

BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
April 22-23, 2013

The Board convened on Monday, April 22, 2013 at 8:03 a.m. All Directors were present, as were the Executive Secretary, the Chief Operating Officer, and the Assistant Executive Secretary.

Upon a motion by Ms. Scully, seconded by Dr. Battaglia, the March 2013 Board minutes, copies of which were made available to all Directors, were unanimously adopted.

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**  
**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

There was an EXECUTIVE SESSION to discuss sensitive business matters. Nothing was reported out of this session.

**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 an event status report on the first two months of 2013. Entries were down by 0.05% and Events were down by 0.14% compared to the first two months of 2012.

**Social Media**

Christopher Walker, Vice President Social Media and Communications and Jillian Cheli, Staff, presented an update on growth including significant increase in fans, engagement and audience.

**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 month of March 2013.

**EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT**  
**AKC Code of Sportsmanship**

Staff was asked to look into modifying the current AKC Code of Sportsmanship so that it could be more relevant to today's participants in the Sport. Staff recommended that the Code of Sportsmanship, which outlines timeless principles that should govern the Sport, remain unchanged, but that Staff should continue to update the Discipline Guidelines as needed, as new infractions come to light or when it is determined that penalties should be changed. The Board accepted this recommendation.

**CONSENT**

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

**Delegates For Approval**

Robert P. Bergman, Centennial, CO  
To represent Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club of America

Virginia Denninger, Rochester, NY  
To represent Genesee Valley Kennel Club

Diane D. Fyfe, Pikeville, TN  
To represent East Tennessee Retriever Club

Judy A. Hart, Knoxville, TN  
To represent Tennessee Valley Kennel Club

C. Edward Lane, Newton, NC  
To represent Greater Hickory Kennel Club

Dr. William R. Newman, Bedford, PA  
To represent Golden Gate Kennel Club

Elizabeth Tilley-Poole, Dunnellon, FL  
To represent Pekingese Club of America

### **Resolution**

The Board adopted the following Resolution:

WHEREAS, **Dr. Robert D. Smith** was first elected a Director of The American Kennel Club on March twelfth, nineteen hundred and ninety-seven, serving until March twelfth, two thousand and two; and,

WHEREAS, during his first Board service, he held position on a number of Board Committees and made major contributions to the organization and the Sport, those committees including Business and Planning, Judges Review, Alternate Revenue Territoriality, the Future Direction of Dog Shows, and the Appeals Committee, which he chaired; and,

WHEREAS, he was again elected to the Board on March tenth, two thousand and nine, serving until March twelfth, two thousand and thirteen; and,

WHEREAS, during his second period of Board service he chaired the Board Audit Committee and at different times served as Board Liaisons to the following Delegate Committees: All-Breed Clubs, Delegate Advocacy and Advancement, Dog Show Rules, Field Trial and Hunting Test Events ; and,

WHEREAS, he served as Board Vice Chairman from March thirteenth two thousand and twelve until March twelfth, two thousand and thirteen; and,

WHEREAS, during two thousand and twelve and two thousand and thirteen he chaired an Ad Hoc Committee, which made recommendations that led to major modifications to The American Kennel Club's Judging Approval procedures; and,

WHEREAS, his long-time experience as a breeder, club official, exhibitor, and All-Breed judge provided vital knowledge and expertise to The American Kennel Club Board as it addressed numerous issues impacting the Sport; and,

WHEREAS, we are ever mindful of the great contributions he has made and continues to make to The American Kennel Club and to the Sport of Purebred Dogs; and,

WHEREAS, we shall ever cherish our association with this distinguished Sportsman, educator, and friend;

NOW THEREFORE, be it RESOLVED, the Board of Directors of The American Kennel Club extend their most sincere best wishes for the years ahead and their deep appreciation for his many years of dedicated service to the American Kennel Club.

**Ms. Mindy Dean (Request for Reinstatement)**

The Board VOTED to approve the reinstatement of Ms. Mindy Dean's AKC privileges, pending the completion of her reinstatement inspection. On March 16, 2006, Ms. Dean was suspended from all AKC privileges for failure to comply with the rules and regulations for record keeping and identification and for failure to complete a proper chain of title on an AKC registered or registrable dog.

**Rules Applying to Dog Shows Chapter 4, Section 2 - Electronic Premium Lists**

The Board VOTED to amend the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* Chapter 4, Sections 2, as follows:

SECTION 2. Premium list and entry forms must be printed and sent to prospective exhibitors at least FIVE WEEKS prior to the closing date for entries of show. Four copies of the premium list must be sent to The American Kennel Club at time of distribution.

This will be read at the June Delegate meeting for a vote in September.

**Rules Applying to Dog Shows Chapter 5, Section 2 - Dates on Ribbons**

The Board VOTED to amend the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* Chapter 4, Sections 2 as follows:

SECTION 2. Each ribbon or rosette, except those used at sanctioned A matches, shall be at least 2 inches wide, and approximately 8 inches long; and bear on its face a facsimile of the seal of The American Kennel Club, the name of the prize, and the name of the show giving club. Ribbons or rosettes for Best in Show, Reserve Best in Show and Group placements shall include the numerals of year, date of show, and name of city or town where show is given.

This will be read at the June Delegate meeting for a vote in September.

**Open Show Regulation Changes**

The Board VOTED to change the Open Show regulations to make Open Show competition only available for FSS breed clubs. This includes those FSS breeds eligible to compete in the Miscellaneous Class. This will be effective for competition on or after January 1, 2014. In recognition of this change, the competition will be renamed "FSS Open Show."

**AKC Rally® National Championship**

The Board VOTED to create an AKC Rally® National Championship. The first AKC Rally® National Championship will be held in the spring of 2014 in conjunction with the National Obedience Championship and the National Agility Championship.

**Companion Event Application Fees**

The Board VOTED to establish a minimum event application fee of \$25 for Rally, stand-alone obedience and agility. For Rally trials with over 30 entries, (based on the previous year's corresponding trial), the application fee will be lowered from \$100 to \$50. This makes Rally consistent with obedience.

**Tracking Event Application Fee**

The Board VOTED to establish an application fee of \$25 for Tracking events, effective January 1, 2014.

**Labrador and Golden Retrievers Eligible to Participate in the Spaniel (Upland) Hunting Tests**

The Board VOTED to permit the Labrador Retriever and the Golden Retriever to participate in the Spaniel (Upland) Hunting Test program. Spaniel Clubs have the option of giving preference to Spaniel entries, only taking entries for Retrievers if the limit had not been reached.

**Beagle Two Couple Pack - Spayed and Neutered Dogs May Participate**

The Board VOTED to amend *Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedures for Beagle Field Trials - General Procedures Governing Beagle Field Trials & Two Couple Pack Hunting Tests - Procedure 2*, to allow spayed and neutered Beagles to participate in Beagle Two Couple Pack Hunting Tests, This is effective June 1, 2013.

**AKC to Award Wilderness Search and Rescue Dog Titles**

The Board VOTED to award titles to Wilderness Search and Rescue Dogs. To earn this title a dog must have participated in a minimum of five actual wilderness SAR efforts and have been certified by an AKC recognized SAR certification organization. The title awarded will be Search and Rescue–Wilderness (SAR–W). This program complements the Urban Search and Rescue dog title announced on September 11, 2012. Upon verification, the title would be placed on the dog's record and will appear on a dog's AKC pedigree. The title is open to all purebred or mixed-breed dogs that are properly registered or listed with the AKC. There is a nominal processing fee for the recording of the title. Dogs that meet the criteria back to January 1, 2000 are eligible to apply for the title. This program is effective June 1, 2013.

**2014, 2015 & 2016 Board and Delegate Meeting Schedule**

Following a motion by Dr. Battaglia, seconded by Ms. Cruz, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to set the 2014, 2015, and 2016 Board meeting schedules.

Staff was directed to seek input from the Delegate Advocacy and Advancement Committee on whether the March, June, and September Delegate meetings should be held on a Monday or a Tuesday. The December meeting is to be the day before the AKC/Eukanuba National Championship.

The March and September meetings will be held in Newark, New Jersey, with the June meetings in Raleigh, North Carolina and the December meetings in Orlando, Florida.

**Wirehaired Vizsla Eligibility to Compete in the Sporting Group**

Following a motion by Mr. Powers, seconded by Ms. Cruz, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to permit the Wirehaired Vizsla to be eligible to compete in the Sporting Group as of July 2, 2014. The Board approved the breed standard as submitted by the Wirehaired Vizsla Club of America as the official standard for the breed. The breed will be moved from the Foundation Stock Service into the Stud Book of the American Kennel Club on June 2, 2014.

**Parent Club Approval for Russian Toy**

The Board considered the approval of an AKC Parent Club to represent the Russian Toy breed as it seeks AKC Registration. The Russian Toy Dog Club of America and the Russian Toy Club of America were both to be advised that the two organizations had to demonstrate that they were working together so that there would be one National Club representing the breed.

**Rules Applying to Dog Shows Chapter 3, Section 16 - Reserve Best in Show**

Following a motion by Mr. Gladstone, seconded by Dr. Garvin, it was VOTED (Mr. Gladstone, Dr. Garvin, Dr. Battaglia, Dr. Newman, Mr. Kalter, Ms. Scully, Ms. Cruz, Mr. Ashby, Mr. Amen, Mr. Powers, Mr. Wooding, Mr. Arnold; opposed: Mr. Feeney) to add the following italicized statement to Rules Applying to Dog Shows Chapter 3, Section 16 and Rules, Policies and Guidelines for Conformation Dog Show Judges for clarification purposes:

Section 16. A club giving group classes must also give a Best in Show, the winner to be entitled "Best in Show". No entry fee shall be charged but the

group winners must compete. The club or association giving group classes must also give a Reserve Best in Show, the winner to be chosen by the Best in Show judge from among those group class winners remaining in the ring, the winner to be entitled "Reserve Best in Show." No entry fee shall be charged but the remaining group winners must compete.

*The Best in Show judge at an All-Breed show shall first award Reserve Best in Show, followed by Best in Show.*

### **Sanctioned Four-to-Six Month (Beginner Puppy) Competition Regulations Changes**

Following a motion by Mr. Ashby, seconded by Dr. Battaglia, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to amend the Sanctioned Four-to-Six Month (Beginner Puppy) Competition Regulations to allow dogs owned or co-owned by professional handlers to be exhibited, if handled by a non-professional handler in these events. This amendment is effective April 22, 2013.

### **Agility – Providing Flexibility in the "100 Miles Between Events" Rule**

Following a motion by Dr. Garvin, seconded by Mr. Amen, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to allow Agility trials to be held within 100 miles of each other if the club desiring to hold a new trial obtains the written permission of the club holding an established trial on the same dates. The amendment to the Agility Regulations, effective September 1, 2013 are as follows:

#### **Chapter 1**

#### **Section 2. Agility Trials Defined.**

*(The second paragraph in this section)*

A licensed agility trial is a trial at which qualifying scores toward titles are awarded, given by a club or association which has been licensed by the AKC to hold the trial. Any AKC club may be granted permission to hold agility trials provided the club holds the event(s) for which it was originally formed at least once every two years. FSS breeds with AKC approved parent clubs may become licensed to hold agility trials.

*(The fourth paragraph in this section.)*

Agility trials may not be held closer than 100 miles in distance on the same day. except a club or association may be licensed to hold an agility trial within 100 miles of another club or association which has established its licensed trial on the same date only if in each instance it obtains the written permission of the club or association with the established date and submits the written permission along with its trial application. However, there may not be two all-breed agility trials on the same day at the same location.

In the informational booklet entitled "*How to Form an AKC-Accredited Dog Club*":

#### **PART I**

#### **General Information**

*(Fourth paragraph in this section.)*

Local Specialty clubs serve the interest of a single breed on a local level. These clubs serve their breed by holding conformation shows and /or the performance events for which the breed is eligible. Once a Specialty Club becomes licensed for either conformation or performance events, it may also become licensed for obedience trials, agility trials, and tracking tests.

*(Sixth paragraph in this section.)*

Group clubs are open to owners of all breeds from one of the seven groups. Group clubs are eligible to hold shows, obedience trials, agility trials, and performance events open to their particular group

### **Removing the Current Restrictions on AKC Rally**

Following a motion by Ms. Scully, seconded by Dr. Newman, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to allow any AKC club to become licensed to hold Rally, and to permit all clubs licensed for Rally to hold up to twelve trials in a calendar year as a stand-alone event or in conjunction with any sport. This is effective June 1, 2013.

The amendment to the Rally Regulations follow:

#### **Chapter 1**

**Section 1. Application to Hold a Rally Trial.** Any AKC club may be granted permission to hold a rally trial if, in the opinion of the AKC Board of Directors, it is qualified to do so, provided the club holds the event(s) for which it was originally formed at least once every two years.

Clubs meeting the AKC requirements that wish to hold a rally trial must apply on the form provided by the AKC and submit the appropriate application fee. A rally trial is a separate event with a separate event number. The event application and fee must be submitted at least 18 weeks before the closing date for entries to the event. The trial may be held as a separate event or in conjunction with another event. Clubs may hold no more than 12 Rally trials per calendar year.

A rally trial need not include all regular classes, but a club will not be approved to hold Advanced classes unless it holds Novice classes. Nor will it be approved to hold Excellent classes unless it also holds Novice and Advanced classes. A club may offer additional non-regular classes upon AKC approval. If a non-regular class is one that is not defined in these regulations, a clear and complete description of both the eligibility and performance requirements must appear in the premium.

A club may hold two rally trials concurrently or consecutively, at the same site on the same day, or two clubs may hold their rally trials consecutively, at the same site on the same day. If two trials are held consecutively on the same day, the scheduled judging program for both events cannot exceed eight hours of judging time. A club may limit the number of entries in its rally trial. No judge will be assigned to judge for more than eight hours in one day, including any other judging assignments when the rally trial is held in conjunction with other events.

Specialty and group clubs have three options with regard to the breeds that are eligible to enter their trial.

- (1) These clubs may hold a trial exclusively for their own breed(s).
- (2) If entries are limited, these clubs may accept entries of dogs from their own breed(s) first then accept entries from group breeds or all breeds until the entry limit specified in the premium is reached.
- (3) These clubs may hold a trial open to all breeds group breeds.

A rally event open to all breeds may be open to AKC Canine Partners at the option of the host club.

### **Introduction to Rally Stewarding** (first paragraph)

Planning a rally trial involves many months of preparation by a Rally Trial Committee. The tasks are varied, demanding and including, but are not limited to: selecting judges, preparing a premium list, compiling a mailing list, soliciting trophies, preparing or obtaining equipment, making luncheon arrangements, and printing a catalog. One essential element that is the selection and training of stewards. Stewards will be needed who have been specifically trained to assist with rally events. A steward who is not familiar with rally procedures will require time consuming instructions from the judge and can severely slow down the entire judging procedure

### **Drafting - An All-Breed Titling Activity**

There was a discussion on recognizing Drafting Titles. Following a motion by Dr. Garvin, seconded by Dr. Battaglia, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to direct Staff to consult with AKC Parent Clubs with drafting programs regarding the idea of allowing all dogs (purebreds and Canine Partners) to earn AKC-recognized titles in drafting events. Titles earned back to January 2000 will be recognized. All dogs would have to be registered or listed in order for the owner to apply for the title. Once the title is verified, the title is placed on the dog's AKC record. This will be discussed further at the June 2013 meeting.

### **Obedience Jump Heights for the Rottweiler**

The Board considered a request from the American Rottweiler Club to grant an exception to the standard obedience jump height so that Rottweilers would be required to jump at three-quarters of the height at the withers. This is the first breed making this request since the end of the moratorium on these requests and the development of a standard application form.

In considering this request, it was noted that since July 2012, AKC has recognized the Schutzhund titles for the breed. In those events, Rottweilers retrieve a dumbbell and jump over a 39 1/2" solid jump and climb over a 71" A-frame wall from which the dog jumps downward. In making the request to reduce the obedience jumps for the breed the club expressed safety concerns. The breed's standard jump height in obedience is in the 22" to 26" range. The breed is acknowledged as a great working dog, and it is described in the breed standard as having great strength, agility and endurance. The breed standard further describes the breed as an intelligent dog of extreme hardness and adaptability.

Following a motion by Ms. Scully, seconded by Ms. Cruz, it was VOTED (unanimously) to deny the American Rottweiler Club request.

### **MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS**

Mark Dunn, Margaret Poindexter, and Amy Chou, AKC Staff participated in this portion of the meeting. Staff prepared reports to the Board on various Marketing initiatives. Updates were provided on Registration and Canine Partners.

## **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.)**

## **CONFORMATION**

Alan Slay, and Bri Tesarz, AKC Staff, participated in this portion of the meeting via video conference.

### **Better Utilization of Tools**

Staff reviewed with the Board the tools and initiatives currently utilized to reach out to new exhibitors.

### **National Owner Handler Series at National Specialties**

Staff was asked to evaluate the merit of expanding the AKC National Owner Handler Series competition to National Specialties. The Board believes that it should be extended to all AKC events, effective with the start of the next qualification period. This will be considered further at the June meeting. Following discussion, there was agreement that "owner handled" better described this competition.

Following a motion by Ms. Cruz, seconded by Ms. Scully, it was VOTED (unanimously) to change the title of the event to the National Owner Handled Series.

### **Conformation Entry Trends**

Staff gave a report on trends in Conformation. The total number of dogs and households involved in Conformation has decreased over time, while Conformation entries per distinct dog has increased.

### **Board Appeals Committee**

Dr. Newman, the chair of the Board Appeals Committee gave a report.

The committee heard an appeal from Mrs. Julie Felton. Mrs. Felton's original application for eleven breeds (the balance of the Terrier Group) was originally denied. As the result of a request for re-evaluation she was granted five breeds. Mrs. Felton appealed, and it was the decision of the Appeals Committee to grant the eleven breeds requested.

Meeting adjourned on Monday April 22, 2013 at 5:30 pm.

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Meeting reconvened on Tuesday April 23, 2013 at 8:00 am.

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

There was an EXECUTIVE SESSION to discuss the Judging Approval Procedure. The following Board votes were reported out of this session:

- Following a motion by Mr. Ashby, seconded by Mr. Amen, it was VOTED (unanimously) to place a moratorium on any new invitations to apply for additional breeds
- Following a motion by Ms. Scully, seconded by Mr. Gladstone, it was VOTED (unanimously) to mask the identity of all judging applications when considered by the Judging Review Committee.

The subject of Judging Approval will be discussed further at the June 2013 Board meeting.



**FINANCE**

Peter Farnsworth, Chief Financial Officer, participated in this portion of the meeting. He reported on revenues and expenses for March 2013, as well as the performance of AKC's investment funds.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Dr. Battaglia reported on a meeting he attended to discuss ways to continue the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) research-based breeding program for detection dogs. The meeting was attended by scientists, researchers, and government representatives. There will be future meetings to discuss this subject further. Dr. Battaglia will report on sources of funding for this governmental proposal.

It was VOTED to adjourn Tuesday, April 23, 2013 at 1:30 pm.

Adjourned

Attest:

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James P. Crowley, Executive Secretary