Best of Opposite Sex, whichever is greater.

**Rules Applying to Dog Shows Chapter 11 Italics Changes**

The Board VOTED to approve the recommendation of the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee to change parts of the italics in *Rules Applying to Dog Shows Chapter 11*, Sections 12 & 13 to become part of the rule. Additionally, the Dog Show Rules Committee is suggesting a few wording changes to these sections. These sections address the eligibility of superintendents, show secretaries, official veterinarians, and judges to exhibit. The proposal will be read at the March Delegates meeting and voted at the June Delegates meeting.

**SECTION 12**

A Superintendent, an individual licensed to superintend events as an employee of the Superintendent, any other employee of the Superintendent, or any person residing in the same household as any of the foregoing, shall not exhibit or act as agent or handler, at any show held thirty days before or after a show which the Superintendent has been approved to service by The American Kennel Club.

Dogs owned wholly or in part by a Superintendent, an individual licensed to superintend events as an employee of the Superintendent, any other employee of the Superintendent, or any person residing in the same household as any of the foregoing, shall be ineligible to be entered at any show held thirty days before or after a show which the Superintendent has been approved to service by The American Kennel Club.

*For the purpose of this section, the employees of a Superintendent would include only those individuals who represent the Superintendent or superintending organization or dog shows.*

**SECTION 13**

For the purposes of this section, the members of an immediate family are one's spouse, domestic partner, parents, grandparents, children, grandchildren, siblings, mother-in-law, father-in-law, brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, daughters-in-law, and sons-in-law; adopted, half, and step members are also included in immediate family.

The above will apply to judges of sweepstakes or futurities held with licensed or member shows exactly as it does to judges of regular competition at shows.

*This provision prohibiting judges or those residing in the same household from exhibiting on the same day does not apply to the judge of the Four-to-Six Month Competition or to Junior Showmanship only judges. Such judges may also exhibit on the day(s) they judge.*

**Rewording Catalog & Judges Book Entry Errors Rules Applying to Dog Shows Chapter 14, Section 8**

The Board VOTED to approve the recommendation of the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee to reword *Rules Applying to Dog Shows Chapter 14, Section 8* which addresses errors in entry information in the catalog and judge's book. The proposal will be read at the March Delegates meeting and voted at the June Delegates meeting.

**SECTION 8.** At the request of the owner or handler of an exhibit, any errors in the catalog and/or judge's book at any show, which are contrary to the information appearing on the entry form of that dog for that show, shall be corrected in the judge's book by the Show Secretary or the Superintendent prior to the judging and in the marked catalog to be sent to The American Kennel Club. Said dog may compete in all classes and for all prizes for which it was properly entered on the entry form.

### **Obedience Trial Champion Title Modifications**

The Board VOTED to amend Chapter 8, Sections 2 and 3 of the *Obedience Regulations* to make three modifications to the point schedule for earning the Obedience Trial Champion title. These changes are effective August 1, 2019.

### **Obedience Regulations, Chapter 8, Obedience Trial Championship.**

**Section 2. Championship Points.** Obedience Trial Championship points will be recorded for those dogs that have earned a first, second, third or fourth place ribbon competing in the Open B or Utility B class, according to the schedule of points established by the AKC Board of Directors. When counting the number of eligible dogs in competition, a dog that is disqualified or excused from the ring by the judge will not be included.

One (1) Championship point will be recorded for those dogs that earn a qualifying score of 197 or better in the Open B or Utility B class, if they did not earn points based on the Point Schedule.

Requirements for the Obedience Trial Champion are as follows:

The dog must have won

1. 100 points
2. A first place in Utility B with at least three dogs in competition
3. A first place in Open B with at least five dogs in competition
4. An additional first place under the conditions of 2 or 3 above
5. All three first places under three different judges

Only one of the required first places may have been won at a specialty Show or a Junior Obedience Showcase.

**Section 3. Obedience Trial Champion Title.** The AKC will issue an Obedience Trial Champion certificate and will permit the use of the letters OTCH preceding the name of each dog that meets the requirements.

The letters OTCH will be followed by a numeric designation indicating the number of times a dog has met the requirements of the OTCH title as defined in these regulations (OTCH2, OTCH3, OTCH4, etc.).

### **Section 5. Point Schedule.**

#### **Open B**

<b>Number of Dogs Competing</b>	<b>1st</b>	<b>2nd</b>	<b>3rd</b>	<b>4th</b>
<u>5-9</u>	2	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	0
<u>10-14</u>	4	1	<u>1</u>	0
<u>15-19</u>	6	2	<u>1</u>	0
<u>20-24</u>	10	3	1	<u>1</u>
<u>25-29</u>	14	4	2	<u>1</u>
<u>30-34</u>	18	5	2	1
<u>35-39</u>	22	7	3	1
<u>40-44</u>	26	9	4	2
<u>45-49</u>	30	11	5	2
<u>50-64</u>	34	13	6	3

### **Group Club Special Attractions at Multiple Shows in One Day**

The Board VOTED to approve a Staff recommendation to change the Multiple Shows in One Day policy to allow group clubs to offer special attractions at both of their events.

### **Tracking – “Making Life Easier” Recommendations**

The Board VOTED to amend the *Tracking Regulations* with five tracking recommendations meant to address issues and questions that have been raised by the tracking community regarding participation in the sport.

1. Allowing the Tracking Test secretary to enter the test
2. Extending the Tracking Certification expiration date
3. Adding to the Pool of Tracking Certification Judges
4. Allow Dogs with Physical Challenges to Participate in Tracking
5. Clarifying the Combined Test limits

### **Tracking Regulations, General Regulations, Chapter 1.**

**Section 12. Dogs that May Not Compete.** No dog less than six (6) months of age may participate in tracking events. No dog belonging wholly or in part to a judge, test secretary, test chair, chief tracklayer, superintendent, or any member of such a person's household, may be entered in any tracking test at which such person officiates or is scheduled to officiate. Nor may they handle or act as agent for any dog entered at that tracking test.

If allowed by the host club, the tracking test secretary may enter dogs owned or co-owned by the secretary and may handle dogs in the tracking test. The secretary's priority must be the handling of official secretary duties in a timely manner. If participation in the test interferes with these duties, other arrangements for handling dogs must be made.

The official veterinarians will not exhibit or act as agent or handle at the test, and dogs owned wholly or in part by them will not be eligible to be entered at the test.

No dog owned wholly or in part by a superintendent, any employee of that superintendent, or any person residing in the same household as any of the foregoing will be eligible to be entered at any test held 30 days before or after a test that the superintendent has been approved to service by the AKC. Nor may that person exhibit or act as an agent or handler.

For the purpose of this section, the employees of a superintendent include only those individuals who represent the superintendent or superintending organization at dog shows.

### **Section 13. Disqualification, Ineligibility, Excusal, and Change in Appearance of Dogs.**

*(Paragraph 9)*

Any dog that is lame at a tracking test may not compete. Lameness is defined as any derangement of normal movement, disabled or with impaired freedom of movement. The judge must determine, without a veterinarian's opinion, whether a dog is lame. If the judge deems a dog lame, that judge will excuse the dog from competing and will mark the judge's book "Excused-lame." However, dogs with physical challenges (including amputees) disfigured as the result of an accident or injury, but otherwise qualified shall be eligible, provided the disfigurement does not interfere with functional movement and if in the opinion of the judge, the dog displays no signs of physical discomfort and can safely complete the test.

**Section 17. Drawing for Entries and Alternates List.** Entries for a tracking test will be accepted until the official closing date and time, even if the advertised test limit has been reached. A random drawing of all entries, to determine which dogs will participate in the test, will be held within 48 hours after the closing date and time. The drawing will be open to all interested persons. The test secretary will draw

entries on the date, hour, and location specified in the premium list and ensure the draw is conducted in a random and impartial manner. In cases where the test secretary is entered in the test, the drawing for entries must be conducted by another member of the event committee. If the advertised limit is not reached, a drawing is optional. The results of the draw will be made available to the people present at the draw.

**Section 19. Judging Assignments.** Each dog must be judged by two judges. The maximum number of dogs two judges may test at a TD or TDU test in one day is twelve (12). The maximum number of dogs two judges may judge at a TDX test in one day is six (6). The maximum number of dogs two judges may judge at a VST test in one day is eight (8).

When more than one test is offered on the same day, the following substitution factor will be in effect:

- 2 TDs = 1 TDX
- 2 TDUs = 1 TDX
- 2 TDs = 1 VST
- 2 TDUs = 1 VST
- 1 TDX = 1 VST

At any combined test(s), which may include VST, the maximum number of dogs two judges may test in one day will be equal to twelve (12) TDs, twelve (12) TDUs, or six (6) TDXs. The following are the limits for combined tests (may be less):

- Up to 2 TD/TDU with up to 5 TDX or 5 VST entries.
- Up to 4 TD/TDU with up to 4 TDX or 4 VST entries.
- Up to 6 TD/TDU with up to 3 TDX or 3 VST entries.
- Up to 8 TD/TDU with up to 2 TDX or 2 VST entries.
- Up to 10 TD/TDU with up to 1 TDX or 1 VST entry.
- TDX tracks combined with VST tracks are limited to 6 entries.

## **Chapter 2, Regulations for Performance and Judging.**

**Section 9. Drawing for Tracks.** Prior to the draw for test day running order, the judges will be provided with the catalog number, breed, sex, and AKC number for each dog entered. To determine the order of running for each participant, the test secretary, with one or both of the judges present, will assemble the participants just prior to starting time for a drawing by lot of the assigned catalog numbers. In cases where the test secretary is entered in the test, the drawing for tracks must be conducted by another member of the event committee. Once the numbers have been drawn, they may not be exchanged, except under unusual circumstances and only with the judges' approval. Any such exchanges must be fully reported in the judges' books.

## **Chapter 3, Tracking Dog Test.**

**Section 2. Certification.** A written statement must accompany each entry for a licensed or member tracking test for any dog that has not previously passed an AKC TD or TDU test. This statement must be dated within two years of the date the test is to be held, signed by either a person approved to judge tracking tests, or by a person/evaluator who has handled a dog to a TDX or VST title within the last ten (10) years, and must certify that the dog has satisfactorily performed a certification test.

The certification test will be of a complexity equivalent to the TD or TDU test and will take place under conditions similar to such a test. A dog that does not satisfactorily complete the certification test in its entirety will not be certified.

A dog that fails a tracking test may not be re-certified by one of the judges based on its performance at that test, regardless of how close the dog came to passing.

It is permissible for a dog to be entered under the certifying judge.



Judges who wish to enter a TD test are subject to the same requirements as other entrants. Judges/evaluators will not provide certification to any dogs they own wholly or in part. The certification statement signed by a provisional or approved tracking judge, or an evaluator, should be worded similarly to the following:

"I have observed the tracking performance of (registered name, AKC registration number, breed) on a track of equivalent complexity and under conditions similar to a regulation AKC TD and/or TDU track. I hereby certify that the dog performed the certification test in its entirety and is ready to participate in an AKC licensed or member TD and/or TDU tracking test."

1. Date of certification test;
2. Original signature of judge or evaluator;
3. Judge's/Evaluator's typed or printed name;
4. Judge's number
5. Evaluator's address, Email & Phone No.

The judge/evaluator will provide four (4) certification statements based on the dog's completion of one certification test. Should the dog fail at four (4) successive licensed or member tracking tests within the twenty-four (24)-month period, the dog must be recertified in order to be eligible to enter additional licensed or member club tracking tests.

The statements certifying the dog's ability to follow a track must be originals. They cannot be used again, and they must be retained by the test-giving club with the entry forms.

In unusual circumstances, the AKC, through its Companion Events department, may issue tracking certifications based on statements provided by the handler concerning the dog's tracking ability.

### **Chapter 7, Optional Titling Tracking Test, Tracking Dog Urban.**

**Section 2. Certification.** A written statement must accompany each entry for a licensed or member tracking test for any dog that has not previously passed an AKC TD or TDU test. This statement must be dated within two years of the date the test is to be held, signed by a person approved to judge tracking tests, or by a person/evaluator who has handled a dog to a TDX or VST title within the last ten (10) years and must certify that the dog has satisfactorily performed a certification test.

The certification test will be of a complexity equivalent to the TD or TDU test and will take place under conditions similar to such a test. A dog that does not satisfactorily complete the certification test in its entirety will not be certified.

A dog that fails a TDU test may not be re-certified by one of the judges based on its performance at that test, regardless of how close the dog came to passing.

It is permissible for a dog to be entered under the certifying judge.

Judges who wish to enter a TDU test are subject to the same requirements as other entrants.

Judges/evaluators will not provide certification to any dogs they own wholly or in part.

The certification statement signed by a provisional or approved tracking judge, or evaluator, should be worded similarly to the following:

"I have observed the tracking performance of (registered name, AKC registration number, and breed) on a track of equivalent complexity and under conditions similar to a regulation AKC TD and/or TDU track. I hereby certify that the dog performed the certification test in its entirety and is ready to participate in an AKC licensed or member TD and/or TDU tracking test."

1. Date of certification test;
2. Original signature of judge or evaluator;
3. Judge's or Evaluator's typed or printed name;
4. Judge's number.
5. Evaluator's address, Email & Phone No.

The judge/evaluator will provide four (4) certification statements based on the dog's completion of one certification test. Should the dog fail at four (4) successive licensed or member tracking tests within the twenty-four (24)-month period, the dog must be recertified in order to be eligible to enter additional licensed or member club tracking tests.

The statements certifying the dog's ability to follow a track must be originals. They cannot be used again, and they must be retained by the test-giving club with the entry forms.

In unusual circumstances, the AKC, through its Companion Events department, may issue tracking certifications based on statements provided by the handler concerning the dog's tracking ability.

The Companion Events Delegate Committee discussed the Tracking Regulations recommendations at their December 2018 meeting and voted in favor of all changes, with only a request to modify item #3 to allow any person that has put a TDX or VST title on a dog within the past ten (10) years to perform certifications.

### **Retriever Field Trials – Exempt First Dog of a Series**

The Board VOTED to approve a recommendation from the Retriever Field Trial Advisory Committee to amend the *Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedure for Retrievers*, Chapter 14, Section 4 to automatically exempt any dog selected as the first dog to run in a series who previously ran as the first dog in an earlier series of the same stake at the same trial. The dog having the next sequential entry number would replace the exempt dog as the first dog to run in the series. This amendment will be read at the March Delegates' meeting and voted on at the June Delegates' meeting. If approved by the Delegate body, the effective date will be upon communication to the clubs.

## FIELD TRIAL RULES AND STANDARD PROCEDURE FOR RETRIEVERS

### Proposed Regulations (Line In)

#### Chapter 14. Rules for Retriever Field Trials Section 4. (2nd paragraph)

The objective of rotation is to spread the burden or benefit of running early equitably among the competing dogs. The Judges shall select the particular system of rotation to be used, and the system selected shall be publicly announced by the Judges and/or Marshal before the commencement of the stake to which the rotation will apply. If any dog, by consequence of the rotation, is designated to run first twice in the same stake, at the same field trial, he should be exempt from that obligation. In such an instance, said dog will be passed over and the next number in the callbacks shall be first. For example, if #22 had started a previous series and by some chance came up again to be first on a subsequent series in the same stake, at the same field trial, he would be passed over and the next dog in the sequence would be first (#23 or the next number in the callbacks)"

### **Irish Red and White Setter Proposed Breed Standard Revision**

The Board VOTED to approve the proposed revisions to the Irish Red and White Setter Standard submitted by the Irish Red and White Setter Association of America, (IRWSAA). The club may proceed to ballot the membership in accordance with the IRWSAA Constitution and Bylaws.

**Standard Schnauzer Proposed Breed Standard Revision**

The Board VOTED to approve the proposed revisions to the Standard Schnauzer Standard submitted by the Standard Schnauzer Club of America, (SSCA). The club may proceed to ballot the membership in accordance with the SSCA Constitution and Bylaws.

**Finance**

Joseph Baffuto, Chief Financial Officer, participated in this portion of the meeting.

There was an EXECUTIVE SESSION at the beginning of the Finance portion of the meeting discuss sensitive business matters. There was nothing reported out of this session.

Mr. Baffuto presented unaudited financial results for year-end 2018. Total operating revenues for the 2018 year were \$76.8 million which was just slightly below our Budget of \$77.5 million, but 7% above the previous year of 2017. Overall operating expenses of \$72.6 million were below Budget by 4.5%, but 10.6% above 2017 actuals. Operating income of \$4.2 million outperformed the 2018 Budget of \$1.46 million while resulting in somewhat lower results than \$6.1 million outcome from 2017. The 2018 year ended with untimely investment portfolio results reflecting a \$6.4 million loss on investments.

**New Business**

Doug Ljungren, Executive Vice President, Sports & Events asked to Board to consider a request from the Basset Hound Club of America to allow spayed or neutered dogs to participate in non-regular classes that are Field Trial oriented classes at independent specialties.

The Board directed staff to share this request with the Dog Show Rules and Parent Club Delegate Committees for their input.

It was VOTED to adjourn Friday, February 8, 2019 at 3:07 p.m.

Adjourned

Attest:

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Gina M. DiNardo, Executive Secretary