

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
November 7 - 8, 2011

The Board convened on Monday, November 7, 2011 at 8:00 a.m. All Directors were present, except for Mr. Gladstone and Mr. Goodman. The Executive Secretary, the Chief Operating Officer and the Assistant Executive Secretary were also present. Copies of the October 2011 minutes were made available to all Directors. The Board reviewed the minutes of the October 10 -11, 2011 meeting. Ms. Scully indicated that she had abstained on the vote regarding jump heights for Basset Hounds in Agility, and that the National competition which will recognize the top Rally novice dog, top Rally advanced dog, and the top Rally excellent dog annually is in the 2012-2016 Business Plan. Upon a motion by Ms. Scully, seconded by Dr. Battaglia, the October 2011 Board minutes were unanimously (absent Mr. Gladstone and Mr. Goodman) adopted as amended.

FINANCIAL Report

Jim Stevens, Chief Financial Officer, participated in this portion of the meeting. Total revenues for the month of October 2011 were less than last October, which reflected the results of the Meet The Breeds event that was held in New York. Total operating expenses during the month were below 2010.

Due to the improved performance of the stock markets in October, our investments generated a gain during the month.

Budget

The Board considered the approval of the 2012 Budget. The proposed budget was discussed in great detail. Emphasis was placed on increased efficiency and cost savings in all areas. Continued reductions were also discussed.

Following a motion by Ms. Scully, seconded by Dr. Davies, it was VOTED (unanimously; absent: Mr. Gladstone and Mr. Goodman) to approve the 2012 budget.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT**Board Action Items**

Mr. Sprung gave a status report on previous Action items assigned to the Staff.

Events and Entries Update

Mr. Sprung reported that for the first nine months of 2011 aggregate Entries were up by 2.95% and Events were up by 2.32% compared to the same period in the previous year.

Signature Requirements of All Dam Owners on Litter Registrations

Margaret Poindexter, AKC Staff, was present during this portion of the meeting. Charles Kneifel and David Roberts, AKC Staff, participated in this portion of the meeting via video conference. There was a discussion on possibly amending the current Board policy which requires the signature of all dam owners to register a litter. No action was taken at this time.

PUBLICATIONS

Daphna Straus, AKC Staff, advised the Board of a number of AKC books including "Meet the Breeds" and individual Meet the Breed books prepared in cooperation with Parent Clubs for the Labrador Retriever, Shih Tzu, and German Shepherd Dog. These books are published by BowTie Press and are sold at \$12.95 each.

LEGAL REPORT

Margaret Poindexter, General Counsel, participated in this portion of the meeting. She presented a status report on pending litigation and other activities during the month of October 2011.

CONSENT AGENDA

Following discussion, there was a motion by Dr. Smith, seconded by Dr. Battaglia, and it was VOTED (unanimously; absent: Mr. Gladstone and Mr. Goodman) to approve the following Consent Agenda Items:

Delegates

The following Delegate was approved:

Margaret Doster, Hamburg, NY
To represent Kennel Club of Buffalo

Jacqueline Fogel, West Bend, WI
To represent Kettle Moraine Kennel Club

Anne Midgarden, DVM, Wapakoneta, OH
To represent Lima Kennel Club

G. Robert Stevens, Hancock, NH
To represent Cheshire Kennel Club

Carolyn Vack, Gordonville, PA
To represent Lancaster Kennel Club

Rules Applying to Dog Shows Chapter 1, Section 3

The Board VOTED to remove Chapter 1, Section 3, from the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows*, as the type of event it references is no longer relevant, i.e., a show restricted to puppies and dogs that have previously placed at a show. It also VOTED to renumber all subsequent sections. This Rule change will be read at the December 2011 Delegate meeting for a vote at the March 2012.

Obedience Regulations - Jump Height Change

The Board VOTED to approve the requests of the Dandie Dinmont Terrier Club of America, the Norwich Terrier Club of America and the American Shih Tzu Club, Inc., and approved the lowering of these breeds' jump height requirement in AKC Obedience to three-quarters of the height of their breed at the withers. (A dog measured at 20 inches at the withers would jump a 16-inch high jump.) The new three-quarters jump height would still follow current regulations with jumps being set at the nearest 2 inches.

Herding "Master" Titles

The Board VOTED to amend *AKC Herding Regulations*, Chapter 1, Section 5, and Chapter IV, Sections 1 and Section 3, and to add a Master(M) designation to each of the current Herding Trial titles if a dog passes a class (level – course – stock) eight additional times after earning its initial title in that class and to allow clubs to hold up to 10 herding trials per calendar year (current limit is 8). New wording underlined:

AKC Herding Regulations Chapter 1, Section 5

Section 5. Making Application. Applications for licensed and member club herding tests and/or herding trials must be received by AKC at least three (3)

months prior to the closing date. Herding clubs will be permitted to hold up to 10 licensed trials during a calendar year. A club may hold as many Herding Tests as it desires.

AKC Herding Regulations Chapter 4, Section 1

Section 1. Trial Levels. A dog will indefinitely remain eligible to compete in both Herding Started and Herding Intermediate classes after the dog has earned a title in that trial level, course and livestock type. Dogs that have achieved any title of Herding Advanced (HX) are eligible to compete in any Herding Advanced (HX) class for an indefinite period of time.

Section 3. Herding Trial Titles. The requirements for an eligible dog competing in herding trials under these Regulations to acquire a herding title or championship shall be established by the Board of Directors of The American Kennel Club.

The American Kennel Club will issue a **Herding Started** certificate designating the specific course and livestock type for an eligible dog, and will identify the titlist by the use of HS (course and livestock) after the name of that dog in official AKC records, once the dog has been certified by three different Judges to have received qualifying scores in the Started class, same course and livestock type, at three licensed or member club herding trials. A **Herding Started Master** title can be earned by receiving eight (8) additional qualifying scores on the same course and stock. This title will be designated with an "M" after the current title. The owner must track these qualifying performances on a Master Title tracking form developed by the AKC. Upon achieving eight additional qualifying scores, the tracking form is mailed, faxed or e-mailed to the Performance Events Department. Upon verification, the title will be applied to the dog's record. The Started Master title will suppress the Started title earned for the same course and stock. No Master title certificate will be issued unless ordered by the owner for a fee established by the AKC Board of Directors.

The American Kennel Club will issue a **Herding Intermediate** certificate designating the specific course and livestock type for an eligible dog, and will identify the titles by the use of HI (course and livestock) after the name of that dog in official AKC records, once the dog has been certified by three different Judges to have received qualifying scores in the Intermediate class, same course and livestock type, at three licensed or member club herding trials. A **Herding Intermediate Master** title can be earned by receiving eight (8) additional qualifying scores on the same course and stock. This title will be designated with an "M". The owner must track these qualifying performances on a Master Title tracking form developed by the AKC. Upon achieving eight additional qualifying scores, the tracking form is mailed, faxed or e-mailed to the Performance Events Department. Upon verification, the title will be applied to the dog's record. The Intermediate Master title will suppress the Intermediate title earned for the same course and stock. No Master title certificate will be issued unless ordered by the owner for a fee established by the AKC Board of Directors.

AKC Herding Regulations Chapter 4, Section 3

Section 3. Herding Trial Titles. The American Kennel Club will issue a Herding Excellent certificate designating the specific course and livestock type for an eligible dog, and will identify the titles by use of HX (course and livestock) after the name of that dog in official AKC records, once the dog has been certified by three different judges to have received qualifying scores in the Advanced class, same course and livestock type, at three licensed or member club herding trials. A Herding Excellent Master title can be earned by receiving eight (8) additional qualifying scores on the same course and stock. This title will be designated with an "M". The owner must track these qualifying performances on a Master Title tracking form developed by the AKC. Upon achieving eight additional qualifying scores, the tracking form is mailed, faxed or e-mailed to the Performance Events Department. Upon verification, the title will be applied to the dog's record. The Excellent Master title will suppress the Excellent title earned for the same course and stock. No Master title certificate will be issued unless ordered by the owner for a fee established by the AKC Board of Directors.

Technical Modifications to the Herding Regulations

The Board VOTED to make two technical modifications to the Herding Regulations. The Board amended *AKC Herding Regulations*, Chapter VI, Section 2, to allow clubs the option to make the "drive" section of the course an isosceles triangle rather than an equilateral triangle. The Board amended *AKC Herding Regulations*, Chapter VI, Sections 3 and 4, to clarify when the handler can leash the dog at the completion of Course A..

CHAPTER VI

Section 2. Course Layout. The course is laid out in a triangular pattern with the handler's post on the bottom, gate #1 on the left and gate #2 of the right. The course can be reversed at the discretion of the course director.

The host club has two options:

- A. Equilateral triangle – Each angle of the triangle is approximately 60 degrees. Each leg of the drive shall equal approximately 1/3 of the total outrun length (except for the minimum of 100 feet for sheep and cattle and 50 feet for ducks).
- B. Isosceles triangle – The total drive distance must equal the outrun length except for the minimum of 300 feet for sheep and 150 feet for ducks. The drive distance from gate #1 to gate #2 must be a minimum of 100 feet for sheep and cattle and 50 feet for ducks. The other drive legs must be equal in length (except for the minimum of 100 ft for sheep and cattle and 50 ft for ducks).

The isosceles triangle may be useful for clubs as they transition from Course B intermediate to advanced tests. The isosceles triangle can be achieved by moving the handlers post back while leaving the gates in place.

CHAPTER VI

Section 3. Levels.

Started Level Course A – Description.

Pen - Turn toward the top of arena and the stock move to near the gate. The dog holds the stock in a location near the exhaust pen but away from the gate while the handler opens the gate while the handler opens the gate. The dog must demonstrate it is willing to disengage from the stock. The leash shall not be placed on the dog until just prior to opening the gate to leave the arena.

Section 4. Judging Course A.**D. General Deductions:**

8. Up to 5 points deducted if, when entering the arena, the dog remains on lead as the handler leaves the gate area to proceed to the appropriate post or if, when leaving the arena, the lead is applied early rather than just prior to opening the gate to leave the arena.

Beagle Grand Field Champion

The Board VOTED to add a new Beagle Field Trial title called the Grand Field Champion (GFC). A dog must have previously been awarded a Field Champion title to earn the GFC title. To be recorded, a GFC a dog must win two first places and 90 points under the existing point system at AKC approved Brace and Gundog Federation Championship trials or the AKC National Beagle Championship Trial for Brace, Gundog Brace, Small Pack Option or Large Pack Beagles. This is a prefix title that would appear in addition to the Field Championship title. This will be read to the Delegates in December for a vote in March, 2012.

Beagle Field Trial Technical Recommendations

The Board VOTED to amend the Beagle Field Trial Standard Procedures to (1) Allow the judges, while in the field, to move up a dog that they have determined to be the Next Best Qualifier (NBQ) if one of the hounds that remain under judgment commits an action so faulty as to not warrant a placement. (2) Clarify that in traditional brace/trio trials, the hounds in the first series shall be laid on the line in the order drawn. These changes are effective January 1, 2012.

PROCEDURE 4. JUDGING

4 – B In all classes the Judges shall award places as follows: 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th, and after these places have been awarded the Judges shall designate the next best qualified hound as “N.B.Q.”. N.B.Q. is not a place and in case of disqualification of a placed hound at a licensed or member trial, the N.B.Q. hound shall not be moved up. However the judges while still in the field have the authority to move up the hound they have selected as NBQ if one of the hounds they are considering for a placement commits an action so faulty as to not warrant a placement.

PROCEDURE 6. CLOSING, DRAWING, BRACING ABSENTEES

6 – B The running order of the hounds entered in each class shall be determined by drawing, and the hounds shall be drawn in braces, or trios if applicable, for the first series. In the first series the hounds must be run in the order drawn. However at Gundog Brace trials, should a second hound owned by the same person be drawn in the same brace or trio, that hound will change places with the next hound drawn which is not so owned. This change will be made with a hound drawn later if possible, but may be made with a hound drawn earlier if necessary. The running together of two or three such hounds may be permitted in the first series when a separation is impossible, but in no other case.

GWP Field Trial Water Test Requirements

The Board VOTED to approve a request from the German Wirehaired Pointer Club of America (GWPCA) to permit a “pass” by a German Wirehaired Pointer in a Pointing breed water test to count toward both the FC or AFC title regardless whether a professional or amateur handles the dog. This change is effective December 1, 2011.

Chapter 14 of *Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedure for Pointing Breeds* will now read:

AMATEUR FIELD CHAMPIONSHIP

At present, a dog of one of the Pointing breeds will be recorded an Amateur Field Champion after having won 10 points under the point rating schedule below regular Amateur Stakes in at least 3 licensed or member field trials, provided that no more than 2 points each have been won by placing first in Amateur Walking Puppy and Amateur Walking Derby stakes and that it has been awarded 2 first placements, one of which must be a first placement in a 3 point or better Amateur All-Age, Amateur Gun Dog, Amateur Limited All-Age, or Amateur Limited Gun Dog Stake;

AND EXCEPT THAT a German Wirehaired Pointer shall not be recorded an Amateur Field Champion unless it has also been certified as having passed a Water Test at a licensed or member field trial or hunting test held by a pointing breed club. AND EXCEPT THAT a Weimaraner shall not be recorded an Amateur Field Champion unless it has also been certified as having passed a Water Test-with an amateur handler (as determined by the Field Trial or Hunting Test Committee in accord with the Definition of an Amateur found in Chapter 14, Section 2), at a licensed or member field trial or hunting test held by a pointing breed club.

Portuguese Podengo Pequenos Eligible to Participate in AKC Lure Coursing Events

The Board VOTED to approve a request from the Portuguese Podengo Pequenos of America to allow the Portuguese Podengo Pequenos to be eligible to participate in AKC Lure Coursing events. The breed is not allowed to compete for Best in Field, due to its small size. Effective date is January 1, 2012.

Boxers Eligible to Participate in AKC Herding Events

The Board VOTED to approve a request from the American Boxer Club to permit the breed to compete in AKC Herding events contingent upon the Parent Club or at least one local Boxer specialty club becoming licensed to hold Herding events. This will become effective January 1, 2012.

Revisions to Hunting Test Regulations

The Board VOTED to approve the following minor housecleaning changes to the *Regulations for AKC Hunting Tests*. Changes underlined:

*Regulations for AKC Hunting Tests for Pointing Breeds, Spaniels and Retrievers - CHAPTER 1, Section 4. **Entry Requirements. No Special Inducements.***

A Hunting Test giving club shall not accept an entry fee other than that published in its premium list or entry form, or in any way discriminate between entrants. Except a club, at its discretion, may allow for a reduced entry fee for dogs handled by juniors. A junior handler is someone less than 18 years of age on the first day of the test.

CHAPTER 1

Section 3. Senior Hunter Title (SH) Dogs that have acquired a Senior Hunter title at an AKC-licensed or member Hunting Test are eligible to enter Junior Hunting Tests. No JH title will be issued.

Section 4. Master Hunter Title (MH) Dogs that have acquired a Master Hunting title at an AKC-licensed or member club Hunting Test are eligible to enter Junior and Senior Hunting Tests. No JH or SH titles will be issued.

Chapter 1, Section 12. Weather. Weather is an important consideration for the hunting test event committee. The safety of participants and animals is of utmost importance. Extreme weather such as lightening, strong winds, heat or cold, snow or heavy rain can create hazardous conditions. The hunting test event committee, in consultation with the judges, has the responsibility to decide if an event should be halted due to weather and at what point the event shall resume.

If a weather delay results in an entrant being unable to participate, the refund of entry fees, in whole or in part, will be at the discretion of the event committee.

If an entire event or part of an event is cancelled due to weather, the refund of entry fees, in whole or in part, will be at the discretion of the event committee.

Regulations for AKC Hunting Tests for Pointing Breeds -

Chapter 1, Section 6. Judges' Eligibility and Approval.

Anyone at least 18 years old and in good standing with The American Kennel Club may be approved to judge a Hunting Test subject to the qualification requirements in force at the time.

In order to Apprentice Judge:

- Must handle a dog to at least one qualifying leg at the level to be judged or higher.

In order to be an Approved Judge:

- Must apprentice judge twice at the level to be judged or higher.
- Must attend one AKC Pointing Breed Hunting Test Seminar.
- Must pass an AKC Hunting Test written test.
- Must handle a dog to at least three qualifying legs at the level to be judged or higher.
- Approved pointing breed field trial judges are exempt from the "handled in three qualifying legs" requirement, but must still apprentice judge twice and pass the written test prior to judging Pointing Breed Hunting Tests.

Tracking Device Regulations

10. The use of tracking devices is at the discretion of the host club. For Hunt Tests, the premium list must state they are not allowed, otherwise they will be allowed.

Regulations For AKC Hunting Tests for Spaniels

Chapter 3, Section 5. Guns. In the Master Hunting Test and the Senior level water test the handler must carry an empty shotgun. If the shotgun being carried is functional, it must be a breaking type shotgun; if the handler's shotgun is non-functional, it may be of any type. Whether on land or water in Master or water in Senior, the handler must shoulder the empty shotgun and, with both hands on the gun, follow the flight of the bird as if a shot were to be fired. Handlers must follow safe gun handling practices at all times. Failure to handle the gun as previously described during a land flush or at the water, or handling the gun in an unsafe manner must be severely penalized, even to the point of disqualification under trained abilities.

Handlers at the Junior level are not to be required to handle a gun at any time during any part of the testing. Handlers in the Senior land test are not required to handle a gun.

Allowing Judges to Use 4-Wheelers in Pointing Breed Hunting Tests

The Board VOTED to approve changes to the *Regulations for AKC Hunting Tests for Pointing Breeds* Chapter 3, Sections 4 & 6, to permit Pointing Breed Hunt Test Judges to Use 4-Wheelers.

Section 4. Motorized Vehicles. Birds may be liberated from horseback and/or All Terrain Vehicles on the back course, as long as it can be done without interference to the working dogs.

Judges may ride ATV's at the discretion of the host club. If judges will be using ATVs it must be clearly stated in the event premium. ATVs must be turned off while a judge observes a dog's bird work. If one judge uses an ATV the other judge must use an ATV or walk. For safety reasons the mixing of ATVs and horses for the judges is not allowed.

ATVs must meet all applicable state and federal government requirements. ATVs are not allowed in bird fields but may be driven around their perimeters.

Section 6. Horses. In testing for Junior, Senior and Master Hunting Tests, all handling must be on foot. Horses may be used only by the Judges, Apprentice Judge, the Judge's Marshall and the bird liberator.

Judges may ride horses, walk or ride ATVs at the club's discretion. For safety reasons, one may not be riding an ATV and the other judge riding a horse.

Pointing Breed Hunting Tests "Advanced" Titles

The Board VOTED to amend the *Regulations for AKC Hunting Tests for Pointing Breeds*, Chapter 1, Section 3, to allow clubs be allowed to hold up to 6 events per year (current limit was 4). The Board VOTED to amend the *Regulations for AKC Hunting Tests for Pointing Breeds*, Chapter 2, Sections 1, and create new sections 2A 3A and 4A to provide for additional advanced titles at all three levels.

New wording underlined:

Chapter 2, Section 1 – new paragraph

In order to receive a Qualifying score in Junior Advanced, Senior Advanced and Master Advanced Hunting Tests, a dog must acquire a minimum score of not less than 5 on each of the categories of abilities (4 categories in Junior, 6 categories in Senior and Master)

listed on the Score Card, with an overall average score of not less than 8.0.

Chapter 2, New Section 2A

Section 2A. Junior Hunter Advanced Title (JHA). A dog must have previously earned a Junior Hunter title to be eligible to earn qualifying legs towards a Junior Hunter Advanced title. In order to be recorded as a Junior Hunter Advanced, a dog must have a record of having acquired five (5) JHA qualifying scores in the Junior Hunting Test.

Upon completion of these requirements, the owner of the dog must complete the Advanced Title tracking form and submit it to the Performance Events Department. Upon verification, the dog shall be identified as a Junior Hunter Advanced in all official AKC records by the suffix title JHA. The JHA title will supersede the JH title on a dog's records.

A JHA title certificate will not be issued unless ordered by the owner. The Advanced Title tracking form will include title certificate ordering information. There will be a fee for the title certificate. The fee shall be determined by the Board of Directors.

Chapter 2, New Section 3A

Section 3A. Senior Hunter Advanced Title (SHA). A dog must have previously earned a Senior Hunter title to be eligible to earn qualifying legs towards a Senior Hunter Advanced title. In order to be recorded as a Senior Hunter Advanced, a dog must have a record of having acquired five (5) SHA qualifying scores in the Senior Hunting Test.

Upon completion of these requirements, the owner of the dog must complete the Advanced Title tracking form and submit it to the Performance Events Department. Upon verification, the dog shall be identified as a Senior Hunter Advanced in all official AKC records by the suffix title SHA. The SHA title will supersede the SH title on a dog's records.

A SHA title certificate will not be issued unless ordered by the owner. The Advanced Title tracking form will include title certificate ordering information. There will be a fee for the title certificate. The fee shall be determined by the Board of Directors.

In order for GWP's and Spinones to earn a SH title, they must have passed a Water Test. Another Water Test does not need to be passed to be awarded the SHA title.

Chapter 2, New Section 4A

Section 4A. Master Hunter Advanced Title (MHA). A dog must have previously earned a Master Hunter title to be eligible to earn qualifying legs towards a Master Hunter Advanced title. In order to be recorded as a Master Hunter Advanced, a dog must have a record of having acquired five (5) MHA qualifying scores in the Master Hunting Test.

Upon completion of these requirements, the owner of the dog must complete the Advanced Title tracking form and submit it to the Performance Events Department. Upon verification, the dog shall be identified as a Master Hunter Advanced in all official AKC records by the suffix title MHA. The MHA title will supersede the MH title on a dog's records.

A MHA title certificate will not be issued unless ordered by the owner. The Advanced Title tracking form will include title certificate ordering information. There will be a fee for the title certificate. The fee shall be determined by the Board of Directors.

In order for GWPs and Spinones to earn a MH title, they must have passed a Water Test. Another Water Test does not need to be passed to be awarded the MHA title.

Retriever Hunting Test Advisory Committee Recommendations

The Board VOTED to approve six modifications to the *Retriever Hunt Test Regulations*. Effective January 1, 2012. New wording underlined:

Chapter 3, Section 6,

Section 6. Honoring. In Senior and Master Tests every dog shall honor in at least one hunting situation involving the retrieve of a marked fall(s) by remaining on the line off-lead while the working dog retrieves, unless otherwise directed or until dismissed by the Judges.

Only one dog at a time may be required to honor the retrieve of the working dog. The honoring dog must be in an area designated by the judges. The specific position (sitting, lying down, etc) of the honoring dog will be determined by the handler provided the honoring dog is positioned to clearly see all the marks without having to reposition itself.

Judges should be careful in establishing the honoring scenario to maintain adequate distance between dogs.

Chapter 3, New Section 18.

New Section 18. Walk Ups. In Senior and Master hunting tests, a walk up is used to test a dog's steadiness. The bird represent a surprise situation therefore gunning stations must be well concealed, utilizing natural cover when possible so that only the bird may be seen when launched. Birds shall be presented at distances ranging from 35 to 45 yards of the dog with no attention getting devices utilized.

As the first bird is thrown in a walk up situation, the handler may give either a verbal or whistle command to steady the dog once the bird is in the air. Judges shall tell handlers in advance of the start of judging when it is appropriate to give the steadying commend or whistle.

There shall be no walk up test situations in Junior level tests.

Chapter 5.

New Section 4. Marking and Memory of Birds.

In Junior, Senior and Master Tests, marking and memory of birds are of primary importance. While dogs may be handled in all three levels of testing, this is undesirable in marking tests and should be utilized only as a last recourse to get a bird out of the field. A dog that goes to the area of the fall, establishes a hunt and finds the bird unaided must be scored appreciably higher than a dog that has to be handled to the bird.

Section 5. Junior Hunting Tests. Dogs shall be tested on a minimum of four single marks, two on land and two on water. No more than two marks may be thrown in a series.

Judges in keeping with simulation of realistic but relatively simple hunting situations must remember the use of numerous decoys, islands, points of land, rolling terrain, cover, ditch lines, wind direction, etc. are important factors to consider when designing test scenarios to evaluate Junior dogs as capable hunting companions.

(1) ...

(2) Dogs shall be steady but may be brought to the line on leash with a flat buckle collar. The dog is under judgment when it leaves the holding blind. A Junior dog that is not under control when brought to the line (jumping, strongly tugging, etc) even though it is on a leash shall risk receiving a lower score in trainability including zero in extreme cases. Dogs may be restrained gently with a slipcord looped through the flat buckle collar, or held gently by the flat buckle collar until sent to retrieve.

Section 6. Master Hunting Test. Dogs shall be tested in a minimum of five hunting situations as follows: multiple land marks, multiple water marks, multiple marks on water and land, a land blind and a water blind (at least one that shall be a double blind in any combination). There shall be at least three series. At least one of the series shall include a walk-up. Diversion birds and/or diversion shots such as described in Chapter 3, Section 24, must be used at least once. In Master tests, in at least two multiple marking situation the dog's marking/memory will be tested with at least three (3) falls, before the dogs is sent to retrieve. During a double set of marks (2 falls) Master judges shall include additional elements of testing i.e. walkup, diversion bird, diversion shot, blind/s etc. in testing the dog's abilities

Chapter 1, Section 3. Making Application. Approval for licensed or member club Hunting Tests may be issued to clubs formed for the improvement of the several breeds of Retrievers or to clubs formed for the improvement of a single Retriever breed.

Retriever Clubs may offer Junior, Senior and Master Hunting Tests for all AKC registrable eligible breeds, but may not offer more than one of the same category at any event at which Qualifying scores toward titles might be earned.

Clubs that sponsor more than two hunting test in any twelve month period shall be required to offer at least once in any combination, each of the three (3) test levels.

Chapter 1, Section 6

Section 6. Judges' Eligibility. Anyone at least 21 years of age and in good standing with the American Kennel Club may be approved to judge a Hunting Test subject to the eligibility requirements in force at the time. It is the responsibility of the clubs to determine the "qualifications" of each prospective judge by researching experience accumulated through training, actual hunting over dogs, handling dogs in field events and prior judging activities. Clubs may at their discretion develop a questionnaire in order to request background information on prospective judges.

Prior to Becoming an Approved Judge. For new judges after January 1, 2012: (1) Seminar: Attend an AKC Retriever Hunting Test seminar. This first seminar allows an individual to judge for three years assuming the apprenticeship requirement is met.

(2) Apprenticeship: Successfully apprenticed at least once at the level being judged. (Club's responsibility to monitor.)

Prior to Becoming Qualified to Judge the Senior/Master Test. After January 1, 2012, an individual judging the Senior or Master test for the first time must have judged at least twice at the testing level immediately below the one they are being asked to judge. (Club's responsibility to monitor.)

Chapter 1

Maintaining One's Ability to Judge:

(1) Second Seminar: If an individual has judged within three years of attending the first seminar, that individual is required to attend a second seminar to maintain the ability to continue to judge. If an individual has not judged within three years of attending the first seminar, another "first" seminar is required prior to being allowed to judge. However, if you have earned six (6) points at the Master level, you do not need to take the second seminar. Anyone that has attended two or more seminars (one prior to judging and one after having judged) is exempt from any further seminar attendance.

(2) Written Test: After the second seminar (one prior to judging and one after having judged), an individual must complete a written self-administered AKC test every four years and pass the test with a score of 90% or better.

(3) Must Remain An Active Judge: An individual must judge at any level at least once every four (4) years to maintain eligibility. Individuals who have not judged within the four-year period of the mandatory written examination will be required to attend the Seminar.

Section 6. Judges' Eligibility cont.

(4) Must Remain An Active Handler: An individual must have handled a qualifying dog at the level he is being asked to judge or higher within seven (7) years of the date of the event. (Club's responsibility to monitor.)

Judge's Panel Qualifications:

(1) The combined number of points required for the two Judges in any division or level shall be six (6) at that level or higher. Judges accumulate a point for each level judged at the completion of an assignment.

(2) Handling experience - *At the Master test level and each division thereof, one Judge shall have qualified a dog or dogs (5) times at the Master level. At the Senior and Junior test levels and each division thereof, one Judge shall have qualified a dog or dogs four (4) times either at the level being judged or at a higher test level. Monitoring the qualifications of judges is the responsibility of the event-giving club.*

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT

David Roberts, and Mari-Beth O'Neill, AKC Staff, participated in this portion of the meeting via video conference.

Proposed Komondor Breed Standard Revision

Following a motion by Ms. Scully, seconded by Mr. Ashby, it was VOTED (unanimously; absent Mr. Gladstone and Mr. Goodman) to permit the Komondor Club of America to ballot its membership on proposed revisions to the Bite section of the breed standard, in accordance with the club's constitution and bylaws.

Proposed Rottweiler Breed Standard Revision

Following a motion by Dr. Battaglia, seconded by Dr. Davies, it was VOTED (unanimously) to permit the American Rottweiler Club to ballot its membership on proposed revisions to the Tail section of the breed standard, in accordance with the club's constitution and bylaws.

Imported Portuguese Water Dogs

The Board reviewed a request from the Portuguese Water Dog Club of America to only permit Portuguese Water Dogs imported from Clube Portugues de Canicultura (CPC), to be accepted for AKC registration if the import pedigree shows at least five generations of complete LOP dogs (normal registration designation in CPC) with no RI (Initial registration in CPC) dogs in these five generations. Following a motion by Dr. Davies, seconded by Dr. Smith, it was VOTED (unanimously) absent Mr. Gladstone and Mr. Goodman to require three generations of LOP dogs with no RI dog in these three generations of the pedigree for Portuguese Water Dogs imported from Portugal (CPC).

Basenji Stud Book

Following a motion by Dr. Newman, seconded by Mr. Arnold, it was VOTED (unanimously) to extend the Open Registration for Basenjies imported 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.

Proposal to Reduce Number of Delegate Meetings

The Board reviewed a proposal, from the Delegate Advocacy and Advancement Committee, to reduce the number of Delegate meetings from four to three per year. The proposal suggests that two of these meetings be expanded from two days to three days in order to enable increased attendance at the various Delegate Committee meetings. This will be considered further in January.

MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS

Lisa Gonzalez, David Roberts, Mark Dunn, and Michelle Baker, AKC Staff, participated in this portion of the meeting via video conference.

David Roberts gave an update on AKC's Marketing and Communications initiatives. Mark Dunn gave an update on the AKC Canine Partners Program.

COMPLIANCE

Margaret Poindexter, AKC Staff, participated in this portion of the meeting, and Jack Norton, AKC Staff, participated via video conference.

Hardship Policy

The Management Disciplinary Committee requests a change to the Board's *Hardship* policy to allow for the registration and/or transfer of dogs listed in the AKC recorded ownership of an individual who has been suspended from AKC privileges. The proposed change would allow dogs listed in the AKC recorded ownership of the suspended individual, at the time the suspension was imposed, to be registered and/or transferred provided an AKC DNA Profile for the dog is on file and all other registration requirements are met. The change would allow the AKC to retain the registration viability of a large number of dogs that are affected by registration suspensions without adversely affecting the accuracy of the registry. This will be discussed further at the January Board meeting.

The following AKC Management actions were reported:

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

CONFORMATION

Robin Stansell, Charles Kneifel, Mari-Beth O'Neill, Lee Herr, Bobby Birdsong, and Bri Tesarz, AKC Staff, participated in this portion of the meeting via video conference. Mr. Gladstone joined the meeting via teleconference in accordance with Board policy. He could participate in discussion, but not vote.

Event Analysis Summary

At the July and August 2011 Board meetings, PowerPoint presentations concerning analysis of the impact on clubs which have changed their date, have ceased holding events, have changed their site, etc. was presented to the Board. Staff presented additional research which was performed to assess where exhibitors live and how far they travel to events.

Conflict Distance/Moratorium Recommendations

The Board discussed the moratorium on new shows that was approved in order to further study the impact of the number of shows on the financial well-being of existing clubs. Staff recommended that the Board remove the moratorium on new All-Breed clubs with limitations: Following a motion by Mr. Arnold, seconded by Ms. Scully, it was VOTED (Mr. Arnold, Ms. Scully, Mr. Kalter, Mr. Ashby, Mr. Menaker, Dr. Smith, Dr. Davies, Mr. Amen, Dr. Battaglia, Dr. Newman; opposed Dr. Garvin; absent Mr. Gladstone, Mr. Goodman) to consider the matter at this meeting, waiving the usual prior notice requirement.

Following a motion by Dr. Garvin, seconded by Mr. Ashby, it was VOTED unanimously; absent Mr. Gladstone and Mr. Goodman) to remove the moratorium on new All-Breed clubs, with the following limitations:

1. Availability of open weekends - approval of new All-Breed clubs requires at least four (4) open weekends within the calendar year in that AKC division and no shows within 300 miles of the territory of the new club on the show date.

However, no such restriction will apply to clubs in Divisions 10, 11, and 12 (Alaska, Hawaii and Puerto Rico).

2. New all-Breed clubs are encouraged to invite local Group or Specialty clubs to join with them to improve event attendance.

Removing Limited Breed Clubs from Moratorium

Sanctioned Limited Breed (Group) Clubs are currently restricted from advancing to licensed club status by the moratorium imposed by the Board of Directors. The Board reviewed a proposal to permit these clubs to advance to licensed status with restrictions similar to those approved by the Board for specialty clubs to advance.

Following a motion by Dr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Arnold, it was VOTED (unanimously; absent Mr. Gladstone and Mr. Goodman) to remove the moratorium on new Group clubs with the following limitations:

1. Group clubs will not be approved within a 100 miles of the territory of another club of the same Group.
2. Group clubs will only be licensed to hold Group shows in conjunction with another Group show, All-Breed shows or clusters.
3. Any newly forming or club ready for licensing will only be approved with the proviso they agree any future events must meet the adjacency and/or integrated specialty requirement as stated in (2).
4. Any local Group club licensed or formed during this period will be subject to any final policies that result from the moratorium study period.

Realignment of Point Schedule Divisions

The Board considered a Staff proposal to realign the point schedule divisions. The goal was to minimize the differences in average entries among the states in the current Divisions. The proposal would create the following Divisions.

1. CT, MA, ME, NH, RI, VT
2. DE, NJ, PA, NY
3. DC, MD, NC, TN, VA, WV
4. FL, GA, SC
5. IN, OH, KY
6. IA, KS, MO, NE
7. OK, TX, CO
8. OR, WA
9. CA, AZ
10. AK
11. HI
12. PR
13. ID MT, ND, NV, SD, UT, WY, NM
14. AL, AR, LA, MS
15. IL, MI, MN, WI

Following a motion by Dr. Davies, seconded by Dr. Smith, it was VOTED (unanimously; absent Mr. Gladstone and Mr. Goodman), to consider the matter at this meeting, waiving the usual advance notice requirement.

Following a motion by Dr. Smith, seconded by Ms. Scully, it was VOTED (unanimously; absent Mr. Gladstone and Mr. Goodman), to approve this realignment, effective with the May 2012 point schedule.

Points for Reserve at a National Specialty

The Board considered a proposed amendment to Chapter 16, Section 1 of the Rules Applying to Dog Shows as follows:

(new sixth paragraph)

At one National Specialty each year, specified by the AKC Breed Parent Specialty Club at the time the event application is submitted to AKC, the dog designated Reserve Winners Dog and the bitch designated Reserve Winners Bitch will be awarded a three-point major, provided that the number of dogs competing in the regular classes of the reserve Winner's sex totals at least twice the number required for a five point major, in the region in which the event is held.

In counting the number of eligible dogs in competition, a dog that is disqualified, or that is dismissed, excused or ordered from the ring by the judge, or from which all awards are withheld, shall not be included.

This proposed amendment was submitted by the Progressive Dog Clubs. During the discussion a liaison to the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee, reported that this committee is unanimously opposed to this amendment.

Following a motion by Dr. Davies, seconded by Dr. Battaglia, it was VOTED (affirmative: Dr. Davies, Mr. Kalter, Dr. Newman, Mr. Amen, Dr. Battaglia, Mr. Arnold; opposed: Mr. Menaker, Ms. Scully, Dr. Smith, Dr. Garvin, Mr. Ashby; absent: Mr. Gladstone, Mr. Goodman) to approve this amendment.

There was a motion by Mr. Amen, seconded by Mr. Menaker, and it was VOTED (affirmative, Mr. Amen, Mr. Menaker, Dr. Smith; Ms. Scully, Mr. Ashby, Dr. Garvin; opposed: Mr. Arnold, Mr. Kalter, Dr. Davies, Dr. Battaglia, Dr. Newman; absent Mr. Gladstone, Mr. Goodman) to reconsider the question

Following a motion by Mr. Amen, seconded by Ms. Scully, it was VOTED (affirmative, Mr. Amen, Ms. Scully, Mr. Kalter, Mr. Menaker, Dr. Battaglia, Dr. Garvin, Mr. Ashby, Dr. Newman, Dr. Davies, Mr. Arnold; opposed: Dr. Smith; absent: Mr. Gladstone, Mr. Goodman) to send the proposed amendment forward to be read at the December 2011 Delegate meeting, for a vote in March 2012, with no Board recommendation.

Rules Applying to Dog Shows Chapter 2, Section 3 Territory

The Suffolk County Kennel Club proposed an amendment to the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* Chapter 2, Section 3, in order to require clubs to hold events in their territory in order to maintain exclusive privilege in the territory. A second condition of the request would permit clubs to reclaim exclusive privilege after they hold shows within their territory following a prolonged absence. The amendment would read as follows:

Each member club or association not a specialty club which shall hold a show within their territory at least once in every two consecutive calendar years shall have the sole show privilege in the city, town or district which has been assigned to it as its show territory. Clubs that have not held a show in their territory within two consecutive calendar years will be granted the exclusive privilege of their territory one year after the next date they hold a show in their territory.

A majority of the Board favored the insertion of "in their territory" but not the proposed last sentence. This will be discussed further at the January 2012 meeting.

Junior Guidelines Updates

The Board reviewed suggested updates to *The AKC Conformation Junior Showmanship Regulations*, and *Guidelines for Judging Juniors in Performance Events Regulations* to make them consistent with the Judges Guidelines in regards to the solicitation policy as well as recommend a revision to Section 7: Eligibility of a Dog. This section currently defines that AKC registration or PAL is required for a dog to be eligible to compete. Staff would like to revise this to include a dog of an AKC Recognized breed eligible for entry from a foreign registry accepted for AKC Registration.

Following a motion by Dr. Battaglia, seconded by Mr. Ashby, it was VOTED (affirmative: Mr. Ashby, Dr. Battaglia, Ms. Scully, Mr. Amen, Mr. Kalter, Dr. Smith, Dr. Garvin, Dr. Davies, Dr. Newman, Mr. Arnold, Mr. Menaker; absent: Mr. Gladstone, Mr. Goodman) to consider the matter at this meeting, waiving the usual advance notice requirement.

Following a motion by Mr. Ashby, seconded by Ms. Scully, it was VOTED (unanimously; absent Mr. Gladstone, Mr. Goodman) to adopt these amendment, effective immediately.

Adjustment to Championship Points Computation

The 2012 dog show points schedule was reported to the Board in accordance with the May 1995 Board Policy: "A three-member Staff committee, appointed by the President, is given the authority to approve the annual dog show point schedule, which upon completion, is to be reported to the Board."

In order to increase the number of majors available at All-Breed shows, Staff proposed the specialty shows be removed from the calculation of the point schedule.

The Board had concerns about the number of additional majors that would be created, and indicated that it would need additional statistical data to evaluate this proposal.

Application Fee for Open Show and 4-6 Month Puppy Competition

The Staff proposed an application fee for the Open Show and the 4 to 6 Month Puppy Competition sanctioned events at \$25 to cover the expense associated with processing the applications. The Board was advised that unless it had any objection, this fee would be instituted and there was no objection.

Meeting adjourned on Monday November 7, 2011 at 5:30 pm

Meeting reconvened on Tuesday November 8, 2011 at 9:00 am. All Directors were present, except Mr. Gladstone and Mr. Goodman. The Executive Secretary, the Chief Operating Officer and the Assistant Executive Secretary were also present.

Mr. Gladstone participated by telephone conference, under Board policy, he could participate in discussion, but could not vote.

JUDGING OPERATIONS

There was a discussion on the Judging Approval Procedure adopted by the Board at the October 2011 meeting, specifically with regard to the Judges Review Committee described on page three.

Following a motion by Mr. Ashby, seconded by Dr. Smith, it was VOTED (unanimously; absent Mr. Gladstone, Mr. Goodman) to change the composition of the Committee as follows:

The Judges Review Committee as referenced within this policy is defined as a committee of five members to be comprised of the COO of the American Kennel Club, the Vice President of Dog Show Judges whom shall be Chair, one AKC Executive Field Representative appointed by the CEO for a two year term, with a four year limit, one Senior Judge (at least

20 years judging experience and having at least three groups), and one designated person both of whom will be recommended by the CEO and confirmed by the Board of Directors. The last two appointees shall not serve more than two terms and shall not be a member of AKC staff or Board of Directors and are subject to Board of Directors confirmation if recommended by the CEO for a second term.

PERFORMANCE

Doug Ljungren and Lisa Carroll, AKC Staff, participated in this portion of the meeting via video conference.

Event Application Fees for Field Trials and Hunting Tests

The Board voted to approve a recommendation to raise the event application fee for field trials and hunting tests from the current rate of \$25 to a rate of \$35. This increase would apply to nine event types – field trials for Pointing breeds, Retrievers, Spaniels, Beagles, Dachshunds, Basset Hounds and hunting tests for Pointing breeds, Retrievers and Spaniels. The increase will apply to events held after April 1, 2012 unless the application has already been submitted.

Braque du Bourbonnais Eligible to Participate in AKC Pointing Breed Hunting Tests

The Board reviewed a request via Special Services from the President of the Braque du Bourbonnais Club of America requesting that Braque du Bourbonnais be allowed to enter AKC Pointing Breed Hunting Tests. Without objection the Braque Du Bourbonnais will be added to the list of breeds eligible to participate in Pointing Breed Hunting Tests effective January 1, 2012. There was no objection.

Therapy Dog Program Status Report

Staff presented a status update on the first four months of the AKC Therapy Dog Program. As of October 27 (exactly 4 months since launch) the AKC has issued 1,686 Therapy Dog titles, with 151 different breeds having earned the title. The AKC has acknowledged 88 Therapy Dog certification organizations. Dogs located in all 50 states plus Canada and Puerto Rico have been awarded the THD title.

Rally Advisory Committee Recommendations

Following a motion by Mr. Ashby, seconded by Ms. Scully, it was VOTED (unanimously; absent Mr. Gladstone, Mr. Goodman) to adopt the Rally Advisory Committee's recommended regulation changes for the sport of Rally, effective April 1, 2012. (Attachment A)

Flat-Coated & Curly-Coated Retrievers Eligible to Participate in Spaniel Hunting Tests

Following a motion by Dr. Garvin, seconded by Dr. Davies, it was VOTED to (unanimously; absent Mr. Gladstone, Mr. Goodman), to approve a recommendation for the Curly-Coated Retriever and the Flat-Coated Retriever to permit the breeds to be eligible to enter the Spaniel Hunting Test program. Titles earned by these breeds in Spaniel Hunting Tests will be designated with an "U" (for Upland) to differentiate the title from those earned in Retriever Breed Hunting Tests (example: JHU). The proposal permits Specialty clubs from these breeds to apply to become licensed to hold Upland Hunting Tests one year following their eligibility to participate. This is effective January 1, 2012.

Boykin Spaniels Eligible for Retriever Hunting Tests

Following a motion by Dr. Gavin, seconded by Dr. Davies, it was VOTED (unanimously; absent Mr. Gladstone and Mr. Goodman), to permit the Boykin Spaniel to be eligible to participate in the Retriever Hunting Test program, effective December 1, 2011. Titles earned by Boykin Spaniels in Retriever Hunting Tests will be designated with an "R" to differentiate the title from those earned in the Spaniel Hunting Test (example: JHR).

CLUBS**Delegates for Publication:**

H. Geoff Geoffrey, Deland, FL
to represent West Volusia Kennel Club
No current Delegate

Robert W. Gilmour, Limerick, PA
To represent Penn Treaty Kennel Club
No current Delegate

Susan D. Sholar, Valley Center, CA
To represent Black Russian Terrier Club of America
No current Delegate

JD Rowell, Highland Park, TX
To represent Trinity Valley Kennel Club
Currently represented by Larry Abbott

NEW BUSINESS**Liaisons to Board Committees**

The Board considered a request from the Chairs of the Standing Delegate Committees to reinstate Staff liaisons, who would attend the Committee meetings. The request included an offer by the Committees to give up 25% of their \$200 per meeting stipend for every Committee member to cover the cost of Staff travel.

While continuing to provide Board liaisons to the committees, the additional AKC Staff liaisons were discontinued by the Board for both economic and productivity reasons. The latter was particularly critical because of the number of additional days this meeting attendance required senior Staff to be out of the office. Applicable Staff has always been and continues to be available to review any Committee proposals in advance of their meetings as necessary. There was no motion to reverse the previous Board decision.

Meet the Breeds

Gina DiNardo reported on the "Meet the Breeds" in New York and in Orlando. In New York, there will be booths for 161 breeds and 50 cat breeds, and ticket sales are well ahead of last year. In Orlando, available booth space is completely filled and there will be 170 breeds represented. Ticket sales for the show are going very well, and the arena is almost sold out for the evening program.

Group Realignment

The Board discussed the Realignment Committee's recommendations. They included rule changes to go from seven to eleven groups, and to name the various groups. The Committee also recommended how the groups should be populated, but that decision would rest with the Board.

Following a motion by Mr. Amen, seconded by Dr. Smith, the Board voted (affirmative: Mr. Amen, Dr. Smith, Dr. Davies, Dr. Battaglia, Mr. Menaker, Dr. Newman, Mr. Ashby, Mr. Kalter, Ms. Scully; Mr. Arnold; opposed: Dr. Garvin; absent: Mr. Gladstone, Mr. Goodman) to accept the Committee's recommendations and to approve the necessary rule changes.

Staff was directed to prepare the necessary paperwork to forward this to the Delegates for a read and vote. This would include a detailed Q & A. If adopted by the Delegates, the effective dates would be no earlier than 2014, and could be as late as 2015.

It was VOTED to adjourn Tuesday, November 8, 2011 at 11:00 a.m.
Adjourned

Attest:

James P. Crowley, Executive Secretary

Attachment A
INTRODUCTION
RALLY REGULATIONS
AKC RALLY INTRODUCTION

RALLY INTRODUCTION

The Obedience Regulations and Rules Applying to Dog Shows, where applicable, shall govern the conduct of AKC Rally trials and shall apply to all persons and dogs participating in them, except as these Rally Regulations may otherwise provide. AKC Rally is a sport in which the dog and handler complete a course that has been designed by the rally judge. The judge tells the handler to begin, and the dog and handler proceed at a brisk pace through a course of designated stations (10-20, depending on the level). Each of these stations has a sign providing instructions regarding the next skill that is to be performed. The dog and handler team moves continuously at a brisk but normal pace with the dog under control at the handler's left side. There should be a sense of teamwork between the dog and handler both during the numbered exercises and between the exercise signs; however, perfect heel position is not required. Any faults in traditional AKC Obedience that would be evaluated and scored as a one-point deduction or more should be scored the same in rally, unless otherwise mentioned in the Rally Regulations. After the judge's "Forward" order, the team is on its own to complete the entire sequence of numbered signs correctly. Unless otherwise specified in these regulations, handlers are permitted to talk, praise, encourage, give additional commands and or signals using one or both arms, clap their hands, pat their legs or use any verbal means of encouragement. The handler must move in a natural manner. The handler's arms need not be maintained in any particular position. At any time during the performance, loud or harsh commands, intimidating signals, touching the dog (unless otherwise specified by these regulations) or any physical corrections will be penalized. AKC Rally is a companion sport to AKC Obedience. Both require teamwork between dog and handler along with similar performance skills. Rally provides an excellent introduction to AKC Companion Events for new dogs and handlers and can provide a challenging opportunity for competitors in other events to strengthen their skills. All rally titles will follow the dog's name.

CHAPTER 1
RALLY REGULATIONS
GENERAL REGULATIONS

CHAPTER 1

Section 4. Judging Schedule. The judging schedule will be based on the judging of up to 20 dogs per hour. A and B classes at the same title level may be combined for judging if the total combined entry for both classes is not more than 20 dogs.

CHAPTER 2

RALLY REGULATIONS GENERAL PROCEDURES

Section 2. Entry Limits. Entry limits may be based on ring availability or as specified by the club offering the event. The judging program will schedule up to 20 entries per hour, and no judge will be assigned for more than eight hours in one day. Judges may take 45 minutes to one hour for rest or meal breaks at their discretion. When entries are limited, a club must designate an RAE class in the premium list. Dogs entered in this RAE class would be entered in both Advanced B and Excellent B, and the combined entry fee for these two classes must be paid. If due to entry limits an exhibitor cannot be entered in both the Advanced B and Excellent B classes the RAE class will be considered closed and any subsequent entries for this class will be unacceptable in their entirety

Section 5. Placement of Signs. Signs will be placed to the right of the handler's path except for those indicating a change in direction, in which case the sign will be directly in front of the handler to aid in that change. Exercises using cones may require entry with the sign on the left. Exact placement of signs is made by the judge while walking the course along the path that will be taken by the handlers.

Section 7. Familiarization Time. The course for each class will be posted at the ring when the judge arrives. A 10-minute walkthrough for approximately each two hours of judging will be allowed for handlers without their dogs. After each two-hour period of judging, judges should allow an additional 10-minute walkthrough for the next two hour block of dogs to be judged in the class. When the same course is used for A and B classes, the judge may choose to combine the walkthrough times. The judge must be available in the ring during this period to answer any questions the handlers might have. The judge may also choose to brief the handlers on the course during this period. Copies of the course may be given to exhibitors prior to the first class if available. Walkthrough times need only be published in the judging program and catalog for the first rally class scheduled and shall show a time of 10 minutes prior to the scheduled start time for the class.

Section 9. Qualifying Scores and General Scoring. To qualify, dog and handler must receive a minimum score of 70 points out of a possible perfect score of 100. A rally title may be added after the dog's name when three qualifying scores have been earned under at least two different judges. Scoring for all levels is based on a maximum score of 100 points unless otherwise stated in these regulations. Unofficial scores will be posted ringside after each dog has completed the final exercise. Times will be recorded but not posted. Times will be used only to break ties for placements. The maximum number of points that can be deducted for any station is 10, with the exception of a non-qualifying performance.

The following deductions shall apply on a scale from 1 to 10.

Minor Deduction (1-2 points) for each of the following:

- Tight leash
- Dog interfering with handler

- Poor sits
- Slow, delay, or resistance to respond
- Touching or ticking a jump, pylon, post or person
- Out of position

Minor to Substantial Deduction (1-10 points) for each of the following:

- Repeat of a station—only one (1) retry of each station will be allowed for all class levels. Repeat of a station is an automatic 3 point deduction.
- Pylon/post knocked over on Figure Eight, Spiral and Serpentine
- Lack of control
- Lack of teamwork
- Lack of briskness
- Handler error*
- Loud command or intimidating signal
- Excessive barking
- Hitting the jump
- Patting/Clapping in Excellent – per occurrence

Substantial Deduction (6-10 points) for each of the following:

- Incorrectly performed station** (Automatic 10 point deduction)
- Failure to complete the Stay Exercise (IP)—No retries allowed
- Failure of dog to go over the jump in the proper direction (IP) – no retries allowed
- Luring /pleading with the dog
- Lack of Natural Manner

Non-qualifying (NQ) scores shall be given for:

- Minimum requirements not met
- Dog unmanageable or uncontrolled barking
- Consistently tight lead
- Dog that eliminates while in the ring for judging
- Handler error*
- Station not attempted by handler***
- Non-qualifying errors may not be re-tried

***Handler errors** can be assessed from 1 to 10 points up to non-qualifying. Handler errors can be assessed at any station or during movement between stations on a course. Once a handler has stopped on any halt exercise, the handler cannot move their feet to assist a dog without incurring a handler error.

****Incorrectly Performed (IP) stations occur when a team attempts a station and fails to perform the principal parts of the station on the first attempt.** The handler may choose to retry the station once, for a correct performance, accepting the mandatory 3-point deduction for the retry of the station. The station is considered an IP if the handler chooses not to retry or fails to perform the station correctly on the second attempt.

*****A station will be considered Not Attempted if:**

- handler completely passes the station without noticing the station
- handler approaches sign but chooses not to do the exercise
- handler approaches sign but does not begin the exercise described on the sign

Section 13. Ribbons and Prizes. Ribbons for the four official placements and all prizes offered for competition within a single regular class at licensed or member trials or at sanctioned matches will be awarded only to dogs that earn qualifying scores. Qualifying scores will not be required for the awarding of ribbons and prizes in the non-regular classes. Awards for the four placements in these classes will be based solely on the number of points earned. There are no awards for competition between classes. Highest Combined Score in Advanced B and Excellent B classes may be offered at the option of the club. Prizes at a licensed or member rally trial must be offered to be won outright. However, a prize requiring three wins by the same owner for permanent possession, but not necessarily with the same dog, may be offered for the dog with the highest qualifying score in one of the regular classes. Prizes offered only to members of certain clubs or organizations will not be approved for publication in premium lists. If an award in any of the regular classes is cancelled, the next highest scoring dog will receive that award. If there is no dog to move up, the award will be void. If the AKC cancels a dog's win, the dog's owner must return all ribbons and prizes to the trial-giving club within 10 days of receiving the AKC's cancellation notice.

CHAPTER 3 RALLY REGULATIONS CLASSES AND TITLES

CHAPTER 3

Section 2A. Jumps. One jump must be used for this class. It may be any jump used as standard equipment in AKC Obedience classes (broad jump, high jump or bar jump), except 4 foot wide jumps may be used in place of 5 foot wide jumps. A 4-inch high jump board and bar jump will be supplied for dogs that have a height at the withers of less than 10 inches. This jump will be constructed so the maximum height does not exceed 4 inches, with a half-inch tolerance. This can be a separate board or support system placed between the two standard uprights. The bar or high jump board used to create this 4-inch jump height can be supported by a means other than the two standard uprights. Designs should be such that they do not interfere with the jumping of a dog. Various colors and decorations are allowed; however, there must be nothing hanging from the jump. It is the judge's responsibility to see that the jumps are set for each dog in accordance with these regulations. The **broad jump** will consist of three telescoping hurdles, each approximately 8 inches wide. The largest board will measure about 4 feet 10 inches long (if from a 5 foot set) and about 5 inches at the highest point. In the ring, broad jump boards will be arranged in order of size from smallest to largest. They will be evenly spaced, covering a distance equal to twice the height of the high jump set for each dog. Three boards will be used for a jump of 32 inches, two boards for a jump of 16 or 24 inches, and one board will be used for a jump of 8 inches. When decreasing the number

of hurdles in the jump, the highest will be removed first. The **high jump** will consist of two uprights and solid boards of varying widths that combine to make each dog's required jump height. The **bar jump** also has two uprights. These are constructed to support only a striped bar, which is set at the dog's required jump height. The bar jump may be used in the same way as the high jump. However, if the bar jump is to be used as a jump in both directions, the uprights must be offset to allow the bar to be knocked off from either direction.

Send to Jump. The sign for this station will be placed at least 10 feet before the jump. The sign for this station and the one after it will be set so that the handler maintains at least a 3 foot path away from the jump while the dog performs the jump and returns to the handler. The set up and performance of this sign should not be confused with sign # (*) Send Over Jump-Handler Passes By.

Section 3. Rally Excellent Class. All exercises are judged off leash. All dogs must enter and leave the ring on leash. Rally Excellent must have between 15 to 20 stations (Start and Finish not included) with a minimum of three and a maximum of seven stationary exercises. Courses shall have a minimum of two Advanced level stations and a minimum of three Excellent level stations, plus the two required jumps and the Stay exercise per class. Unlike in the Rally Novice and Advanced classes, in Rally Excellent, handlers are not allowed to pat their legs or clap their hands to encourage the dog. Verbal encouragement, multiple commands and/or inaudible signals using one or both arms and hands are allowed; the handler's arms need not be maintained in any particular position at any time. Handlers may not touch their dog or make any physical corrections.

Section 4. The Stay Exercise. The judge will designate the area or person in charge of the leash prior to the excellent walkthrough. All exhibitors must be informed of where they need to go to retrieve their leash or from whom during the walkthrough. Immediately following the Finish Sign the handler and dog will go to the Stay Sign. The handler will sit the dog, and command and/or signal the dog to stay. The handler will then walk forward at least fifteen (15) feet, retrieve the leash from any of the following: gate steward, judge or designated area next to the ring exit, and return to heel position by walking around and behind the dog. The judge will order "Exercise Finished" at which time the judging of the Stay Exercise will be complete. The handler will then attach the leash and exit the ring. The Stay Exercise is not considered to be one of the stationary exercises on the course.

CHAPTER 4 RALLY REGULATIONS NON-REGULAR CLASSES

CHAPTER 4

Section 4. Rally Team Competition. For the non-regular Rally Team Competition, any of the regular rally class levels may be offered. The Rally Team Competition will be for teams of any four dogs that are eligible under these regulations. Five dogs may be entered, one to be considered an alternate for which no entry fee will be required, however the same four dogs will perform all of the exercises. No dog may be entered on more than one team. There is a total possible score of 400 points for each team. All team members will run the course individually, with the team time running continuously. Time will start when the judge gives the first member of the team the forward command from

the “Start” sign. The subsequent dog for each team starts when the previous handler for the team passes the “Finish” sign without an additional command of “Forward” by the judge. Timing for each team will begin when the judge commands the first handler in the team to begin with the command “Forward” and will stop when the fourth handler from the team passes the finish line. If jumps are required, they will be based on the height of the smallest dog on each competing team.

Scoring. All stations will be counted with a point value. The maximum point value, which can be deducted at any one station, will be 10 points. It is possible for a team to receive a negative score. Suggested judging rate is four teams per hour.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS RALLY REGULATIONS

Deductions:

Minor deduction – 1 to 2 points

Minor to Substantial deduction – 1 to 10 points

Substantial deduction – 6 to 10 points

- Re-tries of a station are an automatic 3 point deduction.
- Incorrectly Performed stations are an automatic 10 point deduction.

Luring – *The appearance of having a reward in hand. i.e. holding the thumb and first two fingers together as if holding a treat. No treat need be present.*

Natural Manner – Not artificial, free of affectation; what is customarily expected in the home or public places.

Pleading – Repeated urgent commands and/or signals to elicit the proper behavior from the dog while the dog remains unresponsive to handler’s commands and/or signals.

RALLY JUDGES’ GUIDELINES PURPOSE

PURPOSE

Rally trials are a sport, and all participants should be guided by the principles of good sportsmanship both in and out of the ring. Rally trials demonstrate the dog’s ability to follow specified routines in the Rally ring and emphasize the exhibition of teamwork between handler and dog. All contestants in a class are required to perform the same exercises in substantially the same way so that the relative quality of the various performances may be compared and scored. The basic objective of Rally trials, however, is to recognize dogs that have been trained to behave in the home, in public places and in the presence of other dogs in a manner that will reflect credit on the sport of Rally at all times and under all conditions. The performance of dog and handler in the ring must meet the requirements of the *Rally Regulations*. It is also essential that the dog demonstrate willingness and enjoyment while it is working and that the handler and dog appear to be working together as a team.

CHAPTER 1 RALLY JUDGES' GUIDELINES

YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES AS A JUDGE

Judges must understand their responsibilities to the sport.

Responsibility to Exhibitors. Each exhibitor has paid an entry fee for the purpose of competing and having their dog's performance evaluated. Judges are expected to be friendly and courteous to all who enter the ring. Without exhibitors, there would be no trials. For every experienced exhibitor there are many newcomers. The future of this sport is in the hands of the novice. After a judge completes an assignment and has turned in the judge's book, it is appropriate for the judge to discuss an individual dog's performance with the handler, if the handler requests this information. However, a judge should never continue a conversation with an angry or aggressive person.

Responsibility to Spectators. Spectators form their opinion of the sport through seeing the actions of the judge, the handler and the dog. Care must be taken to avoid any action that might reflect poorly on the sport. Judges should work to maintain spectator appeal in the sport while keeping foremost in mind the welfare and convenience of the exhibitor and the dog.

Section 2. Knowledge. The *Rally Regulations* are the basic guide to judging; however, not every possible fault or error is covered, only the more common and serious ones. The *Rally Regulations* clearly define the exercises and the standard by which they are to be judged. The *Rally Regulations* set the standard for a perfect score of 100 points by which each dog's performance is judged. The *Rally Regulations* give the judge guidelines for how an exercise is to be performed. While rally is not judged with the same precision as formal obedience, rally judges must make decisions based on a mental picture of the perfect performance within the framework of the *Rally Regulations*.

Judges are given full discretionary authority within the framework of the *Rally Regulations* and they must exercise this authority impartially. Judges are required to make their own decisions and accept the responsibility this implies. If a decision depends on the exact wording of the *Rally Regulations*, the judge is expected to consult the book before making the decision. A judge may not discard, modify, or require anything not specified in the *Rally Regulations*. A rally title is intended to evoke admiration; therefore, the title must be based on performances that fully meet the requirements of the *Rally Regulations*. Scores for each exercise must be amply justified by the performance of the dog and handler. The owner of any dog receiving a qualifying score in rally has every reason to be proud. Earning a qualifying score should indicate a credible performance that fully justifies the eventual awarding of a title.

Section 3. Rally Judges' Education. Studying the *Rally Regulations*, exhibiting and attending AKC Companion Events seminars increase a judge's knowledge. Putting the acquired knowledge into practice permits a judge to apply the principals of sound judging contained in the *Rally Regulations*. Rally judges must attend at least one obedience and one rally judges' seminar presented by AKC staff in every three-year period and will be ineligible to accept assignments if this requirement is not met. A person who is not currently suspended from the privileges of the AKC and who has trained and exhibited a dog to the Rally Excellent title (RE) and a Companion Dog Excellent (CDX) title may be approved to judge the rally non-regular classes.

CHAPTER 2 RALLY JUDGES' GUIDELINES COURSE DESIGN

Section 1. Course Design and Setting the Course. A Rally Course should be designed to be fun, interesting and enjoyable for the exhibitor, dog and spectators. Courses should provide sufficient challenge without being overly complicating and designed to be completed by the average team in less than two minutes. This may vary slightly depending on the level. When designing courses, remember AKC Rally is a skill building class for all other AKC events and should provide the dog and handler the ability to develop and master a variety of skills.

Control and Teamwork is best evaluated with courses that flow. The Rally Judge should consider the dog and handlers path when designing and setting the course. Grouping stationary exercises together causes a course to be choppy and tight while using multiple circular turns in the same direction may cause dizziness. Stations requiring specific angles of performance must be used to allow those angles to be executed correctly. Exercises using the pylons may share one or more pylons except for the Offset Figure 8. All stations with a "Fast" or "Slow" must be followed by a "Normal" except the "Slow" may be used as the last station.

Adequate space must be allowed for all sizes of dogs to perform the stations properly inside the ring including the Start, Finish and Stay signs. The Stay Exercise is not to be considered one of the required stationary course stations and must not be in the path of the course. Separate entrance and exit gates allow for better traffic flow and time management.

The first course of the day should be nested with multiple signs per holder for the following class levels to allow for an efficient and easy course change between levels. If a course needs to be modified note the changes on course posted and the one included in the Judge's Book.

Course Design is of significant importance to the sport. Judges should not use the same course in the same area over and over again. Courses should be laid out in a clear and straightforward manner in order that a handler who misses the walk through has a reasonable chance of qualifying by following the numbered stations.

CHAPTER 3
RALLY JUDGES' GUIDELINES
PREPARATION FOR JUDGING

BE ON TIME. The judge must arrive a minimum of 45 minutes prior to the scheduled start of judging, unless a prior judging assignment conflicts. Upon arrival, the judge will post the course(s) outside the ring.

Section 1. Ring & Equipment – Prior to the scheduled judging time, the judge will inspect the ring, which must meet all requirements of the *Rally Regulations* Chapter 2, Section 1. Size shall be determined by the judge pacing the ring. Checking the ring also requires the judge to:

- Examine signs and sign holders to ensure they are secure
- Examine the distractions used in the Offset Figure 8 to determine that they can be seen and smelled but not consumed
- Measure the jumps in the Advanced and Excellent classes to ensure they meet the requirements as described in the *Rally Regulations*, Chapter 3, Section 2A

Section 2. Catalog Order – The *Rally Regulations* require that dogs be judged in catalog order to the extent practical, without holding up the judging in any ring. For the Advanced and Excellent classes, the trial secretary or superintendent will arrange entries according to the dog's jump height, ranging from either low to high or high to low. A judge need not mark absentees in the judge's book until the end of the class. However, judges are not required to wait for dogs.

Section 3. Judging Schedule. The judging schedule will be based on the judging of up to 20 dogs per hour. Walkthroughs should be performed as outlined in the *Rally Regulations*, Chapter 2, Section 7, "Familiarization Time." Additionally, judges may take rest or meal breaks at their discretion. Unnecessary delays in judging should be avoided. If there are less than 5 hours of judging scheduled a lunch break is not recommended.

CHAPTER 4
RALLY JUDGES' GUIDELINES
JUDGING THE DOGS

Section 1. Judging the Dogs. The judge has absolute control and unquestioned authority over all persons and dogs in the ring. With this authority comes the responsibility to be courteous and considerate. Be as systematic in your ring procedure from dog to dog as conditions permit.

Judges position should be kept in mind when designing the course. Position is important for three reasons: first to properly evaluate the dog and handler, second to establish consistency from team to team and third efficient time management. While there is no one perfect position, some positions are better than others. All dogs should be viewed

from the same relative position on the course. Fronts and finishes are best judged from the front or from the side. When evaluating a “down”, the judge should be in position to see whether or not the dog has dropped completely. Handlers should expect and train for a reasonable amount of movement by the judge.

Section 2. Philosophy of Scoring. It is the judge’s responsibility to qualify all the dogs that should qualify and to non-qualify all the dogs whose performances did not meet the minimum requirements. From the qualifying group of dogs, it is the judge’s responsibility to place the top four dogs in order of their performance. The remainder of the qualifying dogs are ranked in order by their scores. Unofficial scores, but not times, shall be posted ringside after each dog has completed the final exercise. A judge should honor an exhibitor’s request to be excused.

The sliding point scale is to assist judges in the scoring of each dog and handler team. Unless otherwise specified in the *Rally Regulations* scoring will be based on the minor to substantial deductions listed in Chapter 2, Section 9 of the *Rally Regulations* and any other applicable section found in the Rally or Obedience Regulations regulating performance and scoring. Each team should be scored on the following sliding scale while being judged:

Minor deduction – 1 to 2 points

Minor to Substantial deduction – 1 to 10 points

Substantial deduction – 6 to 10 points

- Re-tries of a station are an automatic 3 point deduction.
- Incorrectly Performed stations are an automatic 10 point deduction

CHAPTER 5

RALLY JUDGES’ GUIDELINES

THE JUDGES BOOK

Section 1. Check the Book. Prior to beginning the judging of each class, check each book to ensure any additions or corrections have been initialed by the trial secretary or superintendent.

Section 2. When Judging is Finished. Final scores may be recorded in the official judge’s book by the table steward; however, the judge must verify the scores and sign the book prior to awarding ribbons.

Once judging is finished, judges must first ensure their judge’s books are complete and all scores, times, absences, excusals or other necessary information have been entered correctly. The judge must then sign the judge’s book. The book, along with a copy of each course for the completed class, is then returned to the trial secretary, rally chair or superintendent who will scan the book for obvious omissions or oversights that can be corrected immediately by the judge.

Section 3. Judge’s Score Sheets and Records. Judges are not required to display or show exhibitors their individual worksheets. Judges will retain complete control of their records (copies of worksheets, copies of judge’s books, etc.) for at least six months in case such records are required by the AKC in order to review the results of a particular class.

Section 4. Explanations and Errors. After the class is finished, judges are not required to explain their scoring and should not enter into a discussion with a dissatisfied exhibitor. Any person who thinks there may have been a numerical error or an error in identifying a dog may report the facts to one of the stewards, the judge, the superintendent or to the show or trial secretary so that the matter may be checked.

Note: Excusals and Attack Situations-Judges should refer to the Obedience Regulations Chapter 1, Section 17 for information on the excusal of a dog or disqualification for attacking situations

CHAPTER 2 THE STEWARD IN RALLY THE TABLE STEWARD

Table stewards should report to their assigned ring at least 45 minutes prior to the scheduled judging time for the class. The extent to which a judge uses the services of a table steward varies greatly. The steward must receive specific instructions from the judge as to what will be required. Judges must use worksheets to communicate with the table steward. The judge may ask the table steward to prepare and have the worksheet ready for the next dog. The table steward is responsible for totaling deductions on the judge's worksheet and transferring them to the official judge's book. Final scores may be recorded in the official judge's book by the table steward; however, the judge must verify the scores and sign the book prior to awarding ribbons. The table steward must be aware that any and all class changes of dogs in rally can only be made by the superintendent or the trial secretary. No additions or corrections to the judge's book are allowed by any other person.

The duties of table stewards should include:

- Correctly entering the class, proper armband number and breed of dog on the worksheet.
- Correctly adding the scores on the worksheet.
- Correctly transferring the scores from the worksheets and the times to the judge's book, and, after doing so, initialing the judge's worksheet.
- Informing the judge of any error on the worksheet, and after the judge corrects it, entering the score and time of the dog into the judge's book correctly.
- Listing the time in the judge's book as minutes, seconds and hundredths.
- Posting each dog's unofficial score at or near ringside after the dog finishes the course.
- Making sure the judge's worksheets are not displayed or exhibited to any other person at the event, unless specifically directed to do so by the judge.
- Making all trophies and ribbons available at the conclusion of each class.

RALLY REGULATIONS SIGNS AND DESCRIPTIONS

SIGN #13

13. **Call Dog Front–Finish Right–Forward**–While heeling, the handler stops forward motion and calls the dog to the front position (**dog sits in front** and faces the handler). The handler may take several steps backward as the dog turns and moves to sit in the front position. Second part of the exercise directs the handler to command and/or signal the **dog to change from the front position by moving to the handler’s right, around behind the handler**, toward heel position. As the dog clears the handler’s path, the handler moves forward before the dog has completely returned to the heel position. The **dog does not sit before moving forward** in heel position with the handler. *Handler must not step forward or backward to aid the dog as the dog moves toward heel position.* (Stationary exercise)

SIGN #14

14. **Call Dog Front–Finish Left–Forward**–While heeling, the handler stops forward motion and calls the dog to the front position (**dog sits in front** and faces the handler). The handler may take several steps backward as the dog turns and moves to sit in the front position. Second part of the exercise directs the handler to command and/or signal the **dog to change from the front position by moving to the handler’s left** toward heel position. As the dog clears the handler’s path, the handler moves forward before the dog has completely returned to the heel position. The **dog does not sit before moving forward** in heel position with the handler. *Handler must not step forward or backward to aid the dog as the dog moves toward heel position.* (Stationary exercise)

SIGN #15

15. **Call Dog Front–Finish Right–HALT**–While heeling, the handler stops forward motion and calls the dog to the front position (**dog sits in front** and faces the handler). The handler may take several steps backward as the dog turns and moves to sit in the front position. Second part is the **finish to the right**, where the dog must return to heel position by moving around the right side of the handler. **Dog must sit** in heel position before moving forward with the handler. *Handler must not step forward or backward to aid the dog as the dog moves toward heel position.* (Stationary exercise)

SIGN #16

16. **Call Dog Front–Finish Left–HALT**–While heeling, the handler stops forward motion and calls the dog to the front position (**dog sits in front** and faces the handler). The handler may take several steps backward as the dog turns and moves to a sit in the front position. Second part is the **finish to the left**, where the dog must return to heel position by moving around the left side of the handler and sit in heel position. **Dog must sit** in heel position before moving forward in heel position with the handler. *Handler must not step forward or backward to aid the dog as the dog moves toward heel position.* (Stationary exercise)

SIGN #20

20. **Moving Sidestep Right–While heeling, the handler takes one step to the right, leading with the right foot**, and continues moving forward along the newly established line. The **dog moves with the handler**. The exercise shall be performed just before the exercise sign. (This exercise shall be considered a change of direction and the sign shall be placed directly in line with the *team’s* path requiring the handler and dog to sidestep to the right to pass the sign.)

SIGN #27

27. **Down and Stop**–While moving with the dog in heel position, the handler commands and/or signals the **dog to down** as **the handler comes to a stop** next to the dog. Once the **dog is completely down**, the handler moves forward, commanding **the dog to move forward from down position**. (Stationary exercise)

SIGN #36

36. **HALT–Stand Dog–Walk Around–Handler halts and dog sits.** With the dog sitting in heel position, **the handler stands the dog** and commands and/or signals the **dog to stay as the handler walks around the dog to the left**, returning to heel position. The **handler must pause** in heel position before moving forward to the next station. In the Advanced class, the handler may touch the dog, move forward to stand the dog, and may pose the dog as in the show ring **and the dog must move forward from the stand position. Handler may not touch the dog in the Excellent Class.** (Stationary exercise)

SIGN #39

39. **Offset Figure 8**–This exercise requires two pylons or posts placed about 8–10 feet apart, around which the **team will perform a complete Figure 8, crossing the center point three times without disturbing the distractions.** Two distractions will be arranged to the sides of the figure 8 about 5–6 feet apart. Entry may be between the pylons or posts and the distraction on either side (see 3A and 3B). The distractions will consist of two securely covered containers with tempting dog treats; however, dog toys may replace one or both containers, or may be placed next to the containers. The exercise sign may be placed on or near the cone where entry is made into the Offset Figure 8. **Pylons or posts may not be shared with other exercises.**

NEW SIGNS (NOVICE CLASS)

Figure 8 – No Distractions – Two pylons or posts spaced approximately 6-8 feet apart. The team enters the sequence with the posts on either left or right and will perform a complete figure 8 around the posts or pylons, **crossing the center point three times.**

HALT – Left Turn – Forward – Handler halts, dog sits. With the dog sitting the handler commands and/or signals the dog to heel, as the handler turns to the left and continues to move forward in the new direction without hesitation. **The dog must turn with handler as the handler turns.**

HALT – Right Turn – Forward - Handler halts, dog sits. With the dog sitting the handler commands and/or signals the dog to heel, as the handler turns to the right and continues to move forward in the new direction without hesitation. **The dog must turn with the handler as the handler turns.**

Call Front – Return to Heel – While heeling the handler stops forward motion and calls the dog to the front position. The handler may take several steps backward as the dog turns and moves to sit in the front position. **Dog sits in front** and faces the handler. The handler will then walk around behind the dog and return to the heel position and pause. **Dog must remain sitting as handler walks around dog.** (This is a 180° change of direction, about turn.) (Stationary Exercise)

Halt–Slow Forward From Sit– The handler halts, and the **dog sits in heel position.** The handler then commands and/or signals the dog to heel and moves forward at a slow pace. **The dog must maintain heel position as handler slowly moves forward.** This must be followed by a normal pace, unless it is the last station on the course. (Stationary exercise)

NEW SIGNS (ADVANCED CLASS)

HALT – Stand – Handler halts and dog sits. With the dog sitting in heel position, **the handler will stand the dog.** Handler may touch the dog, move forward to stand the dog and may pose the dog as in the show ring. Handler then resumes heel position **while the dog stands in place.** Handler pauses before moving forward.

Halt–Pivot Right–Forward– The handler halts and the dog sits in heel position. The handler commands and/or signals the dog to heel, then pivots to the right and dog and handler move forward. (Stationary exercise)

Halt–Pivot Left–Forward– The handler halts and the dog sits in heel position. The handler commands and/or signals the dog to heel, then pivots to the left and dog and handler move forward. (Stationary exercise)

Leave Dog–2 Steps–Call to Heel– Forward– The handler halts, and the dog sits in heel position. While the dog remains sitting the handler takes two steps forward and pauses. The handler moves forward and commands the dog to resume heel position. The dog must move briskly. (Stationary exercise)

NEW SIGNS (EXCELLENT CLASS)

Down While Heeling – While moving forward, **without pause or hesitation.** The handler will command and/or signal **the dog to down and stay as the handler continues forward about 6 feet to the Call to Heel marker. The handler will turn and face the dog, pause** and then command and/or signal the dog to heel. (This sign will be followed within 6 feet by the Call to Heel marker.) **Dog must return to heel position and the handler must pause before moving forward.**

Stand While Heeling – While moving forward, **without pause or hesitation** the handler will command and/or signal **the dog to stand and stay as the handler continues forward about 6 feet to the Call to Heel marker. The handler will turn and face the dog, pause** and then command and/or signal the dog

to heel. This is a 180° change of direction, about turn. (This sign will be followed within 6 feet by the Call to Heel marker.) **Dog must return to heel position and handler must pause before moving forward.**

Stand – Leave Dog – Sit Dog – Call Front-Finish – While heeling, **the handler will stop** and command and/or signal the dog to stand, the **dog must stand and stay without sitting first.** Then the handler will **walk forward approximately 6 feet to the Call to Heel marker.** **The handler will turn to face the dog** and command and/or signal the **dog to sit.** When the dog sits, the handler will command and/or signal the **dog to front.** The **dog sits** in the front position facing the handler. On command and/or signal, the dog will move to heel position. **Dog must sit** in heel position before moving forward with the handler. (Stationary Exercise)

Send to Jump – **At the sign for this station, the handler will command and/or signal** the dog to leave heel position to execute the jump. The dog must leave the handler immediately and execute the jump. The **handler must maintain a straight path of at least a 3 foot distance away from the jump and may not pass the jump until the dog has returned to heel position.** **The dog must jump the jump in the proper direction and return to heel position without** pause, hesitation, or **stopping.** The team then continues to the next station.

Stand-Leave Dog-Down Dog-Recall – While heeling, the **handler will stop** and stand the dog using a command and/or signal, then **walk forward approximately 6 feet.** The **dog must stand and stay without sitting first.** The handler will turn to face the dog and command and/or signal the **dog to down.** When the dog downs, the handler will command and/or signal the **dog to front.** The **dog must sit in the front position** facing the handler. On command and/or signal, the dog will move to heel position. The **dog must sit** in heel position before moving forward with the handler. (Stationary Exercise)

Double Left About Turn– While moving with the dog in heel position, **the handler makes an about turn to the left** while at the same time, **the dog must move around the handler to the right and into heel position.** The handler must take one or two steps forward before performing the exercise a second time. The handler will end up turning 360° to the left as the dog turns 360° to the right around the handler. **The dog does not sit at any time during this exercise.**

Stay – This sign will be used as a marker for the stay exercise. **The dog must remain in the sit position while handler retrieves leash and returns to heel position and the judge says “exercise finished”.**

Call to Heel Marker – This sign will be used as a marker for associated exercises.

EVENT POLICY CHANGE

Currently Rally events are tied to an Obedience Trial, on a one to one basis with the trials to be held within 24 hours of one-another. The new policy increases the 24 hour time period to 72 hours (3 days). This is to allow for greater flexibility for clubs tied to multiple show events, in scheduling the two trials.

Regulation Change to Sign Numbering - Renumbering of Rally Signs

Novice Course Signs – Numbering sequence from 1^{N, A, X} to 99^{N, A, X}

As with current regulation novice level, signs can be used in all three levels. There is no anticipated change in numbering to the current novice signs including the start and finish signs numbered one to thirty-one.

Advanced Course Signs – Numbering sequence from 101^{A, X} to 199^{A, X} As with current regulation, advanced level signs can be used in the advanced and excellent level classes. Signs at this level will need to

be renumbered to fall into the proposed sequence of numbering. The use of a label attached to the sign will be permitted.

Example of renumbered signs –

Current Number	Proposed Number
Sign # 32 ^{A, X}	Change to # 101 ^{A, X}
Sign # 33 ^{A, X}	Change to # 102 ^{A, X}
Sign # 34 ^{A, X}	Change to # 103 ^{A, X}

Similar format for the remaining advanced signs numbered thirty-five to forty-five.

Excellent Course Signs – Number sequence from 201^X to 299^X. As with current regulation, excellent level signs can be used in the excellent classes only. Signs at this level will need to be renumbered to fall into the proposed sequence of numbering. The use of a label attached to the sign will be permitted.

Example of renumbered signs –

Current Number	Proposed Number
Sign # 46 ^X	Change to # 201 ^X
Sign # 47 ^X	Change to # 202 ^X
Sign # 48 ^X	Change to # 203 ^X
Sign # 49 ^X	Change to # 204 ^X

The Companion Event staff is currently working on renumbering of the Advanced and Excellent Signs.