

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
August 8-9, 2016

The Board convened on Monday August 8, 2016 at 8:00 a.m. All Directors were present, except for Ms. McAteer, as were the Executive Secretary, the Assistant Executive Secretary, the Senior Executive Vice President and General Counsel, as well as the Executive Vice President and Chief Growth Officer.

The July 2016 Board minutes, copies of which were made available to all Directors, were discussed. Upon a motion by Dr. Battaglia, seconded by Mr. Arnold, the July 2016 minutes were unanimously (absent: Ms. McAteer) approved.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was an Executive Session to discuss sensitive business matters. Nothing was reported out of Executive Session.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Board Action Items - Status Report

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

Legal Status Report

Ms. McManus, Deputy General Counsel, presented a status report on pending litigation and other Legal activities for the month of July 2016.

Board Tracking Report

The Board reviewed a tracking report of high impact staff projects that have been Board approved.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Doug Ljungren, AKC Vice President Sports and Events, was present for this portion of the meeting. Sheila Goffe, Vice President Government Relations, participated by video conference.

Canine Legislation Position Statement on Pet Choice

Following a motion by Dr. Garvin, seconded by Mr. Arnold, the Board VOTED (unanimously; absent: Ms. McAteer) to approve a new canine legislation position statement on "Pet Choice" as follows:

The American Kennel Club emphatically supports freedom of choice in selecting a pet. AKC actively promotes efforts to ensure that people are educated, understand the demands of responsible ownership and have access to a pet that is right for them. AKC strongly opposes any measure that restricts choice by compelling people and/or retailers to obtain pets solely from shelter or rescue distributors.

This position statement is important because it provides a foundation for AKC Government Relations to advocate clearly and strongly for responsible pet choice regardless of where the prospective pet owner chooses to obtain a pet (including breeders, retailers, responsible rescues or other sources).

The underlying position is important because it demonstrates AKC's commitment to protecting the future of purebred dogs as small breeders continue to come under regulatory pressure.

Government Relations

The Board was very appreciative of the work being done by the Government Relations Department. The Board discussed that a significant commitment to Government Relations is essential in order for AKC to achieve its goals in support of purebred dogs. There was

discussion regarding the current commitment to Government Relations and whether or not our current commitment is sufficient. Staff was directed to develop a three-year plan to expand the activities in this department to include specific deliverables, necessary headcount and a budget to make this feasible.

Schipperke Proposed Breed Standard Revision

The Secretary of the Schipperke Club of America, Inc. (SCA), received a petition July 5, 2016, signed by 66 members of the club, which meets the membership requirement to request a revision to the breed standard as stated in the bylaws of the SCA. The proposed revision is to change the tail description of the standard in the General Appearance section of the Standard as well as the Tail section.

Although the AKC Board is aware that a majority of the Board of the Schipperke Club of America is opposed to the revision, the revision does comply with the SCA bylaws. Following a motion by Mr. Ashby, seconded by Dr. Battaglia, the Board VOTED (unanimously; absent Ms. McAteer) to permit the SCA to proceed to ballot the membership on these standard revisions in accordance with the club's Constitution and Bylaws.

Proposed Bylaw Amendment (Parent Club Membership)

The Board reviewed a proposed amendment to ARTICLE IV – MEMBERSHIP, Sections 1 and 7, of the *Charter and Bylaws of The American Kennel Club*, which was submitted by the Catoctin Kennel Club which intends to facilitate the election of Parent Clubs to membership. The amendment adds wording such that concurrent with breed recognition by the AKC Board of Directors, that breed's parent Specialty Club shall become a member club, subject only to the requirements of ARTICLE IV, Sections 2 and 3.

It would also require that when a Parent Club is not approved for membership by the Board, a reason would need to be given and provides an appeal process to Parent Clubs only.

SECTION 1. All Clubs or Associations which have held at least three Dog Shows, Obedience Trials, Field Trials, or Agility Trials in consecutive years under rules of the AKC shall be eligible to become members of the AKC and, concurrent with breed recognition by the AKC Board of Directors, that breed's parent Specialty Club shall become a member club, subject only to the requirements of Article IV, Sections 2 and 3.

SECTION 7. The Board of Directors of the AKC shall report to the AKC at the next regular meeting of the AKC its findings as to the eligibility of all candidates for membership the names of which duly have been published as provided in **Section 5** of this Article, indicating the approval or disapproval of the Board by using the word "approved" or the word "disapproved" as the case may be.

Parent Specialty Breed Clubs disapproved by the Board of Directors shall be notified in writing of said disapproval. The parent Specialty Breed Club may, within thirty days of notice of disapproval, appeal the disapproval in writing to the Executive Secretary of the AKC, stating the reasons why the parent Specialty Breed Club is eligible under Section 1 of this article. Such appeal shall be presented to the Delegates at their next regular meeting by a Delegate of the club's choosing. An affirmative vote of two-thirds of the Delegates present and voting that the Parent Specialty Club, upon applying, is eligible (under Section 1 of this article) shall be required to seat a disapproved parent Specialty Club.

This proposal will be considered further at the October Board meeting.

The Board discussed the fact that new Parent Clubs are often not familiar with *Robert's Rules of Order*, the absolute need to follow their bylaws, and often do not have experience in dog clubs. Historically, new Parent Clubs have had difficulty in their operations and have had difficulty during the early years of their formation. A suggestion was made that would perhaps be helpful in providing mentoring, applying the Clubs of Distinction criteria as an educational tool, and working with a prospective Parent Club regarding AKC recognition to better bring them into AKC. A letter was to be sent to the Parent Club Committee to determine if the Committee has any interest in assisting in this matter.

This led to further discussion on involving the Delegate Parent Clubs Committee in the selection and advancement of Parent Clubs for newly accepted breeds. Things like mentoring, applying the criteria developed by the Parent Clubs Committee to distinguish clubs following the Best Practices for a Parent Club, and setting a timeframe from formation to AKC membership would be possible roles for the Parent Clubs Committee.

Board and Delegate Meeting Dates

There was a discussion on setting the Board and Delegate Meeting dates for 2018 and 2019. The Board also considered whether the June and September 2017 dates for the Delegate Meeting should be left on a Monday or moved to the following day, Tuesday, which would result in the Delegate Committees being on Monday instead of Sunday.

The 2017 schedule was set based upon a Delegate survey. The results had been evenly split between those Delegates wishing to have all Delegate Meetings on a Tuesday and those Delegates wishing to have Delegate Committees on the weekend, with the Delegate Meeting on Monday. It was requested that the dates set for June and September 2017 be reconsidered. They now call for a Monday Delegate Meeting.

While the Bylaws give the Board the sole authority to set meeting dates, staff was directed to get the input of the Delegate Coordinating Committee with regards to the days of the meetings and how to handle conflicts with religious holidays, which periodically occur.

COMPLIANCE

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

Dogue de Bordeaux Arbitration

While the parties in the Dogue de Bordeaux Club have agreed to arbitrate, there has been difficulty between the parties in determining what is to be arbitrated.

Following a motion by Mr. Gladstone, seconded by Mr. Ashby, it was VOTED (unanimously; absent: Ms. McAteer) to advise both parties to provide a status report on setting an arbitration date of September 1, 2016.

If there is a disagreement as to the actual issues to be arbitrated, the AKC Board of Directors expects that issue to be submitted to arbitration. Each party should confirm in the Status Report whether or not they agree to arbitrate the disagreement as to issues if such exist.

The following AKC Management actions were reported:

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

CONFORMATION

Doug Ljungren, Vice President Sports and Events, participated in this portion of the meeting. Mari-Beth O'Neill, Vice President Sport Services, Glenn Lycan, Director Operation Support,

Alan Slay, Director Event Programs, and Bri Tesarz, Manager Dog Show Rules, participated in this portion of the meeting via teleconference.

Growth Strategy for the AKC National Junior Organization

The Sport Services Staff proposes to increase the participation in the current AKC National Junior Organization by developing a number of new initiatives and launching those that will have the most positive impact. This will require the addition of a headcount in the department. Some of these initiatives are:

1. Survey current Junior participants to gain additional knowledge about current participation.
2. Research current camps for youth and dogs, which may result in a program.
3. Research and develop a Team Competition for Juniors.
4. Create a new program to maintain the involvement of the 18–25-year-old age group, which may include reinstating the intern program.
5. Develop outreach to families that have participated in the Pee Wee Competition.
6. Extend outreach to other youth organizations or activities to introduce information about AKC Events and incorporate AKC programs into their programs.
7. Develop new educational materials for all age groups for use by youth organizations.

Following a motion by Dr. Garvin, seconded by Dr. Battaglia, the Board VOTED (unanimously; absent: Ms. McAteer) to approve an additional headcount which is outside of the approved 2016 budget and to budget for it in 2017.

Conformation Junior Showmanship, Canine Partner

The Board reviewed a staff recommendation to increase the participation in the current AKC National Junior Organization by allowing Juniors with AKC Canine Partners listed dogs to compete in the Novice Class in Conformation Junior Showmanship. Following a motion by Mr. Ashby, seconded by Mr. Dok, the Board VOTED on extending the proposal to include Open Junior Class. The VOTE was (affirmative: Mr. Ashby, Mr. Dok, Dr. Battaglia, Mr. Gladstone, Mr. Arnold, Mr. Menaker, Dr. Davies, Mr. Wooding, Dr. Garvin; opposed: Mr. Feeney, Mr. Kalter, Ms. Cruz; absent: Ms. McAteer).

Following a motion by Mr. Ashby, seconded by Dr. Davies, there was a VOTE which would have made Canine Partners eligible to be entered in Junior Showmanship. This VOTE failed (affirmative: Mr. Ashby, Dr. Davies, Mr. Menaker, Dr. Battaglia, Mr. Dok, Mr. Kalter; opposed: Dr. Garvin, Mr. Gladstone, Ms. Cruz, Mr. Feeney, Mr. Wooding, Mr. Arnold; absent: Ms. McAteer.)

AKC NOHS Program Enhancements

The AKC National Owner-Handled Series (NOHS) continues to gain popularity with exhibitors, resulting in an increasing number of clubs offering the NOHS at their events.

Two changes were being considered with the intent of bringing greater consistency to the competition.

- 1) Convert the NOHS Policies & Best Practices into regulations, and
- 2) Add more structure to the NOHS judging panel requirements. The following changes to the NOHS judging requirements are being considered:
 - a. A different judge is to be assigned to the same NOHS group for each day of a weekend/cluster/circuit (approved by the Board at the April 2016 meeting).

- b. A different judge is to be assigned to the regular and NOHS group/BIS at an event.
- c. Judges will not be approved to judge a breed, the NOHS Variety Group of which the breed is a part and NOHS Best in Show at the same show.
- d. The same person cannot judge all of the NOHS groups at an event.
- e. To be eligible to judge an NOHS group, a judge must be approved as a regular judge for at least one breed in that group or must be approved for at least three groups

The three group option was added based upon a motion by Mr. Ashby, seconded by Mr. Kalter, with the VOTE (affirmative: Mr. Ashby, Mr. Kalter, Mr. Dok, Mr. Arnold, Mr. Feeney, Mr. Gladstone, Mr. Wooding, Mr. Menaker; opposed: Dr. Gavin, Dr. Davies, Dr. Battaglia; abstaining: Ms. Cruz; absent: Ms. McAteer.)

This will be discussed further at the October meeting.

BUSINESS UPDATE

Alexandra Aleskovsky, Executive Vice President and Chief Growth Officer gave the Board an update.

AKC Web Relaunch (very high level)

Ms. Aleskovsky presented web best practices and gap analysis of AKC.org. Based on her assessment, we will move forward with relaunching AKC.org, which will result in driving additional traffic, conversion, engagement, and revenue. This project will take approximately one year to complete. It will involve all key stakeholders to assure that akc.org meets, to the extent possible, the diverse user base of the website. The website is considered a tool for the fancy, a way to join dog lovers everywhere, as well as an economic engine for AKC. The goal is to find the correct balance and to provide a world class web experience for all users.

AKC Events Calendar Redesign

There was a summary of improvements being made to the online Events Calendar Phase 1 - to simplify the layout, make it easier to navigate, and to provide more detailed event descriptions. These changes will be focused on the General Dog Owner Segment based on insights learned in the focus groups. Phase 2 changes of the Event Calendar will focus primarily on improvements for the Core segment.

Registration

Year-to-date litter registrations have increased by 7% compared to the same period in 2015. Dog registrations are up by 8% for the same period. This represents 10 months of steady growth and a potential tipping point in the role of a purebred dog as a family companion.

Registration Value Proposition

Ms. Aleskovsky presented top line qualitative research learnings on registration value proposition that was conducted among 1) Dog Owners who had registered with AKC 2) Non-registered owners and 3) Dog seeking participants. The key highlights were that:

- 1) AKC is generally seen in a good light; a gold standard in recommendations in the canine world
- 2) While registration benefits are unclear, the most valuable category overall across all segments was safety and health – Reunite, Health Insurance, Free Vet Visit
- 3) The least valued benefits were printed materials such as magazines and DVDs
- 4) Participants are willing to pay a little more for packages with high perceived value - \$125-\$250 value was most often cited; Core just a bit more
- 5) Good Works provided positive reinforcement for Registration

Next steps will be a quantitative pricing test.

Breeder Research

Ms. Aleskovsky reported on interviews and quantitative research with breeders of purebred dogs to determine dimensions such as demand for Purebred puppies, perceived threats, satisfaction level with AKC, AKC opportunities to increase satisfaction, and opportunities for new AKC products and services.

Interest was expressed in the following AKC products and services:

- DNA Health Kits
- Searchable Pedigrees database with health information
- A more user-friendly website
- Breed-specific litter kits
- A discount loyalty program

There was a motion by Mr. Ashby, seconded by Dr. Battaglia, and it was VOTED (unanimously; absent: Ms. McAteer) to consider the pursuing of the products and services reviewed at this meeting.

Following a motion by Mr. Ashby, seconded by Dr. Battaglia, it was VOTED (unanimously; absent: Ms. McAteer) to direct staff to prepare a plan to develop the products and services listed above.

FINANCE

Joseph Baffuto, CFO, presented unaudited financial results through the seven month period ending July 31, 2016. Total revenues recorded of \$37.7 million were 4% above Budget and 7.5% above last year. Overall operating expenses of \$33.7 million were below Budget by 5%, but \$3.2 million or 10% above last year. Operating income of \$4.1 million is outperforming Budget and is at nearly 90% of last year's comparative period.

The Board adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Meeting reconvened on Tuesday, August 9, 2016 at 8:00 am.

DISCUSSION OF NGKC BUSINESS RELATIONSHIP

The Board discussed that the business relationship between AKC Global Services and NGKC ended as of January, 2015. The termination of that relationship also resulted in NGKC no longer being authorized to use AKC trademarks or make any references to their relationship with AKC other than to its registry being recognized by AKC. AKC continues to recognize NGKC pedigrees as in the past. The Executive Secretary was directed to follow up with NGKC management in writing that they are to cease using any AKC trademarks or other references to AKC other than pedigree recognition.

SPORTS AND EVENTS

Doug Ljungren, Vice President, Sports and Events and Elizabeth Sorota, Vice President Marketing, gave a report regarding the Sports and Events Work Plan and the market research plan to inform and refine Sport initiatives. Five major strategies were discussed:

- Attract new participants to existing AKC activities

- The Family Dog Program - Develop new canine activities of interest to owners not now engaged with AKC
- Increase engagement – provide for a lifetime of rewarding experiences
- Use sports and events to advocate for the purpose-bred, purebred dog
- Strengthen existing events – clubs and judges

Initiatives were identified under each strategy in order to provide direction and actionable next steps. The criteria for measuring success would be the growth in entries and in unique dogs participating and greater participant satisfaction.

There was a motion by Mr. Ashby, seconded by Dr. Battaglia, to consider offering the plan described by Mr. Ljungren and Ms. Sorota at this meeting with a unanimous vote (absent: Ms. McAteer). Following a motion by Mr. Ashby, seconded by Dr. Battaglia, it was VOTED (unanimously; absent: Ms. McAteer) to approve the implementation of the plan.

Photographing and Videotaping of AKC Events

The Board reviewed a staff recommendation to adopt a policy concerning the right to photograph and video AKC events for AKC's own use. While there is a Board-approved policy concerning commercial filming and/or electronic transmission of its events, the AKC does not currently have a policy reserving the right to photograph and video its events for its own use, such as the Canine College. Staff recommends the Board approve the following policy to be effective immediately:

By submitting an application for and receiving approval to hold an event under the rules of the American Kennel Club, the club grants American Kennel Club, its employees, agents, licensees and others working for it or on its behalf the unlimited, irrevocable access, right and authority to photograph, record, film and/or videotape at the event. The club agrees that it has not and will not enter into any arrangement or agreement with any other party that will prohibit or prevent the American Kennel Club from exercising this right.

In addition, Staff recommended that the Board modify its Commercial Filming at Events Contractual Policy approved at the April 12, 2005 Board Meeting to include the above. There was a motion by Mr. Ashby, seconded by Dr. Battaglia, and it was VOTED (unanimously; absent: Ms. McAteer) to consider this matter at this meeting. Following a motion by Mr. Ashby, seconded by Dr. Battaglia, it was VOTED (unanimously; absent: Ms. McAteer) to adopt the policy, effective immediately.

New Breed for Foundation Stock Service® - Teddy Roosevelt Terrier

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

This led to a discussion on the development of a National Breed Club to prepare it to become the member Parent Club. There was agreement that it was crucial to have firm criteria to use to select the appropriate Parent Club and that while the breed was in Miscellaneous, participation in events and the breeding activity in the breed were clear indicators as to the long-term sustainability of the club. Staff was directed to develop such criteria and to report back to the Board.

CLUBS

A report was provided on Member Club Bylaws approved in June and July:

- American Bloodhound Club (1958)

- Central Ohio Kennel Club, Columbus, OH (1949)
- Keeshond Club of America (1935)
- St. Bernard Club of America (1898)

A report was provided on new clubs licensed in June and July:

- Australian Shepherd Dog Club of Central Florida,
- Rope Mill Beagle Club, Woodstock, GA
- Triune Agility Club of Southwest Illinois

JUDGING OPERATIONS

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

Conformation Judges Newsletter

Staff advised the Board of its intent to launch a Conformation Judges blog site in September 2016 and in-conjunction cease production of *The Standard*.

The Judging Operations Department quarterly publishes its Conformation Judges newsletter, *The Standard*. This newsletter, sent via email to all approved and emeritus conformation and junior showmanship judges, is the primary source to disseminate information regarding conformation judging policies and procedures. Back issues of *The Standard* are archived and available on the AKC website in the Conformation Judging Resource Center.

The decision to stop production of *The Standard* and convert to a blog format follows two successful blog site launches for AKC Agility and AKC Conformation/Rally Judges. The blog will be linked from the AKC website via the Conformation Judges Resource Center. All visitors to akc.org will have the opportunity to view the blog just as one may view past issues of *The Standard*. In addition, judges will have the option to enroll to the blog. Each time a new article is posted on the blog an email notification will be sent to all individuals enrolled to the blog site informing them of the new content. Visiting Judges will also have the capability to enroll to the Conformation Judges blog site, providing pertinent information for judging at AKC events. Information concerning the launch of the blog site will be included in the Summer 2016 issue of *The Standard*. In addition, notification will be sent to all judges via email notifying them of the launch and to provide instruction how to enroll to the blog or opt out.

AKC Canine College Status Report

Staff provided the Board of Directors with a status report on the progress of the AKC Canine College. The AKC Canine College will launch by September 1, 2016 with online breed exams for those groups initially, online application processes for judges, breed-specific resources for each breed (study guides, illustrated standards, mentor lists, etc.), breed specific online courses (Lagotto, Poodle, Irish Red & White Setter), and the first training course for CGC Evaluators. Breeder education is in the process of transitioning to the Online Learning Platform with AKC

Breeding Basics, Whelping & Medical Intervention and How Nutrition Influences Reproduction initially available. Claudia Orlandi's *ABC's of Breeding & Practical Canine Anatomy* courses will follow. Groomer education is also being developed for deployment later this year. The e-Portfolio, where users will be able to upload and store evidence documents to share with the AKC, will also be part of the initial launch.

CONFORMATION

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

Breeder of Merit Recognition Levels

The Board reviewed a Staff recommendation to introduce levels of recognition to the Breeder of Merit Program. Additional levels will allow AKC to recognize breeders that have been breeding for many years, produced numerous titled dogs as well as providing an incentive to current and new breeders to encourage their puppy buyers to participate in AKC Events. Creating higher levels will allow AKC to acknowledge the ongoing success of its breeders.

This will be considered further at the October meeting.

Junior Showmanship Regulations Reserve Best Junior

The Board reviewed the Regulations for Junior Showmanship, Section 5, as to the awarding of Reserve Best Junior.

There was no interest on the Board in considering an amendment to this section of the Regulations.

Superintendent Entry Verification

Based on a Board request, Staff proposed a new policy that would require Superintendents to validate entries at the time the entry is processed. Superintendents are bound by AKC Rules and Policies in order to be licensed.

Proposed policy:

Entry verification

All superintendents, except those handling fewer than ten all-breed shows annually, are required to validate entries against AKC registration data at the time the entry is processed. Online entries should be validated in real time notifying the party as a part of the online entry submission process. Owners/agents of entries received via hardcopy should be notified of any inconsistencies within 7 days of the closing of entries for the event to which the entry is associated.

There was a motion by Dr. Davies, seconded by Mr. Arnold, and it was VOTED (affirmative: Dr. Davies, Mr. Kalter, Mr. Menaker, Mr. Arnold, Ms. Cruz, Mr. Dok, Mr. Wooding, Dr. Battaglia, Mr. Gladstone Mr. Ashby, Mr. Feeney; opposed Dr. Garvin; absent: Ms. McAteer) to consider the matter at this meeting waiving the usual prior notice requirement.

Following a motion by Mr. Ashby, seconded by Mr. Kalter, it was VOTED (unanimously, absent: Ms. McAteer) to implement the entry verification requirement, effective January 1, 2017.

Uniform Judges Book

There was a motion by Ms. Cruz, seconded by Mr. Gladstone, and it was voted (unanimously, absent: Ms. McAteer) to require all superintendents to utilize a uniform judges book, effective for shows held on or after January 1, 2017. This reaffirmed a decision made previously which was relayed to the superintendents at least two years ago.

Allowing Altered Dogs in Non-regular Classes at Independent Specialties

The Board requested that staff research the merits of allowing spayed/neutered dog to participate in non-regular classes at independent specialty shows. The determination was made not to pursue this idea.

Allow Group Clubs to Offer Supported Entries

The Board reviewed a recommendation to allow group clubs to offer supported entries at all-breed club events.

Currently, the Show Manual only allows a specialty club to support an entry at an all-breed or group event. Several clubs have recently requested that group clubs be allowed to support the entries of all the breeds in that group at an all-breed event. This is viewed as a way to increase the entries in those breeds and foster comradery amongst local clubs.

Without objection, the Show Manual will be updated to allow group clubs to support the entries of all the breeds in that group at an all-breed event.

There was no objection.

COMPANION & PERFORMANCE

Doug Ljungren, Vice President Sports and Events participated in this portion of the meeting. Pamela Manaton, Director of Obedience, Rally and Tracking and Carrie DeYoung, Director of Agility participated by video conference.

Amend the Requirements of A & B Matches

The Board reviewed a recommendation to clarify the Match Regulations to allow Group and Specialty clubs to offer all-breed Sanctioned A Matches for obedience and rally and all-breed Sanctioned B Matches for conformation, at their option. This will be discussed further at the October meeting.

Earthdogs - Allowing Practice Prior to a Test

The Board reviewed a recommendation to modify the current *Earthdog Regulations* to allow clubs, at their option, to provide practice sessions prior to or following a test. Currently practice sessions are not allowed within 24 hours of the start of the test. This modification will provide additional opportunities to introduce new participants to the sport.

The HEC Delegate Committee discussed this idea at their June 2016 meeting and unanimously supported it.

This will be discussed further at the October meeting.

Update to Agility FAST Class Regulations

The Board reviewed a recommendation to modify the course design specifications for the FAST (Fifteen and Send) class in order to decrease the time it takes to reset the course between levels, thereby making it more efficient for clubs to offer the FAST class. The changes will not compromise the intent of the class.

Currently, the FAST course design requires the club to reset the course between class levels. The course reset, coupled with separate briefings and walk-throughs for each level add about one hour to the class. Under the recommendation, a course may be designed which combines all three levels into one course with three different send locations. This allows for only one course build and one walk through for all levels.

This will be discussed further at the October meeting.

CONSENT

Following discussion, there was a motion by Mr. Ashby, seconded by Mr. Arnold, it was VOTED (unanimously; absent: Ms. McAteer) to approve the following Consent Items:

Delegate and Club Approvals

Fred Askin, MD, Baltimore, MD
To represent Columbia Terrier Association of Maryland

Erica J. Behnke, Middletown, OH
To represent Queen City Dog Training Club

Barbara Burns, Freeport, IL
To represent Rockford-Freeport Illinois Kennel Club

Bob Calltharp, East Haddam, CT
To represent South County Kennel Club

Debra Duncan, Lawrence, KS
To represent Lawrence Jayhawk Kennel Club

James P. Henshaw, Petersburg, OH
To represent Mahoning-Shenango Kennel Club

Norma Jean Ryan, Bel Air, MD
To represent National Capital Kennel Club

Request for AKC Membership

Approved:
Hendersonville Kennel Club

Article XII Complaints

The Board VOTED to adopt the following policy to better define the process for receiving and reviewing Article XII complaints:

The AKC Board of Directors will review Charter and Bylaw Complaints that are submitted with the following information and in the following form:

- 1) Short complete description of the steps the complainant has taken to resolve the matter. If a club matter, an affirmation that the complainant has been read and taken the steps set forth in the brochure *Working it Out- AKC Guidelines for Resolving Dog Club Issues*;
- 2) A concise statement of the facts;
- 3) A concise statement of how the facts alleged are conduct prejudicial to the best interests of purebred dogs, purebred dog events or the AKC;
- 4) The entire complaint should not exceed ten pages in length and be at least in 9 font size, with 1 inch margins;

- 5) Must be sworn to before a notary; and
- 6) A deposit in the amount of \$500 must be submitted with the complaint.

Complaints submitted without all this information and in this form will not be presented to the AKC Board of Directors until the complainant has met these criteria. The Director of Compliance will review each complaint submitted and within ten (10) business days of submission and will provide the complainant(s) with a notice that either the above criteria have been met or a detailed response as to what is missing or if matters need to be clarified will ask for the additional information.

The Board VOTED to 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:

The AKC Board of Directors generally does not consider the following to be conduct prejudicial to the best interests of purebred dogs, purebred dog events, or the AKC:

- 1) Differing personalities; politics; philosophies in running or operating clubs;
- 2) The application of parliamentary principles, parliamentary authority or procedure; or interpretations of bylaws supported by the opinion of a Parliamentarian who is a member of The National Association of Parliamentarians and adopted by the club's Board of Directors.

Rules, Policies & Guidelines for Conformation Dog Show Judges

The Board VOTED to approve revisions to *Rules, Policies and Guidelines for Conformation Dog Show Judges* to provide greater clarity as far as AKC's expectations of its judges in the areas of procedure and conduct and to be consistent with current policy. (Attachment A)

Poodles Eligible to Participate in the Spaniel Hunting Tests

The Board VOTED to permit miniature and standard size Poodles to be eligible to enter the Spaniel Hunting Test program. Titles earned in Spaniel Hunting Tests will be designated with a "U" to differentiate the title from those earned in Retriever Hunting Tests (example: JHU). Poodle clubs with documented experience in upland hunting activities can apply to become licensed to hold Spaniel Hunting Tests for tests held after the effective date of this recommendation.

This is effective with the Spaniel Hunting Test held in conjunction with the PCA National Specialty in April 2017.

Junior Showmanship Regulations Minimum Age

The Board considered a proposal to amend the Regulations for Junior Showmanship, Section 5, to reduce the minimum age to 8-years old. There was no interest in pursuing this proposal.

National Juniors Organization

Mari-Beth O'Neill, Vice President, Sport Services, reported on research that had been done on the Junior Showmanship programs conducted by other registries.

Following a motion by Dr. Garvin, seconded by Dr. Battaglia, it was VOTED (unanimously; absent: Ms. McAteer) to direct staff to develop the National Juniors organization, incorporating the best practices utilized by other Juniors' organizations around the world. There were to be regular updates on progress made in this area.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was an Executive Session to discuss sensitive business matters. Nothing was reported out of this session.

Budget Discussion

There was a discussion on the 2017 Budget. The Board reviewed with staff a number of items for budget consideration in 2017. Areas of discussion included Club Development, public relations, and long term support for canine reproduction. Mr. Wooding spoke to the need to strengthen our Government Relations efforts while Mr. Kalter discussed the need for AKC to grow the public's demand for the purebred dog, recommending we consider assigning a senior executive ownership of this task.

Group Realignment

There was a discussion on the renewed interest in Group Realignment. Following a motion by Mr. Kalter, seconded by Mr. Feeney, it was VOTED (unanimously; absent: Ms. McAteer) to appoint a committee to study and to make recommendations with regard to revising the present Variety Group structure at shows. The Committee is to be chaired by Dr. Thomas Davies, who will appoint the rest of the committee. Dr. Davies indicated that initially, the committee members will be Karen Burgess, John Nielsen, and Maggie Strouse.

It was VOTED to adjourn Tuesday, August 9, 2016 at 2:00 pm.

Adjourned

Attest:

James P. Crowley, Executive Secretary

ATTACHMENT A

Changes underlined:

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

A conflict of interest exists when a judge is influenced by any relationship or factor other than the merit of the dogs.

[R] A judge may order any person or dog from the ring. For the purpose of facilitating the judging, judges are required to exclude from the rings in which they are judging all persons except the steward or stewards and the show attendants assigned to the ring and those actually engaged in exhibiting.

When a judge finds it necessary to excuse a person or dog from the ring under the provisions of this section, that judge shall mark the judge's book "excused" and briefly describe the reason for this action.

[R] AKC recognizes you cannot control who enters under you. Consequently, situations may arise that require you to excuse an exhibitor for cause known only to you. The responsibility for entering dogs that are ineligible or that create a conflict of interest is with the exhibitor. Awards won may be cancelled, and exhibitors with repeat violations may receive reprimands or fines for repeat violations.

[P] It is also a conflict of interest for you to handle a dog not owned or co-owned by you or a member of your immediate family (refer to "Handling" section).

It is the responsibility of the AKC to interpret its Rules, Regulations and Policies. Therefore, scenarios not specifically defined within this booklet may be determined to be a conflict of interest and potentially result in the cancellation of awards.

Judges are often singled out for critical observation by the fancy. Therefore, always keep in mind that perfectly innocent actions or statements can be misconstrued. This includes conduct in public forums and social media. Actions that bring embarrassment to the AKC could be subject to disciplinary action to affect one's judging privileges.

Attending Shows If you attend shows in the area **before** events you are to judge, for the benefit of perception, you should not watch the breeds you are scheduled to judge.

Breeding and Exhibiting Judges start in the sport as breeders and exhibitors. It is natural to want to continue these activities after becoming a judge.

Judges who exhibit are frequently a source of complaints, especially if they handle their own dogs.

You should never transfer or lease a dog to someone for the sole purpose of permitting the dog to be exhibited at shows or companion shows where you are officiating, and you should never own or co-own a dog for the sole purpose of handling it.

Exhibiting and Handling [P] Conformation judges and household members (as defined in Chapter 11, Section 13 of the Rules Applying to Dog Shows) **may not exhibit any breed and**

judge on the day of, the three days before and the three days after an assignment within 200 miles of the assignment.

Sweepstake/Futurity judges may not exhibit on day(s) they judge. Sweepstake/Futurity judges will continue to be allowed to exhibit the day before and the day after the event they judge. A multi-day specialty is considered one event, and the restriction will apply for the duration of the event.

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

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

This provision does not apply to the judge of the Four-to-Six Month Competition. Such judges may also exhibit on the day(s) they judge.

You can combine exhibiting and judging without a problem if you are prudent as to how and when you exhibit. If you choose to exhibit, you should **expect to be subject to scrutiny.**

[P] Handling Only handle dogs owned or co-owned by you or a member of your immediate family. It is not proper for a judge to own or co-own a dog solely for the purpose of handling the dog. This policy applies to all members of the judge's household.

[P] Handling/Presentation Classes – No entry shall be made at any conformation show under a judge of any dog or owner for which said judge has provided handling and presentation instructions in either conformation or obedience training classes. This restriction will apply within one year prior to the date of the show.

[P] If you use the services of an agent, instruct the agent that he/she, any member of the agent's household, or any handling associate of the agent may not exhibit dogs under you or any member of your household while in your employ and for at least four months after working for you. **In addition, you or a member of your household must not knowingly use the services of an agent, any member of the agent's household, or any handling associate of the agent to handle your dog(s) for at least four months after the agent has exhibited under you.** This policy applies to all levels of competition.

A judge/agent conflict cannot be circumvented by having an otherwise eligible individual exhibit the dog in the class under the judge with whom the conflict exists.

Social Functions It is proper to attend a function given by the host club. You have the option of attending club dinners and other social functions where exhibitors will be present. Take care to avoid even the appearance of impropriety with any fancier who might appear in your ring. You may occasionally find that you will have to tactfully change the subject or excuse yourself from a conversation that involves breeds or exhibitors whom you are likely to judge.

Junior Showmanship judges may not attend any club function if they are scheduled to judge Junior Showmanship classes and exhibit dogs on the same day.

Occupational and Household Eligibility Requirements

[R] Persons involved in occupations referenced in Chapter 7, Section 1 of the **Rules** will not be approved to judge while engaged in such activities.

[P] The Conflict of Interest Policy (See An AKC Approved Judge, **page 1**) addresses the association with other registries and/or event giving organizations deemed to be in competition with AKC.

ACCEPTING ASSIGNMENTS

[P] Do not promote assignments where you are judging.

[P] Do not accept assignments for a breed prior to receipt of notification from the Judging Operations Department that application for such breed has been approved, and that you are now eligible to accept assignments.

Invitations to Judge Require all clubs to send you written invitations and contracts for assignments. All requests and contracts should clearly specify the breeds and/or groups you are being asked to judge as well as financial details. Carry your copy of the original contract to the show. Promptly acknowledge all invitations in writing, and keep accurate records of assignments you accept.

Avoid Conflicts You should make every effort to avoid judging conflicts. It is your responsibility to acknowledge judging invitations promptly. Careful record keeping and prompt written response to invitations helps eliminate unnecessary confusion and conflict for both judges and show-giving clubs.

[P] You will not be approved to judge the same breed, Group or Best in Show at events within 30 days and 200 straight-line miles of each other. This conflict Policy does not apply to special attractions.

[P] **Effective January 1, 2017;** Judges may not judge the same NOHS group or NOHS BIS at multiple events held within the same weekend, circuit or cluster; nor will they be approved to judge a breed, the NOHS variety Group that includes that breed, and NOHS Best in Show at the same show.

Except in a hardship case, a judge will not be approved to judge a breed, the Variety Group that includes that breed, and Best in Show at the same show.

FITNESS TO JUDGE/ILLNESS

Illness Judges are expected to be physically fit and capable of completing their contracted assignment. If you learn that you will not be able to fulfill an assignment because of illness or other serious occurrence, immediately notify the Show Secretary, Superintendent and the Show Chairperson by telephone, overnight letter, text, e-mail or fax.

Always travel with contact information. If you are delayed en route to a show, immediately make every effort to contact the Show Chairperson, Show Secretary and Superintendent.

[P] If you become ill while judging, and it becomes necessary to find a replacement, you will not be allowed to continue your assignment later in the day.

BEFORE ENTERING THE RING

Be on Time Allow at least one half hour to report to the Superintendent or Show Secretary to check in, obtain your judge's badge and pick up your judge's book, if it is not delivered to the ring. The Superintendent will usually deliver the ribbons and other materials necessary to start judging.

[P] **Observations** Allow extra time to find the Field Representative **in attendance at the show regardless of your status in breeds.** You should always check-in to review any observations that may be required, discuss any recent updates or changes to policies and/or procedures, and/or discuss any special circumstances you may anticipate.

You remain a permit judge until you receive a letter from Judging Operations granting you regular status.

JUDGING THE DOGS

Late Arrivals It is your decision whether to allow a late arrival into the ring. In contrast to a change of handler, a late arrival may be allowed to enter the ring until the judge's book has been marked. However, many judges establish the cut-off point when all dogs have been individually examined and gaited. If an entry from a class that was entirely absent arrives late, it is your decision whether or not to judge the dog providing it is judged before its Winners Class.

If an entry or entries from a breed that was absent in its entirety arrive late, it is your decision whether or not to judge the breed. Every effort should be made to judge previously absent breeds within the same block, preferably at the end. Judging of the breed outside of its originally scheduled time-block may impact other exhibitors and the event as a whole by causing breeds to be judged later than expected.

[P] **Individual Examination of Dogs** Judges are expected to examine and gait every dog in the same objective, breed-specific manner even if a poor specimen may clearly be out of the ribbons. This includes breeds that according to their breed standard traditionally have been cropped and/or docked and dogs entered which may have deviations from the breed standard.

Approach dogs calmly. Examine each with a gentle but sure touch and no sudden, surprising moves.

Judges are permitted to address those entries that may be obviously lame or contain obvious standard disqualifications or conditions of class as provided in Chapter 14, Section 6 of the **Rules**. These Matters can be addressed in the manner in which the judge deems appropriate as long as it is in accordance with the Rules, Regulations and Policies of the American Kennel Club. Otherwise, awards cannot be withheld from an entry or an entry may not be excused from the ring for reasons of merit or not complying with a breed standard unless it has been individually examined and gaited first. Consideration must be given to the totality of the attributes and deviations of standard for each entry prior to passing judgment upon them. The only permissible variances are with obvious breed disqualifications, conditions of class and lameness.

Examine table breeds on the table only. To re-examine them, have them put back on the table. The current list of table breeds can be found on the AKC website.

A thorough and complete breed-specific examination does not include excessive touching beyond feeling for breed-specific characteristics and specific points of reference. Touch and examine only as much as is necessary to complete a thorough, breed-specific examination, but touch no more.

Always judge dogs solely **on the basis of their condition and as they are presented in the ring on the day of the show**. Give no consideration to what a dog's quality or condition could be at some future time. Avoid excessive rearranging of a dog's coat, whistling, gesturing or baiting. However, do not hesitate to feel for breed-specific traits or reference points to determine actual structure especially beneath a highly groomed coat.

When judging the Group or Best in Show, a cursory examination of dogs judged by you earlier in the day is acceptable. However, the Group or Best in Show examination must include checking testicles and breed disqualifications, as well as moving the dogs individually.

Evaluating a Dog's Mouth Many exhibitors prefer to open their dog's mouth themselves for examination. It is recommended that all judges ask the exhibitor to display the bite/teeth/open the mouth as appropriate for that breed. However, you have the authority to personally open the dog's mouth.

Study of the approved breed standard will define the proper oral exam for that breed. A necessary component of completing a breed specific examination is to conduct the appropriate oral exam when evaluating the dog's mouth.

Do not forget your personal safety. All dogs are not handled by experienced exhibitors.

- Do not kneel in front of a dog.
- Do not hover over a dog.
- Do not bend over face to face with a dog.
- Do not bend over cheek to cheek with a dog.
- Do not take the lead from a handler.

Practice performing as much of the examination as possible from the side without making your face vulnerable.

Use of Ramps: A Clarification

Background The appropriate place to individually examine dogs during breed judging is designated by each parent club and AKC does not pre-empt their authority in this regard.

Table Breeds Designated table breeds must be examined on an examination table. If re-examination is necessary for a table breed, they must be placed back on the table. For re-examination, a maximum of two dogs may be placed on the table at the same time. Special care should be taken in the positioning of the table. If reverting from table to non-table breeds, ensure the table is moved out of the way.

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

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

All Other Breeds Breeds not designated as either table or ramp breeds may only be examined on the ground.

Emergencies In emergency situations, with the approval of the Show Chair, breeds customarily examined on the ground may be examined on a ramp, not on a table. An emergency is defined as a temporary condition that arose immediately prior to or at a dog show. Convalescence from a medical procedure, illness and recuperation from injuries are examples of conditions that are not emergencies. The emergency use of a ramp may be allowed on a day and may be extended to include a cluster as well as judging either a group and/or Best In Show.

(In all but emergency situations, the exhibitor has no recourse. In an emergency situation, where use of a ramp is not indicated in the premium list, an exhibitor has the option of withdrawing their entry and receiving a refund).

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

RULES DISMISSALS

[R] Lameness, Excusal: It is the judge's sole responsibility to determine lameness. It is not subject to protest. The judge shall excuse a lame dog from the ring, withhold awards from that dog and mark the judge's book "excused, lame." (Rules, Chapter 11, Section 8b)

STANDARD DISMISSALS

Measuring Procedure You are responsible for setting the wicket. The wicket has legs of adjustable height marked in half-inch increments. After setting the wicket, verify the height with a metal tape measure (which you should always carry when judging measurable breeds) and show the measurement to the exhibitor. Once verified by the judge and the exhibitor, the wicket should not be checked again unless it is reset. Under no circumstances is the ring steward to set or verify the setting of a wicket.

Dogs normally examined on a table must be measured on a table. Dogs normally examined on the ground must be measured on the ground. You should extend to the exhibitor the choice of where a dog is measured if it is an optional breed (table, ground and/or ramp). At outdoor shows the Superintendent will provide a board for measuring breeds not examined on a table. If not available, an exhibit may be measured on a flat, level surface outside the ring.

The handler is to set the dog to the judge's specification. **At no time should you try to set the dog or hold the dog's head.** Feel for the measuring point (the highest point of the withers or shoulder blades) only, and do not otherwise touch the dog. Slide the wicket forward from the rear of the dog to your fingers marking the measuring point and place the wicket "down."

"From the rear" is not be interpreted that the hips of the dog must pass between the legs of the wicket. Its intent is "not from the front" as it is appropriate to pass the wicket from the rear, up and over the hips, and then lower to the measuring point to account for breeds with wider hindquarters and/or happy tails.

If both legs on the wicket touch the floor or table at the same time without touching the dog, the dog measures under the height set. If one or both of the legs of the wicket do not touch the floor or table, the dog measures over the height set. If both of the legs of the wicket touch the table or floor and the measuring point on the dog, the dog measures at the height set.

If you measure a dog "out," you should clearly and concisely communicate this to the exhibitor. If the dog's height is not in accord with the conditions of the class, the judge should declare the dog ineligible for the class and mark the judge's book "Measured out: ineligible." If the dog "measures out" under the breed standard's height disqualification, mark the judge's book "**disqualified—measured out—undersize (or oversize),**" depending on height disqualification. If the dog "measures in" under the breed

standard's height disqualification or conditions of the class, mark the judge's book "measured in."

[R] A dog can only be measured one time at an event; therefore it is essential that you mark the judge's book "measured in" when you have measured a dog in.

JUDGE'S CHECKLIST

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

- If you are approved for less than one complete group on regular status, you should expect to be observed and should check in with the Field Representative and request an observation (Policy).
- Mark all absentees in each class in the book, including dogs entered for Best of Breed/Variety Competition.
- Take the exhibits as a class, or individually, around the ring.
- Examine each dog in approximately the same systematic manner. Know and utilize the breed Standard effective on the date of judging.
- Always make an individual examination of each dog for lameness (Rule).
- Be systematic in your ring procedure, but do not be afraid to make adjustments when conditions warrant it.
- Make all your instructions to exhibitors absolutely clear.
- Line up the dogs first, second, third, and fourth in front of the markers before marking the judge's book or handing out the ribbons.
- As a judge, only you may mark your judge's book and hand out ribbons and prizes.
- Ribbons and prizes must be presented only in the ring. If an exhibitor leaves the ring before ribbons are presented, have the steward call the exhibitor back into the ring. Make a note in the judge's book pertaining to the incident if the exhibitor does not return.
- In judging Winners, always double-check armbands. After Winners ribbon has been awarded, call into the ring the dog that placed second to the dog awarded Winners, and judge Reserve as a separate class.
- In the Best of Breed/Variety competition, award Best of Breed, Best of Winners (if appropriate), Best of Opposite Sex, Select Dog, and Select Bitch.
- Do not forget to sign the cover of the judge's book to certify that judging has been completed in accordance with the requirements. Initial all notations you made in the book.

All Judges may be observed for procedure. If you have procedural questions, feel free to ask the AKC Field Representative (Policy).