

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
April 11-12, 2016

The Board convened on Monday April, 11, 2016 at 8:00 a.m. All Directors, except Dr. Battaglia, were present, as were the Executive Secretary, the Assistant Executive Secretary, and the Executive Vice President and Chief Growth Officer. The February 2016 Board minutes, copies of which were made available to all Directors, were discussed. Upon a motion by Mr. Arnold, seconded by Mr. Dok, the February 2016 minutes were unanimously approved (absent Dr. Battaglia.) Dr. Battaglia joined the meeting just prior to the Executive Session, with the Senior Executive Vice President and General Counsel joining after the session.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Board Action Items

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

Mr. Sprung reported on the following staff promotions:

Mark Dunn, Senior Vice President, Registration and Customer Development; Sheila Goffe, Vice President, Government Relations; Brandi Hunter, Vice President; Public Relations and Communications.

AKC Inspectors and Breeder Relations Field Representatives

There was a discussion on the roles of the Inspectors and the Breeder Relations Field Representatives, both of which interact with the same breeders. The Board had discussed the possible efficiency and cost effectiveness of having one staff which dealt with the AKC breeders. This will be discussed further.

AKC Development Department

There was a discussion on the concept of establishing an AKC Development Department to consolidate fundraising efforts for the AKC as well as the AKC Canine Health Foundation, AKC Humane Fund, AKC Reunite Canine Support and Relief Fund and the AKC Museum of the Dog. The concept is to assist those 501(c)3 funds with a joint approach to fundraising, leveraging expanded sources of potential giving and at a lower cost. Each affiliate's participation would be on an opt-in basis with the degree of participation determined on a case by case basis. Mr. Sprung indicated that, without objection, he planned to allocate \$25,000 for an unbudgeted study on the creation of such a department. There was no objection.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was an EXECUTIVE SESSION during the meeting to discuss personnel matters. It was reported that the following Executive Officers were re-elected:

Dennis B. Sprung, President/CEO

James P. Crowley, Executive Secretary

Joseph V. Baffuto, Jr., Chief Financial Officer

Following the Executive Session, the Board continued with the President's Report:

NOHS Best in Show

There was agreement that the NOHS Best in Show at AKC's December Show should be held during the evening judging in the main arena.

CKC/AKC Meeting

Mr. Crowley reported on a meeting held with officials of The Canadian Kennel Club and The American Kennel Club. The CKC attendees were: Bob Rowbotham, Chairman; Lance Novak, Executive Director; Andrew McCallister, E-Business Manager; Leila Bahorie, Director Registration and Membership Services, and Sherry Weiss, Manager Events.

The meeting was held at AKC's New York Headquarters on March 31, 2016, and Dennis Sprung the AKC President/CEO and several members of the New York staff participated along with members of the North Carolina staff who participated by video conference. Subjects discussed included reciprocal judging approval, Public Relations and Communications, the use of DNA in the registry, computer systems, marketing and general business updates. There was agreement that there were opportunities for future collaboration, which will be discussed further.

Legal Status Report

Ms. McManus, Deputy General Counsel, presented a status report on pending litigation and other legal activities for the months of March and April 2016.

Arbitration/Mediation Program

The Board reviewed a staff proposal to work with the CPR Institute to offer a Mediation and Arbitration program that is tailored to dog-related disputes. The goal of the initiative would be to create a reasonable lower cost alternative to resolving disputes, using expert neutrals with expertise in the dog sport, resulting in a better outcome for all parties to the dispute. This program would offer parties the ability to mediate or arbitrate their club or registration disputes through the CPR Institute procedure.

CPR Institute is a nonprofit Alternative Dispute Resolution ("ADR") provider offering innovative, practical arbitration, mediation and other dispute resolution processes as well as the services of neutrals. CPR Institute has the advantages of flexibility and cost and will be able to administer a mediation and arbitration program that would be tailored to the needs of the AKC community, rather than providing a generic commercial mediation. This will be discussed further.

Board Tracking Report

The Board reviewed a tracking report of high impact staff projects that have been Board approved. The report provides the Board with project status information including timelines, future deliverables and project owners. The listed projects will include only those that have \$250,000 or more of potential cost-savings or revenue generation and that were Board-approved. Completed initiatives will be removed from the tracking report.

This tracking report will be provided to the Board at each meeting going forward.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Mr. Menaker, without objection, directed that the following statement be recorded in the minutes:

This Board would like to congratulate Dennis B. Sprung, AKC President and CEO, on being inducted into the Dogs in Review Hall of Fame, receiving the Anne Rogers Clark Award at their annual event, February 13, 2016.

He is the 30th winner of this award, being recognized for his lifelong dedication and contributions to the sport. He follows AKC luminaries, William Stifel, Lou Auslander, Walter Goodman, and Dorothy Welsh.

FINANCE

Joseph Baffuto, Chief Financial Officer presented unaudited financial results for the first quarter ending March 31, 2016. Total revenues for the period were \$16.5 million, which represented a 3% increase over budget and 9% greater than the prior year. Registration revenues predominately accounted for the successful outperformance in the first quarter. Total operating

expenses of \$13.9 million were 10% below budget and nearly 5% above preceding year's expenses. Operating income for the quarter of \$2.6 million significantly exceeded both the budget for the quarter as well as the previous year's comparative period.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Bulldog Proposed Breed Standard Revision

The Board reviewed the proposed revisions to the head and color sections of the Bulldog breed standard as submitted by the Bulldog Club of America. The current standard was approved by the AKC Board July 20, 1976. In accordance with the procedures for a breed standard revision, the proposed revision was published in the February Secretary's page for comment.

Upon a motion by Dr. Garvin, seconded by Mr. Gladstone, it was VOTED (unanimously) to approve the club to proceed to ballot the membership, in accordance with the club's Constitution and Bylaws.

Young Kennel Club

Based on a Board request, staff provided information from The Kennel Club (UK) on their Juniors' program named the Young Kennel Club (YKC). The YKC is the equivalent to the AKC National Junior Organization. Membership in the YKC is renewed annually for a fee of 15 pounds per year, with discounts for siblings.

Mari-Beth O'Neill, AKC Vice President, Sport Services, was requested to obtain additional details. There will be further discussion on if and how the Kennel Club's experience may be applied to AKC.

Public Education Outreach

Based on a Board request, staff provided information on its current Public outreach initiatives and plans for the future. A presentation will be scheduled.

Information was provided on:

Canine Ambassador Program- A network of nearly 400 volunteers nationwide share the message of the AKC with schools, libraries, youth organizations, etc. in their local community. Since June, the program's resources have been updated and posted online for use on an as needed basis, an online directory has been created, and a collaborative relationship has been cultivated between the Ambassadors and the American Kennel Club. The Canine Ambassador Program is a valuable tool for reaching the public and has helped us to establish connections with local communities.

Kids' Corner Microsite- Children's content has been created and is in the process of being integrated onto the website. There will be videos, games, resources, articles, etc. geared toward the next generation of dog lovers. Official launch date TBD.

Book Donation- Since late February 2016, we have donated over 350 books nationwide to schools and libraries. Titles include: *The Complete Dog Book*, *Dogs: The First 125 Years of the American Kennel Club*, *The Complete Dog Book for Kids*, *Our Dogs: A Century of Images and Words from the AKC Gazette*, and *The New Yorker Book of Dog Cartoons*.

Meet the Breeds- The two biggest Meet the Breeds events are hosted by the American Kennel Club at the AKC/Eukanuba National Championship in December and the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show in February. However, many clubs have replicated the event in their hometown at their local dog shows. Meet the Breeds connects breeders and fanciers with the public in an entertaining and informative manner.

Girl Scouts Patch Program- Currently, we offer a Responsible Pet Ownership Patch Program to Girl Scouts at the Meet the Breeds event in New York City. In addition, we plan to offer the same patch program for the first time at our event in Orlando in December 2016. We also plan to implement another patch program, Going to the Dog Show: Dog Show Fun and Facts designed by Marlene Groves of the Rocky Mountain Hound Association. The program is designed to be run by clubs at their local events in order to encourage further participation from the general public.

Lesson Plans for Teachers- The Public Education Administrator and a team of consultants are in the process of creating dog-themed lesson plans that address the Common Core standards to provide to teachers free of charge. Each lesson plan will have a teacher's guide, accompanying worksheets for students, and an answer key which will be provided to teachers upon request. We aim to debut the lesson plans on akc.org in September 2016.

PSAs- The Public Relations and Communications team is planning to create new and updated PSAs for digital and television sources.

Bark for Life- The American Kennel Club partnered with the American Cancer Society's Bark for Life campaign in March of 2016. Bark for Life is an event honoring the life-long contributions of our Canine Caregivers. We plan to connect our member clubs with Bark for Life events across the nation to raise awareness of the key role dogs play in our lives.

Información en español- A section has been created on akc.org for the brochures and fliers we have available in Spanish. These resources have been edited and updated in order to share information with the Spanish.

Staff was directed to prepare an overall strategic plan for Public Outreach, which would be reviewed by the Board at a future meeting.

AKC Board Authority

A sub-committee of the Delegate Bylaws Committee asked for Board input on a possible Bylaws Amendment to specify whether and to what extent the AKC Board should provide advice and consent relative to the hiring of individuals critical to key functions of the organization. As New York State Law already gives the Board the authority to appoint or elect all Vice Presidents and any other officers or to delegate this authority to the President, no one on the Board supported the need for an additional Bylaw amendment regarding the Board's authority for the hiring of AKC staff.

AKC Parent Club-Approved Rescue

The Delegate Parent Clubs Committee and the Delegate Canine Health Committee requested that the Board affirm that there will be no charge for the listing of Parent Club-approved Rescue Organizations or of dogs offered for rescue by those organizations on the AKC website. The Board reaffirmed that, as per past policy, there will be no charge for the listing of these organizations and dogs on the AKC website.

COMPANION & PERFORMANCE

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

Briard Club of America Drafting Test

The Board reviewed a request from the Briard Club of America for AKC to recognize drafting titles earned by Briards in events held by the Parent Club. There are four drafting titles – Novice Draft Dog (NDD), Draft Dog (DD), Novice Brace Draft Dog (NBDD), and Brace Draft Dog (BDD). This recommendation would have to be approved by a vote of the Board. If approved, the recommendation will be effective June 1, 2016. This will be discussed further at the May meeting.

Membership Based Criteria for the Formation of Performance Event Clubs

The Board reviewed a staff recommendation to modify the criteria for the formation of new performance event (field event) clubs to one based on membership rather than geographic location. If the majority of a new club's membership is new to the sport, meaning they are not a member of another local club licensed for the same sport, then the new club would be allowed to become a licensed club regardless of its location. Currently, there is a demand in the sport for more events and new clubs want to form. This recommendation will meet a need by enabling new clubs to form when the population and interest supports it. This will be discussed further at the May meeting.

Junior Earthdog Test - Time to Reach the Quarry

The Board reviewed a recommendation to amend the *Earthdog Regulations* to increase the time allowed to reach the quarry in the Junior Earthdog test from 30 seconds to 45 seconds. Speed is not critical to the success of a dog hunting vermin underground.

This is a change to Regulations and may be made by a vote of the Board. If approved, the change would become effective July 1, 2016. This will be discussed further at the May meeting.

Junior Showmanship Regulations for Performance & Companion Events

The Board reviewed a recommendation to eliminate a barrier to Junior recognition by eliminating the ownership requirement for a dog being exhibited by a Junior in Companion and Performance events. Currently, a Junior handler receives a certificate if the Junior handles a dog to a title in in Companion and Performance events and meets the ownership requirement. The Board discussed this proposal in depth and felt it was contrary to the goals of the Junior Showmanship Program and would result in many unintended consequences. There was little support among the Board for the proposal and it will not be pursued.

Junior Participation Ranking System

The Juniors' program has been in decline for an extended period of time. The Board is concerned about the future of this program and whether it is meeting the needs of our young participants as well as the building for the future of AKC. Staff is recommending a ranking system for Juniors competing in any AKC event to incent participation as well as provide AKC with more accurate information about the number of Juniors competing in AKC events. The program would require the Junior Handler's number be submitted with the results. The offering of a ranking system with rewards by event type and across multiple events would incent Juniors to participate. The Ranking system would be available to be viewed on the AKC Website. This will be discussed further at the May meeting.

Producer of Merit Title

The Board reviewed a staff recommendation for a new Producer of Merit title (PM) for sires and dams producing dogs that have earned prefix and suffix titles. Specific criteria would be established and recognition levels will be offered. The Board was concerned that recognition of sires and dams has historically been within the purview of the breed Parent Club, including whether or not the Parent Club chooses to have a recognition program, as many do not. If staff wished to pursue this idea, it was directed to first discuss the concept with Parent Clubs and with Delegate Parent Clubs Committee.

Are AKC's Titles Trademark

The staff gave a report to the Board on AKC's titles as it relates to trademark protection. AKC's Legal Department will pursue obtaining the trademark protection on these titles where doing so would be plausible.

BUSINESS UPDATES

Alexandra Aleskovsky, Executive Vice President and Chief Growth Officer provided a comprehensive update on the progress of the "Growth Group" including performance of the organization through the first quarter. What follows are the key areas presented.

Focus Groups

Siri Lynn, a Focus Group Moderator conducted several Focus Groups to help us understand the public's perception of AKC and AKC shows. There were two groups with individuals open to attending AKC shows, and four with individuals open to participating in AKC shows. There were a total of forty-five dog owners who participated (all had at least one AKC registered dog) divided evenly between males (20) and females (25). There were a mix of ages 28-64; had some college or more; mix of employment status. They were all familiar with AKC and had a favorable opinion. They were primarily familiar with Westminster, with most interested in watching the show to view their own breed and Best in Show.

Among those open to attending shows, they were drawn to Agility, and found the show exhibitors stressed and snobbish. The motivators for attending were seeing different breeds, Agility, could be a fun family event, socializing with like-minded people, and seeing what went on behind the scenes. The barriers were that it was time consuming, exclusive, and expensive and appeared to be political. There was also agreement that they just didn't know where to find the local dog show - it was difficult to find the date and location for local shows. They had questions about dog shows – what happens, judging, what to wear, can I bring my dog? They also found the "beauty pageant" aspects of the show too formal and boring.

Among those open to participating, they were primarily drawn to Agility and saw it as fun. They saw the benefit of being with like-minded people, liked the idea of competing, and saw it as a way to teach kids responsibility.

Barriers to participating included having spayed or neutered dogs or dogs with breed standard disqualifications; the difficulty of obtaining a good show dog from a breeder; the time and expense; and the lack of "Beginner Shows" where a novice could learn in a less stressful environment. They saw Agility as more fun, faster paced, and easier to learn, and more natural. Impact of the AT&T Documentary Video was also examined. In summary, the video wasn't as much of a driver as expected. It did expand expectations beyond Conformation to include Agility, giving a sense of what went on behind the scenes. Some of the negative takeaways were that the focus was on Conformation which wasn't as engaging as Agility; that participants seemed snobby and un-relatable to many; many were left unsure as to what happens; and judging seemed subjective.

Video usually increased interest in attending. The positives were that the show is more varied and fun; kids might enjoy it; dogs seemed happy; handlers and owners really love their dogs; handlers really cared about each other. However, the video decreased interest in participating. It would require huge investment in money, time, and passion; can't relate to people in shows.

And, there was a major disconnect that dogs had to be spayed/neutered for Conformation.

Finally, video was focused on the "beauty pageant" and grooming.

The Focus Groups highlighted the need to:

- build awareness of local events
- create a sense of relevancy for local dog shows
- make local shows more of an "Event"

- offer and promote more classes for beginners; focus on Agility ; nominal cost
- create Educational videos; focus on beginners
- create a compelling value proposition, esp. for registration
- contemporize the image of shows

Business Dashboard

There was a review of the growth of AKC's web audience in terms of users and sessions. The number of unique users reached record numbers and increased 70% year over year for 2015 and the numbers of aggregate Social Media followers of 5 million was up by 14% year over year.

E-Commerce revenue was up 121% for the first quarter of 2016, and Marketplace revenue was up 31%. Advertising sales are up 116% for the first quarter year over year and licensing is up 6%.

AKC newsletters continue to trend well above the industry average for open and click rate. The top three performing articles on social were Xylitol, Most Popular Breeds, and Why Dogs Lick.

First Quarter Highlights

- There was a 6% increase in registered litters and a 9% increase in registered dogs for 2016 compared to the first quarter of 2015.
- E-commerce revenue more than doubled.
- Ad sales revenue was up 116%.
- Ongoing testing of interactive content increased website engagement.

Marketplace for Clubs

A survey of club Presidents conducted in March indicated that while clubs were aware of Marketplace for Clubs and interested in being listed, they were not willing to pay for the service. Clubs were interested in a service that is free, turnkey, and that will drive awareness and participation in their events.

It was proposed that clubs be removed from Marketplace and that the club section on AKC.org be enhanced with an improved club and event search function and the tools to conduct targeted email campaigns.

Following a motion by Dr. Battaglia, seconded by Mr. Gladstone, it was VOTED (unanimously) to proceed with this plan.

The Board adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

Meeting reconvened on Tuesday, April 12, 2016 at 8:00 am.

BUSINESS UPDATES, continued

Content Strategy

AKC's objectives are to:

1. Become the #1 destination for educational canine content
2. Promote responsible Dog Ownership
3. Promote purebred dogs and the Sport
4. Promote the most relevant content to all dog owners

Traffic on the AKC site has grown significantly with 213% of the increase coming from new users. Over half of the traffic comes from organic searches and over half of the website traffic is going to the Dog Breed Sector sections. Clubs and events, while representing a low % of traffic, have a higher engagement.

The key objectives of content strategy are to:

1. Increase audience engagement - with deeper and broader content and content formats
2. Align content on tone and voice
3. Website optimization
4. Content monetization

JUDGING OPERATIONS

Doug Ljungren, Vice President Sports and Events, participated in this portion of the meeting with Tim Thomas, Director Dog Show Judges, and Leslie Fetzter, Education Project Manager, participating by video conference.

AKC Canine College Progress Report

Leslie Fetzter provided the Board with a progress report on the AKC Canine College initiative. Staff advised the Board that work has been progressing on the AKC Canine College. AKC Content Development Guidelines and Requirements have been developed; professional learning sessions were offered; collaborative meetings have been held (and are ongoing); valuable information regarding course design and style, and overall opposition and support for the project was gleaned from a focus group questionnaire; goals, benchmarks, and measures have been identified in a comprehensive Implementation Plan; and plans are underway to hire an intern.

The Board emphasized that the Canine College is considered an “enterprise” initiative and is not confined to judge’s education. There was discussion on how to better leverage the Canine College. This will be discussed further at a future meeting.

Breed Assessment Experiences

Staff was requested by a member of the Board to provide an implementation plan for the creation of online Breed Assessment Experiences.

While it is recognized that there will be aspects of judging that cannot be reproduced in an online experience such as condition and coat texture, it is possible to present video and/or still photos customized to the breed-specific characteristics for each breed to maximize the impact of the tool, whether used for the purpose of education or assessment.

Staff’s goal is to produce effective breed-specific education and assessment tools to be housed on the Learning Management System.

Learning Management System Demo

Leslie Fetzter, Education Project Manager, gave the Board a demonstration regarding how the online learning experience would look and operate. Staff was directed to consider what changes to procedures and policies might be considered to be more compatible with online education. Any recommendations will be reviewed by the Board Judging Review Committees before being considered by the entire Board.

NOHS Group Judging

There was a discussion on the assignment of Group judges for the NOHS, which was inconsistent with the Best Practice recommendations. Specifically the same judge was assigned the same group on multiple days of a cluster, circuit, or on the same weekend. In other cases the same judge was assigned to judge the NOHS Group and the same Regular Group on the same show day, resulting in “pre-judging” of the owner handled dogs.

Following a motion by Mr. Kalter, seconded by Mr. Wooding, it was VOTED (unanimously) to prohibit a judge from judging the same NOHS group on the same weekend or at the same

cluster or circuit and back-to-back shows. The effective date will be determined based on ISD programming requirements and Premium List mailing deadlines.

The impact on the NOHS on the sport has been substantial and continues to grow. In order to assure the best experience for participants and our clubs the observance of Best Practices is essential. This resulted in discussion on the Best Practices for NOHS and whether they should be made regulations rather than recommendations (Best Practices.) Staff was also asked to review all of the Best Practices to see if revisions/additions are needed.

AKC Breeders

Dr. Battaglia gave a presentation on the categories of AKC Breeders including the Fancy, commercial breeders and casual breeders. The point of this presentation was the convergence of the various breeder communities including health testing, continuing education, facilities, and care and conditions.

Dr. Battaglia also briefed the staff on the status of the availability of service dogs to support Homeland Security. Prior to the meeting there had been discussion via email among Board and staff regarding what role AKC might play in supporting this national security issue. The TSA, because of budget cuts, suspended their breeding program. The source of dogs shifted to Europe where US Government purchasing regulations are not as rigorous. The recent attacks in Europe has resulted in fewer dogs available for export to other countries and is creating a shortage for TSA.

Dr. Battaglia is preparing a series of suggestions about how AKC can help with this matter of national security, however he described one opportunity for investigation. Currently you must be registered to sell to the government. Most US breeders are simply not willing to go through the process to be eligible to sell to the federal government. One way to assist our breeders is to create a "cooperative" which can sell to the government and allow our breeders (subject to set requirements) to use the "coop" as a way to support our national security efforts. Staff was directed to explore the possibility of setting up an AKC cooperative, which its breeders would have the option to join if the co-operative became an acceptable source of dogs for the TSA and other government agencies.

CONFORMATION

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

Opportunity for Championship Points for Group 2-3-4 Placements

The Board reviewed a recommendation to provide the opportunity for additional Championship points to be awarded to Winners dogs/bitches that earn second, third, or fourth placements in group competition. Currently only the Winners dog/bitch that earns a group first has this opportunity. This is a change to *The Rules Applying to Dog Shows*, Chapter 16, and must be approved by the Delegate body. If approved by the Board, it will be read at the June Delegates Meeting and voted at the September Delegates meeting. If approved by the Delegates, it will become effective on January 1, 2017. This will be discussed further at the May meeting. Staff was directed to compile more information on how many additional majors would be created if this amendment was adopted.

Changes to Italicized Sections of Rules Applying to Dog Shows, Chapter 3

The Board reviewed a recommendation to change italicized portions of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows*, Chapter 3, and the italicized portions of Sections 4, 7, 17, & 19, to be part of the rule, not Board clarifications. Additionally, it is recommended to add the same sentence from Section 4, regarding the first day of the event at multiple day events being used to calculate age

to Section 5. It is also recommended to remove the Board clarification from Section 16, which specifies the procedure for awarding BIS and Reserve BIS.

If approved by the Board, the amended Chapter 3, Sections 4, 5, 7, 17, & 19 in the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* will be read at the June Delegates' meeting and voted at the September Delegates' meeting. If approved, the effective date will be immediate. This will be discussed further at the May meeting.

Closing Time for Conformation Entries

The Board reviewed a recommendation to change the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* Chapter 6, Section 9, to alter the time of entry closing to 11:59 PM. While the need for a number of days between the closing of entries and the publishing of the judges' schedule does assist both clubs and superintendents, there is no identified reason that the closing occur at the current specified time of noon. Changing the closing time to 11:59 PM will benefit the online process as many exhibitors enter their dogs from home computers. This will be discussed further at the May meeting. If approved by the Board, it will be read at the June Delegates meeting and voted at the September Delegates meeting. If approved, it will become effective on January 1, 2017.

Limited Number of Events Policy

The Board requested that staff review its limited number of events policy. The AKC receives requests from clubs to hold additional days of events for multiple reasons. All such requests are evaluated pursuant to Board policy.

Limited Number of Events Policy (April 2009 Board meeting. Amended March 2015 Board meeting.)

A local all-breed or limited-breed club has the option to hold two shows in a calendar year. Local specialty clubs have the option to hold shows on two days per year. Local specialty clubs holding two days of shows per year have the option to hold one additional show in conjunction with their breed's national specialty. There is no limit on national clubs. All-breed clubs in Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and geographically isolated areas (i.e., no AKC club within 75 miles) have the option to hold up to four shows. Show or obedience clubs have the option to hold any number of obedience trials.

The Board considered a staff proposal to add an addendum to the **Limited Number of Events** policy for clubs that do not fit a mileage requirement but feel they cannot survive without additional events. There was no Board support for this proposal as it would be difficult, if even possible, to administer fairly and uniformly. Instead the Board requested the staff evaluate an either straight line mileage or driving mileage amendment to the existing policy.

Central Ohio Kennel Club Request for Additional Show

The Board reviewed a request from the Central Ohio Kennel Club for approval to hold a third show in a calendar year. Current policy requires an all-breed club to be located in Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico or a geographically isolated area to be able to hold more than two shows in a calendar year.

Central Ohio Kennel Club is located in Columbus, Ohio. There are 9 all-breed clubs within 75 miles of the Central Ohio Kennel Club zip code query. Without objection, staff will advise Central Ohio Kennel Club that the Limited Number of Events policy applies to all clubs, and no exceptions to it have been or would be made. There was no objection.

COMPLIANCE

Heather McManus, Deputy General Counsel, and Michael Liosis, Director of Compliance, participated in this portion of the meeting.

Dogue de Bordeaux Society of America

The Board of Directors had previously VOTED to continue to deny future event applications from the Dogue de Bordeaux Society of America until the club complies with our prior directive to have a parliamentarian file a report identifying specific actions the club was expected to take. As the result of continuing disputes within the club, staff was directed to offer binding arbitration to resolve them, but only if both sides agreed to abide by AKC's decision.

AKC Charter and Bylaws - Article XII - Complaints

Complaints which allege conduct prejudicial to the best interests of purebred dogs, purebred dog events or The American Kennel Club are filed pursuant to Article XII, of *The Charter and Bylaws of the American Kennel Club*. Staff is recommending that the Board set a policy to allow these Charter and Bylaw Complaints to be handled in a more consistent and efficient manner.

The new policy will require that complaints be submitted in a very specific manner, to include answers to specific questions with proper documentation, forms and a filing fee.

Staff also recommends that the AKC Board of Directors establish a policy regarding matters that would not generally be considered conduct prejudicial to the best interests of purebred dogs, purebred dog events, or the AKC. This will be discussed further at the May meeting.

Event Committee Slideshow and Staff Event Committee Remands

The staff reported, that based on a Board directive, the current PowerPoint presentation *Dealing with Misconduct at American Kennel Club Events* for Event Committees went live on the AKC website the week of February 22nd. This is in addition to *Dealing with Misconduct* which was added, in its entirety, to the website in December 2015.

The following AKC Management actions were reported:

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

CLUBS

Accuracy of Information in Terms of Membership Lists, and Email Addresses, etc.

Staff provided the Board with updated information on the electronic membership list upload requirement for all AKC clubs and a report on the email addresses collected for club members.

Delinquent Member Club Dues

Staff advised the Board that pursuant to Article V of *The Charter and Bylaws of The American Kennel Club*, the officers of all clubs, including the Delegate, were sent three standard email notifications concerning the payment of their 2016 Member Club dues.

The Chester Valley Kennel Club and the Monmouth County Kennel Club have not paid their dues to date.

Following a motion by Mr. Kalter, seconded by Mr. Menaker, it was VOTED (unanimously) to advise Chester Valley Kennel Club that unless the dues are paid by May 2, 2016, their membership in The American Kennel Club will be revoked and the club will return to licensed status. Since Monmouth County Kennel Club has dissolved, the club will be inactive on AKC records.

Monmouth County Kennel Club - Member Club Dissolved

Staff advised the Board that the Monmouth County Kennel Club, a member club of The American Kennel Club, approved in September 1935 has disbanded.

Sioux Valley Kennel Club - Member Club Dissolved

Staff advised the Board that the Sioux Valley Kennel Club, a member club of The American Kennel Club approved in June 1966 voted to dissolve on March 3, 2016.

A written report was provided on Member Club Bylaws approved in February and March:

- Canada del Oro Kennel Club – Oro Valley/Marana, AZ (2007)
- English Cocker Spaniel Club of America (1946)
- Fayetteville Kennel Club – Cumberland County, NC (1984)
- Pacific Coast Pekingese Club – Los Angeles, CA (1917)
- Terry-All Kennel Club – Adams County, CO (1974)
- Walla Walla Kennel Club – Walla Walla County, WA (1940)

A written report was provided on a new clubs licensed in February and March:

- Clinch River Coon Club, Sneedville, TN,
- Gold Country Irish Red and White Setter Society, greater Sacramento, CA
- Monadnock Sportsmen Association, Swanzey, NH,
- Northern California Working Group Association, greater Dixon, CA
- Quincy Kennel Club, greater Quincy, IL
- Rowan County Coon Club of Kentucky, Morehead, KY

CONSENT

Following discussion, there was a motion by Mr. Ashby seconded by Dr. Davies, it was VOTED (unanimously) to approve the following Consent Items:

- **Delegate and Club Approvals**
- **Resolution - Thomas Powers**
- **Retired Kennel Name Request for Weatherwax**
- **Irish Red and White Setter Proposed Breed Standard Revision**
- **Junior Showmanship Regulations - Novice Class Criteria**
- **Closing of Entries on Postal Holidays**
- **Retriever Hunt Tests - Three Recommendations**
- **Farm Dog Certification Test - A New AKC Activity**
- **Canine Legislation Position Statements on Spaying and Neutering**
- **Canine Legislation Position Statements Supporting Purebred Dog Breeding**
- **Increase Filing Fee for Article XII Complaints**

Delegates Approved

Nancy-Lee H. Coombs
To represent Pyrenean Shepherd Club of America

Eduardo Toshio Fugiwara
To represent Fort Lauderdale Kennel Club

Gwenyth (Wendy) Jones
To represent Lake Champlain Retriever Club

Ross Jones
To represent Rio Grande Kennel Club

Patricia J. Lombardi
To represent Pasco Florida Kennel Club

Elizabeth Hugo Milam
To represent Bulldog Club of Philadelphia

Dr. Robert E. Tainsh
To represent Cedar Rapids Kennel Association

Melinda L. Vogt
To represent Del-Otse-Nango Kennel Club

Bruce E. Voran
To represent Myrtle Beach Kennel Club

Kathleen Whitaker
To represent Greyhound Club of America

Club Approved

Heartland Dog Club of Florida
26 Households; 25 Local

Resolution - Thomas Powers

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

held on April Eleventh, two thousand and sixteen,
The following Resolution was unanimously adopted
WHEREAS,

Thomas Powers

First became the Delegate for the Kennel Club of Beverly Hills on July eighth, two thousand and eight; and,

Whereas, he was elected to the Board of Directors of The American Kennel Club on March thirteenth, two thousand and twelve, serving until March eighth, two thousand and sixteen; and,

Whereas, he served as the Board Liaison to the Delegate Parent Clubs Committee from two thousand and twelve until two thousand and sixteen; and,

Whereas, he served as a member of the Board Audit Committee from two thousand and twelve until two thousand and sixteen; as a member of the Board Compensation Committee in two thousand and thirteen and two thousand and fourteen, and the Board Appeals committee from two thousand and fourteen, until March, two thousand and sixteen; and,

Whereas; his background as a breeder, exhibitor, judge, show chair and club officer proved invaluable as the Board addressed a myriad of issues facing the Sport, and;

Whereas; his four decades practicing law as well as his experience managing businesses on a day-to-day basis, were great assets to the Board as it oversaw and made decisions impacting the multi-million-dollar assets of The American Kennel Club; and,

Whereas; we will ever cherish our association with this distinguished attorney, businessman, sportsman, gentleman, and most of all friend;

NOW THEREFORE, be it

RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of The American Kennel Club extend to him their most sincere best wishes for the future and their deep appreciation for everything he has done, and continues to do, for The American Kennel Club and the Sport of Purebred Dogs.

Retired Kennel Name Request for Weatherwax

The Board VOTED to approve the request from the Collie Club of America, Inc. to retire the "Weatherwax" kennel name of renowned Collie trainers Rudd and Bob Weatherwax.

Irish Red and White Setter Proposed Breed Standard Revision

The Board VOTED to approve the proposed revisions to the SIZE, PROPORTION & SUBSTANCE; HEAD and COLOR sections of the Irish Red and White Setter breed standard as submitted by the Irish Red and White Setter Club of America. The current breed standard for the Irish Red and White Setter was approved by the AKC Board October 19, 2009. The proposed revision was published in the January Secretary's page for comment.

Junior Showmanship Regulations – Novice Class Criteria

The Board VOTED to revise Section 5, Classes and Divisions of the *Conformation Junior Showmanship Regulations and Guidelines for Judging Juniors in Conformation*, criteria to move from the Novice Class to the Open Class. A Junior who has met the criteria of winning three first places in a Novice Class with competition or a Best Junior with competition may move to the Open Class. The effective date is July 1, 2016.

(A) Novice. This shall be for boys and girls who are at least 9 years old and under 18 years old on the day of the show and who at the time entries close have not won three (3) first place awards, with competition present in a Novice Class. A first place in Novice without competition leading to a Best Junior award with competition would count as one win towards moving to Open at a licensed or member show. Junior Handlers who win a third Novice Class with competition, if a win in Novice leads to a Best Junior with competition present it will count as one win towards moving to Open, after the closing of entries for a show are required to transfer their entry from the Novice Class to the Open Class by notifying the Superintendent or Show Secretary at least one-half hour prior to the scheduled start of Junior Showmanship judging at the show.

(B) Open. This class shall be for boys and girls who are at least 9 years old and under 18 years old on the day of the show, and who have won three first place awards in a Novice Class or if a win in Novice leads to a Best Junior with

competition present it will count as one win towards moving to Open in a licensed or member show.

Closing of Entries on Postal Holidays

The Board VOTED to amend (changes underlined below) Rules Applying to Dog Shows Chapter 6, Section 9, to address closing dates that fall on a postal holiday:

SECTION 9.

Starting with paragraph #6

Whenever the closing day noted above falls on a postal holiday, entries received in any form up to 24 hours from the published closing date and time day may be accepted.

The amended Chapter 6, Section 9, of the *Rules Applying to Dog Show* will be read at the June Delegates' meeting and VOTED at the September Delegates meeting. If approved it will become effective immediately.

Retriever Hunting Tests – Three Recommendations

The Board VOTED to approve changes (changes are underlined) to Chapter 1, Section 3, and Chapter 3, Section 2, of the Retriever Hunting Test Regulations to:

- (1) allow clubs, at their option, to hold Master level-only tests at their fifth and sixth events of the year provided the club has offered each of the test levels at least once at its first four hunting tests offered in the year.
- (2) Require clubs to only use fresh birds at their hunting tests and (3) Move up the opening date for events by one day so all events open to the public on Wednesday evening. These changes are effective July 1, 2016

Chapter 1. General Regulations. Section 3. Making Application.

Paragraph #5 – A local club is permitted to hold up to six licensed or member club events per calendar year. At the club's option, their 5th and 6th events of the year are allowed to be Master level tests only provided the club has offered each of the test levels at least once at its first four hunting test offered in the calendar year.

Paragraph # 14 - Clubs that limit the number of entries in the Master Hunter test must advertise an opening date for its hunting test. In order for there to be transparency for all participants, the opening date for public entries shall be the Wednesday closest to three week prior to the first date of the event. The opening time shall be 8:00 pm Central Time. The entries reserved for worker's dogs shall open on Tuesday.

Chapter 3. Instructions to Judges and Hunting Test Committees Section 2. Game.

Paragraph #2 - A minimum of two live birds per entry must be made available for the

use at the discretion of the Judges in all test levels. Only fresh birds may be used at the event.

Farm Dog Certification Test - A New AKC Activity

The Board VOTED to approve a new AKC activity called the Farm Dog Certification (FDC) test. The Farm Dog Certification test is an addition to the Herding Regulations. Clubs may start applying for Farm Dog Certification tests on July 1, 2016.

The FDC test has two objectives:

- Promote training and responsible dog ownership for all dogs living in a rural environment.
- Expose a new segment of dog owners to herding events, potentially recruiting new participants.

The FDC test is comprised of 12 pass-fail elements. It may be offered as a class at a herding test or trial. The test is open to all dogs at least nine months of age that are individually registered/listed with the AKC. All clubs currently licensed to hold AKC herding tests/trials will be allowed to hold Farm Dog Certification tests. If a dog passes the test on two occasions, the owner may apply for a FDC suffix title. **See Attachment A**

Canine Legislation Position Statements on Spaying and Neutering

The Board VOTED to amend three Canine Legislation Position Statements that reference Spaying and Neutering; the statement on Purebred Dog Rescue, the statement on Spaying and Neutering and the statement on Canine Population Issues. (Changes are underlined.)

Purebred Dog Rescue

The American Kennel Club supports and encourages the efforts of clubs, organizations, and individuals to rescue adoptable purebred dogs. These dogs may originate from animal shelters, or from owners who can no longer care for their dogs in a responsible manner. The American Kennel Club encourages all such groups and individuals, after exhausting all possible means to contact the breeder of such animals, to spay or neuter rescue dogs prior to placing them with a responsible owner.

Spaying and Neutering

The American Kennel Club opposes laws that mandate the spaying/neutering of dogs. Spaying/Neutering are major surgeries and the decision to spay or neuter a dog should be made by the dog's owner in conjunction with their veterinarian. Recent scientific studies demonstrate that spaying/neutering, particularly before a dog is fully mature, may result in detrimental long-term health impacts. In light of this information, AKC encourages breeders, owners and veterinarians to consult on the appropriateness and timing of spaying or neutering an individual dog.

Canine Population Issues

AKC® commends experienced breed enthusiasts who are educating the public and other breeders about the need for long term commitments and responsibilities. We encourage them to help new owners address issues that could result in the relinquishment of pets. National research organizations have reported that the

majority of unwanted dogs in the United States come from owners who are unable or unwilling to train, socialize, and care for their dog. The American Kennel Club also encourages pet owners to consider spaying or neutering their dogs at an appropriate age if they do not want to participate in AKC conformation events or engage in responsible breeding programs.

The American Kennel Club further supports programs dedicated to teaching the pet-buying public how to find a responsible breeder and how to make well-informed decisions when buying a dog rather than buying on impulse. Such programs help to ensure that pet purchasers find a puppy or dog that is a good match for their lifestyle, at an appropriate time in their lives, thereby increasing the likelihood that the animal will stay with the owner for its entire life. The AKC encourages owners and potential dog owners to visit our website at www.akc.org to locate AKC Parent Clubs which are the national organizations that represent breeds recognized by the AKC.

The American Kennel Club believes euthanasia should be employed only as a last resort when all reasonable efforts to place adoptable dogs have failed. At the same time, AKC recognizes that not all dogs are adoptable due to temperament and health issues.

Canine Legislation Position Statements Supporting Purebred Dog Breeding

The Board VOTED to approve a new canine legislation position statement on Purebred Dog Breeding.

Purebred Dog Breeding

The American Kennel Club is dedicated to preserving the future of purebred dogs. AKC honors purebred dog breeders whose commitment, vision and high standards have developed, sustain and continue to advance purebred dogs as unequalled family and working companions. Purebred dogs exhibit consistency in size, appearance, temperament and instincts. This enables prospective owners to choose a puppy that fits their particular lifestyle and increases the likelihood of a long, successful lifetime in that home. AKC is proud to advocate for purebred dogs, breeding for type and function, the sport of purebred dogs and for breeders who are committed to the health and wellbeing of dogs and preserving their unique breeds.

Increase Filing Fee for Article XII Complaints

The Board VOTED to raise the filing fee for Article XII, Section 1, complaints to a minimum of \$500.

NEW BUSINESS

It was VOTED to adjourn Tuesday, April 12, 2016 at 3:40 pm.

Adjourned

Attest:

James P. Crowley, Executive Secretary

Attachment A

Farm Dog Certification Test

OVERVIEW

The American Kennel Club offers a wide range of testing programs in support of its core values and mission to promote the sport of purebred dogs. These programs feature introductory events designed to deepen the bond between dog and owner; to educate and to inspire, and, ultimately, span all levels of opportunity for competition, from novice level dogs to the most elite of canine athletes. To achieve these successes, every dog benefits from a sound foundation of self-control training. Here we propose a Farm Dog Certification program to create an opportunity for dogs to demonstrate confidence and training in a working environment. The Farm Dog Certification test is open to all dogs.

Objective

The Farm Dog Certification test is designed to assess the overall conduct of a dog within a typical farm environment. The dog must demonstrate self-control when exposed to livestock and other unique sights, sounds and scents. The dog should exhibit confidence and a willingness to comply with instruction when confronted with a variety of situations.

The Farm Dog Certification is not intended to confer herding capability, but rather a foundation of self-control and biddability beneficial to all working dogs.

General Test Requirements

- Non-competitive pass/fail evaluation of dog's ability to exhibit self-control in a rural farm setting.
- Open to all dogs at least 9 months of age that are individually registered with the AKC, recorded in the FSS program, dogs with PAL numbers, or dogs enrolled in the AKC Canine Partners Program.
- Safety is paramount. Farm site must be well maintained, with fences, gates and equipment in good working order. All livestock must be in good condition, provided with fresh water, clean housing, and confined to dog proof enclosures during the test evaluation.
- The Judge must have at least one assistant to aid in administering the test.
- Dogs must be on a leash at all times while on farm site unless confined in a crate, kennel or vehicle. The leash shall be four to six feet in length.

- Dogs must wear a secure, well fitting, flat collar during the test evaluation.
- Handlers can use verbal cues, hand signals and praise provided it is not excessive in the opinion of the Judge.
- Dogs may attempt each test element no more than two times.
- Dog must pass all elements of the test and overall assessment during the same test to qualify.
- Dog must qualify under two different Judges in order to earn the FDC suffix title.
- The Judge may discontinue testing if he/she determines the dog is too fearful or under duress to perform the required elements.
- The Judge may request the removal of any dog from the immediate test area at any time, if he/she determines the presence of the dog presents a risk to livestock, other dogs, or persons on the farm.

Test Elements

1) GREET JUDGE – INITIAL DOG APPRAISAL

- The handler approaches the Judge with the dog at side on a loose lead.
- The dog may stand, sit or down at the handler's side on a loose lead while the Judge performs introduction.

➤ SKILLS DEMONSTRATED

- Ability of the dog to demonstrate patience and self-control while meeting a friendly stranger.
- **The dog shall not pass** if the dog jumps on Judge, shows any aggressiveness, excessive shyness, or is restrained by a tight lead.

2) PERFORM A WALKING PATTERN AROUND FARM ENVIRONMENT / PASSIVE STRANGER

- The handler walks the dog on a loose lead through a prescribed pattern (minimum of 200 feet) around a number of objects. As the facility permits – the marked path should guide the handler and the dog, from a safe distance, around farm equipment, through

barn aisles, by stacks of feed, etc.

- A passive stranger should be sitting quietly approximately 20 feet away from the path of the dog.
- Livestock and gates should be avoided at this stage. The dog must remain on a loose lead, and willingly follow the handler throughout the pattern.

➤ **SKILLS DEMONSTRATED**

- Ability of the dog to demonstrate self-control, responsiveness to the handler, and ability to adapt to an unfamiliar environment.
- **The dog shall not pass** if the dog is repeatedly on a tight lead, balks or refuses to follow the handler, or shows fear or aggression to the passive stranger or unfamiliar objects.

3) JUMP ON HAY/STRAW BALE

- The handler approaches a hay/straw bale or a safe pile of sacks of grain/feed with the dog on a loose lead and instructs the dog to jump up on the bale of hay. The dog may stand, sit or down until the Judge instructs the handler to allow the dog to jump off of the hay bale.
- The Judge shall determine length of stay (minimum of 10 seconds) until satisfied that the dog is comfortable with the exercise.

➤ **SKILLS DEMONSTRATED**

- Ability of the dog to exhibit obedience to the handler, traverse varying terrain on farms, and athletic ability to be positioned as needed.
- **The dog shall not pass** if the dogs fail, after two attempts, to jump on the bale independently, with no assistance from the handler. Or if the dog does not stay on the bale/pile for the minimum of 10 seconds.

4) WALK BY FARM ANIMALS

- The handler walks the dog on a loose lead in view of penned farm animal(s) approximately 30 feet away from the fence line housing the farm animals. The dog is not expected or encouraged to engage with livestock and should pay no undue attention to the animal(s) at this distance.
- Any animal routinely found on a farm is suitable, cow, pig, sheep, horse, chickens, ducks

etc. All livestock must be penned or fenced in a manner to ensure safety from any uncontrolled dogs.

- Allows for the Judge to evaluate the dog's initial response to livestock.

➤ **SKILLS DEMONSTRATED**

- Ability of the dog to demonstrate self-control, responsiveness to the handler, and ability to not disturb livestock.
- **The dog shall not pass** if the dog is repeatedly on a tight lead, refuses to follow the handler, or shows fear or aggression towards the livestock.

5) WALK OVER OR THROUGH UNUSUAL SURFACES

- The handler walks the dog over or through three different unusual surfaces.
- One surface shall be a piece of plastic that is a minimum of 8 feet long and 4 feet wide, such as a polyethylene tarp or clear plastic in good condition.
- A second surface shall be a wood surface that is a minimum of 8 feet long and 4 feet wide, such as a sheet of plywood or wood flooring that is lying flat on the ground.
- A third option shall represent typical rural terrain and can include such examples as safe metal or wire grating lying flat on the ground, mud, water, or jump over a series of three logs that are a minimum 4" diameter which are placed 3 feet apart. If mud or water is used, the dog, at a minimum, must place all four feet in the mud/water. Surfaces should not present any risk of injury to the dog or handler.

➤ **SKILLS DEMONSTRATED**

- Demonstrates that the dog is fit to walk on different surfaces and to willingly accompany the handler on a loose lead to any places necessary to perform chores on a farm.
- **The dog shall not pass** if the dog refuses to calmly walk over a new surface after two attempts, is excessively fearful, requires a tight lead, or demonstrates avoidance.

6) SUPERVISED SEPARATION

- The handler places the dog in a free standing kennel or dog crate, removes the leash and walks out of sight for a minimum of 2 minutes.
- The dog may move around within the space allotted but should not continually bark, whine, or pace unnecessarily, or exhibit any behavior greater than mild agitation or nervousness.

➤ **SKILLS DEMONSTRATED**

- Demonstrates that the dog can be confined temporarily as needed, and will maintain training and good manners out of sight of the handler.
- **The dog shall not pass** if the dog appears frantic or anxious or exhibits excessive barking.

7) PASS THROUGH A GATE

- The handler approaches a designated gate with the dog on a lead. The handler instructs the dog to stay in position while the handler opens the gate (the dog may stand, sit or down). The handler opens the gate away from the dog, passes through and calls the dog through the gateway. The handler then instructs the dog to stay as the gate is closed.
- At no time should the dog impede the handler in opening and closing the gate.
- The gate should function properly, be simple to operate, and present no safety hazard to the dog or the handler.

➤ **SKILLS DEMONSTRATED**

- Ability of the dog to demonstrate self-control and basic obedience to not interfere with necessary task of the handler.
- **The dog shall not pass** if the dog does not hold a stay after two attempts, will not pass through the gate when instructed, or interferes with the handler operating the gate.

HANDLER FEEDS LIVESTOCK

- The handler performs a farm chore of feeding farm animals. At no time will the handler or the dog enter an enclosure or have direct contact with the animals(s). All feeding of livestock shall be over or through a fence or enclosure.
- The handler approaches the animal enclosure with the dog at side on a loose lead. Approximately 30 feet from the enclosure, the handler ties/stakes the dog in a designated area. The dog must be wearing a secure, flat collar. The handler instructs the dog to stay and proceeds to complete the chore of feeding the animals before returning to the dog.

➤ **SKILLS DEMONSTRATED**

- Ability of the dog to be tied and remain calm while the handler performs the task of

interacting with livestock. Establishes foundation for the dog to be trusted around livestock.

- **The dog shall not pass** if the dog is frantic or anxious while tied, barks repeatedly, pulls excessively on lead or demonstrates aggression toward the livestock.

8) REACTION TO ANOTHER DOG

- The handler is positioned in a designated area with the dog at side on loose lead. The dog may stand, down or sit. Another dog is walked by twice on lead approximately 10 feet away. The first time the distraction dog is walked by on the side of its handler that is away from the dog being tested. The distraction dog and handler will then reverse direction and pass with the distraction dog on the side toward the dog being tested.
- While acceptable to notice the other dog, the tested dog should be accepting of the other dog and not appear to be unduly distracted.
- The tested dog must remain on a loose lead and show no fear or aggression toward the passing dog.

➤ SKILLS DEMONSTRATED

- Ability of the dog to exhibit self-control and acceptance of other, non-threatening, dogs working on the farm property.
- **The dog shall not pass** if the dog incessantly barks, pulls on lead or tries to make contact with the other dog, demonstrates fearfulness or aggression toward the other dog.

9) REACTION TO NOISE DISTRACTION

- The handler may stand or quietly walk in a designated area with the dog at side on loose lead. The assistant creates two background noises typical to a working farm environment.
- Noise distractions can consist of any common farm sound, such as hammering nails, sawing wood, leaf blower, farm machine starting up, lawn mower, chain saw, air compressors, etc.
- The tested dog must remain on a loose lead, and exhibit no excessive fear or sensitivity to the background noise.

➤ SKILLS DEMONSTRATED

- Ability of the dog to demonstrate normal sensitivity to typical noises of everyday life on a farm.

- **The dog shall not pass** if the dog appears excessively fearful or demonstrates strong avoidance.

10) DOG APPROACHES LIVESTOCK

- The handler, with the dog at side on a loose lead, enters a fenced area that contains livestock within a separate inside enclosure. The handler and the dog approach penned livestock, close enough so that the dog can clearly observe the stock. The dog can be encouraged to move ahead of the handler but cannot lunge or be held on a tight lead.
- The dog must remain responsive and under control while approaching livestock and/or if the dog's presence causes the livestock to move within their enclosure.
- It is acceptable and anticipated that the dog may show interest and liveliness towards the livestock, but at no time should the dog exhibit fearfulness or aggressiveness.
- When instructed by the Judge, the handler will go to the end of the lead and recall the dog to the handler. The dog must comply and willingly return to the handler with a loose lead, within two attempts. The dog must return attention to the handler and willingly exit the fenced area with the handler.
- All enclosure fencing must be in good condition, safe, and of a type that would not permit any passage by a dog, small or large.

➤ SKILLS DEMONSTRATED

- Demonstrates that the dog can exhibit self-control when asked to approach, and possibly move livestock, while on lead. Demonstrates the dog's ability to be called away from livestock when instructed by the handler.
- **The dog shall not pass** if the dog appears excessively fearful or aggressive towards the livestock, is excessively pulling on lead, demonstrates strong avoidance or refuses to obediently leave the livestock or the outer enclosure when instructed.

11) PHYSICAL EXAMINATION

- The handler examines the dog for any plant material, debris or objects that the dog may have collected while working on the farm.
- The handler may place the dog on a hay bale, table, or on the ground, and briefly examine the dog's ears, eyes, mouth, coat and toes to ensure the dog is free of any foreign material such as grass, hay, burrs, etc.

- The dog must willingly accept the examination by the handler.

➤ **SKILLS DEMONSTRATED**

- Ability of the dog to exhibit patience, obedience, and trust in the handler while being touched and examined.
- **The dog shall not pass** if the dog fails to accept any part of the examination, exhibits annoyance, fear, or aggression towards the handler or will not stay in place during the exam.

Overall Assessment

In addition to passing each element of the test, the Judge shall, at the end of the test, determine if the dog consistently exhibited traits that would distract from being a useful working farm dog. This might include incessant barking, chronic distraction, constant tugging on the leash, timidity, lack of interest, or over exuberance. This would address a situation whereas a dog may meet the minimum requirements for each test element but fail in the spirit of performing as a confident working partner on a farm.

At the end of the evaluation form, the Judge is asked to evaluate the dog's overall performance -

Did the dog perform in the manner necessary to make it a useful working farm dog?

(No, incessant barking, chronic distraction, constant tugging, timidity, lack of interest or over exuberance)

Yes (pass)

Needs

Training

Administration

- Noncompetitive pass/fail evaluation to determine dog's basic training and ability to maintain self-control in a farm environment.
- The Farm Dog Certification test is open to all dogs at least 9 months of age that are individually registered with the AKC, recorded in the FSS program, dogs with PAL numbers or dogs enrolled in the AKC Canine Partners program. Females in season may not enter. A dog may enter only once per event. (An event is defined by an event number).
- All Clubs currently licensed to hold AKC Herding tests/trials will be allowed to hold Farm Dog Certification tests. The FDC test can be held as a class at a Herding event. Clubs may hold only one FDC class per event (as defined by its event number). Clubs not licensed for herding may be approved to hold FDC tests in unique situations. In this case, a special

FDC test application form must be submitted to the Performance Events Department.

- Any participating club will have the option to accept FDC “Day of Test” entries. If day of test entries are allowed, it must be stated in the premium.
- All individuals approved to judge AKC Herding Tests/Trials are eligible to judge a FDC test.
- Judging FDC tests will not count against a herding Judge’s daily per dog judging limit when in conjunction with an approved AKC Herding Test/Trial but clubs should be cognizant of time requirements.
- Submittal of results: Clubs must mail the event secretary report and results to the Performance Events Department and include a recording fee of \$3.50 per entry. A FDC test results form will be provided in the event kit or downloadable from the AKC website.
- Results will be available for online viewing.
- If the dog passes the FDC test on two occasions under two different Judges, the owner may apply for the suffix Farm Dog Certified (FDC) title by submitting a FDC title application form and a nominal processing fee. The application form is available for download from the AKC website. Clubs are encouraged to have the form available at the event. Once verified, the FDC title will be applied to the dog’s record and will appear on the dog’s AKC pedigree.

Summary

The Farm Dog Certification test provides for a series of exercises that represent situations a farm dog would encounter in a typical farm environment. The basic test requirements are designed to emphasize a dog’s ability of self-control, confidence and trust necessary to succeed in any canine/human partnership. These traits and foundational training are vital to a working farm dog as well as the welfare of livestock.

It is important to underscore the distinction that the FDC test does not infer actual herding capability, as herding should be clearly identified as a separate and more refined instinctive skill set. However, the FDC test demonstrates the fundamental training and temperament necessary for a herding dog to move into the herding program.

The FDC program provides an opportunity for all dogs to apply their basic training in a novel environment, demonstrating their natural capability and trainability to work in partnership with their human companions. In addition, the program will attract a new segment of dog owners to AKC Herding events.