

American Kennel Club, Inc.
MEETING of the BOARD OF DIRECTORS
April 8-9, 2019

The Board convened on Monday, April 8, 2019 at 8:12 a.m.

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

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

Upon a motion by Mr. Powers, seconded by Mr. Carota, the February 2019 minutes were approved unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was an EXECUTIVE SESSION at the beginning of the meeting to discuss sensitive business matters.

It was reported that the following Executive Officers were re-elected:

Dennis B. Sprung, President/Chief Executive Officer

Joseph V. Baffuto, Jr., Chief Financial Officer

Gina M. DiNardo, Executive Secretary

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 months of February and March 2019.

FINANCE

Joseph Baffuto, CFO, presented AKC's unaudited financial results for the first quarter ended March 31, 2019. Total revenues of \$19.3 million were 1.8% below budget, but 2% greater than 2018. Dog Registrations' volume of 167,986 was 4% below budget, but 1% higher than 2018, along with Total Litters processed of 65,761 being 2% below budget and 3% higher than last year. Total operating expenses of \$17.1 million were 9.4% below budget, and 9.3% lower than 2018. YTD Operating income of \$2.2 million is significantly exceeding the 2019 1st quarter budget and is well above 2018's operating income of \$78,000 during the same period. Additionally, our investment portfolio reflects year to date unrealized gains on investments totaling \$8.1 million dollars.

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.

American Service Dog Access Coalition Service Dog Program Update

Sheila Goffe provided an update on AKC's participation and leadership in the American Service Dog Access Coalition (ASDAC) which is developing an authoritative, voluntary, verifiable testing and credentialing program for service dogs.

The goal of this initiative is to work within the confines of existing federal laws to build an opt-in credentialing program that streamlines the travel process for well-trained service dog teams, reduces the challenges faced by access providers when working to accommodate service dogs, and deters the use of "fake" or poorly-trained service dogs.

Following a motion by Mr. Sweetwood, seconded by Ms. Cruz, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to approve an unbudgeted expenditure of \$100,000 and the addition of a new administrative headcount in Government Relations to assist in the furtherance of this most important initiative.

Boerboel Proposed Breed Standard Revisions

The Board reviewed proposed revisions to the Boerboel Breed Standard, submitted by American Boerboel Club (ABC). The current standard was approved May 11, 2010.

Following a motion by Mr. Sweetwood, seconded by Dr. Garvin, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to publish the suggested changes for comment in the Secretary's page of the May AKC *Gazette*.

Cirneco Dell'Etna Proposed Breed Standard Revision

The Cirneco Dell'Etna Club of America, Inc. (CDECA) submitted proposed revisions to the breed standard for publication for comment in November 2018. Based upon receipt of comments, a revision to the bite description has been made. The current standard was approved April 12, 2012.

Following a motion by Dr. Garvin, seconded by Mrs. Wallin, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to permit the CDECA to ballot their membership on the proposed standard revisions in accordance with the Constitution and By-Laws of the club.

Lhasa Apso Proposed Breed Standard Revision

The American Lhasa Apso Club (ALAC) submitted additional proposed revisions to the Lhasa Apso standard as a result of the publication of the proposed revisions in the June 2018 Secretary's Page. The current standard was approved February 9, 1991.

Following a motion by Ms. Biddle, seconded by Mrs. Wallin, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to permit the ALAC to ballot their membership on the proposed standard revisions in accordance with the Constitution and By-Laws of the club.

Norwegian Buhund Proposed Breed Standard Revision

The Board reviewed proposed revisions to the Norwegian Buhund Breed Standard, submitted by the Norwegian Buhund Club of America (NBCA). The Board requested that staff seek additional clarification on the proposed changes to the General Appearance, Head, and Coat sections of the breed standard.

Parent Club request to retire "Fleetwind" (Irish Wolfhound)

The Board reviewed a request from the Irish Wolfhound Club of America (IWCA) to retire the kennel name "Fleetwind".

The Irish Wolfhound Club of America considers the kennel name “Fleetwind” to be significant to the history and foundation of the breed. The kennel has produced nearly 100 Champions and contributed foundation stock for several other notable kennels. “Fleetwind” was a continuously registered kennel name from 1958 through the end of 2018.

Following a motion by Mr. Powers, seconded by Mr. Tatro, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to grant the request of the IWCA and retire the “Fleetwind” kennel name.

New Breed for Foundation Stock Service - Bohemian Shepherd

The Board was advised that the Foundation Stock Service (FSS) Committee recently approved a petition for the Bohemian Shepherd to be accepted into the FSS program.

New Breed for Foundation Stock Service – Japanese Spitz

The Board was advised that the Foundation Stock Service (FSS) Committee recently approved a petition for the Japanese Spitz to be accepted into the FSS program.

Canine College Parent Club Experience Survey

Ashley Jacot, Director of Education, presented on the results of the AKC Canine College User Experience Survey that was distributed to the Judge’s Education Coordinators for each club with a course currently available on <https://www.caninecollege.akc.org/>.

Based on feedback from the survey, AKC Canine College will now offer the Judges Education Committee members of each parent club their respective breed course free of charge. In addition, the AKC Education department has updated their communication procedures to include a 24-hour response time and the keeping of a detailed communication log. A tethering system is now being utilized so that AKC Multimedia Specialists can receive immediate feedback on their photos from the club’s designated Point of Contact, which will greatly improve the end product through improved photo/video quality.

The AKC Canine College Course Creation Process document was reviewed with the Board and will be made available on www.akc.org.

The Delegate Parent Club Committee suggested to the AKC Board that the review process should clearly indicate the role of the Parent Club Board of Directors (PCBOD) and it should allow for the option that the PCBOD be the approving authority in the course. It was determined that if the PCBOD wanted that role, that the PCBOD may be the approving authority, but they must agree to be that approving authority throughout the course and not just at the end of the process for final approval. By Board request, a Best Practices document will be created and shared with clubs so that they will fully understand their role and responsibilities during the course creation process.

Taskforce on Anti-Breeder Harassment or Retaliation

The Government Relations department recommends developing an informal taskforce or resources working group on anti-breeder harassment or retaliation with input from multiple AKC Departments and outside experts if appropriate.

The purpose of the taskforce is to centralize reports of this nature to AKC so recommendations for available action can be reviewed, compiled and disseminated as a resource for responsible breeders and dog experts. Taskforce members include AKC staff; input may also be obtained where appropriate from animal control, law enforcement, and legal experts.

Development of resource materials and establishment of a task force addresses fears and concerns expressed by enthusiasts and demonstrates AKC responsiveness to these issues. Additionally, it assures responsible breeders, exhibitors and legislative liaisons of AKC's appreciation and commitment to canine policy that protects responsible ownership and breeding, and is reasonable, enforceable and nondiscriminatory.

The Board was unanimously supportive of this plan.

Year End PR/Communications Report

Brandi Hunter, Vice President, PR/Communications participated in this portion of the meeting. The Board reviewed the AKC Communications department media coverage totals for 2018. Total media placements (print, broadcast and internet) qualitatively evaluated in 2018:

Q1- 9,223

Q2- 4,079

Q3- 4,674

Q4- 4,961

Total number of clips evaluated for 2018 was 22,937.

Total audience reached with all clips (including print, online, TV, and syndicated stories):

Q1- 26,687,947,681

Q2- 4,796,446,783

Q3- 6,025,309,398

Q4- 6,195,623,262

Total audience reached for 2018 was 43,705,327,124.

all numbers are independently evaluated by Cision

MARKETING

Kirsten Bahlke, Vice President Consumer Demand, Doug Ljungren, Executive Vice President Sports & Events, and Melissa Olund, Director Digital Marketing, participated in this portion of the meeting.

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 designed and fielded the research study in late January and received over 10k responses (self-selected). Staff provided a presentation on the results of the survey and a summary of the key findings for Conformation, Conformation (NOHS), Agility, Obedience, Rally and Scent Work.

Key Findings:

Sports participation - Time in Sport

48% of Conformation participants have more than 20 years in the sport, the highest of all 6 sports with results reported.

- 40% of NOHS participants indicate that they have been in the sport for 5 years or less, with almost 15% saying they have less than 1 year.

Conformation has a little less than 22% of its participants saying that they have 5 years or less of participation.

Only about 6% of Agility participants have less than a year under their belt, the lowest number among the 6 six sports.

Importance of 7 factors determining participation in dog sports/programs

- When asked to rate the importance of 7 different factors for participating in their primary sport participants for all 6 sports rated “bonding with my dog” and “my dog enjoys” as the top two most important factors.
 - However, for Conformation participants, only 50% rate “my dog enjoys it” and 58% rate “bonding with my dog” as extremely important which is lower than every other sport
 - Both Conformation and NOHS participants rate “earning titles” as more important than all other sport participants
 - The sport they would most like to try (if any) is Scent Work (15%), while Scent Work participants would most like to try Tracking (20%).

Staff will explore methods to increase participation in the AKC’s Sports and will further mine the data for additional insights on these and our other sports.

April 2019 - Marketing Updates and Highlights

A report covering January and February 2019 metrics and accomplishments for AKC.org, digital content and social media was presented to the Board.

AKC.org

- Organic traffic was +21% Jan – Feb versus the same period last year (14.8 million vs. 12.2 million sessions)
- Organic traffic was +25% (7.1 million vs. 5.2 million sessions) in Feb. 2019 versus Feb. 2018
- Bounce Rate decreased -6.6% year over year.

AKC Marketplace

- AKC Marketplace organic traffic was +16% (Jan - Feb) versus the same period last year (3.7 vs 3.2 million sessions)
- Organic traffic was +13% (1.8 million vs 1.6 million sessions) in Feb 2019 vs. Feb 2018.
- Direct traffic continues to increase, +116% YOY (432,612 vs. 200,185) vs. Feb. 2018

AKC Marketplace Product Updates

Breed Image Tagging: Breeders in AKC Marketplace now have the ability to tag their photos to indicate which breed is featured in each of their photos. This new functionality helps to ensure that when puppy buyers are searching for a specific breed, the pictures that display in search results will be for that breed only.

Parent Club Tool Image Uploader: Image Uploader was recently added to the Parent Club Tool, where Parent Clubs can submit images with the associated release forms directly to the AKC. This tool helps to ensure we’re collecting and featuring the best representation of our breeds

while streamlining the process of submitting images to the AKC and ensuring that images are coming from the appropriate sources

Social Media

Since September of 2018, the AKC has added 17K new Instagram followers, with 12K+ of those in January and February 2019 alone.

In an effort to drive interest and engagement with our AKC National Agility Championship, a clip was created by the Marketing department featuring a 7-year-old blue merle Cardigan Welsh Corgi.

This video went viral, with incredible traction and traffic:

- Video Views: 3.8M (as of 3/25/19) •Shares: 13.3K •Reactions: 73.5K
- Comments: 10.9K (7.6K on our post; 3.3K on shares) •Average Watch: 12 seconds

The Marketing department will continue to create content to motivate dog lovers to share, watch and participate in AKC sports.

AKC Puppy Pack

In January 2019 AKC launched its AKC Puppy Pack program. The Puppy Pack is made up of seven puppies, one from each AKC group. The puppies can be followed on AKC's Instagram page. The Pack's Instagram posts provide educational and entertaining glimpses into the daily life of puppies as they experience the world. People who follow the Puppy Pack will also gather insights into the specific traits of each breed, as well as learn about AKC sports, programs and services through the daily experiences of these real-life puppies.

Since the launch of the Puppy Pack content in mid-January, Instagram engagement (likes, comments, shares) has increased 268%

COMPANION AND PERFORMANCE

Doug Ljungren, Executive Vice President, Sports & Events, participated in this portion of the meeting. Caroline Murphy, Director, Performance Events, participated in this portion of the meeting via videoconference and Carrie DeYoung, Director, Agility, participated in this portion of the meeting via telephone conference.

Agility Recommendations from Advisory Committee

The Board reviewed recommended changes to the *Agility Regulations* 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. They originated with the Agility Advisory Committee, were agreed to by staff and received strong support in a poll of agility participants.

They address the following topics:

- 1) Chapter 1, Section 3 - an amendment to allow for the coloring of dogs in competition. This is allowed by all other agility organizations in the U.S. and in FCI agility. It adds an element of fun to support an event theme or a community cause.
- 2) Chapter 3, Section 3, Number 1 - an amendment to lower A-Frame to 5' for 12-inch dogs (currently 5'6")
- 3) Chapter 4, Section 9 – an amendment to allow the use of head halters
- 4) Chapter 2, Section 4 – an amendment to allow dogs to be entered in different jump heights on same day
- 5) Chapter 8, Section 3 – an amendment to allow dogs to be entered in Regular and Preferred classes on the same day

- 6) Chapter 3, Section 3– an amendment to require all weave poles be tapeless and allow poles to be of alternating solid colors.

These will be discussed further at the May Board meeting.

The recommended changes are the first in a series that will be submitted to the AKC Board for review. Additional recommendations originating from the Agility Advisory Committee require further review and fact-finding before being submitted to the Board.

Airedales Eligibility – Retriever Hunt Tests

The Board reviewed 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.

This will be discussed further at the May Board meeting.

Hunt Test Titles - Petit Basset Griffon Vendéens

The Board reviewed 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. AKC currently recognizes these titles for Bassets and Dachshunds through the AKC Parent Club Title Recognition Program.

While AKC has had a longstanding field trial program for Bassets and Dachshunds, AKC has never offered a hunt test program for rabbit hunting breeds. Participation numbers for these breeds in any type of field work is relatively low. Several years ago, the Basset Hound Club of America (BHCA) developed a test called the Hunting Performance Test (HPT) which allows hounds to demonstrate their natural ability to hunt rabbit by scent in a non-competitive setting. To increase participation, the BHCA opened their hunting test program to other rabbit hunting breeds such as the Dachshund, Petit Basset Griffon Vendéen, Grand Basset Griffon Vendéen, Harrier, and Basset Fauve de Bretagne. In 2017, AKC approved the BHCA's request to have their hunting test titles recognized as part of the AKC Parent Club Title Recognition Program. In July 2018, the Dachshund Club of America requested their breed be recognized for the same titles.

This will be discussed further at the May Board meeting.

Scottish Terrier – Draft Dog Title

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.

This will be discussed further at the May Board meeting.

Working Aptitude Title – Doberman Pinschers

The Board reviewed 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.

This will be discussed further at the May Board meeting.

The Board adjourned at 5:24 p.m.

The Board Meeting reconvened on Tuesday, April 9, 2019 at 9:31 a.m.

All Directors were present. Also present was the Executive Secretary.

COMPANION AND PERFORMANCE

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

Achiever Dog – Results from the Pilot Program Survey

The Staff provided a memo with the results of the Achiever Dog survey that was conducted at the end of the one-year pilot program.

The Achiever Dog pilot program launched December 1, 2017. At the end of one year, 33,000 dogs had earned the Achiever Dog certificate. The owners of these dogs were surveyed to obtain their thoughts on the program. The following are the key findings from the survey.

Achiever Dog Survey Findings:

The survey was emailed to 25,464 owners in January; 5,230 responded (21%).

1. 73% said the Achiever Dog program did not motivate them to do anything different.
2. There were many comments that the criteria (a ribbon in three sports) was too easy.
3. 88% agreed or strongly agreed that "AKC should promote versatility by acknowledging dogs that have demonstrated abilities in a variety of sports."
4. 60% agreed or strongly agreed that a Purpose-Bred Dog program "would be of interest to owners by providing an evaluation of the traits that make a breed unique."
5. To the question regarding a Purpose-Bred Dog program, there were many comments that their breed had no breed-specific performance event, or their dog was a mixed breed, therefore they were uncertain about the value of the program.

Based on the survey results, Staff recommended that the Achiever Dog pilot program be discontinued, since the impact on entries does not support the cost of the program. However, the survey did show there is strong support for a program that acknowledges purpose-bred dogs (proper conformation, performance and temperament) and a program that acknowledges the versatility of dogs. The Board agreed with these suggestions.

CONFORMATION

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

Expanding the Final Segment of a Ring

The Board reviewed a recommendation to add verbiage to Chapter 7, Section 12 of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows*. This addition will permit clubs to expand the final segment of a ring schedule allowing for a more efficient finish.

Following a motion by Mr. Powers, seconded by Mr. Tatro the Board VOTED (unanimously) to amend *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* Chapter 7, Section 12 to add the following (underlined):

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 may be expanded but may not exceed 50 dogs unless the entry is in a single breed or variety.

The proposal will be read at the June Delegates meeting and voted on at the September Delegates meeting. If approved, the effective date will be immediate.

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

The Board reviewed a recommendation from the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee to reword *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.

This will be discussed further at the May Board meeting.

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

The Board reviewed a recommendation to change *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.

The Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee recommends adding wording so that group placements are moved-up when awards are cancelled and adds that when Best in Show is cancelled, Reserve Best in Show is moved up. Currently, RBIS is moved up when BIS is cancelled, so this change brings the rule in line with current practices. However, currently when group placements are cancelled lower placements are not moved-up.

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.

This will be discussed further at the May Board meeting.

Collars and Leads - Rules Applying to Dog Shows

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

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.

This will be discussed further at the May Board meeting.

Sports & Events: 2018 In Review - 2019 Initiatives

Doug Ljungren, Executive Vice President Sports & Events, presented a statistical review of AKC Sports in terms of numbers of events and entries.

Mr. Sprung introduced the elements of a Sports & Events presentation addressing the number of shows and entries, including travel distances, new initiatives and steps enacted to increase participation.

- Overall entries reached an all-time high in 2018 with 3,243,000 total entries. In 2018, total entries, year over year, grew by 106,000, the largest annual growth in 15 years.
- Conformation entries were basically flat when comparing 2017 vs 2018 with a total decline in 2018 of 0.02% or 336 entries.
- Junior Entries are up 5.8%, the largest increase in 12 years.
- Agility entries are up by 13,000 entries for a 2018 total of 1,229,000.
- Obedience entries continue to decline at an average of -3.1% per year.
- Rally is up 14,100 entries for 2018.
- Traditional Performance Events entry totals (field trials, hunting tests, herding, earthdog and lure coursing) are continuing a long-term decline that averages 1.1% per year.
- Modern Performance events (includes CAT, Fast CAT and Scent Work) are showing a continual increase in participation.
- CGC Certificates were up 21% in 2018.
- Total number of titles issued in the Titles Recognition program continues to grow at a very healthy rate.
- Entries in BPUP and NOHS also continue to increase annually.

Doug reviewed the major Sports & Events initiatives that were undertaken in 2018 and the initiatives that are being pursued in 2019.

JUDGING OPERATIONS

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

Rules, Policies & Guidelines for Conformation Dog Show Judges

The Board reviewed a 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.

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 when Winners (Dog or Bitch) was awarded to an entry of the opposite sex as Best of Breed.

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.

Following a motion by Mr. Powers, seconded by Mr. Tatro, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to approve the following revisions (underlined below) to *Rules, Policies and Guidelines for Conformation Dog Show Judges*:

ETHICS: HONESTY AND COMMON SENSE

Obviously, some rules, policies and guidelines are clear. For example:

- Never accept any payments or presents for past or future placements. [P]

- Advise potential exhibitors not to enter under you when their presence or the presence of their dogs might give the impression of unfair advantage. [P] For example, if the exhibitor is:
 - ...your employer or an employee.
 - ...a relative.
 - ...a person with whom you currently or recently co-owned dogs.
 - ...a person with whom you travel to dog shows.

No entry shall be made at any show under a judge of any dog which said judge or any member of his immediate household or immediate family has been known to have owned, handled in the ring more than twice, sold, held under lease or boarded within one year prior to the date of the show. [R]

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 (Rules, CH 11 Sect. 13)

GRAY AREAS

Exhibiting and Handling [P] Conformation judges and household members (as defined in Chapter 11, Section 13 of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows*) **may not exhibit any breed and judge** on the day of, the three days before and the three days after an assignment within 200 miles of the assignment. Sweepstake/ Futurity judges may not exhibit on day(s) they judge. Sweepstake/Futurity judges will continue to be allowed to exhibit the day before and the day after the event they judge. A multi-day specialty is considered one event, and the restriction will apply for the duration of the event.

*The above policy is specific to conformation judges exhibiting at conformation events. Eligibility of conformation judges to compete in other sports the **days before and/or after they judge is determined by the rules, policies, and regulations that govern that sport, but judges may not compete in any sport the day they judge per AKC Rules.***

Judges for the AKC National Owner-Handled Series Groups and/or Best in Show may not exhibit the same day that they judge.

For all exhibiting restrictions: Exhibit refers to personally handling a dog or any dog owned or co-owned regardless of who handles the dog and where the dog resides. Exhibitor restrictions apply to all members of the same household.

ACCEPTING ASSIGNMENTS

[P] Effective April 1, 2017 Judges may not judge the same NOHS group or NOHS BIS at multiple events held within the same weekend, circuit or cluster; Judges may not be assigned to the regular and NOHS group/BIS at the same event; Judges will not be approved to judge a breed, the NOHS variety Group that includes that breed, and NOHS Best in Show at the same show; and the same person cannot judge all of the NOHS groups at an event.

[P] Effective January 1, 2019, Judges for multiple all-breed/limited breed shows in one day are restricted to no more than 100 entries in any one event and may not exceed 175 entries per day (Rules, CH 7 Sect. 13)

[P] Effective April 1, 2019, Judges assigned to the regular groups may not be assigned any special attraction groups (excluding NOHS).

[P] Judges may not accept assignments for any conformation type competition where the potential exists to judge multiple entries of the same breed...

JUDGING THE DOGS

Avoid Contacts When judging at a cluster, do not visit the grooming or exercise areas on the days prior to or the days you are judging.

[P] Do not carry or examine a catalog reflecting the entry on the day(s) you are judging until you have completed your entire assignment for the show(s) or cluster.

Do not discuss the merits of the dogs you are judging or may judge; or talk at length with anyone who may be exhibiting under you.

Do not observe in any manner the breed judging of a breed you are scheduled to judge later that weekend or cluster. If you are judging a specialty, do not sit ringside during sweepstakes or futurity judging.

If you are asked to steward, do so only after you have completed your entire judging assignment for the weekend/cluster.

When you have completed all assignments for a show or set of shows, such contact with exhibitors is permissible, **but be prudent**.

JUDGING THE DOGS

Visually impaired handlers may have a second person assist them in individual and group gaiting of the dogs. If the ring surface or terrain makes it difficult for the assisted handler to gait the dog at a normal speed, you may adjust where the dog is placed in line to give all handlers an equal opportunity to show their dogs. Visually impaired handlers may have the second person assist in placing table dogs onto tables and to verify weight and measurements that may be required under the breed standard. The primary function of exhibiting the dog is the responsibility of the handler and not the second person in the ring.

There are eligibility issues regarding handler assistance in the Amateur Owner-Handler and Bred by Exhibitor classes. Individuals who assist presenting a dog in these classes must be eligible for that class. Any questions concerning eligibility should be referred to the Executive Field Representative in attendance.

If you have any questions, please call Judging Operations or the AKC Legal Department. Any exhibitor having a question, or who wants to request an accommodation should be directed to the AKC Field Representative or the AKC Legal Department. Individuals who require the assistance of a second person to present their dog, or those who utilize a motorized scooter should have a letter of accommodation from the AKC.

Injured or ill exhibitors are not automatically categorized as disabled.

JUDGING THE DOGS

Ramp Breeds A judge requesting the use of a ramp must give reasonable notice to the show superintendent/ show secretary prior to judging. AKC approval is not required. Breeds designated as ramp optional may be examined on the ground (table if applicable) or on a ramp during breed, group and Best in Show judging at the sole discretion of the judge, not the exhibitor. Examination for a breed must be consistent; therefore, the entire entry in that breed is to be examined on the ground (table) or on a ramp.

By Board approved policy, Basset Hounds, Bulldogs, Chinese Shar-Pei, Chow Chows, and Sussex Spaniels must be judged on the ramp in all conformation competition associated with AKC conformation dog shows or at which AKC conformation titles may be earned. This policy extends to Junior Showmanship, the 4–6 Month Beginner Puppy Competition, the AKC National Owner Handled Series (NOHS), and all other special attractions that offer Group and BIS competitions.

The list of Table and Ramp breeds can be found on the AKC Website under Conformation Judges – Announcements.

The requirement to place a table breed back on the table for re-examination does not apply to ramp breeds.

Breeds not designated as either table, ramp, or optional, may only be examined on the ground.

JUDGING THE DOGS

[R] Double Entries Once a dog has competed, it must continue to compete (CH 14, Sect. 1 of the Rules). Dogs may be absent from the first class and still compete in the second class. However, dogs may not be shown in the first class and then be marked absent in the second class. Once defeated in any class, a dog is not eligible for Winners class. A dog that is marked absent in a class after competing in a previous class is not eligible for winners.

Multiple entries of a dog within a breed will have the same armband number and are designated by parenthesis (#).

JUDGING THE DOGS

[R] Withholding or Excusing (*Rules*, CH 7, Sect.15) authorizes judges to withhold any and all awards at any point in the judging process. You may award one placement in a class and no other placement, or you may withhold all awards. You may award class firsts and then withhold the Winners ribbon, and you may excuse any dog for lack of merit. **The decision is yours alone, based on the merits of the dogs.** When you withhold or excuse, you must note the reason in the judge's book and initial your comments. Clearly and diplomatically explain your decision to the exhibitor(s) involved.

In Winners competition, if you feel none of the dogs are of championship quality, you should withhold the Winners ribbon. This also applies to Reserve Winners. It is not appropriate to withhold Winners and award Reserve. Nor is it appropriate to award Winners or Reserve simply because it is the best specimen available in the class on the day.

In addition, while judges may "withhold at any point in the judging process...", there are times where it is not proper 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 when Winners (Dog or Bitch) was awarded to an entry of the opposite sex as Best of Breed.

BREED JUDGE'S BOOK

The Judge's Book You alone are responsible for the judge's book at all times. When you break for lunch, take your book with you or return it to the Superintendent. When you finish your assignment:

- make sure you have marked every class.
- sign your book(s).
- answer the questions on the cover.
- initial all changes and notations.
- personally return the completed judge's book to the Superintendent.
- always check with the Superintendent before leaving the show.

Marking the Judge's Book Always be thorough, neat and careful in marking your book. All markings in your book including placements and notes must be made in pen. If awards are not correctly marked, the entire purpose of the show is defeated. In all regular classes, mark your

placements as first (1), second (2), third (3), fourth (4), and indicate all absentees opposite the armband numbers in the judge's book.

For Winners and Reserve Winners, as well as Best of Breed, Best of Winners, Best of Opposite Sex, Select Dog and Select Bitch, you must record the actual armband numbers of the winning dogs on the appropriate lines.

STANDARDS DISMISSALS

[R] Disqualifying Faults Each dog must be examined for disqualifying faults as specified in the breed standard, as well as for disqualifications referenced in Chapter 11, Section 8, of the **Rules. This applies to judging at all levels** regardless of how many times you or other judges have examined the dog that day.

Judges of sweepstakes, futurity, and special attraction may only disqualify a dog under the provisions of Chapter 11, Section 8-A (DQ for Attack). In all other cases (Rules or standard disqualifications) the dog should be excused.

[R] **Weighing (Rules Chapter 14, Section 4)** In breeds with weight disqualifications, or in any class or division that includes a weight specification, you are responsible for weighing a dog if you suspect it is not within limits or if another exhibitor in the ring with it calls for a weighing.

Call the Superintendent for delivery of the scale and continue to judge the other dogs in the class until the scale arrives. Sometimes it is more practical to take the dog(s) to the Superintendent's office to be weighed. The Superintendent will set up the scale, and you must verify its calibration with a test weight. **The judge and exhibitor are to be on opposite sides of the table during the weighing.** The exhibitor is to be given the option of placing the dog on the scale with the lead on or off. Its weight is to be determined without being touched and if applicable, the lead being held loosely.

JUDGE'S CHECKLIST

Arrive at least one-half hour prior to your judging assignment.

- If you are assigned to judge permit breeds, you should expect to be observed and should check in with the Field Representative and request an observation (Policy).
- Mark all absentees in each class in the book, including dogs entered for Best of Breed/Variety Competition.
- Take the exhibits as a class, or individually, around the ring.
- Examine each dog in approximately the same systematic manner. Know and utilize the breed Standard effective on the date of judging.
- Always make an individual examination of each dog for lameness (Rule).
- Be systematic in your ring procedure, but do not be afraid to make adjustments when conditions warrant it.
- Make all your instructions to exhibitors absolutely clear.

..cont...

Conformation Judging Statistics

The Board reviewed statistics related to conformation judging applications considered by the Judging Operations Department from January – March 2019.

Following are the 2019 year-to-date summary statistics for New Breed and Additional Breed applicants.

FINAL REVIEW ACTION SUMMARY

2019 NEW BREED JUDGING APPLICANTS

	Number of Applicants	Breed Requested	Breeds Accepted	Aps Limited	Aps Fully Approved	Aps Denied	Aps Wthdrn	Aps Held
January	6	18	18	0	6	0	0	0
February	7	11	11	0	7	0	0	0
March	6	13	13	0	6	0	0	0
NB TOTAL	19	42	42	0	19	0	0	0

FINAL REVIEW ACTION SUMMARY

2019 ADDITIONAL BREED JUDGING APPLICANTS

	Number of Applicants	Breed Requested	Breeds Accepted	Aps Limited	Aps Fully Approved	Aps Denied	Aps Wthdrn	Aps Held
January	32	218	212	2	30	0	0	0
February	31	182	181	0	30	1	0	0
March	37	194	189	2	35	0	0	0
AB TOTAL	100	594	582	4	95	1	0	0

FINAL REVIEW ACTION SUMMARY

2019 YEAR-TO-DATE

	Number of Applicants	Breed Requested	Breeds Accepted	Aps Limited	Aps Fully Approved	Aps Denied	Aps Wthdrn	Aps Held
NB	19	42	42	0	19	0	0	0
AB	100	594	582	4	95	1	0	0
TOTAL	119	636	624	4	114	1	0	0

CLUBS

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

Delinquent Member Club Dues

Pursuant to Article V of the *Charter and Bylaws of The American Kennel Club*, the officers of all clubs, including the Delegates, were sent three standard email notifications concerning the payment of their 2019 Member club dues. The Concord Dog Training Club and the Rockingham County Kennel Club have not paid their dues to date. The Concord Dog Training Club has voted to dissolve. The Rockingham County Kennel Club indicated that they plan to vote to dissolve.

Following a motion by Dr. Garvin, seconded by Mrs. Wallin, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to approve the staff recommendation to advise the two clubs that their membership in The American Kennel Club will be revoked and the clubs will return to licensed status.

Club Relations 2018 Activity Report

Club Relations is responsible for the accreditation, advancement, and licensing for AKC's 15 types of clubs, AKC member club status approvals, bylaw approval, territory approvals, sanctioned match program approvals, and informal guidance regarding club dispute resolution (Approximately 350-400 emails received per month). It is the goal of Club Relations to make it as easy as possible for clubs to associate with the AKC within the rules and policies established by the Board.

Status and Trends

1. Number of clubs as of December 28, 2018.

Member clubs	635
Licensed clubs	4,106
Sanctioned Plan A clubs	89
Sanctioned Plan B clubs	<u>115</u>
Total	4,945

2. New Clubs

	Total New Clubs	(National) Specialty	All-Breed	Group	Local Specialty	AG	Obed	Field Trial	Hunt Test	Herding	Lure Coursing	Scent Work	Coon- hound
2018	54	4	1	2	16	2	1	12	1	2	2	9	2
2017	61	3	1	1	14	3	0	14	1	3	2	11	8
2016	39	3	3	2	11	1	0	8	3	1	3	N/A	4

New Parent Clubs in 2018: (1) American Teddy Roosevelt Terrier Club; (2) Bracco Italiano Club of America;
 (3) Danish-Swedish Farmdog Club of America; (4) National Bluetick Coonhound Association
 New All-Breed Club in 2018: Citrus County Kennel Club (Florida)

New Group Clubs in 2018: Big Apple Working Group Club; Mid-Florida Sporting Dog Association

3. New Member Clubs in 2018

- American Sloughi Association
- Grand Basset Griffon Vendéen Club of America
- United States Neapolitan Mastiff Club
- Lawton Dog Fanciers Association
- Lowchen Club of America
- Utah Valley Kennel Club

4. Clubs that Dissolved (Parent)

	Total Dissolved	(National) Specialty	All- Breed	Group	Local Specialty	AG	Obed	Field Trial	Hunt Test	Tracking	Lure Coursing	Earthdog
2018	13	0	3	0	9	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
2017	6	1	1	0	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	0

5. Bylaw review requests handled by staff – 187.

2018 Actions

- Member Club dues paid using online service for payment has increased from 33% in 2017 to 42% in 2018.
- New Mentored Conformation Event Option for Clubs which want to return to AKC after not holding events or filling a void of a club which dissolved in the area (January 2018)
- Eliminating the Requirement for New Clubs to Hold a Fun Match (February 2018)
- Encouraging the Formation of Local Specialty Clubs to promote the creation of local specialty clubs for low entry breeds (August 2018).

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 February and March 2019

Chintimini Kennel Club, Corvallis, OR (2005)

Report on Newly Licensed Clubs Approved in February and March

- Green River Retriever Club of Kentucky, Sebree, KY (including communities no further east to Owensboro, south to Interstate 69, west to Benton), 21 total households, 12 local.
- Irwin County Beagle Club, Irwin County, GA (including communities west to Tifton, north to Wray and southeastern to Pearson), 19 total households, 8 local.
- North Star Terrier Association, greater Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN, 56 total households, 45 local.

COMPLIANCE

The following AKC Management actions were reported:

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

CONSENT

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

Lure Coursing - Scratching at the Line

Amendments to Regulations for AKC Scent Work

FAST CAT® Regulation Clarifications Re: Timing & Fencing

Appointment of AKC PAC Board Members

Delegate and Club Approvals

Lure Coursing – Scratching at the Line

The Board VOTED to approve 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.

These changes are effective immediately upon communication to the Lure Coursing judges and clubs.

Amendments to Regulations for AKC Scent Work

The Board VOTED to approve recommendations from the Sports & Events Department for a number of changes to the Regulations for AKC Scent Work. (See Addendum A)

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.

These changes are effective July 1, 2019.

FAST CAT® Regulation Clarifications Re: Timing & Fencing

The Board VOTED to approve 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.

These changes are effective immediately upon communication from the Performance Events Department.

Appointment of AKC PAC Board Members

AKC Board approval is required for all AKC PAC Board appointments. The Board VOTED to Re-appoint Ms. Gail LaBerge, Ms. Karolynne McAteer and Mr. William Marlow for new two-year terms, approve the extension of Dr. Carmen Battaglia's term for one year, and appoint Mr. Dan Smyth for a new two-year term on the AKC PAC Board.

Delegate Approvals

Paul Bodeving, Cave Junction, OR
To represent Rogue Valley Kennel Club

Nancy Bougher, Sacramento, CA
To represent California Airedale Terrier Club

Joan Church, Easton, PA
To represent Garden State All Terrier Club

Lucy A. Heyman, Spring, TX
To represent Bedlington Terrier Club of America

Terry Hilliard, Alburton, PA
To represent American Brittany Club

Prudence Hlatky, Rosharon, TX
To represent Borzoi Club of America

Barbara C. Ionia, Hurley, NY
To represent Butler County Kennel Club

Audrey Kotaska, Akron, OH
To represent Medina Kennel Club

Dr. Michaelann Cox Mako, Norwalk, CT
To represent Longshore Southport Kennel Club

Margaret R. (Peggy) Wolfe, Princeton, KY
To represent United States Neapolitan Mastiff Club

Club Approvals – Request for AKC Membership

The Board VOTED to approve the credentials of the Champlain Valley Kennel Club.

Battaglia Board Resolution

AT A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OF

THE AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB

Held on April ninth, two thousand and nineteen,

the following Resolution was unanimously adopted:

WHEREAS,

Dr. Carmen L. Battaglia

First joined the Delegate body as the Delegate for the German Shepherd Dog Club of America on December eleventh, nineteen hundred and ninety, and was appointed to The American Kennel Club Board of Directors on June thirteenth, nineteen hundred and ninety-four, serving until March thirteenth, two thousand and nineteen; and,

WHEREAS, during his Board tenure, he served on various committees, such as Events, Judges Review, Privileges, Audit, Public Affairs, and Business, and chaired the Committee for the Future, the Business and Planning Committee, and the Operations and Planning Committee, as well as serving as Board liaison to the Delegate Parent Clubs Committee; and,

WHEREAS, in nineteen hundred and ninety-six, he joined the Board and became President of AKC Companion Recovery; and,

WHEREAS, during his Presidency of AKC Companion Animal Recovery, its activities have expanded beyond reuniting owners with their pets to include support of canine search and

rescue, disaster relief, and support of AKC initiatives such as veterinary scholarships and Parent Club conferences; and,

WHEREAS, many of The American Kennel Club's current DNA programs originated in proposals coming from the Board's Committees for the Future, and Operations and Planning Committee, during Dr. Battaglia's chairmanship of those committees; and,

WHEREAS, his acknowledged expertise in and dedication to matters pertaining to breeding better dogs, and his untiring efforts to expand the horizons of The American Kennel Club into areas like disaster relief through AKC CAR, have proved to be valuable assets to the Board of Directors as it addressed issues in these areas; and,

WHEREAS, we are ever mindful of the great contributions he has made to the organization over the past twenty-nine years; and,

WHEREAS, we will ever cherish our association with this distinguished breeder, judge, lecturer, gentleman, and friend;

NOW THEREFORE, be it

RESOLVED, that the Directors of The American Kennel Club extend to him their most sincere best wishes for the years ahead and their deep appreciation for his past and continuing dedicated service to The American Kennel Club.

William J. Feeney

AKC Chairman

Davies Board Resolution

**AT A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF
THE AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB**

Held on April ninth, two thousand and nineteen,

The following Resolution was unanimously adopted:

WHEREAS,

Dr. Thomas M. Davies

First joined the Delegate body as the representative of the Springfield Kennel Club on September twelfth, nineteen hundred and seventy-eight; and,

WHEREAS, he was elected to the Board of Directors of The American Kennel Club on March fourteenth, two thousand; serving until March thirteenth, two thousand and twelve; and subsequently elected to the Board of Directors on March tenth, two thousand and fifteen; serving until March thirtieth, two thousand and nineteen; and,

WHEREAS, he chaired the Board Club and Events Committee and served on the Compensation, Board Pension, Public Affairs, and Breeder of the Year Committees among others, serving as Vice Chairman, from March tenth, two thousand and nine, until March thirteenth, two thousand and twelve; and subsequently served as Vice Chairman from March tenth, two thousand and fifteen, until March thirtieth, two thousand and nineteen; and,

WHEREAS, he chaired or served on a number of Board ad hoc committees involved in subjects as diverse as Judging Approval and Group Realignment, and on the Board of The American Kennel Club affiliate AKC Companion Animal Recovery; and,

WHEREAS, he was a primary contributor to many positive innovations impacting the Sport such as Canine Partners, the Grand Championship, the Four-to-Six-Month Puppy Competition, the Open Show, and many others too numerous to list; and,

WHEREAS, his deep involvement in, dedication to, and knowledge of all aspects of the Sport, proved to be invaluable assets to the Board of Directors as it addressed issues in these areas at one of the most challenging times in the organization's history; and,

WHEREAS, we are ever mindful of the great contributions he has made and continues to make to The American Kennel Club and the Sport of Purebred Dogs for the past 41 years; and,

WHEREAS, we will ever cherish our association with this distinguished businessman, gentleman, Sportsman, and friend,

NOW THEREFORE, be it

RESOLVED, the Board of Directors of The American Kennel Club extend their most sincere best wishes for the years ahead and their deep appreciation for his dedicated service to the American Kennel Club.

William J. Feeney

AKC Chairman

Menaker Board Resolution

**AT A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF
THE AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB**

Held on April ninth, two thousand and nineteen,

The following Resolution was unanimously adopted:

WHEREAS,

Ronald H. Menaker

First joined the Delegate body as the representative of the Bedlington Terrier Club of America on December thirteenth, nineteen hundred and eighty-eight, serving until October nineteenth, nineteen hundred and ninety-two, and rejoined the body on August ninth, nineteen hundred and ninety-four, as the representative of the Des Moines Obedience Training Club, changing to the Rockford-Freeport, Illinois Kennel Club, and subsequently the Memphis Kennel Club; and,

WHEREAS, he was first appointed to The American Kennel Club Board of Directors on May thirteenth, nineteen hundred and ninety-six, serving until March nineteen hundred and ninety-eight, was subsequently elected on March ninth, two thousand, serving until March thirteenth, two-thousand and twelve, and was subsequently elected on March eleventh, two thousand fourteen, serving until March thirtieth, two thousand nineteen, and,

WHEREAS, he served as The American Kennel Club's first Vice-Chairman from March fourteenth, two thousand and one until March twelfth, two thousand and two, and as Chairman from March twelfth, two thousand and two, until March thirteenth, two thousand and twelve, and subsequently served as Chairman from March tenth, two thousand fifteen, until March thirtieth, two thousand nineteen; and,

WHEREAS, as the Show Chairman for the AKC National Championship Show from two thousand and two until two thousand and eleven, he helped it to become one of the world's most prestigious shows; and,

WHEREAS, his hands-on leadership helped to avert a disaster and to save The American Kennel Club registry when the system failed in two thousand and three; and,

WHEREAS, his extensive business experience, universally acknowledged leadership qualities, and his aggressive management style proved to be invaluable assets to the Board and the organization as they faced a multitude of challenges; and,

WHEREAS, he presided over the planning and relocation of our Headquarters and The AKC Museum of the Dog to 101 Park Avenue in New York City; and

WHEREAS, we are ever mindful of the great contributions he has made and continues to make to The American Kennel Club and the Sport of Purebred Dogs; and,

WHEREAS, we are will ever cherish our association with this distinguished businessman, Sportsman, and friend; and,

NOW THEREFORE, be it

RESOLVED, the Board of Directors of The American Kennel Club extend their most sincere best wishes for the years ahead and their deep appreciation for his dedicated service to the American Kennel Club.

William J. Feeney

AKC Chairman

New Business

AKC Detection Dog Task Force

The Board was given a presentation deck to review on the AKC Detection Dog Task Force. Any question or comments will be addressed at the May Board Meeting

State Dogs

Mrs. Wallin would like staff to look into ways that AKC can be proactive in having AKC Breeds named as official state dogs.

It was VOTED to adjourn Tuesday, April 9, 2019 at 12:07 p.m.

Adjourned

Attest:

Gina M. DiNardo, Executive Secretary

REGULATIONS FOR AKC SCENT WORK

Addendum A – Revisions (underlined) effective July 1, 2019.

Chapter 1, Section 1. Purpose. AKC Scent Work is a sport that is based on the task of working detection dogs to locate a scent and communicate to the handler that the scent has been found.

...

The remainder of this section is unchanged.

Chapter 2, Section 2. Class Eligibility. Dogs are able to enter up to two (2) difficulty levels in each element, in each trial. If a dog is entered in more than two difficulty levels for a single element in a single trial, the score for the lowest level entered will be disallowed, regardless of whether the dog ran or qualified in all levels. Dogs may only enter classes for which they are eligible, according to the above guidelines. Dogs may only enter a class once in each event. A class is defined as a particular difficulty level within a particular element. For example, a dog may run in both Novice and Advanced Interior in the same trial, but may not run in Novice Interior twice in the same trial.

Chapter 3, Section 2. Event Applications. Clubs wishing to hold an AKC Scent Work trial or match must make application to the American Kennel Club on the official application form for permission to hold the trial. An application fee must accompany each application; applications will not be processed until the fee is received. Clubs must apply for trials a minimum of eighteen (18) weeks prior to the event closing date; clubs must apply for matches a minimum of four (4) weeks prior to the date of the event. AKC Scent Work may be offered as stand-alone events or in conjunction with another event. In all cases, the official AKC Scent Work application with a separate application fee is required. Late applications may be subject to a fine.

Chapter 3, Section 3. Scent Work Matches. A Scent Work match is a sanctioned event in which scores do not count toward titles. A match is less formal than a trial, but still follows the same structure. All trial regulations apply to matches unless otherwise stated. Any club that is licensed to host Scent Work trials are eligible to host sanctioned Scent Work matches. No results or recording fees are due for sanctioned matches.

Anyone in good standing with the American Kennel Club—with the exception of the match secretary—may be approved to judge at a sanctioned match.

The sections in the remainder of this chapter will be renumbered to reflect insertion of this section.

Chapter 3, Section 13. Equipment/Event Officials Supplied by Club.

...

h) Stewards and Hide Steward. The club shall arrange for one or more stewards to organize and call in the exhibitors and assist the judge, and for a hide steward to hide the handler-scented item for the handler discrimination classes.

k) Forms. Clubs must provide the Judge's Score Sheets and Judge's Certification pages

The remainder of this section is unchanged.

Chapter 3, Section 14. Premium List. ...The premium list must also include the statement: “It is not appropriate to scout the trial location prior to the trial date. Many search locations are real-life environments and such visits may risk the host losing the opportunity to use the location in the future.”

...

The premium list must be submitted via e-mail to ScentWork@akc.org and must receive approval prior to publication. Clubs may be subject to a fine if the premium list is received for approval less than twenty-one (21) calendar days prior to the opening date. The premium list must be made available by paper and/or electronically to prospective entrants a minimum of two (2) weeks prior to the opening date for acceptance of entries for the event.

Chapter 3, Section 16. Event Entry Limits. Clubs have three options for event entry limits:

- a) Unlimited trial- With an unlimited trial all entries must be accepted. At close of entries if the total number of entries exceeds the limit for the advertised judges, the club must hire additional judges.
- b) Numeric entry limit- With a numeric entry limit, the club designates a specific number of entries that will be accepted per trial. The club must continue to accept entries until this number is reached, even if it would cause a judge to exceed their daily limit under the advertised judge panel. In that case, any additional dogs beyond the judge’s limit shall be assigned to another judge (including hiring an additional judge, if necessary). Once the numeric entry limit is reached no additional entries may be accepted.

Judging hours entry limit- When limiting an event based on judging hours, the club will accept entries until the advertised judges have reached their 8 hours per day maximum limit (based on the official AKC Scent Work Judging Time Calculator). The club may adjust the judging assignments to maximize entries, but under no circumstances may they hire an additional judge beyond those advertised in the Premium List.

Chapter 3, Section 17. Additional Entry Limits. If a club elects, it may place additional limits on a single class or set of classes in the premium list. If a limit is placed on a single class or set of classes, no entries may be accepted beyond this established limit.

The sections in the remainder of this chapter will be renumbered to reflect insertion of this section.

Chapter 3, Section 19. Class Transfers. ...The request for a class transfer must be in writing and presented to the trial secretary at least 30 minutes prior to the start of each trial. Transfers may be approved provided the class is available and has not reached its limit. Clubs are not required to accept transfers after close of entries. Whether or not the club is accepting transfers should be stated in the premium list. If the premium list does not discuss whether transfers are or are not allowed, it will be assumed that they are allowed, and the club will be required to honor transfer requests that are presented to the trial secretary in writing within 30 minutes of the start of the trial.

The remainder of this section is unchanged.

Chapter 3, Section 20. Judging Limits. AKC Scent Work judges are limited to 8 hours per day, including judging, setup, and breakdown. Judging time per class is determined utilizing the AKC Scent Work Judging Time Calculator. After the entries have closed, if any judge exceeds the limit established in these regulations, the club will immediately secure the approval of the AKC for an additional judge, or for reassignment of its advertised judges, so that no judge will be required to exceed the limit. AKC for an additional judge, or for reassignment of its advertised judges, so that no judge will be required to exceed the limit.

Chapter 3, Section 24. Entry Acceptance Methods.

...

First Received Entries – Entries accepted in order of receipt. Trial Secretaries shall use all information to fairly and equitably determine which entries are received first.

Accepting Entries:

- The club must select only one (1) USPS (United States Postal Service) or PMB (Postal Mail Box) address for receipt of paper entries.
- The mailing address must be stated in the premium list. Entries delivered to any other address are invalid and must be returned to the sender.
- If stated in the premium list, a club may further restrict the delivery options (i.e. No “hand-deliveries” at any time). USPS delivery must be allowed.

Guaranteed Entries for Show Workers:

- The First-Received method does not allow clubs to guarantee entry spaces for show workers. The AKC recommends using the Random Draw method if there is a possibility of not securing enough workers from the First-Received entries.

Random Draw – Entries treated equally without regarding to date/time received ...

...

Online Entries - Clubs may choose to utilize a service for accepting entries over the internet. Such service must collect all data that is included on the AKC entry form, as well as requiring the owner/agent to acknowledge the AKC agreement. To be valid, entries must be accompanied by a valid payment method.

Chapter 3, Section 28. Special Accommodations for Certain Dogs. Clubs are not to make special accommodations for certain dogs (such as dogs determined by their owners to be “reactive”). Clubs may not advertise a “red bandana” policy in premium lists or printed materials or impose such a policy in the briefing. Clubs may dictate how competitors are to be staged while in line for searches, as well as ingress to and egress from the search areas, but these must be consistent for all dogs. Clubs cannot make blanket rules that dogs are not allowed to socialize or come in contact with each other, except regarding the staging areas or warm-up areas.

Chapter 3, Section 29. Demo Dog. After the hide(s) have been set, an accomplished search dog that is not entered in the class will run the course. This is to evaluate the real-world difficulty

of the search, as designed. If the demo dog encounters unexpected difficulty, the judge should consider adjusting the hide location(s). An accomplished dog is defined as one who has earned the AKC Scent Work title (or a comparable title with another organization) for that element and difficulty level. The club is responsible for making an appropriate demo dog available to the judge, but it is ultimately the judge's decision on what dog is used as the demo dog. The club has no authority to require the judge to use the demo dog that they have provided. Judges can and may use their own dog as demo dog if the dog meets the above requirements.

If there is an emergency which renders the demo dog unavailable, the first dog in the running order will complete the search, after which the judge will determine whether the search, as designed, is acceptable. If the first dog to run encounters unforeseen difficulties such that the judge decides to adjust the hide location(s), that dog will be re-run at the end of the class, with no penalty. In situations where the first entered dog must be used to evaluate the search, the run must occur after the briefing and immediately prior to the other dogs in the class. In no case may an entered dog be run during trial setup as the demo dog and receive credit toward titles.

The sections in the remainder of this chapter will be renumbered to reflect insertion of this section **Chapter 3, Section 32. Recording of Results.** The following information shall be recorded in the official catalog submitted to the AKC. In the header for each class, the following information must appear:

- Number of entries (number of entries at closing less the number of entries withdrawn)
- Number competing in the class
- Number of qualifying scores
- Number of withdrawals
- Name of the person who judged the class
- Maximum time for the class, as set by the judge or Regulations

For each dog entered in the class, the marked catalog must display the 1) Armband number, 2) Dog's AKC number, 3) Dog's date of birth, 4)3) Registered name of the dog, 5)4) Call name of the dog, 6)5) Name of the owner, 7)6) Address of the owner, 8)7) Name of the handler (if different from the owner), 9)8) Official time, 10)9) Number of faults, 11)40) Result. At the club's discretion, the address of the owner may be omitted from the class pages, if presented in an index at the back of the catalog.

...

The remainder of this section is unchanged.

Chapter 3, Section 33. Submittal of Results. An official marked catalog bearing the above required information, and with each page initialed by the individual who judged each class, must be sent to the American Kennel Club so as to reach its office within seven (7) days after the event. Included in this packet must be the judge's certification pages and Trial Secretary certification, the Trial Secretary's report, and payment of recording fees. Clubs may incur fines for catalogs received after this deadline.

The catalog must be prepared in the following class order regardless of the order in which the classes were run at the event: all Novice A classes, all Novice B classes, all Advanced classes, all Excellent classes, all Master classes, and the Detective class. Within the levels, the elements should be presented in the following order: Container, Interior, Exterior, Buried, Handler Discrimination. Clubs may be subject to a fine if results catalogs are received in disarray or without the required information.

The club shall provide the judge(s) with a marked catalog, and shall retain a marked catalog for their records, as well as maintain all entry forms and transfer forms for a period of at least one (1) year. The judge must be provided their copy of the marked catalog prior to leaving the show site.

Chapter 3, Section 36. Violation of Regulations. The club is responsible for abiding by all of these Regulations when hosting AKC Scent Work trials. Violation of any of these Regulations, with the exception of those matters coming under the sole jurisdiction of the judges, may subject the club to a fine or other consequence. Other consequence may include a stay on the club's Scent Work event-hosting privileges until the club can be re-educated and certified by a field representative as fit to hold Scent Work trials.

The sections in the remainder of this chapter will be renumbered to reflect insertion of this section.

Chapter 4, Section 3. Judging Limits. AKC Scent Work judges are limited to 8 hours per day, including judging, setup, and breakdown. Judging time per class is determined utilizing the AKC Scent Work Judging Time Calculator.

Chapter 4, Section 4. Designing the Searches. ...The clubs must submit specific dimensions and layouts of the search areas to the judge no later than sixty (60) days prior to the event date to aid in search design. Additionally, information on furniture and structural obstacles must be communicated to the judge. Ideally, photographs will be submitted with the layouts so that the judge has a clear understanding of the search area prior to designing the course. It is understood that course layouts may change when the judge reaches the site and experiences the conditions firsthand. If the club is offering Container classes at the level of Advanced or above, the club must also submit pictures of the containers that they will be providing for those classes.

The remainder of this section is unchanged.

Chapter 4, Section 5. Nesting of Searches. "Nesting" of searches is prohibited. Nesting searches refers to the practice of utilizing the lower level class setup (including hide placement), and simply increasing the area and adding hides and distractions for higher level classes. Because handlers may handle dogs in multiple different classes, and dogs are able to run in multiple difficulty levels, the hides must be relocated between levels. This does not prohibit clubs from reusing a search area for additional classes, but the hide locations must always change from class to class.

The sections in the remainder of this chapter will be renumbered to reflect insertion of this section.

Chapter 4, Section 15. Judges Exhibiting. At the discretion of the club, judges may choose to exhibit their dogs in a scent work trial in which they are judging, but only for classes for which they are not the judge of record. This must be agreed upon between the club and judge ahead of time and should be included in the judging contract. The judge exhibiting should not interfere with their judging duties. Under no circumstances may a dog owned or co-owned by a judge be exhibited under them, regardless of who is handling the dog (see Chapter 2, Section 13).

The sections in the remainder of this chapter will be renumbered to reflect insertion of this section.

Chapter 4, Section 17. Violation of Regulations. Judges are responsible for following all of these Regulations when judging AKC Scent Work trials. Violation of any Regulations that are under the sole jurisdiction of the judge may subject the judge to a fine or other consequence. Other consequence may include requirements for additional training, removal of eligibility to judge higher-level classes, or a return to “provisional” status.

The sections in the remainder of this chapter will be renumbered to reflect insertion of this section.

Chapter 5, Section 2. Proximity of Search Areas. “Active” search areas (areas for which the odor has been set) must be separated so as not to confuse a dog who is working—odor from a nearby area should never be accessible to a searching dog. Separation should consist of minimum distance, physical barriers, or visual barriers.

The following definitions will be used for the purposes of separating search areas:

A **physical barrier** is either an object that is solid and flush with the ground, or two rows of hanging tarps/curtains that reach the ground with at least one foot of space between them.

A **visual barrier** is a separator that provides a psychological boundary to the dog. It need not be flush with the ground or completely opaque. For example, conformation ring gating is an acceptable visual barrier.

See Chapter 7, Section 3 for specific requirements for separation of active search areas by element.

The sections in the remainder of this chapter will be renumbered to reflect insertion of this section.

Chapter 5, Section 3. Separation of Crating Area and Searching Areas. The crating area should not be so nearby any search area such that dogs will encounter odor while crated. Dividing a single room between searches and crating is not preferable. If done, the crating area must be separated from the search area(s) by a physical barrier (see Chapter 5, Section 2 for the definition of a “physical barrier”). Crating can never be set up in the same room as a Master search, regardless of the barriers between them. Master searches have an unknown number of

hides, and there is the risk that handlers in the crating area will overhear how many hides are found before the “finish” call.

The sections in the remainder of this chapter will be renumbered to reflect insertion of this section.

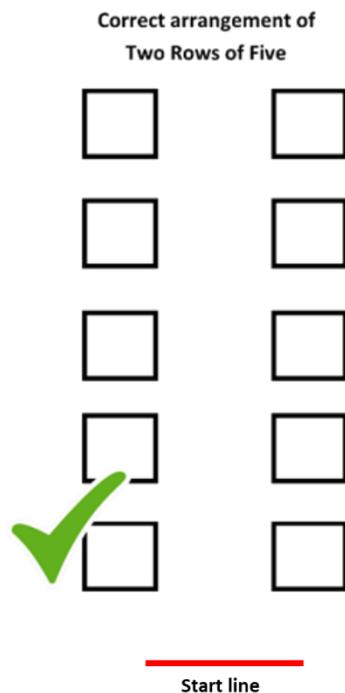
Chapter 5, Section 4. Reuse of Search Areas. Search areas may be reused for multiple classes within a trial or trial weekend, but the same search area cannot be used for more than 7 hides during an entire set of trials. A set of trials is defined as scent work trials hosted at the same site within a period of 7 days.

The sections in the remainder of this chapter will be renumbered to reflect insertion of this section.

Chapter 5, Section 18. Residual and Lingering Odor. If search areas are reused during the course of the day, the judge must inform teams during the handler’s briefing (and may remind them on the start line) of the prior hide locations, to warn of possible residual or lingering odor. These areas must also be marked with stickers or tape.

Chapter 5, Section 8. Containers. Containers are used to conceal the scent vessel for container searches in the Odor Search division or the handler-scented item in the Novice class of the Handler Discrimination division. Containers should mirror what real life detection dogs search (luggage in airports, packages at customs, etc.). Some examples of appropriate containers are cardboard boxes, briefcases, luggage, backpacks, storage bins, musical instrument cases, purses, duffel bags, or other similar odor-permeable container, as specified by difficulty level. Criteria for choosing containers is: Would you expect to see it on a luggage carousel at the airport, or come through the mail? If not, it is not an appropriate choice for container classes. Containers utilizing glass may never be used. Containers in Novice searches must be cardboard boxes and must all be identical. Novice cardboard boxes must be of uniform size and shall be at least 10-inches long by 8-inches wide; they must be no less than 3-inches and no more than 8-inches tall. Box construction need not conform to the diagram at the right. Four-fold boxes, literature mailers, or other designs are acceptable as long as they meet the size requirements and have a seam on the top of the box for odor to escape. If there is a seam on the bottom of the box, that seam must be taped shut. Surplus containers for replacement must be available should any of the containers become damaged or contaminated.

Chapter 5, Section 9. Arrangement of Rows. Whenever the word “rows” is used in these Regulations, it refers to parallel straight-line rows. Boxes arranged in rows cannot be angled or offset from each other. The start line must be positioned on the short end of the setup. See diagram below.



The sections in the remainder of this chapter will be renumbered to reflect insertion of this section.

Chapter 5, Section 13. “Finish” Calls. The “Finish” call is used in classes that contain multiple hides (all Advanced, Excellent, and Master searches). The handler is required to call “Finish” when all hides have been located for the search area (or, for classes with an unknown number of hides, when the handler believes that all hides have been located.) The “Finish” call is required to stop the time for the search. If the handler fails to call “Finish” after finding all hides in the area for classes where the total number of hides in the area is known to the handler, the team will be assessed a fault and the maximum search time will be recorded for the team. If the handler fails to call “Finish” for a class in which the number of hides in the area is unknown (Excellent Interior, all Master classes, and the Detective class in the Odor Search Division), leaving the search area without calling finish will result in an NQ.

Chapter 5, Section 15. Informing Handler of Hide Location After Incorrect Alert. In all classes, if the handler calls Alert on an incorrect location, the handler shall be informed of the correct location of one hide. In the Novice classes only, handlers are also allowed to reward the dog briefly at source if they choose to do so.

The sections in the remainder of this chapter will be renumbered to reflect insertion of this section.

Chapter 5, Section 19. Distraction Items. Certain searches, as determined by element and difficulty level, will include distraction items. Distraction items cannot be placed on top of the hide, or on top of the location of a previous hide. Distraction items may be of the following type:...

- Non-Food Distraction: Non-food distraction may be one of the following items: tennis ball, dog toy, (empty) dog dish, dog brush, leash, or harness. No other items are permitted to be used as the non-food distraction.

...For Container classes and Buried Advanced classes, the distraction may be in a container or loose in the search area. If in a container, it may NOT be in the same container as the odor. For classes with a distraction, the judge shall explain during the briefing the number and type of distractions used but shall not point the specific distraction out to the competitors.

The remainder of this section is unchanged.

Chapter 5, Section 25. Setting of Hides. For each search, the judge is responsible for ensuring that the scent is placed in the appropriate hide location that they have chosen. The judge may set the hides themselves or may direct a qualified individual (as determined by the judge) to do so with their supervision. The individual setting hides should wear latex, nitrile, or vinyl gloves when doing so, and must not touch any other items until the gloves are removed.

For classes in the Handler Discrimination division, the judge must designate another individual to set the hides for them (the Hide Steward). Please see Chapter 8, Section 7 for details on the Hide Steward for the Handler Discrimination division.

Chapter 5, Section 26. Official Timer. Each class must have an official timer who will monitor the official time for the class and communicate to the judge the final run time to the hundredth of a second. The official timer will give a 30-second warning to every competitor in the Novice, Advanced, and Excellent level classes (no 30-second warning will be given in Master level classes or the Detective Class). However, if the warning is late or is not given due to circumstance or oversight, no re-run is due. The search time shall be determined as follows:...

The remainder of this section is unchanged.

Chapter 6, Section 7. Ribbons, Rosettes, and Awards. ...Special awards may be given out at the club's discretion. These may include special awards for dogs that earn a title or fun awards such as the smallest and largest dog to qualify, or an award to any junior handler whose dog earns a qualifying score. These awards shall be specified in the premium list. High in Trial, High Combined Division, new title, or other unique awards may be of any size, construction, or color combination.

The remainder of this section is unchanged.

Chapter 6, Section 8. High in Trial (HIT). If a club offers more than one element (Container, Interior, Exterior, Buried) of a particular difficulty level, they are eligible to confer High in Trial awards (HIT). Only teams who participate in the same difficulty level in all elements offered, and qualify in each, are eligible to win High in Trial. The High in Trial award does not take into account Handler Discrimination classes, even if offered at the trial. The High in Trial is determined by adding a team's faults across the elements. The team with the fewest faults will be declared High in Trial. If there is a tie based on faults, then the teams' times across the elements will be summed, and the faster-finishing team will win. If there is a tie after considering both faults and time, a coin-flip will determine the High in Trial. There shall be one High in Trial winner for each difficulty level offered.

The remainder of this section is unchanged.

Chapter 6, Section 9. High Combined Division (HCD). If a club chooses to offer the High in Trial (HIT) award and is also offering Handler Discrimination classes, they must also confer the High Combined Division (HCD) award. Only teams who participate in the same difficulty level in all elements plus Handler Discrimination, and qualify in each, are eligible to win High Combined Division. The High Combined Division award is determined by adding a team's faults across all classes. The team with the fewest faults will be declared the winner of the High Combined Division. If there is a tie based on faults, then the teams' times across the classes will be summed, and the faster-finishing team will win. If there is a tie after considering both faults and time, a coin-flip will determine the High Combined Division winner. There shall be one High Combined Division winner for each difficulty level offered. The High Combined Division award is not recorded by the AKC.

Chapter 6, Section 10. High In Trial and High Combined Division With Limited Class Offerings. If certain elements are offered for some difficulty levels but not others, the High in Trial or High Combined Division award is given based on participation and qualifying performances in all available classes for that difficulty level. For example, a club may choose to offer Container Novice and Advanced, Interior Novice and Advanced, and Exterior Novice only for a trial. If they choose to award High in Trial then the Novice High in Trial award will be based on the best performance across the Container, Interior, and Exterior classes, whereas the Advanced High in Trial will be based on the best performance across the Container and Interior classes only.

Chapter 7, Section 3. Proximity of Search Areas by Element.

Container - Container search areas, whether or not odor is present, may be no nearer than 20 feet from an active search area without a physical barrier. There must always be a visual barrier between containers and other search areas so that dogs are not cued to search the other area by the sight of the containers. The ideal distance between an active container search area and another active search area is greater than 30 feet.

Interior - "Active" interior search areas may be no nearer than 30 feet from another active search area without a physical barrier.

Exterior- "Active" exterior search areas may be no nearer than 30 feet from another active search area without a physical barrier.

Buried- Buried search areas, whether or not odor is present, may be no nearer than 20 feet from another active search area without a physical barrier. The ideal distance is greater than 30 feet. There must always be a visual barrier between buried boxes and other search areas so that dogs are not cued to search the other area by the sight of the boxes.

The sections in the remainder of this chapter will be renumbered to reflect insertion of this section.

Chapter 7, Section 3. Container Searches.

...

Container Advanced Class: Fifteen containers of various size and type are laid out on the floor of the search area. The containers may be arranged in three rows of five containers, in a circle, or in a “U” formation. Each container must be at least 12” apart, and if rows are used, each row must be at least 36” apart. The search area must be at least 400 and no more than 600 square feet. Two of the containers hold the target odor, which may be Birch or Anise (each scent vessel may contain the same odor, or one may contain Birch and the other may contain Anise). One non-food distraction will be placed in the search area. The distraction may be in a container or loose in the search area. If in a container, it may NOT be in the same container as the odor.

The remainder of this section is unchanged.

Chapter 7, Section 3. Container Searches.

...

Container Master Class: ...The target odor(s) at this level will be Birch and/or Anise and/or Clove and/or Cypress. The dog has four minutes to locate the container(s) with the target scent and communicate the find(s) to its handler. The handler must call “Alert” when the dog indicates each find. When the handler believes all hides have been located he/she must call “Finish.” The timer will not give a 30-second warning at this level (but handlers can self-time, if they wish). The Container Master Class is open to dogs who have acquired the Container Excellent (SCE) title.

The remainder of this section is unchanged.

Chapter 7, Section 4. Interior Searches. The interior search element tests the dog’s ability to locate the target odor in an indoor search environment. The search will take place inside a room or rooms in a building or permanent structure (such as an office, classroom, kitchen, bathroom, warehouse, shed recreational vehicle, etc.). The entire room need not be utilized for the search area, but if part of the room is excluded from the search area then the boundaries should be clearly delineated with colored adhesive tape, caution tape, plastic fencing, or by some other method. ...

The remainder of this section is unchanged.

Chapter 7, Section 4. Interior Searches.

...

Interior Excellent Class: The target odors of Birch and/or Clove and/or Anise are hidden in two distinct search areas in one or more rooms, or part of a room. The separation of these two distinct search areas must conform to the “proximity of search area” requirements laid out in Chapter 7, Section 3 (The dog should not encounter odor from Search Area 2 while searching Area 1). It is not sufficient to simply divide a single room in half to create two search areas. The total space of the two search areas must not be less than 400 and not more than 800 square

feet. Each search area will be worked independently, with a separate time limit. There are three hides at this level. The exact number of hides per search area will not be communicated to the handler; they will only know that there are three total between the two areas. Two of the hides must be accessible and none may be located higher than 48 inches (4 feet) off the floor. ...

The remainder of this section is unchanged.

Chapter 7, Section 4. Interior Searches.

...

Interior Master Class: The target odor(s) of Birch and/or Clove and/or Anise and/or Cypress are hidden in three distinct search areas in one or more rooms, or part of a room. The separation of these distinct search areas must conform to the “proximity of search area” requirements laid out in Chapter 7, Section 3 (The dog should not encounter odor from Search Area 2 while searching Area 1). It is not sufficient to simply divide a single room in half to create two search areas. The total space of all search areas must be not less than 600 and not more than 1000 square feet. Each search area will be worked independently, with a separate time limit. There are an unknown number of hides per area, either zero, one, two, or three (with a maximum of six hides for the entire class). Any or all hides may be inaccessible, but none may be located higher than 60 inches (5 feet) off the floor. One of the search areas may be “blank” (with no hide) if the judge chooses. An area cannot be used as a blank area if it was used for a hide at any time during that trial weekend or set of trials... The time limit is set by the judge and must be between 1 and 3 minutes per search area. The timer will not give a 30-second warning at this level (but handlers can self-time, if they wish). The Interior Master Class is open to dogs who have acquired the Interior Excellent (SIE) title.

The table at the end of this section will be modified to reflect the change to 0-3 hides per area, 2-6 total per class, and the change from 2-3 search areas to 3 search areas.

The remainder of this section is unchanged.

Chapter 7, Section 5. Exterior Search Areas.

...

Exterior Master Class: The target odor(s) of Birch and/or Anise and/or Clove and/or Cypress are hidden in an outdoor area not less than 1500 but not more than 2000 square feet. There are one, two, three, or four hides at this level, all of which may be inaccessible, none of which may be located higher than 60 inches (5 feet) above the ground. The exact number of hides is not known to the handler. There are three distractions, which may be non-food, food, auditory, visual, human, or “mimic.” When the handler believes that all hides have been located he/she must call “Finish” to stop the time. The time limit is set by the judge and must be between 3 and 5 minutes. The timer will not give a 30-second warning at this level (but handlers can self-time, if they wish). The Exterior Master Class is open to dogs who have acquired the Exterior Excellent (SEE) title.

The table at the end of this section will be modified to reflect the change to 1-4 hides per class.

The remainder of this section is unchanged.

Chapter 7, Section 6. Buried Searches. The Buried search element simulates the task of Human Remains Dogs to search for scents that have been buried under the ground or submerged under water. The Buried classes use tote boxes filled with substrate, with the odor at the bottom. The dog must determine which tote box(es) conceal the target odor(s). The boxes will be covered with a metal grid to prevent the dogs from being able to dig. Buried classes may be conducted either indoors or outdoors.

The tote boxes utilized for the Buried classes must be 15 quart capacity, with latching handles, approximately 16 inches wide by 11 inches deep by 7 inches high. The metal grid must be approximately 16 inches wide by 10 inches deep, to be able to be latched into the storage tote (these can be purchased as “cooling grids” or “baking grids”).

Classes that utilize sand must only use “play sand.” Classes that utilize water must use potable (drinking-quality) water. The scent vessel for the sand boxes must be a round, mesh, tea ball/tea infuser approximately two inches in diameter, made of stainless steel. The scent vessel for the water boxes must be a segment of opaque aquarium airline tubing, secured to the bottom of the box with suction cup clips.

Buried Novice Class: Six tote boxes will be placed in the search area, in two rows of three, at least 36 inches apart. The search area must be at least 150 but not more than 200 square feet. Each box will be filled equally, with enough sand that the buried scent vessel will be covered with four inches of sand. One of the boxes will conceal a scent vessel containing Birch. There are no intentional distractions at this level. The dog has two minutes to locate the target scent and communicate the find to its handler. The handler must call “Alert” when the dog indicates the find. The Buried Novice Class is open to all dogs.

Buried Advanced Class: Eight tote boxes will be placed in the search area, in any arrangement, at least 36 inches apart. The search area must be at least 200 but not more than 300 square feet. Each box will be filled equally, with enough water that the submerged scent vessel will be covered with four inches of water.

Each of the boxes will have a scent vessel affixed to the bottom. Two of the scent vessels will contain a scent aid scented with either Birch or Anise. There is one non-food distraction at this level, which may be non-food or food. The dog has three minutes to locate the target scents and communicate the finds to its handler. The handler must call “Alert” when the dog indicates each find. After the second “Alert” call, the handler must call “Finish” to indicate that all hides have been found and to stop the time. The Buried Advanced Class is open to dogs who have acquired the Buried Novice (SBN) title.

Buried Excellent Class: Twelve tote boxes will be placed in the search area, in any arrangement, at least 36 inches apart. The search area must be at least 300 but not more than 400 square feet. Six of the boxes must contain sand, and six must contain water, filled equally with enough material that the scent vessel is covered with four inches of material. The boxes containing water will each have a scent vessel affixed to the bottom, which may or may not conceal one of the target odors. Three of the boxes will contain a scent aid scented with either

Birch, Anise, or Clove. There are two distractions, which may be non-food, food, auditory, or visual. Distractions are not buried/submerged. The dog has four minutes to locate the target scents and communicate the finds to its handler. The handler must call "Alert" when the dog indicates each find. After the third "Alert" call, the handler must call "Finish" to indicate that all hides have been found and to stop the time. The Buried Excellent Class is open to dogs who have acquired the Buried Advanced (SBA) title.

Chapter 7, Section 6. Buried Searches. The Buried search element simulates the task of Human Remains Dogs to search for scents that have been buried under the ground or submerged under water. The Buried classes use tote boxes filled with substrate, with the odor at the bottom. The dog must determine which tote box(es) conceal the target odor(s). The boxes will be covered with a metal grid to prevent the dogs from being able to dig. Buried classes may be conducted either indoors or outdoors.

The tote boxes utilized for the Buried classes must be 15 quart capacity, with latching handles, approximately 16 inches wide by 11 inches deep by 7 inches high. The metal grid must be approximately 16 inches wide by 10 inches deep, to be able to be latched into the storage tote (these can be purchased as "cooling grids" or "baking grids").

Classes that utilize sand must only use "play sand." Classes that utilize water must use potable (drinking-quality) water. The scent vessel for the sand boxes must be a round, mesh, tea ball/tea infuser approximately two inches in diameter, made of stainless steel. The scent vessel for the water boxes must be a segment of opaque aquarium airline tubing, secured to the bottom of the box with suction cup clips.

Buried Novice Class: Six tote boxes will be placed in the search area, in two rows of three, at least 36 inches apart. The search area must be at least 150 but not more than 200 square feet. Each box will be filled equally, with enough sand that the buried scent vessel will be covered with four inches of sand. One of the boxes will conceal a scent vessel containing Birch. There are no intentional distractions at this level. The dog has two minutes to locate the target scent and communicate the find to its handler. The handler must call "Alert" when the dog indicates the find. The Buried Novice Class is open to all dogs.

Buried Advanced Class: Eight tote boxes will be placed in the search area, in any arrangement, at least 36 inches apart. The search area must be at least 200 but not more than 300 square feet. Each box will be filled equally, with enough water that the submerged scent vessel will be covered with four inches of water. Each of the boxes will have a scent vessel affixed to the bottom. Two of the scent vessels will contain a scent aid scented with either Birch or Anise. There is one non-food distraction at this level, which may be non-food or food. The dog has three minutes to locate the target scents and communicate the finds to its handler. The handler must call "Alert" when the dog indicates each find. After the second "Alert" call, the handler must call "Finish" to indicate that all hides have been found and to stop the time. The Buried Advanced Class is open to dogs who have acquired the Buried Novice (SBN) title.

Buried Excellent Class: Twelve tote boxes will be placed in the search area, in any arrangement, at least 36 inches apart. The search area must be at least 300 but not more than 400 square feet. Six of the boxes must contain sand, and six must contain water, filled equally

with enough material that the scent vessel is covered with four inches of material. The boxes containing water will each have a scent vessel affixed to the bottom, which may or may not conceal one of the target odors. Three of the boxes will contain a scent aid scented with either Birch, Anise, or Clove. There are two distractions, which may be non-food, food, auditory, or visual. Distractions are not buried/submerged. The dog has four minutes to locate the target scents and communicate the finds to its handler. The handler must call "Alert" when the dog indicates each find. After the third "Alert" call, the handler must call "Finish" to indicate that all hides have been found and to stop the time. The Buried Excellent Class is open to dogs who have acquired the Buried Advanced (SBA) title.

Buried Master Class: Sixteen tote boxes will be placed in the search area, in any arrangement, at least 36 inches apart. Eight of these boxes must contain sand, and eight must contain water, filled equally with enough material that the scent vessel is covered with four inches of material. The boxes containing water will each have a scent vessel affixed to the bottom, which may or may not conceal one of the target odors. There are an unknown number of hides at this level; one, two, three, or four of the boxes will contain a scent aid. There are three distractions, which may be non-food, food, auditory, visual, human, or "mimic." Distractions are not buried or submerged. The dog has five minutes to locate the target scent(s) and communicate the find(s) to its handler. The handler must call "Alert" when the dog indicates the find. When the handler believes that all hides have been located he/she must call "Finish" to stop the time. The timer will not give a 30-second warning at this level (but handlers are allowed to self-time, if they wish). The Buried Master Class is open to dogs who have acquired the Buried Excellent (SBE) title.

Chapter 8, Section 7. Hiding the Scented Article. The hide steward will be responsible for hiding the handler-scented article and will wear latex, nitrile, or vinyl gloves while doing so. Although it is permitted for the odor division classes, judges are not permitted to set their own hides for the Handler Discrimination classes. This is because the judge's scent is used for discrimination, so extra care must be taken not to expose the handler-scented article to the judge's scent...

The remainder of this section is unchanged.

Chapter 8, Section 8. Cuing the Dog with an Article. Handlers may use an additional scented article to cue the dog to search for their scent. This can be done on the start line and can also be done at any time during the class, if the handler wishes.

The sections in the remainder of this chapter will be renumbered to reflect insertion of this section.

Chapter 8, Section 13. Handler Discrimination Master. Combined search. At this level the search area presents the team with two or more elements (container, interior, or exterior) within one search. For example, the search area may span indoors and outdoors, may be an indoor search that includes containers, or any other combination. The handler scent may not be buried. Three handler-scented articles are hidden in two distinct search areas. The total space of all search areas must be not less than 300 and not more than 800 square feet. ... The time limit is set by the judge and must be between 2 and 3 minutes for each search area. The timer will not

give a 30-second warning at this level (but handlers can self-time, if they wish). The Handler Discrimination Master Class is open to dogs who have earned the Handler Discrimination Excellent (SHDE) title.

The remainder of this section is unchanged.

Chapter 9, Section 5. Search Time. The total search time will be determined by the judge and must be between 7 and 15 minutes. There will be no 30-second warning in the Detective class, but handlers can self-time if they wish.

Chapter 9, Section 7. Running Off-Leash. Handlers always have the option to run The Detective Class off-leash, regardless of whether the area is completely enclosed or not.

The sections in the remainder of this chapter will be renumbered to reflect insertion of this section.

Chapter 11, Section 5. Cancellation of Awards. If a dog is disqualified for aggression, all awards made to the dog at the trial will be cancelled by the AKC.

The sections in the remainder of this chapter will be renumbered to reflect insertion of this section.

Chapter 12-Glossary and Index

...

Active Search Area: A search area is defined as “active” if the hides have been set (if there is odor present).

...

Demo Dog: An accomplished search dog (who is not entered in the class) that is used by the judge to evaluate the real-world difficulty of the search. The demo dog helps the judge to understand whether the odor is behaving as they expected and allows them to adjust hide locations accordingly.

...

Physical Barrier: An object that is solid and flush with the ground, or two rows of hanging tarps/curtains that reach the ground with at least one foot of space between them, used for the purposes of separating active search areas.

...

Visual Barrier: A separator that provides a psychological boundary to the dog used for the purposes of separating search areas; it need not be flush with the ground or completely opaque (for example, conformation ring gating is an acceptable visual barrier).