

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
March 11-12, 2014

The Board convened on Tuesday, March 11, 2014 at 2:30 p.m. All Directors were present. Also present were the Executive Secretary, and the Assistant Executive Secretary. The February 2014 Board minutes, copies of which were made available to all Directors, were discussed. It was agreed to reflect that the Board decision to grant the appeal to Bo Bengtson of a denial of additional breeds was not unanimous, but approved by a vote of 11 affirmative, one opposed, and one absent.

Upon a motion by Mr. Arnold, seconded by Dr. Battaglia, the minutes amended were approved.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was an EXECUTIVE SESSION to discuss personnel and sensitive business matters. It was reported out of this session that the following Board officers were elected:

Alan Kalter, Chairman
Dr. J. Charles Garvin, Vice Chairman

It was also reported that the following Executive Officers were elected:

Dennis B. Sprung, President and CEO
Peter Farnsworth, Chief Financial Officer
James P. Crowley, Executive Secretary

In addition, it was also reported that Daryl Hendricks, the Chief Operating Officer, had resigned, effective March 11, 2014. On an interim basis his direct subordinates will report to the President.

Location of AKC

There was discussion on determining the location(s) of The American Kennel Club after 2019, when the leases for the New York and North Carolina facilities will expire. The Chair expressed his desire to appoint a committee to address this issue. Following a motion by Dr. Garvin, seconded by Dr. Battaglia, it was VOTED (unanimously) to appoint a Real Estate Operations Committee to be chaired by Ron Menaker. Mr. Menaker is to determine who is to serve on the committee. The committee is to consider all possible alternatives, including the options of one or multiple locations, and where such facility or facilities should be located.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Board Action Items

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

Events and Entries Update

Mr. Sprung gave a status report on entries and events for January 2014. Entries were up by 9.07% and Events were up by 12.67% compared to same period in 2013.

LEGAL REPORT

Margaret Poindexter, General Counsel, participated in this portion of the meeting. She presented a status report on pending litigation and other activities for the months of January and February 2014.

CONSENT

Following discussion, there was a motion by Dr. Battaglia, seconded by Dr. Garvin, and it was VOTED unanimously to approve the following Consent Items:

Delegates Approved

Delene Henry-Vota, Scituate, RI
To represent Rhode Island Kennel Club

Darleen Knapp, Cleves, OH
To represent Northern Kentucky Kennel Club

Becky A. Luft, San Jose, CA
To represent Santa Clara Dog Training Club

Dr. Sharon Manning, Stilwell, KS
To represent Harrier Club of America

Joan Urban, Corpus Christi, TX
To represent Corpus Christi Kennel Club

Saluki Club of America Request for Age Change in Lure Coursing Veteran Stake

The Board VOTED to amend the *Regulations for Lure Coursing Tests and Trials*, Chapter VIII, Section 4, to modify the age that Salukis run in the Veteran stake in a lure coursing trial from 6 to 7 years of age.

CONFORMATION

Alan Slay, AKC Staff, participated in this portion of the meeting. Bri Tesarz and Tim Thomas, AKC Staff participated by telephone conference.

Proposed Amendments to the Rules Applying to Dog Shows

There was discussion on proposed amendments to Chapter 7, Sections 1, 3, and 10, and Chapters 11, Section 13 of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows*. These changes were proposed by the Delegates Dog Show Rules Committees. Both the AKC Event Operations and Judging Operations Staff as well as the Board had concerns with these proposed amendments. This will be considered further at the April 2014 Board meeting.

Meeting adjourned on Tuesday March 11, 2014 at 5:40 pm

Meeting reconvened on Wednesday March 12, 2014 at 8:00 am.

All Directors were present as were the Executive Secretary, and the Assistant Executive Secretary.

There was an EXECUTIVE SESSION with nothing reported out of this session.

CONFORMATION - cont'd

The Board continued its discussion of items in the Conformation area. Alan Slay, AKC Staff was present for this portion of the meeting. Doug Ljungren, Tim Thomas, and Bri Tesarz participated by telephone conference.

AKC National Owner-Handled Series

Based on a request from the Board, the Event Operations Staff presented alternative methods to increase the number of National Owner-Handled Series (NOHS) special attractions being offered at events. The goal is to increase the number of entries in conformation events by providing a competition that is desired by the owner-handled exhibitors, embraced by the clubs, respected by the judges and supported by the superintendents.

The Board discussed Special Attractions with Competition (National Owner-Handled Series (NOHS), Best Bred-By Exhibitor, Best Veteran, Best Puppy). Staff shared data that showed the National Owner-Handled Series does increase entries where it was offered while there was no impact on entries when Best Puppy, and Best Bred-by-Exhibitor competition was available as a special attraction at a show.

The Board considered making the NOHS the primary Special Attraction with Competition that a club may offer. If a club wishes to offer one Special Attraction with competition it must offer the NOHS. If a club chooses to offer two Special Attractions with Competition then it may offer NOHS and choose one other (Best Bred-By Exhibitor, Best Veteran, Best Puppy). This will be considered further at the April 2014 Board meeting.

Four-Six Month Beginner Puppy

There was also discussion on the success of the Four-Six Month Beginner Puppy Class in attracting new exhibitors to conformation (50% of the exhibitors are new and 68% of the dogs continue on to the regular classes.)

STRATEGIC PLANNING

There was a report on Strategic Planning. Mark Dunn, AKC Staff was present for this portion of the meeting. Doug Ljungren, AKC Staff participated by telephone conference.

The discussion covered a number of initiatives including a program to recognize and support all breeders who perform health testing recommended by the breed's Parent Club and to help the American public find responsible breeders. This program would include making this health information available to everyone at no charge, along with recognizing those who complete a course developed by AKC.

There was also a discussion on the development of new sports, either by AKC or by working with existing organizations involved in those activities.

Coursing Ability Test

In December 2012, the Board lowered the minimum age for dogs participating in the CAT (Coursing Aptitude Test) to six months from twelve months. This action was based upon a recommendation from the Delegate Herding, Earthdog, and Coursing Events Committee. At its March 2014 meeting, the HEC Committee voted to recommend that the twelve-month age restriction be reinstated. Following a motion by Mr. Gladstone, seconded by Mr. Arnold, it was VOTED (unanimously) to adopt the new recommendation of the HEC committee, and to return eligibility for entry to twelve months, effective immediately.

JUDGING AND DELEGATE ELIGIBILITY

Margaret Poindexter, AKC Staff was present for this portion of the meeting. Tim Thomas, AKC Staff, participated by telephone conference.

The Board considered the status of Bo Bengtson as both a judge and a Delegate. *The Rules Applying to Dog Shows* prohibit the publisher of a commercial dog magazine from becoming or remaining a judge. The AKC Bylaws have the same prohibition with regards to an individual being eligible to become or remain a Delegate. AKC was advised by Mr. Bengtson's attorney that he purchased *Sighthound Review* magazine in December 2013.

Following a motion by Ms. Cruz, seconded by Mr. Ashby, it was VOTED (unanimously) to determine that Mr. Bengtson was ineligible to remain a Delegate. This determination was subject to appeal by the American Whippet Club. If there is an appeal, Mr. Bengtson would remain seated as a Delegate until it was heard.

Following a motion by Ms. Cruz, seconded by Dr. Garvin, it was VOTED (unanimously) to remove Mr. Bengtson's judging approval based on the fact that he became occupationally ineligible to judge when he purchased the magazine in December 2013.

Following a motion by Ms. Cruz, seconded by Dr. Battaglia, it was VOTED (affirmative: Ms. Cruz, Dr. Battaglia, Dr. Garvin, Mr. Kalter, Mr. Feeney, Mr. Amen, Mr. Dok, Mr. Menaker, Mr. Wooding; opposed: Mr. Gladstone, Mr. Powers, Mr. Arnold, Mr. Ashby) to rescind the judging approval for the sixteen breeds granted Mr. Bengtson on appeal in February 2013, when he was occupationally ineligible to judge.

MARKETING

There was a presentation on new business initiatives given by Chris Walker, AKC Staff. The discussion covered the AKC Database, akc.org, Woofipedia as well as new products and services that are in development.

Mr. Wooding, Mr. Feeney, Dr. Garvin, and Dr. Battaglia were not present for the remainder of the meeting.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Margaret Poindexter was present for this portion of the Meeting.

Canine Legislative Position Statement on Service/Assistance Dogs

The Board reviewed a Staff recommendation to expand the canine legislation policy position statement on *The Use of Dogs for Assistance and Service*. Following discussion, there was a motion by Mr. Arnold, seconded by Mr. Menaker, and it was VOTED (unanimously; absent: Dr. Garvin, Dr. Battaglia, Mr. Feeney and Mr. Wooding) to update the canine legislation policy position statement on *The Use of Dogs for Assistance and Service* with the following language. (New language is underlined.)

The American Kennel Club strongly supports the training and use of dogs by humans, whose lives are enriched by dogs' performing essential services. Dogs provide a wide variety of valuable services including: handicapped assistance dogs; drug, bomb, and arson detection dogs; and tracking dogs to locate missing persons and fugitives. The AKC opposes those who seek to define the assistance and service that dogs provide to humans as exploitative. The AKC encourages the continuation and further development of the use of dogs for these and similar purposes.

The AKC supports the right of persons who require a dog to perform essential services to be permitted to keep a dog without regard to the dog's size, phenotype or breed.

Canine Legislative Position Statement on Misuse of Service Dogs

The Board reviewed a Staff recommendation to create a new canine legislation policy position statement on The Misuse of Service Dogs. Following discussion, there was a motion by Mr. Arnold, seconded by Mr. Dok, and it was VOTED (unanimously; absent Dr. Garvin, Dr. Battaglia, Mr. Feeney and Mr. Wooding) to approve the following new position statement:

Misuse of Service Dogs

Service dogs are defined as those that are individually trained to do work or perform tasks for people with disabilities. The AKC strongly supports public accommodations that allow individuals with disabilities to use service dogs.

The AKC strongly condemns characterizing dogs as service animals when they are not, or attempting to benefit from a dog's service dog status when the individual using the dog is not a person with a disability.

Canine Legislative Position Statement on Breeding Restrictions and Regulations

The Board reviewed a Staff recommendation to expand the current AKC Canine Legislation Position Statement on *Breeding Restrictions and Regulations* in order to clarify AKC's position on the regulation of breeders. Government Relations Staff recommends updating the canine legislation policy position statement on Breeder Restrictions as follows. (New language is underlined.) This will be considered further at the April 2014 meeting.

Breeding Regulations and Restrictions

The American Kennel Club strongly supports and actively promotes a wide range of programs to educate the public about responsible breeding practices and the responsibilities of dog ownership. AKC supports reasonable and enforceable laws that protect the welfare and health of dogs and do not restrict the rights of breeders and owners who meet their responsibilities.

The AKC opposes the concept of breeding permits, breeding bans or mandatory spay/neuter of purebred dogs, specifically, those based on the number of dogs owned or maintained.

AKC expects responsible dog owners and breeders to know, understand and obey laws that apply to them.

Foundation Stock Service Open Show Regulations

The Board reviewed a Staff proposal to make two changes to the Foundations Stock Service Open Show Regulations.

- 1) Allow an individual who would be defined as a professional handler to be eligible to exhibit a dog in an FSS Open Show if the individual is an owner of record.
- 2) Revise the awarding of points in the Group of an Open Show to be consistent with that of Best in Miscellaneous Class.

This will be discussed further at the April meeting.

Berger Picard Eligibility to Compete in the Herding Group

The Board reviewed a request from the Berger Picard Club of America to 1) approve the breed standard submitted as the official breed standard for the Berger Picard breed, and 2) move the Berger Picard from the Foundation Stock Service into the Stud Book of the American Kennel Club on June 1, 2015. This will be discussed further at the April meeting.

Parent Club Approval for Kooikerhondje in Miscellaneous Class

There was a discussion on selecting the official Parent Club for the Kooikerhondje. This will be considered further at the April 2014 meeting.

Foundation Stock Service – Australian Kelpie

The Board was advised that the Foundation Stock Service (FSS) Committee approved a petition for the Australian Kelpie to be admitted into the FSS program. There was no objection

COMPLIANCE

Margaret Poindexter, AKC Staff, participated in this section of the meeting.

The following AKC Management actions were reported:

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

Cancellation of Awards Appeal– Jorge and Susie Olivera

The Event Operations Department cancelled a number of awards given to dogs regularly shown by Jorge and Suzie Olivera, professional handlers. The judge was Patricia Nemirovsky de Alsina. Mrs. Nemirovsky de Alsina is the mother of an employee of the Oliveras, who resides on their property. The judge has stayed at the Oliveras residence and the Oliveras hosted a birthday party there two weeks before the weekend where the dogs were shown to her. The Oliveras requested that the AKC Board consider an appeal to the AKC staff action. There was no motion to consider such an appeal.

Adjourned 3:00 p.m.

Attest:

James P. Crowley, Executive Secretary