

**American Kennel Club, Inc.**  
**MEETING of the BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**AKC Offices at 101 Park Avenue, New York, NY**  
**July 8-9, 2019**

The Board convened on Monday, July 8, 2019 at 9:25 a.m.

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

The May 2019 Board minutes, copies of which had been provided to all Directors, were reviewed. Upon a motion by Mr. Powers, seconded by Ms. McAteer, the May 2019 minutes were approved unanimously.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

There was an EXECUTIVE SESSION to discuss sensitive business matters. It was reported out of the Executive Session that the Board unanimously elected Dr. Thomas Davies to serve on the AKC Board effective immediately. Davies will fill the seat left vacant following the resignation of Harvey Wooding on Friday, July 5, 2019 (Class of 2021).

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

#### **Board Action Items**

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

#### **Update on AKC Operations Center**

Keith Frazier, Executive Vice President, Business Support Services gave a presentation on the AKC Operations Center in Raleigh, NC. Renovations have taken place over the last year and a half at the NC Operations Center. The renovations were conducted in three phases, and included conference room upgrades, the dismantling of the Data Center and an upgraded Reception area. Reductions and efficiencies from 2015-2019 resulted from moving Registration Services and Call Center staff to work remotely; reconfiguring and moving the data center to a data closet; transitioning to a virtual receptionist; remodeling, standardizing and reconfiguring conference and file rooms; and moving some staff and affiliates from the third floor to the second floor. Mr. Frazier also provided an overview of future initiatives, such as assessing the generator replacement, upgrading the security system, backing up the HVAC systems, and removing HVAC roof units. As part of the renovation AKC surrendered 6,401 sf from the third floor reducing its total footprint to 55,686 sf. AKC gained 3,785 sf as a result of the renovation project (Data Center and Reception). AKC will save \$1.6 million in rent alone. All of this work was completed under budget and two months early.

#### **International Conference**

Mari-Beth O'Neill, Vice President, Sports Services and Paula Spector, Vice President, Corporate Services participated in this portion of the meeting. Based on a recommendation from the Board Chairman, AKC staff researched the prospect of hosting an International Conference in 2021. Mr. Feeney identified three major topics to highlight at this conference and staff is in agreement with this potential selection:

- \* The state of the purebred dog worldwide and how to further promote it, including health.
- \* Government regulation of breeding and owning dogs, and strategies to influence legislation.
- \* The state of the sport(s) of purebred dogs and recommendations to enhance participation.

The Board viewed the basic overview of the proposed events, including dates, timeline and costs associated with hosting such a conference. AKC will invite international clubs to appoint two to three individuals to represent their organization at the conference, e.g. the Chair, Vice Chair, President or other senior executive(s). The conference will last for one and a half days and will take place at a NYC hotel or other appropriate venue.

Following a motion by Mr. Tatro, seconded by Mrs. Wallin, to Board VOTED (unanimously) to consider the matter at this meeting waiving the Board's normal notice procedures.

Following a motion by Mr. Smyth, seconded by Mr. Sweetwood, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to approve the proposal for AKC to host a 2-day International Conference for foreign kennel clubs in the summer of 2021.

### **AKC Humane Fund**

Daphna Straus, Vice President, Business Development, participated in this portion of the meeting to provide an update on the AKC Humane Fund (HF). The Humane Fund's mission is to unite animal lovers in promoting the joy and value of responsible pet ownership through education, outreach and grant-making. AKC HF Programming consists primarily of grant-making and provides no direct services.

Charitable and educational activities include: Breed Rescue Grants, Grants to Domestic Violence Shelters that allow pets or support victims and their pets, Scholarships, Awards for Canine Excellence (ACE Awards), Funding for the AKC Library.

The Majority of Grants in 2018 were made in the Domestic Violence (DV) program area.

DV Shelters successfully appealed for HF grants to care for and improve infrastructure for pets. 40 Organizations received grant awards

The HF administers the George Ward Scholarship Fund. It provides financial assistance to apprentice handlers pursuing academic and professional enrichment. The AKC Registered Handler Program Apprentices seeking financial assistance for post-secondary education are invited to apply.

The HF also administers the Sir John D Spurling Scholarship which supports diverse academic pursuits. Annually it awards 5 scholarships per year totaling \$10,000 to full-time students enrolled in courses of study that contribute to the well-being of dogs and responsible pet ownership. Eligible studies: veterinary medicine, veterinary technology, physical therapy, animal care, animal behavior, grooming and training. The HF receives 100 to 200 applications annually

In 2017, AKC HF was accepted to the portfolio of Survey Monkey charities. The public drives Survey Monkey's donations by taking surveys. Survey Monkey donates \$0.50 per survey, donated to the charity of the respondent's choice. To date, \$32,439 has been contributed from 20K people.

### **Legal Status Report**

The Board reviewed a status report on pending litigation and other Legal activities for the months of May and June 2019.

### **FINANCE**

Joseph Baffuto, CFO, presented AKC's unaudited financial results for the period ended May 31, 2019. Total year to date revenues of \$32.5 million were less than 1% under budget, but were \$1.4 million, or 4.7% greater than 2018. Dog Registrations' volume of just over 261,000 was 3% below budget, but 2% higher than 2018, along with Total Litters processed of 107,500 being 2%

below budget and 3% higher than last year. Total operating expenses of \$29.8 million were \$2.2 million or 6.9% below budget, as well as being 2.4% lower than 2018. YTD Operating income of \$2.75 million is significantly exceeding the 2019 budget year to date and is well above 2018's operating income of \$591,000 during the comparable five-month period. Additionally, our investment portfolio now reflects year to date unrealized gains on investments totaling \$8.8 million dollars.

### **EXECUTIVE SECRETARY**

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

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

Doug Ljungren, Executive Vice President, Sports & Events, and Lisa Cecin, Director, Club Relations participated in this portion of the meeting.

The Board reviewed the requirements for AKC membership which are described in ARTICLE IV, SECTIONS 1, 2 and 3, of the AKC Bylaws. There is no restriction in the current Bylaws which would prohibit a local Specialty Club from applying to AKC for Member Club status in accordance with Article IV of the Bylaws. However, no regional specialty clubs have been elected to membership since 1949.

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

Following a motion by Mrs. Wallin, seconded by Mr. Carota, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to direct the Executive Secretary to send this information to the Delegate Bylaws Committee for their review and input.

### **Appointment of Trial Boards**

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

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

Following a motion by Mr. Powers, seconded by Mrs. Wallin, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to approve the appointment of the Appeals Trial Board Members:

Martha Feltenstein, ESQ., CHAIR

Barbara W. Miener, ESQ.

Barbara Penny, ESQ.

Following a motion by Mr. Sweetwood, seconded by Ms. Biddle, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to approve the appointment of the Performance Trial Board Members:

Tim Carwile, ESQ., CHAIR

David Hopkins, ESQ.

John Russell

Following a motion by Mr. Sweetwood, seconded by Mr. Powers, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to approve the appointment of the Performance Trial Board Alternates:

Bill Teague

Robert W. Montler

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

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

Following a motion by Mr. Carota, seconded by Mr. Hamblin, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to approve revisions to both documents. The revised documents will be used effective immediately.

### **Parent Club request to retire "Sunbarr" (Borzoi)**

The Board reviewed a request from the Borzoi Club of America to retire the "Sunbarr" Kennel Name for Borzoi. The Borzoi Club of America considers the kennel name "Sunbarr" to be significant to the history and development of the modern breed here and worldwide. Jim Barr's Sunbarr Borzoi produced multiple Best in Show and Best in Specialty Show winners and many of Borzoi's most influential sires and dams. Sunbarr Borzoi can be found behind Borzoi not only in America, Canada and Mexico but also on the Continent, the British Isles, Japan, Russia, Australia, New Zealand.

Following a motion by Dr. Garvin, seconded by Mr. Hamblin, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to retire the "Sunbarr" kennel name for Borzoi. The retirement of "Sunbarr" will be published in the AKC Gazette and a letter of acknowledgement sent to the parent club.

### **Boerboel Stud Book**

The Board reviewed a request from the American Boerboel Club (ABC). The ABC submitted a request to keep the Stud Book open for the Breed. The Boerboel Stud Book is scheduled to close January 1, 2020. Currently AKC will accept dogs registered with American Boerboel Club. AKC Sport Services departments recommends that the Boerboel Stud Book remain open until January 1, 2025.

This will be discussed further at the August meeting.

### **Miniature American Shepherd Stud Book**

The Board reviewed a request from the Miniature American Shepherd Club of the USA (MASCUSA). MASCUSA has submitted a request to keep the Stud Book open for the Breed. The Miniature American Shepherd Stud Book is scheduled to close January 1, 2020. Currently AKC will accept dogs registered with the MASCUSA Registry that reviews pedigrees from the American Stock Dog Registry. Sport Services recommends that the Miniature American Shepherd Stud Book remain open until January 1, 2025.

This will be discussed further at the August meeting.

### **Spanish Water Dog Stud Book**

The Board reviewed a request from the Spanish Water Dog Club of America (SWDCA) The SWDCA has submitted a request to keep the Stud Book Open for the Breed. The Spanish

Water Dog Stud Book is scheduled to close January 1, 2020. Currently AKC will accept dogs registered with the United Kennel Club. Sport Services recommends that the Spanish Water Dog Stud Book remain open until January 1, 2025.

This will be discussed further at the August meeting.

#### **Treeing Walker Coonhound Stud Book**

The Board reviewed a request from the National Treeing Walker Coonhound Association (NTWCA). The NTWCA has submitted a request to keep the Stud Book open for the Breed. The Treeing Walker Coonhound Stud Book is scheduled to close January 1, 2020. Currently AKC will accept dogs registered with United Kennel Club and Professional Kennel Club. Sport Services recommends that the Treeing Walker Coonhound Stud Book remain open until January 1, 2030.

This will be discussed further at the August meeting.

#### **Parent Club Designation for Bolognese**

The Board reviewed a request from the American Bolognese Club (ABC). The ABC requests to be designated as the Parent Club for the Breed which will also allow them to hold FSS Open Shows. The American Bolognese Club has an active membership participating in Companion Events and FSS Open Shows when available. The club provides regular updates on club activities and Board Meetings.

This will be discussed further at the August meeting.

#### **Parent Club Designation for Russian Tsvetnaya Bolonka**

The Board reviewed a request from the Russian Tsvetnaya Bolonka Club of America (RTBCA) to be designated as the Parent Club for the Breed which will also allow them to hold FSS Open Shows. The Russian Tsvetnaya Bolonka Club of America has an active membership participating in Companion Events and FSS Open Shows when available. The club provides regular updates on club activities and Board Meetings.

This will be discussed further at the August meeting.

#### **AKC/AKCCHF/TF Theriogenology Residency Program 2021-2023**

The Board reviewed a request to continue funding for the AKC/AKCCHF/TF Theriogenology Residency Program in 2021 -2023. The request is being made in 2019 in order to synchronize timing with the US veterinary resident match program. This timeline ensures the veterinary schools selected for funding by the AKC/AKCCHF have the ability to participate in the national annual veterinary residency match and have 'top pick' of new candidates to begin a 2021 residency.

The AKC/AKCCHF/TF Theriogenology Residency Program provides additional training of specialists in small animal theriogenology (reproductive medicine & surgery) with emphasis on canine genetics. Six additional Theriogenologists with expertise in canine reproduction and genetics will be fully trained by 2026.

The cost of the program to fund two residencies per year in 2021, 2022 and 2023 is; \$170K/year paid by AKC, \$30K/year paid by AKCCHF, and \$10K/year paid by TF. Management of proposals, proposal reviews, contracting and grant administration is provided by CHF; with amounts due and paid in full by May 1st of each year.

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

Following a motion by Mr. Carota, seconded by Mrs. Wallin, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to continue funding for the AKC/AKCCHF/TF Theriogenology Residency Program for an additional three years, from 2021-2023, funding two new residents per year at \$100,000 per resident. Depending on the institution selected to receive funding, the residency may be a two- or three-year training program, at the discretion of the institution and at the same funding level no matter the length of program.

### **Media Coverage Sentiment Recap**

Brandi Hunter, Vice President, Communications and Public Relation, participated in this portion of the meeting.

Ms. Hunter presented a media coverage sentiment recap for 2017, 2018 and Q1 of 2019. This report is an informational document to categorize the type of coverage the AKC has received. It is important for the AKC to track media clips to gauge the impact of our messaging in the media space (not to be confused with social media). To obtain the most accurate measure of media impact, AKC contracts with a multi-national media service that independently tracks media coverage and sentiment.

Sentiment is measured across print, online, television and radio outlets. Negative sentiment can be attributed to articles where AKC is quoted or referenced that cover topics such as pet theft, animal attacks, and animal cruelty reports, and spikes in negative sentiment can be attributed to animal cruelty/breeder activity. On average, a large company has 12-15% negativity per year. AKC is currently trending at about 2.5% which is well below the industry average.

Also, the percentage of positive and neutral messaging is continuing to increase month-over-month with a rise in positive over neutral messaging:

#### **2018**

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

#### *Share of sentiment for January and February 2018*

Positive: 18.7%

Neutral: 81.2%

Negative: 0.1%

#### *Share of sentiment for March*

Positive: 26%

Neutral: 73.9%

Negative: 0%

#### *Share of sentiment for April through June*

Positive: 34.2%

Neutral: 65.6%

Negative: 0.3%

#### *Share of sentiment for July through September*

Positive: 48.4%

Neutral: 51.5%

Negative: 0.1%

*Share of sentiment for October through December*

Positive: 48.9%

Neutral: 50.7%

Negative: 0.4%

**Q1 2019**Total number of clips evaluated in Q1 2019 was **12,154***Share of sentiment January*

Positive: 47.6%

Neutral: 52.2%

Negative: 0.2%

*Share of sentiment for February*

Positive: 43.9%

Neutral: 55.4%

Negative: 0.7%

*Share of sentiment for March*

Positive: 54.9%

Neutral: 44.8%

Negative: 0.3%

**COMPANION AND PERFORMANCE**

Doug Ljungren, Executive Vice President, Sports & Events, participated in this portion of the meeting via video conference. Carrie DeYoung, Director, Agility; Pamela Manaton, Director of Obedience, Rally & Tracking and Mary Burch, Director Family Dog Program, participated in this portion of the meeting via teleconference.

**Agility – Allowing Dogs with Coloring to Participate**

Following a motion by Ms. Cruz, seconded by Ms. Biddle the Board VOTED (affirmative: Ms. Biddle; Mr. Carota; Ms. Cruz; Mr. Feeney; Mr. Hamblin; Ms. McAteer; Mr. Powers; Mr. Smyth; Mr. Sweetwood; Mr. Tatro; Ms. Wallin; opposed: Dr. Garvin) to add a new Section 12 to Chapter 4 to the Regulations for Agility Trials and Agility Course Tests, to allow dogs with coloring to participate in agility trials on a one-year pilot basis. Qualifications have been placed on the regulation to prevent extreme cases of coloring. This will add an element of fun to events by allowing clubs to adopt themes or to encourage dogs to “run for the cause” in support of a local activity.

These changes will become effective August 1, 2019.

**Chapter 4, New Section 12. Dogs with Coloring.**

Dogs with artificial coloring in their coats may participate in AKC agility trials and ACT tests. The coloring must not cover more than one-third of the dog’s coat. Coloring below the hocks and elbows may not be yellow. Colored markings on a dog must not be in poor taste and cannot contain profanity or conflict with a sponsor of a trial. It is the responsibility of the judge to decide

if the coloring is acceptable. This is a pilot program and will be reassessed by the Agility Department after approximately one year.

### **Agility – For Exhibition Only Runs & The Fix and Go On Option**

The Board reviewed a recommendation to (1) allow dogs to run For Exhibition Only in the agility FAST and Time2Beat classes at the option of the host club, and (2) allow handlers, when their dogs perform an obstacle incorrectly, to “Fix and Go On” (immediately reattempt the obstacle) one time per course. No dog will receive a qualifying score if they are running For Exhibition Only or use the Fix and Go On option. It is recommended that both these changes will be done on a one-year pilot basis in order to give the staff time to evaluate their impact.

In an FEO run, an exhibitor may bring a toy into the ring to entice and reward a dog for completing obstacles correctly. It allows exhibitors to work with their dogs in a trial environment. This is particularly of value to new exhibitors or exhibitors that are having difficulty with a specific obstacle. The toy may not be thrown and may not make noise. Handlers may touch equipment and reset bars in FEO runs. Exhibitors would pay the regular entry fee. FEO runs count as entries and AKC is paid its regular recording fee. Because some trials are full, allowing FEO runs is at the option of the club. In order for the staff to assess how exhibitors use this option, the recommendation is this be offered on a one-year trial basis. The Agility Advisory Committee recommended allowing FEO runs. In a survey of exhibitors, the idea received an 83% approval rating.

The “Fix and Go On” option allow exhibitors to immediately reattempt an obstacle that is done incorrectly. This allows the dog to successfully complete the obstacle and finish the course on a positive note. The handler may go back as much as two obstacles to properly set up the dog’s approach. The “Fix and Go On” option may only be used once per run. The dog shall receive a non-qualifying score. In order for the staff to assess how exhibitors use this option, the recommendation is this be offered on a one-year trial basis.

This will be discussed further at the August meeting. If approved these recommendations will become effective January 1, 2020.

### **Weimaraner Club of America National Walking Gun Dog Championship**

The Board reviewed a recommendation to grant the Weimaraner Club of America the right to hold a National Walking Gun Dog Championship. The dog who wins the event would be awarded the title NWGDC. This is consistent with events currently held by the Brittanys, German Shorthaired Pointers, Vizslas, Irish Setters and Gordon Setters.

This is an addition to the Pointing Breed Field Trial Rules. If approved by the Board, it must be approved by the Delegate body.

This will be discussed further at the August meeting.

### **Retriever Hunting Tests – The Master Amateur Hunter Title**

The Board reviewed a recommendation to award a dog that has passed the Master Amateur Invitational Hunting Test on three occasions the suffix title of Master Amateur Hunter (MAH). Dogs that qualify more than three times will have their accomplishment recorded by a numeric designation behind the title.

This will be discussed further at the August meeting. If approved this recommendation will become effective November 1, 2019.



### **Obedience Judging Assignments & Scheduling**

The Board reviewed 4 recommendations to amend the way obedience trial classes are scheduled, to improve the time it takes to complete judging assignments; reducing the burden of extended days for clubs, judges and exhibitors.

- 1) If after entries have closed, for the purpose of balancing the judging schedule among the approved judges, the club may elect to change the class assignments to facilitate a smooth running of the trial. Such adjustments may be completed for overloads, low entries, or to balance the entries between approved judges; affecting as few entries as possible while keeping in mind the most efficient running of the trial. Clubs would be allowed to reassign judges or remove judge(s) from the judging panel if entries are low and only if both the club and judge(s) agree to the change. When such changes are proposed, the club must receive approval from each affected judge in writing and the club must receive final approval from the AKC prior to the distribution of the judging schedule. The judging schedule must clearly identify any changes to the assignments and exhibitors would be entitled to a full refund for entries affected by the change.
- 2) If a judge is scheduled to begin a class in an assigned ring that is not going to be available on time, and by waiting for that same ring would otherwise cause the judging to be delayed, allow the class to be moved to any available ring at the trial site that meets the same requirements as the original ring, and noting at the original ring the assignment has been moved to the new location.
- 3) The *Obedience Regulations* allow clubs the ability to schedule dogs by their jump height and most clubs do arrange entries in jump height order. However, by requiring clubs to do so will allow clubs to combine Regular and Preferred classes for judging; which will save time. Scheduling the dogs in jump height order would allow the club to schedule the Regular and Preferred Open class entries together, and the Regular and Preferred Utility class entries together, allowing one set-up for Open and one set-up for Utility during the day. This will improve the overall time it takes to judge these classes, as the only difference between them is the required jump height for the dog. The classes would be arranged by jump height and class. For example, the schedule would have all dogs in the Open B class jumping 8" followed by Preferred Open 8" dogs, then Open B 12" dogs followed by Preferred Open 12" dogs, and so on.
- 4) Combine the walkthrough time for classes that require them, when they have similar set-ups. The Beginner Novice A class would be combined with the Beginner Novice B class; and the Novice A class would be combined with the Preferred Novice class. If a judge is scheduled to judge the Beginner Novice A and Beginner Novice B classes, and if there are less than 20 combined entries (2-hours of judging) between the classes, the walkthrough for these classes would be combined to save time. If a judge is scheduled to judge the Novice A and Preferred Novice classes, and if there are less than 20 combined entries (2-hours of judging) between the classes, the walkthrough for these classes would be combined to save time.

This will be discussed further at the August meeting.

### **Obedience Non-Regular Brace Class Eligibility**

The Board reviewed a recommendation to change the eligibility requirements for dogs participating in the Non-Regular Brace class in obedience, to allow any two dogs of a similar height to be entered as a brace in the class.

This will be discussed further at the August meeting.

### **AKC FIT DOG Update**

The Board reviewed a memo which provided an update on the status of the AKC FIT DOG program including 1) the portion of the program in which dog owners achieve fitness goals and 2) AKC FIT DOG clubs.

The AKC FIT DOG program launched on September 5, 2018. It offers dog owners who reach a specified fitness goal a free car magnet. Since that time, more than 2,500 dog owners have met the criteria of walking with their dogs at least 150 minutes per week for three months. These dog owners have completed a FIT DOG questionnaire and requested the AKC FIT DOG car magnet.

AKC FIT DOG club program was launched on February 27, 2019. These clubs are usually meet-ups where dog owners get together to walk with their dogs. Clubs that hold at least four organized walks per year can submit an application and receive a personalized banner with the club name and AKC FIT DOG logo

In the 3 months since AKC FIT DOG clubs began, 211 clubs have applied.

### **CONFORMATION**

Doug Ljungren, Executive Vice President, Sports & Events, Mari-Beth, O'Neill, Vice President, Sport Services, 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 video conference.

### **Westminster Kennel Club**

The Board reviewed a request from the Westminster Kennel Club to hold their February 2020 event over three days which requires AKC permission. *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* Chapter 2, Section 16 states that the duration of a dog show will not exceed two days, unless permission be granted by The American Kennel Club for a longer period.

Following a motion by Mr. Tatro, seconded by Mr. Powers, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to allow Westminster Kennel Club to hold their 2020 event over three days. After the 2020 event, should WKC wish/need to hold future events over three days, a new one-time request for future events is to be submitted for the Board to review.

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

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

The changes to these sections will allow these dogs to participate in accordance with *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* Chapter 11, Section 1 using their foreign registration number.

Following a motion from Mr. Tatro, seconded by Ms. Biddle, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to change *Rules Applying to Dog Shows*, Chapter 3, Section 22 to allow foreign bred and registered dogs to participate in the Miscellaneous Class in accordance with Chapter 11, Section 1.

The proposal will be read at the September Delegates' meeting and voted at the December Delegates' meeting. The recommendation to change *4-6 Month Beginner Puppy Competition Regulations* Section 2, *Obedience Regulations* Chapter 1, Section 13, *AKC Rally Regulations* Chapter 1, Section 12, *Tracking Regulations* Chapter 1, Section 2, and *Regulations for Agility Trials* Chapter 1, Section 3 can be approved by the Board pending approval of the amendment by the Delegates. If approved, all changes would be effective January 1, 2020.

### **Acceptable Collars and Leashes at Conformation Events**

Staff was directed, following the May 2019 Board of Directors' meeting, to review the current Board Policy on use of training collars at Conformation events so that acceptable collars and leashes are defined.

Staff recommends the Board approve the definition of acceptable collars and leashes in conformation to be added as an addendum to the Board's Policy on Training Collars. If approved, it will be effective immediately. (Text proposed to be added is indicated by underline)

This will be discussed further at the August meeting.

#### **Training Collars**

Special training devices that are used to control and train dogs, including but not limited to, collars with prongs, electronic collars used with transmitters, muzzles and head collars may not be used on dogs at AKC events, except as allowed in the AKC Rules, Regulations, and policies.

The American Kennel Club recognizes that special training collars may be an effective and useful management device, when properly used, for controlling dogs that might be extremely active, difficult to control on a neck collar, or dog aggressive. These collars are also recognized as possibly useful for gaining control at the start of basic obedience training, essential education that dogs deserve and need.

There is a point at which owners should have sufficient control of their dogs to manage them on regular neck collars, without the use of special training collars. This is the point at which dogs are acceptable on the grounds of AKC competitive events and will have the opportunity to participate in those events.

All dogs must be presented on an acceptable collar and lead when competing at conformation dog shows. An acceptable collar and lead is defined as a single lead and collar combination utilized for the presentation of the dog. Examples of acceptable collars and leads include: slip collar plus lead (loop or snap), slide lead (i.e. rescos), swivel lead, martingale (one piece), and martingale collar plus lead.

Special training devices and/or devices used to mask deficiencies in training, temperament or conformation are not acceptable and not permitted for use at conformation dog shows; examples include collars with prongs, electronic collars, muzzles, harnesses and head collars. The use of multiple acceptable collars or lead and collar combinations simultaneously is considered use of a special training device and therefore is not permitted.

#### **Disqualification by Event Committee Rules Applying to Dog Shows**

The Board reviewed a recommendation to amend Chapter 11, Section 8-A of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* to allow disqualification for aggression by an event committee without an injury.

Currently the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* Chapter 11, Section 8-A indicates that dogs that are aggressive on the show grounds must have caused an injury for an event committee to consider disqualifying the dog. Often it is the heroic behavior of a bystander or owner that prevents the situation from resulting in an injury. In situations where a dog attacked and is believed to be a hazard, but did not cause an injury, the rule does not provide the disqualification option to the event committee.

The recommendation is to modify *Rules Applying to Dog Shows Chapter 11, Section 8-A* to allow event committees to disqualify dogs that are determined to have been aggressive at an event and that the committee believes is a hazard to people or dogs without the dog having caused an injury.

This will be discussed further at the August meeting.

### **JUDGING OPERATIONS**

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

### **Conformation Judging Statistics**

The Board reviewed statistics provided by the Judging Operations Department related to conformation judging applications considered by the Judges Review Committee in the previous three months, (April - June 2019) and the year-to-date summary statistics for 2019.

### **YEAR TO DATE APPROVAL STATISTICS**

<b>FINAL REVIEW ACTION SUMMARY</b>								
<b>2019 NEW BREED JUDGING APPLICANTS</b>								
	<b>Number of Applicants</b>	<b>Breed Requested</b>	<b>Breeds Accepted</b>	<b>Aps Limited</b>	<b>Aps Fully Approved</b>	<b>Aps Denied</b>	<b>Aps Wthdrn</b>	<b>Aps Held</b>
<b>January</b>	6	18	18	0	6	0	0	0
<b>February</b>	7	11	11	0	7	0	0	0
<b>March</b>	6	13	13	0	6	0	0	0
<b>April</b>	4	13	13	0	4	0	0	0
<b>May</b>	5	9	9	0	5	0	0	0
<b>June</b>	4	5	5	0	4	0	0	0
<b>NB TOTAL</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

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**FINAL REVIEW ACTION SUMMARY**
**2019 ADDITIONAL BREED JUDGING APPLICANTS**

	<b>Number of Applicants</b>	<b>Breed Requested</b>	<b>Breeds Accepted</b>	<b>Aps Limited</b>	<b>Aps Fully Approved</b>	<b>Aps Denied</b>	<b>Aps Wthdrn</b>	<b>Aps Held</b>
<b>January</b>	32	218	212	2	30	0	0	0
<b>February</b>	31	182	181	0	30	1	0	0
<b>March</b>	37	194	189	2	35	0	0	0
<b>April</b>	27	143	142	1	26	0	0	0
<b>May</b>	30	119	117	1	28	1	0	1
<b>June</b>	29	166	158	3	25	1	0	0
<b>AB TOTAL</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>1022</b>	<b>999</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>

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**FINAL REVIEW ACTION SUMMARY**
**2019 YEAR-TO-DATE**

	<b>Number of Applicants</b>	<b>Breed Requested</b>	<b>Breeds Accepted</b>	<b>Aps Limited</b>	<b>Aps Fully Approved</b>	<b>Aps Denied</b>	<b>Aps Wthdrn</b>	<b>Aps Held</b>
<b>NB</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>AB</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>1022</b>	<b>999</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>1091</b>	<b>1068</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>

The Board adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

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The Board Meeting reconvened on Tuesday, July 9, 2019 at 9:15 a.m.

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

**Nominating Committee**

The Executive Secretary informed the Board that the Nominating Committee for the March 2020 election of AKC Directors must be appointed by August 15, 2019 and its report must be received no later than October 15, 2019.

Following discussion, the Board elected the Nominating Committee, which is to select candidates for vacancies on the Board of Directors, which are to be filled at the March 2020 meeting.

There are three (3) vacancies for the Class of 2024 and one (1) vacancy for the Class of 2021.

**Nominating Committee**

Mrs. Anne H. Bowes, Chair  
Pembroke Welsh Corgi Club of America, Inc.

Ms. Constance Butherus  
Afghan Hound Club of America

Ms. Sally Fineburg  
Hatboro Dog Club

Dr. Geno Sisneros  
American Pomeranian Club

Ms. Marilyn Vinson  
Southeastern Iowa Kennel Club

**Alternates**

Mr. Douglas Johnson  
Colorado Springs Kennel Club

Ms. Nance Skoglund  
Gordon Setter Club of America

**CLUBS**

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

**Delegates and Member Clubs**

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

**Report on Member Clubs Bylaws Approved in May and June 2019**

Anderson Kennel Club, Madison County, IN (1936)

Briard Club of America, Inc. (1935)

Idaho Capital City Kennel Club, Inc., Ada County, ID (1981)

Rhodesian Ridgeback Club of the United States, Inc. (1971)

**Report on Newly Licensed Clubs Approved in May and June 2019**

Central Michigan Beagle Club, greater Mount Pleasant, MI, (north to Beaverton, south to Battle Creek, west to Route 131, east to Interstate 75), 21 total households, 13 local.

Columbia River Pug Fanciers, greater Portland, OR (along Interstate 5 north to Longview, WA, south to Canby, OR), 28 total households, 12 local.

Eastern Washington German Shepherd Dog Club, greater Richland, WA, 20 total households, 20 local.

French Bulldog Club of Puget Sound, greater Seattle, WA (north to Stanwood, WA and south to Lacey, WA), 21 total households, 18 local.

Inland Northwest Great Dane Club, greater Ritzville, WA (north to Colville, east to Bonner Ferry/ Coeur d' Alene, ID, south to Colfax, WA, west to Richland, WA), 22 total households, 12 local.

Olive Hill Coon Hunters Club, Olive Hill, KY, 15 total households, 14 local.

Pamunkey River Coon Hunters Association, Hanover, VA, 15 total households, 8 local.

Shiba Inu Fanciers of Southern California, greater Los Angeles, CA (Orange, Los Angeles and western Riverside counties), 26 total households, 16 local.

Southern Illinois Sparta Beagle Club, greater Sparta, IL (east to Interstate 57, north to Vandalia, east to Belleville, south to Marion), 22 total households, 13 local.

Upstate South Carolina Scent Work Club, greater Greenville, SC, 20 total households, 14 local.

Western Kentucky Beagle Club, greater Hartford, KY (east to Route 127, west to Hickory), 24 total households, 13 local.

### **COMPLIANCE**

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

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

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

Following a motion by Ms. McAteer, seconded by Ms. Cruz the Board VOTED (unanimously) to add to the Explanatory Notes of the AKC Discipline Guidelines (Effective May 14, 2019) following the 11th bullet point a new bullet as follows: Payment of restitution for damages shall be paid as a condition of any reinstatement of privileges, in addition to any other applicable conditions.

#### **Article XII Complaint filed by Allison Pacheco Against Blake Hansen**

The Board reviewed a complaint submitted by Allison Pacheco against Blake Hansen on January 31, 2019, in accordance with Section 1, Article XII of the Charter and Bylaws of the American Kennel Club.

The Board of Directors VOTED to entertain jurisdiction of Ms. Pacheco's complaint, that the matter be handled pursuant to the AKC's Code of Sportsmanship and its enforcement policy and that a stern formal letter of education be sent to Blake Hansen.

#### **Article XII Complaint filed by Allison Pacheco Against Shawne Imler**

The Board reviewed a complaint submitted by Allison Pacheco against Shawne Imler on January 31, 2019, in accordance with Section 1, Article XII of the Charter and Bylaws of the American Kennel Club.

The Board of Directors VOTED to entertain jurisdiction of Ms. Pacheco's complaint, that the matter be handled pursuant to the AKC's Code of Sportsmanship and its enforcement policy and that a stern formal letter of education be sent to Shawne Imler.

### **Article XII Complaint filed by Allison Pacheco Against Roxanne Sutton (Pacheco #3)**

The Board reviewed a complaint submitted by Allison Pacheco against Roxanne Sutton on January 31, 2019, in accordance with Section 1, Article XII of the Charter and Bylaws of the American Kennel Club.

The Board of Directors VOTED to entertain jurisdiction of Ms. Pacheco's complaint, that the matter be handled pursuant to the AKC's Code of Sportsmanship and its enforcement policy and that a stern formal letter of education be sent to Roxanne Sutton.

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

The following AKC Management actions were reported:

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

### **REGISTRATION DEVELOPMENT**

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

### **AKC Global Services**

The Board reviewed a memo outlining the history of AKC Global Services and discussed the possible products, services and collaborations that may exist with foreign organizations in the future. AKC has many areas of expertise that could be shared with other kennel clubs which may help improve their sports and business efficiencies such as registration and event management; customer service; and educational offerings for judges and breeders.

### **CONSENT**

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

- Assessing a Dog's Ability to Retrieve in Pointing Breed Field Trials
- Boerboel Proposed Breed Standard Revision
- Event Show Hours
- Irish Red and White Setter Proposed Breed Standard Revision
- Junior Showmanship Regulations Housekeeping
- Delegate and Club Approvals

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

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

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



Retrieving credits earned in amateur stakes may count toward a dog's Field Championship title provided the credits were earned by winning first place in an amateur retrieving stake. This change will be effective January 1, 2020. Retrieving credits will not be calculated retroactively prior to the effective date.

### **Boerboel Proposed Breed Standard Revision**

The Board VOTED to permit the American Boerboel Club (ABC) to ballot its membership on proposed revisions to the Boerboel Breed Standard in accordance with the ABC's Constitution

### **Event Show Hours**

The Board VOTED to approve a policy related to the publication of show hours in the premium list and catalog for conformation dog shows per *AKC Rules*. The policy is effective January 1, 2020.

### **Show Hours**

The *Rules Applying to Dog Shows*, **Chapter 6 Section 1** and **Chapter 12 Section 1**, requires that every show committee shall publish the show hours (opening and closing of the event) in the premium list and show catalog. The published show hours must allow for at least one hour prior to the anticipated start of any judging at the event and may not extend beyond midnight. All competition must be scheduled such that all judging is estimated to complete at least one half-hour prior to the end of the show hours, barring unforeseen and unavoidable delays outside of the control of the event committee.

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

The Board VOTED to approve that the standard balloted by the membership of the Irish Red and White Setter Association of America with an effective date of October 1, 2019.

### **The Irish Red and White Setter Breed Standard:**

**General Appearance:** The Irish Red & White Setter is bred primarily for the field. The standard as set out hereunder must be interpreted chiefly from this point of view and all Judges at Bench Shows must be encouraged to judge the exhibits chiefly from the working standpoint. The appearance is strong and powerful, well balanced and proportioned without lumber; athletic rather than racy with an aristocratic, keen and intelligent attitude.

**Size, Proportion & Substance:** Dogs are 24½ to 26 inches tall; bitches are 22½ to - 24 inches tall. The length of body from point of shoulder to point of buttock is equal or longer than height to top of withers, up to a ratio of 10 L - 9 H. Bone is moderate in proportion to size.

**Head:** *Expression* - The gentle expression displays a kindly, friendly attitude. The eyes are dark hazel or dark brown; round or nearly round, with slight prominence and tightly fitted eyelids. The ears are set level with the eyes, well back, lying close to the head. *Skull* - The skull is broad, in proportion to the body and rounded without showing an occipital protuberance. *Stop* - The stop is distinct, but not exaggerated. *Muzzle* - The muzzle is clean and square, of equal length to skull, with parallel planes. *Bite* - A scissors bite is ideal; a level bite is acceptable.

**Neck, Topline & Body:** *Neck* - The neck is moderately long, very muscular, but not too thick, slightly arched, free from all tendency to throatiness. *Topline* - The topline of the dog, from the withers to the croup should be level, not sloping. The croup should be well rounded and sloping slightly downward to the tailset. *Body* - The body is strong & muscular with a deep chest and well sprung ribs. The back is very muscular and powerful. *Tail* - The tail is of moderate length, not reaching below the hock, strong at the root, tapering to fine point; no appearance of ropiness and carried level with or below the back.

**Forequarters:** Angulation - shoulder blade well laid back with upper arm equal in length and

forming a nearly right angle with the shoulder blade. Tips of shoulder blades meeting fairly close, lie flat and are smooth with contours of body. Elbow - The elbows are free, turning neither in nor out. Legs - The forelegs are straight and sinewy, well boned, with strong pasterns. Feet - The feet are close-knit with plenty of feathering between toes.

**Hindquarters:** The hindquarters are wide and powerful. Legs - The legs are of strong bone, well-muscled and sinewy. The thighs, from hip to hock, are long and muscular. The stifle is well bent. The hock is well let down and turns neither in nor out, hocks are of moderate length and strong. Feet - The feet are close-knit with plenty of feathering between toes.

**Coat:** Long silky fine hair called "Feathering" is present on the back of the fore and hind legs and on the outer ear flap, also a reasonable amount is on the flank extending onto the chest and throat forming a fringe. All feathering is straight, flat and not overly profuse. The tail is well feathered. On the head, front of legs and other parts of the body the hair is short, flat and free from curl but a slight wave is permissible.

**Color:** The base color is white with solid red patches (clear islands of red color); both colors show the maximum of life and bloom. Flecking but not roaning is permitted around the face and feet and up the foreleg as far as the elbow and up the hind leg as far as the hock. Roaning, flecking and mottling on any other part of the body is objectionable.

**Gait:** When moving at the trot, the gait is long striding, very lively, graceful and efficient. The head is held high, and the hindquarters drive smoothly and with great power. The forelegs reach well ahead and remain low. Seen from front or rear, the forelegs and hind legs below the hock joint move perpendicularly to the ground with no crossing or weaving.

**Grooming:** The trimming of an Irish Red and White Setter should be kept to a minimum, maintaining a neat natural appearance and not to be shaved with clippers. Light trimming with thinning shears is allowed. Under the ears, tail, pasterns and hocks may be trimmed for neatness. Feet may be cleared of hair including the bottom and around the edges leaving hair between the toes. No other trimming is allowed including the whiskers which shall remain intact.

**Temperament:** They display a kindly, friendly attitude, behind which is discernible determination, courage and high spirit.

**Faults:** Any departure from the foregoing standard is considered a fault and the seriousness of the fault is in exact proportion to its degree.

### **Junior Showmanship Regulations Housekeeping**

The Board VOTED to approve changes to the Junior Showmanship; Conformation Junior Showmanship Regulations, Guidelines for Judging Juniors in Conformation, Juniors in Performance Events Regulations. These changes will to bring the regulations in line with Rules Applying to Dog Shows and provide clarity to sections that have caused confusion. (Changes underlined)

**Section 6. Armbands.** Armbands with the catalog numbers assigned to the Junior must be worn in the ring.

**Section 7. Eligibility of Dog.** Each dog entered in a regular Junior showmanship Class at an all-breed dog show must be an AKC recognized breed or FSS Breed with an AKC number and at least 6 months of age on the day of the event.

A Limited Breed Dog Club, Group Show, has the option to offer the opportunity for a Junior to show any breed eligible to be entered at an all-breed event or a breed eligible to compete in

that event including the Miscellaneous Class breeds. At Specialty Shows, only the breed for the specialty is eligible to be entered.

Dogs may be PAL, Full-, or Limited-Registered to compete in Junior Showmanship Classes, additionally, spayed and neutered specimens are eligible for competition. A Foreign dog, from a registry accepted by AKC for Registration, of an AKC Recognized breed is eligible to be entered on its foreign number in accordance with *Rules Applying to Dog Shows Chapter 11, Section 1.*

The dog must be entered in one of the classes associated with the event or must be entered for Junior Showmanship only.

An eligible dog other than the one entered may be substituted. Such substitution must be accompanied by an official AKC entry form. The junior must have the AKC number of the substitute dog. All such substitutions must be made with the Superintendent or Show Secretary prior to the judging of the class at the show. Each dog must be owned or co-owned by the Junior Handler or by the Junior Handler's father, mother, brother, sister, uncle, aunt, grandfather, or grandmother, including the corresponding adopted, step and half relations, or by a permanent member of the Junior Handler's household as recorded with The American Kennel Club at the time entries close or an application for transfer of ownership must be sent to The American Kennel Club by the new owner within seven days after the last day of the show. BITCHES IN SEASON ARE NOT ELIGIBLE.

A Junior is limited to one substitution at a dog show. If one of the owners of the dog is a judge, the dog may be entered in Junior Showmanship Only to be exhibited by the Junior at an event where the judge is judging classes other than Junior Showmanship.

**Section 8. Premium List.** A club that has been approved to offer Junior Showmanship must list the classification in its premium list, with a description of the entry requirements for each class offered, and the name of the judge of each class. The number of entries in any or all classes may be limited, provided the limits are specified in the premium list. *Junior Showmanship at FSS Open Shows is for exhibition only*

**Section 17. Records.** The Superintendent or Show Secretary shall forward to The American Kennel Club, with the records of the show, the judges' books for the Junior Showmanship Classes. A certificate will be issued from the American Kennel Club to each Junior Handler upon the recording of their third win in Novice with competition and the tenth Best Junior Handler win with competition during the eligibility timeframe. The Board of Directors shall determine, from time to time, whether a recording fee shall be required, and the amount of it.

### **Delegate and Club Approvals**

#### Delegates Approved

Azalea A. Alvarez

To represent Greater Miami Dog Club

Jerry Alan Berkowitz

To represent Greater Philadelphia Dog Fanciers Association

Lisa C. Brown

To represent Lowchen Club of America

Janeane Cappara

To represent Western Reserve Kennel Club, Inc.

Alyson Casper  
To represent Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever Club (USA)

Daniel R. Dahlberg  
To represent Manatee Kennel Club

Teresa (Terri) L. Hallman  
To represent Charleston Kennel Club

Ronald E. Hammond  
To represent Boca Raton Dog Club, Inc.

Julie Kirkpatrick  
To represent Rio Grande Kennel Club

Isabel N. Ososki  
To represent St. Louis Collie Club, Inc.

Nancy Pals  
To represent Midwest Field Trial Club, Inc.

Danny D. Seymour  
To represent American Pointer Club, Inc.

Kimberly van Hemert  
To represent Lackawanna Kennel Club, Inc.

Marile A. Waterstraat  
To represent Huntington Kennel Club, Inc.

#### AKC Membership Approvals

##### **Conroe Kennel Club**

Focal Point: Conroe, TX

First Licensed Show: May 1, 1982

30 Households/27 Local

##### **Two Cities Kennel Club**

Focal Point: Yuba City, CA

First Licensed Show: April 29, 1951

32 Households/25 Local

#### **CONFORMATION (Cont'd)**

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

### **The Implications of the Size of Cluster**

The Event Operations department presented a memo based on its research regarding the changing size of clusters over time.

Staff has conducted the following research to gain insight into the implications of clustering:

1. Has the average size (# days) of clusters changed over time?
2. Has the increase in the size of clusters (# days) disadvantaged the smaller clusters?
3. Has there been a reduction of sites used for AB shows over time?
4. Are there areas of the country that are not within reasonable driving distance of an AB show?

The data collected indicates that:

- the average # of days in a cluster has increased 38% over the past 18 years. Most of this increase occurred from 2000 to 2010. Since 2010 there has been a 5% increase in the # days in a cluster.
- The number of 4- and 5-day clusters were at an all-time high in 2018. 3-day clusters peaked in 2009 and have fallen steadily since, while the number of 2-day shows has fallen over time, but there has been little change in the last three years.
- 2-day clusters have always had lower entries than larger clusters. There has been no change in the relative disadvantage of entries in 2-day clusters over the past 18 years despite the growth in the number of larger clusters. Overall, the relative entries by cluster size has not experienced a significant change since 2010.
- There has been a steady and consistent reduction in AB dog show sites of about 10 sites per year over the past 18 years (2000 to 2018). In 2000, 593 sites were used, vs. 399 in 2018.
- Almost everyone in the continental U.S. lives within 200 miles of an AB dog show.

### **Conclusions**

1. The average number of days in a cluster has increased. There are advantages and disadvantages to this trend. For many clubs, clustering is a means of survival. In some locations, the number of reasonably- priced venues is decreasing and clubs are forced to cluster. On the other hand, there are instances where the growing size of clusters can have a negative impact on existing shows, primarily through their attraction of professional handlers.
2. The steady decrease in the number of unique AB show sites across the country is troubling. If the trend continues, at some point there will be locations in the country where owners will no longer be within reasonable driving distance of an AB show.
3. The recent stabilization in the number of 2-day shows is worth watching. A stabilization in the number of 2-day weekend shows would help maintain convenient access to the sport for local communities. The two shows-in-one-day program plus the recent 1+1 initiative likely will have a positive impact on smaller shows, helping them to remain in their communities.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **PuppyVisor Update**

The PuppyVisor pilot program launched in March 2019. AKC is already the expert, trusted source for valuable information and guidance on breeds and breeders. PuppyVisor takes that expert advice to a new level, providing one-on-one service to customers that appreciate a concierge-type experience. For a one-time enrollment fee, AKC will provide unlimited telephone support (toll free). AKC staff members will answer questions and guide puppy seekers to a choice that is right for them, using resources that include AKC.org breed pages, AKC Marketplace, Parent Club websites and

Parent Club breeder referrals. The customers will also receive help with preparing their home for their new puppy. The subscription includes AKC GoodDog! Helpline and AKC Vetline, both for the lifetime of the dog. The service is available 7 days per week in both English and Spanish.

Each of the PuppyVisor Advisers is highly experienced with Purebred Dogs and AKC events, with an average experience level of over 20 years, and all have many years of experience serving on AKC GoodDog Helpline. The Advisers are all dog trainers and active AKC exhibitors, and some are active breeders. The team includes a DVM, two vet techs, and an animal control officer, and all are committed to helping people get off on the right foot with their new dog.

### **AKCTV ESPN DAY**

Ron Furman, Director of AKCTV and AKC Digital Properties participated in this portion of the meeting.

Mr. Furman updated the Board on AKC programming will air on ESPN2 and ESPN digital network on August 24th. AKC will also host an event at ESPN Global HQ campus in Bristol, CT, on August 24<sup>th</sup>

This is consistent with the goal of expanding AKC awareness, AKCTV broadcast audience and growing AKC event participation. The AKC on ESPN television programming highlighting AKC Action Sports will air on that same day.

AKC will bring the action sports of Agility, NADD Diving Dogs, DiskDogs and Flyball to the ESPN campus, where demonstrations and mini-competitions will be conducted. Live-look-ins during ESPN's SportsCenter will feature these demonstrations. A small Meet the Breeds event will also be held to highlight and introduce dogs to the ESPN invited guests. ESPN plans on inviting 1000 of their select programming related staff to attend.

Being broadcast that same day August 24<sup>th</sup>, ESPN2 will feature 6 hours of dog programming in which 2+ hours of the block will focus on AKC sports. The programming includes the inaugural broadcast of a 1-hr made for television program featuring the first-ever AKC Agility Premier Cup which was held in conjunction with the Longines Masters of New York on Thursday April 25th at NYCB Live, the newly renovated Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum.

Additional AKC programming that day will include a Flyball 30-minute show featuring the competition filmed at the Houston Kennel Club Show the week of July 15 and additional 1 hour of coverage of the events being staged live at ESPN Bristol. The pre-produced programs will be available to AKCTV and in syndication beginning in 2020.

AKC will focus marketing and communications efforts prior to August 24<sup>th</sup> to drive awareness of this programming and encourage the entire AKC Family to tune-in.

It was VOTED to adjourn Tuesday, July 9, 2019 at 12:34 p.m.

Adjourned

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

Gina M. DiNardo, Executive Secretary