

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
July 10-11, 2017

The Board convened on Monday, July 10, 2017 at 8:00 a.m. All Directors were present, except for Mr. Feeney. Also present was the Executive Secretary.

The May 2017 Board minutes, copies of which were made available to all Directors, were discussed. Upon a motion by Dr. Battaglia, seconded by Ms. Cruz, the May 2017 minutes were unanimously approved; absent Mr. Feeney.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Board Action Items

Mr. Sprung reviewed Action Items, and reported on staff initiatives.

Legal Status Report

Jay Waks, Senior Executive Vice President and General Counsel and Heather McManus, Vice President and Deputy General Counsel, presented a status report on pending litigation and other Legal activities for the months of May and June 2017.

FINANCE

Joseph Baffuto, CFO, presented AKC's unaudited financial results for the six-month period ending June 30, 2017. Total revenues of \$35.0 million were comparable to budget and 8.3% greater than 2016. Total operating expenses of \$31.4 million were 9.2% below budget, but 8.1% higher than 2016 predominately due to increased headcount reflected in Payroll and Benefits costs. YTD Operating income of \$3.6 million significantly exceeded both the budget of \$543,000 for the six month period, as well as the previous year's actual of \$3.3 million. Also, unrealized gain on investments totaling \$6.3 million year to date, which combined with operating income reflects AKC as a total net income of \$10.0 million at June 30, 2017.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

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

German Shorthaired Pointer Proposed Breed Standard Revision

The Board reviewed proposed changes to the General Appearance, Height, Proportion, Head, Bite, Color and Disqualifications sections of the German Shorthaired Pointer Breed Standard as submitted by the German Shorthaired Pointer Club of America, Inc. (GSPCA). Following a motion by Dr. Garvin, seconded by Dr. Battaglia, it was VOTED (unanimously; absent: Mr. Feeney.) to permit the GSPCA to ballot its membership on the proposed standard changes in accordance with their Constitution and Bylaws.

Finnish Spitz Proposed Breed Standard Revision

The Board reviewed proposed changes to the Head section of the Finnish Spitz Breed Standard as submitted by the Finnish Spitz Club of America, Inc. (FSCA). The club is also proposing to remove the NOTE in the standard that states that Finnish Spitz are to be examined on the ground, as the Parent Club has requested that the breed be examined on the ramp. Following a motion by Dr. Battaglia, seconded by Ms. McAteer, it was VOTED (unanimously, absent: Mr. Feeney) to publish the proposed breed standard in the AKC Secretary's Page for comment.

French Bulldog Proposed Breed Standard Revision

The Board reviewed proposed changes to the General Appearance, Head, Topline, Coat, Color, Gait and Disqualifications sections of the French Bulldog Breed Standard as submitted by the French Bull Dog Club of America, Inc. (FBDCA).

Following a motion by Dr. Davies, seconded by Dr. Garvin, it was VOTED (unanimously, absent: Mr. Feeney.) to publish the proposed breed standard in the AKC Secretary's Page for comment.

Great Dane Proposed Breed Standard Revision

The Board reviewed proposed changes to the Size, Proportion, Substance; Head; Forequarters; Hindquarters; Color, Markings and Patterns; and Disqualifications sections of the Great Dane Breed Standard as submitted by the Great Dane Club of America, Inc.(GDCA)

The Board would like staff to contact the GDCA for a few clarifications. The club's responses will be included in a memo for the August Board meeting.

Basenji Stud Book

The Board reviewed a request from the Basenji Club of America (BCA). The BCA is seeking permission to ballot their membership on the concept of extending the open registration for Basenji imports from Africa beyond December 31, 2020. In November of 2011, the AKC Board voted to extend the Open registration for Basenji Imports from Africa, until December 31, 2018 with any dogs imported into the United States prior to December 31, 2018 eligible for registration until December 31, 2020. It was the sense of the Board that making a determination on this issue would be premature, as they would not want to influence the balloting of the issue. The BCA will be advised that the club should move forward with balloting its membership on the issue if it wishes and to report the results back to AKC.

New Breed for the Foundation Stock Service – Australian Kelpie

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

New Breed for the Foundation Stock Service – Carolina Dog

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

Bergamasco Sheepdog Name Consistency

The Board reviewed a request from the Bergamasco Sheepdog Club of America (BSCA) to change the official name of the breed from Bergamasco to Bergamasco Sheepdog in accordance with the club name and the original name of the breed. The name change was unanimously voted on by the BSCA Board of Directors. There was no objection to this by the AKC Board.

BUSINESS UPDATE

Daphna Straus, VP Business development, Paula Spector, Director Conference and Travel and Leslie Fetzer, Education Project Manager participated in this portion of the meeting.

Possible Parent Club Conference and Club Education Opportunities

Based on a Board request, staff researched and presented options to the Board on the feasibility of holding an educational and networking opportunity for parent clubs, as the last such event took place in 2010 in the form of a Parent Club Conference. The Board requested initial research to explore and define goals, content, costs, timing, potential underwriting, and the dissemination of information beyond attendees. Staff presented information on past conferences and proposed a new initiative that would involve both Parent Club and All-Breed clubs since All Breed Clubs have expressed interest in an opportunity to convene and learn from their peers, and information that is valuable to Parent Clubs is important to All Breed Clubs.

Options were presented and the Board agreed that staff should move forward with the planning of a conference that had both an in person element and an online webinar component so that the information could be made available to the largest possible audience.

Following a motion by Dr. Battaglia, seconded by Mr. Powers, it was VOTED (unanimously, absent: Mr. Feeney) to consider the matter at this meeting, waiving the usual notice requirements.

Following a motion from Dr. Garvin, seconded by Ms. Cruz, it was VOTED (unanimously; absent: Mr. Feeney), to direct staff to move forward with the planning of an One-Day Conformation Education Summit, to be held on the Sunday before a June Delegates Meeting and for the AKC Education team to plan to utilize a webinar tool to deliver content from the summit, with additional supplemental content as developed, in regularly scheduled sessions (monthly or quarterly) to a live, online audience.

Nominating Committee

Mr. Feeney joined this portion of the meeting via teleconference. The Executive Secretary informed the Board that the Nominating Committee for the March 2018 election of AKC Directors must be appointed by August 15, and its report must be received no later than October 15, 2017.

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 2018 meeting. There are three (3) vacancies for the Class of 2022 and one (1) vacancy for the Class of 2019.

Nominating Committee

John J. Cadalso, Jr., Chair

Lee Arnold

Terrie Breen

Katie Campbell

Cindy Stansell

Alternates

Catherine Murch

Maggi Strouse

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board held an executive session to discuss sensitive business matters. It was reported out of this session that the Board elected Ann Wallin, Delegate Atlanta Kennel Club, Inc., to the AKC Board of Directors, Class of 2019. She will fill the seat of the late Steven D. Gladstone until the next election of Board Members at the March 2018 annual meeting.

BUSINESS UPDATE CONTINUED

Alexandra Aleskovsky, Executive Vice President and Chief Growth Officer participated in this portion of the meeting. The Board was presented with a business update for the Growth Group. Highlights include:

AKC Website:

As of June 30, 2017, there were 7.1 million unique monthly users of akc.org. AKC continues to grow audience and traffic – akc.org grew to the number 3 pet site in May 2017 up from the number 5 spot in February 2017. Akc.org is ranked #2 in traffic and #2 in engagement among dog sites.

Social Media:

AKC has over 4.5 million social followers over Facebook, Instagram, Pinterest and Twitter.

Registration:

Dogs Registered to-date are 6.7% higher than in 2016 and 1.2% higher than planned.

Litters Registered to-date are 6.6% higher than in 2016 and 1.5% higher than planned.

Marketing of Sports and Events:

There is on-going comprehensive marketing support to the Sports and Events Team. There are multiple email campaigns and social posts to improve reach and engagement.

E-Commerce:

June YTD Shop Revenue Grew 38% vs. 2016.

Digital Advertising:

Digital Advertising is on track to achieve year-end goals. Revenue is up 318% over 2016 revenue, which is \$1.4M in growth. We have signed on 24 different advertisers versus 10 from 2016.

Brand Tracker:

The results of a brand survey conducted by an outside firm was presented to the Board. There was extensive discussion around the results. The goals were to profile existing dog owners to obtain demographic information, their attitudes towards dogs and dog ownership and to understand existing perceptions of the AKC.

COMPLIANCE

Jay Waks, Senior Executive Vice President and General Counsel and Heather McManus, Vice President and Deputy General Counsel, participated in this portion of the meeting. Wanda Forlines, Director of Compliance participated by videoconference.

AKC Discipline Guidelines/Trial Board Review of Penalties

The Board requested that staff review the current procedures that are in place for the review of penalties by the AKC Board. Staff currently must seek permission from the Board to impose a penalty outside the published AKC Disciplinary Guidelines. The Board would like to consider an option that preserves the finality of its determinations in the penalty setting process.

Following a motion by Mr. Powers, seconded by Dr. Davies, it was VOTED (affirmative: Mr. Manaker, Dr. Davies, Ms. Biddle, Mr. Carota, Ms. Cruz, Mr. Dok, Dr. Garvin, Ms. McAteer, Mr. Powers, Mr. Wooding; abstained: Dr. Battaglia; absent: Mr. Feeney.) to amend the aggravated penalty in the Guidelines, effective immediately, for all offenses involving Inappropriate Treatment of Animals to provide: "Up to Life and up to a \$10,000 fine" and to clarify the listings of all "Aggravated" penalties by including the words "Up to..." for each. In doing so, the Staff Event Committee ("SEC") and the Management Disciplinary Committee ("MDC") will not have to request the Board to set a penalty outside the Guidelines with respect to these offenses.

Update Penalties for Offense VI. d. Benching Violations

The AKC Disciplinary Guidelines currently has no approved aggravated penalty for Benching Violations. Staff recommends that the Board approve the standard penalty for Benching Violations to be set at a "Reprimand and \$250 fine" and the aggravated penalty to be set at a "Reprimand and double fine with each repeated offense".

The Board VOTED (affirmative: Ms. Biddle, Mr. Carota, Ms. Cruz, Dr. Davies, Mr. Dok, Dr. Garvin, Ms. McAteer, Mr. Manaker, Mr. Powers, Mr. Wooding; abstain: Dr. Battaglia; absent: Mr. Feeney) to approve the staff's recommendation.

The following AKC Management actions were reported:

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

The Board adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Meeting reconvened on Tuesday, July 11, 2017 at 8:00 am.

All Directors were present except for Mr. Feeney. Also present was the Executive Secretary.

COMPANION AND PERFORMANCE

Doug Ljungren, Vice President Sport and Events participated in this portion of the meeting. Pamela Manaton, Director of Obedience, Rally and Tracking, Caroline Murphy, Director of Performance Events, and Stephanie Kennerley, Sports and Events Project Coordinator participated in this portion of the meeting by videoconference.

Obedience and Rally Apparel in the Ring

The Board reviewed a recommendation from the Companion Events Staff to allow exhibitors and ring stewards to wear club clothing, AKC event clothing, or clothing displaying the person's name, the dog's call name and/or the dog's picture. The dog's titles would not be allowed, nor would writing or graphics be allowed that was in poor taste or in conflict with a sponsor of the event. This is consistent with the governing regulations for the AKC Agility and Tracking programs and would make all Companion Events programs the same.

Currently, the Obedience Regulations and the AKC Rally® Regulations state that no visible means of identification (badges, ribbons, club jackets, etc.) may be worn or displayed by anyone exhibiting a dog in the ring.

The current regulation puts AKC at odds with all other competing organizations that offer obedience and rally trials and contributes to the image that the AKC is bound by rules that were originally written for conformation. This change would have a positive impact on AKC logo wear at trials, helping to spread brand awareness to the dog owning public.

This recommendation was discussed at the June 2017 Companion Events Delegate Committee meeting. The Committee of nine (two members were absent due to illness) discussed this change to regulation and was 100% in favor of this change. This will be discussed further at the August Board meeting.

Spaniel National Championship Field Trials – Minimum Standard of Competition

The Board reviewed a recommendation from the Sports and Events department to establish a minimum standard of competition for Spaniel National Championship field trials. In order to qualify as a National Championship or Amateur National Championship stake, where the winning dog earns the title of NFC or NAFC, the minimum standards for competition that must be achieved are: (1) There must be at least 35 starters; (2) For an Open National Championship, the minimum qualification to enter the stake shall be one placement in an AKC Open All-Age or Qualified Open All-Age stake in the three years prior to the first day of the Championship stake; (3) For an Amateur National Championship, the minimum qualification to enter the stake shall be one placement in an AKC Amateur All-Age stake in the three years prior to the first day of the Championship stake.

If these minimum standards are not achieved, the stake may be held and it will count as an Open All-Age or Amateur All-Age stake.

The host Parent Club may establish National Championship qualifications that exceed these minimum standards.

This will be discussed further at the August Board meeting.

Parent Club Performance Event – Giant Schnauzers Eligible to Earn IPO Titles

The Board reviewed a request from the Giant Schnauzer Club of America. The Giant Schnauzer Club of America has requested that IPO (schutzhund) titles earned in Working Riesenschauzer Federation events be acknowledged by the AKC. The Parent Club Performance Event Program allows the AKC to acknowledge the accomplishments of dogs participating in breed specific events which test the purpose for which the breed was developed provided the AKC does not offer the sport.

The Giant Schnauzer Club of America does not administer their own Parent Club schutzhund events. Instead, the breed is requesting titling in events held by Working Riesenschauzer Federation (WRSF). WRSF is a non-profit organization founded in 1991 in order to hold working dog events for Giant Schnauzers. The schutzhund titles that AKC will record for Giant Schnauzers are:

Begleihund BH (Obedience/Temperament test)

International Prufung (Test)

- IPO1 Novice level (Schutzhund using Int'l rules)
- IPO2 Intermediate Level
- IPO3 Master Level

Tracking Test

- FH1 Advanced Tracking
- FH2 Superior Tracking

These are the same as the titles that AKC already acknowledges for several other working breeds.

This will be discussed further at the August Board meeting.

American Staffordshire Terriers – Temperament Test Title

The Board reviewed a recommendation from the Staffordshire Terrier Club of America for the AKC to acknowledge the Temperament Test title (TT) awarded to American Staffordshire Terriers by the American Temperament Testing Society (ATTS).

Temperament is an important characteristic for any breed. The American Staffordshire Terrier parent club is being proactive by promoting the importance of temperament. The parent club is requesting that AKC acknowledge this title (TT) in order that it will appear on AKC pedigrees. The American Temperament Testing Society is a national not-for-profit organization founded in 1977. ATTS provides a uniform temperament evaluation open to all dogs over 18 months of age. The test involves ten components that test for behavior toward strangers, reaction to auditory stimuli, reaction to visual stimulus (the umbrella pop), reaction to unusual footing, and reaction to an unusually dressed threatening stranger. A dog fails if it shows panic, strong avoidance without recovery or unprovoked aggression.

This will be discussed further at the August Board meeting.

Retriever Hunting Tests – Providing Clubs Flexibility in Structuring Events

The Board reviewed a recommendation from the Performance Events department which was approved by the Retriever Hunting Test Advisory Committee. The recommendation is to remove the limitation on how many Retriever hunting tests a club may hold per calendar year and replace it with a limitation on how many of each testing level a club may hold per year.

Currently, clubs are limited to six events per year with at least two testing levels at each event. The purpose of this change is to (1) allow clubs the flexibility to provide testing levels in any order during the year that best meets the demand in the region while staying within the resource constraints of the club, and (2) allow clubs to hold Master level only tests at any time during the year provided the requirements to hold other testing levels are met sometime during the year. Clubs have indicated an interest in holding additional events if they could hold Master only tests at specific times of the year in order to help meet the surges in demand. This recommendation will allow clubs to hold Master only tests provided they hold two Junior and Senior levels tests sometime during the year. It eliminates the requirement for two testing levels at each event, providing clubs the flexibility to hold the testing levels in any order or combination that best fits the demand in their region while staying within the resource constraints of the club.

This will be discussed further at the August Board meeting.

Retriever Hunting Tests – Two Technical Recommendations

The Board reviewed two recommendations from the Hunting Test Advisory Committee. Both recommended changes are very technical and unique to the sport.

- (1) When judges set up a subsequent series, the new series shall be in an area sufficiently different from the previous series so as to not confuse the dogs by running them over ground used in the previous series.
- (2) Reword the distance that the birds shall be presented in a walk-

up situation to state a maximum of 45 yards rather than from 35 to 45 yards. This will provide judges greater flexibility in setting up their test.

These are changes to Regulations and may be made by a vote of the Board. If approved, these two changes will become effective September 1, 2017.

This will be discussed further at the August Board meeting.

Airedale Terrier Club of America – Fur Tracking and Trailing Titles

The Board reviewed a request from the Airedale Terrier Club of America (ATCA). The ATCA offers a fur tracking and trailing test. This test is non-competitive and measures the ability of an Airedale to track the scent trail of quarry accurately to a treed location. The Parent Club is requesting that AKC recognize three titles as part of the AKC Parent Club Performance Event Title Recognition Program. The three levels offered are - Junior, Senior and Master. Each test level is scored on a scale of 0 to 10 in 5 specific elements – striking, tracking, treeing, staying, and determination. To earn a qualifying score, a dog cannot receive less than 5 in any one element and the overall average of all abilities must be greater than 7. A qualifying score is needed to earn a title in any given level. The titles earned are called:

Junior Fur Tracker = JFT

Senior Fur Tracker = SFT

Master Fur Tracker = MFT

This will be discussed further at the August Board meeting.

AKC Titles Master List

At the request of the Board, Staff presented a memo that outlined information on every AKC title. A complete and updated list of titles can be accessed on the AKC website at <http://www.akc.org/events/titles/akc-titles-a-z/>. This lists the titles alphabetically. An additional link will be added to sort by sport in order of title progression. There are a total of 377 AKC Titles. 55 prefix titles and 322 suffix titles.

CONFORMATION

Doug Ljungren, Vice President Sports and Events, Mari-Beth O'Neill, Vice President Sport Services, Glenn Lycan, Director Operation Support, Alan Slay, Director Event Programs, and Bri Tesarz, Manager Dog Show Rules, participated in this portion of the meeting via videoconference.

Evaluation of the Novice and Amateur Owner Handler Classes

Staff presented a memo evaluating the usage of the optional Novice and Amateur-Owner-Handler (AOH) classes. The Novice class represents 0.14% of all conformation entries and the AOH represents 0.67% of all conformation entries.

Puppy Bred-By-Exhibitor

Breeders are motivated to finish their dogs from the Bred-By-Exhibitor (BBE) class in order to earn the BBE medallion. This inhibits them from showing in Puppy classes on the chance that if they earn Championship points, it would eliminate them from earning the medallion.

The Staff was asked to review this issue including the possibility of creating a Puppy Bred-By-Exhibitor class. This class would be an additional regular class for dogs at least 6 months of age and under 12 months of age on the day of the event. Specialty Clubs could, at their option, further divide the Puppy BBE class into Puppy BBE 6-9 and Puppy BBE 9-12. The Board discussed this idea in depth and the consensus of the Board was not to go forward with the idea at this time.

Mentorship Programs for New Dog Owners

The Board reviewed a memo that provided information on two new mentorship programs that staff is developing.

1. “Aspire” - a pilot program to proactively mentor new puppy owners. It will be coordinated by the Sport Services Department and is planned to launch the second half of September.
2. The Club Development Department in conjunction with Jack Bradshaw Dog Shows is working on a program to offer information and a certificate offer to 100 new registered dog owners for a free entry into dog show superintended by JBDS.

Monitoring All-Breed Events Offering NOHS

The staff monitors the number of all-breed events offering the AKC National Owner-Handled Series (NOHS). An update was presented. The percentage of all-breed events offering NOHS continues to increase monthly.

Chintimini Kennel Club – Request for an Additional Show

The Board reviewed a request from the Chintimini Kennel Club for approval to hold a third show in 2018 and 2019. Current policy requires an all-breed club to be located in Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico or a geographically isolated area to be able to hold more than two shows in a calendar year. Chintimini Kennel Club is not in a geographically isolated area as defined by AKC Board policy. The Board did not approve the request.

Concurrent All-Breed and Limited Breed Events Pilot Program

Starting July 1, 2015, the Board approved an 18-month pilot program for concurrent all-breed and limited breed events to be held on the same day, allowing flexibility by the clubs. The pilot program has proven successful for the clubs utilizing this option. There have been 19 pilot events scheduled through 2018. The Board reviewed a memo from staff requesting to make this program a permanent option for clubs. There was no objection to making this program a permanent option for clubs.

Scheduling Conformation Events

The Board requested that staff develop a list of ideas to make shows run more efficiently and shorten the day. Staff reviewed several events and reached out to Show chairs and Superintendents to formulate a list of recommendations to improve conformation event scheduling.

The AKC will try to help educate show chairs by creating Best Practices documents and will begin evaluating the cost of improving existing tools and creating new tools. Existing tools include a conformation report that provides the event manager with the number of dogs each judge has been assigned (available with a partial panel as well) based on the previous year's counts. Experienced show chairs have indicated they begin the hiring and assigning process based on previous year's counts. The staff will reach out to show chairs to make sure they are aware of this tool as the current report requires the show chair to request it (there is a request button on the online judge's panel submission and management sections).

National All-Breed Puppy and Junior Stakes

Staff provided the Board with information about the launch of the inaugural *AKC Royal Canin National All-Breed Puppy and Junior Stakes*. The National All-Breed Stakes is a competition created exclusively for puppy and junior purebred dogs ages 6-18 months. (Puppies 6-12 months/ Juniors 12-18 months). The event is open to all AKC-registered breeds including Miscellaneous Class breeds and provides an opportunity for breeders and exhibitors to showcase their breeding program. The inaugural Stakes will take place on Friday, December 15, 2017 in Orlando, Florida at the Orange County Convention Center, in conjunction with the AKC National Championship presented by Royal Canin held December 16-17, 2017.

CLUBS

The Board reviewed a report on:

MEMBER CLUB BYLAWS APPROVED IN MAY AND JUNE

American Belgian Malinois Club (1992)

First Dog Training Club of Northern New Jersey, Bergen County, NJ (1947)

NEW CLUBS LICENSED APPROVED IN MAY AND JUNE

American Boerboel Club,

American Hairless Terrier Club of America

Tri State Labrador Retriever Club of Iowa

JUDGING OPERATIONS

Doug Ljungren, Vice President Sports and Events and Tim Thomas, Director Judging Operations, participated in this portion of the meeting via teleconference.

Occupational Eligibility Addendum

The Board reviewed a Staff recommendation to eliminate Section II, Part 5 under “**An interpretation of the above Rule is as follows:**” of the Occupational Eligibility Addendum.

~~5) Persons employed by dog food, dog remedy or kennel supply companies not involved as solicitors or salesmen.~~

Following a motion from Dr. Davies, seconded by Dr. Battaglia it was VOTED (unanimously; absent: Mr. Feeney), to consider the matter at this meeting, waiving the usual notice requirements.

Following a motion from Dr. Davies, seconded by Mr. Powers, it was VOTED (unanimously; absent: Mr. Feeney), to approve this recommendation effective immediately.

Conformation Judging Approval Process

The Chairman reported that he and the Vice-Chairman will be appointing a committee to evaluate the current Judging Approval system with a plan to recommend changes which will improve the current process.

Rules, Policies and Guidelines for Conformation Dog Show Judges

The Board reviewed a memorandum that recommended revisions to 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.

Staff recommends two changes:

1. The Board approve the addition of the following passage to the *Rules, Policies, and Guidelines for Conformation Dog Show Judges*, inserted as the first paragraph in the **ETHICS: HONESTY AND COMMON SENSE** section.

The AKC assumes that a judge will judge on the merits of the dogs presented to him or her and will not allow other factors to affect his or her decisions. Past and current associations will not diminish that assumption unless it becomes apparent that favoritism has entered into a judge's deliberations.

2. Staff recommends the approval of the propose revision to be **effective immediately**, clarifying the restriction from judging multiple-entry non-regular classes or any “Special Attraction” that features multiple entries of the same breed prior to judging the regular classes, applies to the entire weekend, circuit or cluster, not only the day prior.

Judges may accept assignments for non-regular special attraction groups the days before or after having judged the breed(s) that competed in that particular group. (i.e. Veteran, Puppy or Bred by Exhibitor Group) Judges may not judge multiple-entry non-regular classes of any breed(s) the days before they judge that same breed(s) in the regular classes at an AKC event on the same weekend, circuit or cluster. Any “Special Attraction” that features multiple entries of

the same breed that you could be scheduled to judge the following days in the regular classes is included in this restriction.

This will be discussed further at the August meeting.

Conformation Judging Statistics

The Judging Operations staff provided the Board with statistics related to conformation judging applications considered by the Judges Review Committee for 2017 Year-to-Date through 2nd quarter of 2017 (January - June).

There were a total of 477 applicants, requesting 2592 breeds. Of this number, 2558 breeds were accepted.

Impact of the Judging Approval Process

Staff provided the Board with a list of applicants whose applications for additional breeds submitted under the current Judging Approval Process have advanced to final review through June, 2017.

Approximately 18 months has passed since the first breeds were approved under the current policy (December 2015). Through June, 2017, 1264 applications from 635 unique applicants have advanced to final review resulting in a total of 8282 breeds approved.

CONSENT

Following a motion by Mr. Powers, seconded by Dr. Battaglia, it was VOTED (unanimously; absent: Mr. Feeney.) to approve the following Consent Items:

Delegate Approvals

Cesky Terrier Proposed Breed Standard Revisions

Dachshund Proposed Breed Standard Revisions

Elimination of the 26-inch Jump Height

Obedience Class Membership Requirements

Additional Barn Hunt Titles – Crazy 8's

Basset Hound Club of America – Hunting Performance Test Trials

Spaniel Field Trials – Two Technical Changes

DELEGATE APPROVALS

Beverly Conroy, Newtown, PA

To represent Obedience Training Club of Hawaii

Edward F. Lyons, Jr., Somers, CT

To represent South Windsor Kennel Club

Sally Koepke, Newbury, OH

To represent Buckeye Retriever Club

Betty Jo Patrick, Tucson, AZ

To represent Kachina Kennel Club

Nancy J. Perrell, Scottsdale, AZ

To represent Superstition Kennel Club

Diane Ramsey, Holt, MO

To represent Schipperke Club of America

Melanie S. Steele, Bluffton, SC

To represent Abilene Kennel Club

Cesky Terrier Proposed Breed Standard Revision

The Board VOTED to grant permission to the Cesky Terrier Club of America to ballot its membership on the proposed breed standard in accordance with the club's Constitution and Bylaws.

Dachshund Proposed Breed Standard Revision

The Board VOTED to grant permission to the Dachshund Club of America to ballot its membership on the proposed breed standard in accordance with the club's Constitution and Bylaws.

Elimination of the 26-inch Jump Height

The Board VOTED to approve a recommendation to eliminate the 26-inch jump height and substitute the "24 Inch Choice" jump height classification at AKC agility trials. The "24 Inch Choice" class will be a jump height for dogs that are not required to compete at 24 inches whose handlers choose to compete at this higher height.

This change is designed to keep dogs in the AKC Agility program by making AKC consistent with trends that are occurring in the sport. The "24 Inch Choice" height change also helps those handlers who want to prepare for international competitions. This jump height will allow the true 24 inch dogs (the ones required to jump 24 inches) to not have to compete with dogs that are typically smaller and lighter whose handler opts into the 24-inch height.

This is a change to Chapter 2. Classes, Titles and height Divisions, Section 4 of the *Regulations for Agility Trials* which will become effective January 2, 2018.

Obedience Club Membership Requirements

The Board VOTED to modify the membership requirement for the formation of obedience clubs from 30 households/25 local, to 20 households/12 local. This makes the membership criteria for the formation of obedience clubs the same as that required for the formation of most other sport-based clubs. The change is consistent with the larger Sports and Events initiative to make it easier for clubs to join the AKC and hold AKC events. The change is effective August 1, 2017.

Additional Barn Hunt Titles - Crazy 8s

The Board VOTED to approve a recommendation for AKC to acknowledge titles earned in the new Barn Hunt "Crazy 8s" class which was instituted as new titling class at the end of 2016. The Crazy 8s class has four titles, based on how many points a dog has earned in the class: Crazy 8s Bronze (CZ8B), Crazy 8s Silver (CZ8S), Crazy 8s Gold (CZ8G) and Crazy 8s Platinum (CZ8P). After the Platinum title, participants can earn Platinum 2, Platinum 3, and on into infinity.

Consistent with other titles in the Title Recognition Program, owners must apply and pay a \$20 fee to add the title on their dogs' AKC records. The processing of Crazy 8s title application will start on March 1, 2018.

Basset Hound Club of America - Hunting Performance Test Titles

The Board VOTED to approve the request from the Basset Hound Club of America (BHCA) for AKC to recognize the four titles offered in their program called the Hunting Performance Test (HPT). HPT allows hounds to demonstrate their natural ability to hunt rabbit by scent in a non-competitive setting. Unlike field trials, dogs are judged individually against a standard for each skill within the different stakes - Solo, Brace, or 2 Couple Pack. Whether they are working in braces, packs, or alone, they have 30 minutes to find a rabbit. The maximum test entry is 15 per day.

There are 4 suffix titles, with each requiring 3 qualifying scores except MHE which also requires at least one conformation point. Higher level titles supersede lower on a dog's record.

- Hunting Hound = HH
- Senior Hound = SHH
- Master Hunting Hound = MHH
- Master Hunting Excellent = MHE

Dogs are scored on a scale of 0-10 and must receive a minimum score of 5 in each of the 5 categories of hunting abilities and must pass the Gun Shyness Test.

- Ability to Find
- Use of Voice
- Line Ability
- Adaptability
- Determination
- Gun Shyness Test (Pass/Fail)

Dogs must be AKC/FSS registered or PAL listed and be at least 6 months old. Spayed/neutered, or limited registered dogs are eligible to participate. The manner in which these tests are held and conducted are very consistent with existing AKC licensed hunts - i.e., Premiums, draws, handling of misconduct issues, etc. AKC will begin processing title applications February 1, 2018.

Spaniel Field Trials – Two Technical Changes

The Board VOTED to approve two recommended changes to the *Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedures for Spaniels*. (1) Remove the current mileage restriction between English Springer Spaniel (ESS) field trials that limits where an individual may judge. (2) Modify the restriction on how long it takes an individual to regain amateur status after they have stopped being a professional trainer. Change #2 applies to both English Springer Spaniel and Cocker Spaniel field trials. These changes were recommended by the field committees of the Parent Clubs.

Chapter 5. Judges. Section 1. English Springer Spaniel Field Trials.

Restrictions on Frequency of Judging:

Since it is a sport of judgment, it is desirable to have dogs evaluated by a variety of judges. Hence, no individual shall judge more than three trials within a 12 month period. Field trial committees, when asking a person to judge, and prospective judges, when deciding if they should accept an invitation to judge, shall base their decision on previously accepted assignments within such period. Emergency judging replacements due to travel issues, personal issues or illness will be managed as needed. Previous or future judging assignments will be a consideration, but not the sole consideration, when trying to fill an emergency vacancy on very short notice.

Text preceding and following this passage will remain unchanged.

Chapter 15. Section 21.

Definition of A Professional

A professional shall be defined as any person who accepts, or has accepted, money or other compensation (defined as anything that has a monetary value), for the field training or field trial handling of any breed of hunting dog.

A professional may not compete in an Amateur stake. If someone has not acted as a professional for two (2) years preceding the trial, they may return to amateur status.

Any professional desiring to return to amateur status shall file a notarized notice with the ESSCA Field VP or the ECSCA Field Trial Chairperson (for Cocker) stating their intention to do so, complete with date of their last professional action. The Field VP or the ECSCA Field Trial Chairperson (for Cocker) will notify the ESSCA interclub chairmen or the ECSCA Field Trial Committee (for Cocker) of that person's intentions and keep a record of the notice.

Return to amateur status will be allowed one time only per individual.

A professional returning to amateur status will only be allowed to run dogs in field trials if those dogs are owned by themselves or a member of their immediate family.

Text preceding and following this passage will remain unchanged.
These changes are effective August 1, 2017.

NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Battaglia presented statistics on registration and exhibition of low entry breeds. There was concern over; the low-level of litters being born, the small number of puppies registered in these breeds, and the small number of individual dogs being shown in these breeds. He encouraged staff to look into alternate versions of our current registration system that may help to get more individual dogs registered. He also presented the concept of a National Sweepstakes system where sires and dams would earn points every time one of their puppies placed in designated AKC events around the country. AKC could create a ranking system of all dams and sires.

It was VOTED to adjourn Tuesday, July 11, 2017 at 12:03 p.m.

Adjourned

Attest:

Gina M. DiNardo, Executive Secretary