

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

April 10 - 11, 2017

The Board convened on Monday, April 10, 2017 at 8:00 a.m. All Directors were present, except for Dr. Battaglia. Dr. Battaglia participated in the entire meeting by telephone conference, but could not vote by Board policy. Also present were the Senior Executive Vice President and General Counsel, the Executive Vice President and Chief Growth Officer, the Assistant Executive Secretary, and the Vice President Sports and Events.

The February 2017 Board minutes, copies of which were made available to all Directors, were discussed. Upon a motion by Dr. Davies, seconded by Ms. Cruz, the February 2017 minutes were unanimously approved; absent Dr. Battaglia.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was an EXECUTIVE SESSION at the beginning of the meeting to discuss sensitive business matters.

It was reported that the following Executive Officers were re-elected:

Dennis B. Sprung, President/CEO
Joseph V. Baffuto, Jr., Chief Financial Officer

It was reported that the following Executive Officer was elected:

Gina M. DiNardo, Executive Secretary

PRESIDENT'S REPORT**Board Action Items**

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 March 2017.

AKC Working Dog Detective Conference

Dr. Battaglia updated the Board on the first AKC Canine Detection Working Dog conference, held on February 28, and March 1, 2017 in Durham, NC. The purpose of this meeting was to bring together the best experts from government and the private sector whose interests, professions and diverse backgrounds could contribute to the many and varied aspects of canine breeding, behavior and genetics that would lead to the development of a better plan for the delivery of more dogs that are suitable for use in the defense and protection of the United States. The conference was attended by over 40 invitees. There was consensus that there is sufficient underlying agreement and support for an effort that involves a government/private sector collaboration that could produce more of the detection and patrol dogs needed for the protection of the United States.

More information about this conference and the Final Conference Report will be made available to AKC Delegates and the public.

Photo Content and Approval Process

The Board was presented with an informational update on the internal processes used by staff for the approval of photo, video and written content. The responsibilities are divided up among staff members who have the required expertise to review the content.

FINANCE

Joseph Baffuto, CFO, presented unaudited financial results for the first quarter ending March 31, 2017. Total revenues for the period were \$17.9 million, which was essentially flat to budget and 8% greater than the prior year. Our Registration revenues and digital advertising were the most successful areas of outperformance in the first quarter. Total operating expenses of \$15.5 million were 10% below budget and 10% above prior year's expenses. Operating income for the quarter of \$2.5 million significantly exceeded the budget for the quarter, but was somewhat below the previous year's comparative period.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Mari-Beth O'Neill, Vice President Sport Services, participated in this portion of the meeting by videoconference.

Acceptance of Foreign Registry

The Board reviewed a request to add the Shiba Club Deutschland to the list of registries accepted from Germany for registration with the American Kennel Club. Following a motion by Mr. Gladstone, seconded by Dr. Davies, it was VOTED (unanimously; absent: Dr. Battaglia) to add the Shiba Club Deutschland to the list of registries accepted from Germany for registration with the American Kennel Club.

AKC/AKC CHF Theriogenology Residency Program 2018-2020

Dr. Diane Brown, AKC Canine Health Foundation CEO, participated in this portion of the meeting by videoconference.

The Board reviewed a recommendation from Sport Services Department and the CHF to continue funding for the AKC/AKC CHF Theriogenology Residency Program for three years, from 2018–2020. AKC and AKC CHF would fund two new residents per year at \$100,000 per resident. AKC would contribute \$170,000 and AKC CHF \$30,000. Depending on the institution selected to receive funding, the residency may be a two- or three-year training program, at the discretion of the institution and at the same funding level no matter the length of program. Additionally, those programs offering parallel training in canine genetics will be prioritized for selection for funding. Following a motion by Mr. Wooding, seconded by Dr. Davies, it was VOTED (unanimously, absent: Dr. Battaglia), to approve the continued funding for the AKC/AKC CHF Theriogenology Residency Program for three years, from 2018–2020, funding two new residents per year at \$100,000 per resident.

Cesky Terrier Proposed Breed Standard Revision

The Board reviewed the proposed changes to the Cesky Terrier Breed Standard as submitted by the Cesky Terrier Club of America. Following a motion by Dr. Garvin, seconded by Mr. Powers, it was VOTED (unanimously; absent Dr. Battaglia), to approve the proposed breed standard for publication on the AKC Secretary's Page for comment. The current breed standard for the Cesky Terrier was approved by the AKC Board on October 18, 2010. The club is specifically wishing to address issues that were not correctly translated from the FCI standard and the deletion of the color brown from the standard.

German Shorthaired Pointer Proposed Breed Standard Revision

The Board reviewed the proposed changes to the German Shorthaired Pointer Breed Standard as submitted by the German Shorthaired Pointer Club of America. The German Shorthaired Pointer Standard was previously revised with an effective date of September 30, 1992. Following a motion by Mr. Gladstone, second by Dr. Davies, it was VOTED (unanimously; absent: Dr. Battaglia), to approve the proposed breed standard for publication on the AKC Secretary's Page for comment.

Should We Have a Methodology for Sending Breeds Back to Miscellaneous?

Based on a request from the Board, the Staff reviewed registration data of dogs and litters as well as involvement in AKC events for new breeds and other low entry breeds to determine if there is a methodology for sending a breed back to the Miscellaneous Class. Based on this review, the Staff does not recommend establishing a program to move breeds back to the Miscellaneous Class. They do recommend including the rare breeds in the prioritization of new programs for the Canine College. Following a motion by Dr. Davies, second by Ms. Biddle, it was VOTED (unanimously; absent: Dr. Battaglia), to follow the staff recommendation.

Reinstatement Procedures

The Board reviewed a request from the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee to revise AKC's process to permit a dog disqualified for attacking to be reinstated over the objection of the judge who made the disqualification.

Currently, when a dog is disqualified for attacking, the judge who made the disqualification must agree before the dog will even be considered for reinstatement. When a judge believes, based upon witnessing the attack, a dog presents a hazard and should not be considered for reinstatement, AKC has always honored and abided by that decision.

The Dog Show Rules Committee does not believe one person should be able to permanently bar a dog from competition, or even from being considered for reinstatement by an AKC Committee. Following a motion from Mr. Gladstone, seconded by Dr. Davies it was VOTED (unanimously; absent: Dr. Battaglia), to consider the matter at this meeting, waiving the usual notice requirements.

Following a motion from Dr. Davies, seconded by Mr. Gladstone, it was VOTED (unanimously; absent: Dr. Battaglia), to maintain the current Board policy on this matter.

New Breed for Foundation Stock Service® - Lapponian Herder

The Board was advised that the Foundation Stock Service (FSS) Committee has approved a petition for the Lapponian Herder to be accepted into the FSS program.

New Breed for Foundation Stock Service® - Porcelaine

The Board was advised that the Foundation Stock Service (FSS) Committee has approved a petition for the Porcelaine to be accepted into the FSS program.

BUSINESS UPDATE

Alexandra Aleskovsky, Executive Vice President and Chief Growth Officer gave the Board a business update as follows.

Revenue

Total Growth Group revenues grew 13% in 2016. Revenues through March 31, 2017 YTD are up \$1MM at \$12.3MM for the Quarter, representing 9% growth versus 2016.

AKC Website

Web traffic is up 35% Q1 year-over-year (YOY) with 5.6 million unique visitors. Marketplace sessions are up 85% YOY. Organic traffic has grown to be the top source of traffic to akc.org, up to 61% from 54%. Social represents the second largest source of total traffic.

Social Media

Total social followers are over 4.5 million. Social Followers are up 14% year over year.

- Facebook fans grew by 13% for a total of 4.1 million and these fans are driving traffic to akc.org.
- Instagram followers grew by 7% from last month and are up 80% YOY.

Digital Advertising

New and additional digital advertisers had been added to the portfolio of companies advertising with AKC including non-endemics (such as Carpet One, Realtor.com). As a result, digital advertising has increased 3 fold in the first quarter vs. last year. Of particular note is that the Digital Advertising Team has been able to solicit contributions from advertisers to AKC affiliates (to the AKC Humane Fund) as part of their overall ad buy.

Marketplace

Total Breeders and Litters have doubled in the last 12 months. 1st Quarter Revenue is up 40% over the prior year. There are 6,600 active Breeders on Marketplace, a growth of 87% Year over Year. Of particular note are consumer inquiries, with over 68,000 inquiries just in March, representing over 100% growth over the same time period last year.

Registration

In the first quarter, both Litter registrations and dog registrations are up by 7% over 2016. Marketing has developed a new registration value proposition with updated messaging and features that is expected to launch in Q3 of 2017.

Events Professional Search

An update was provided on the Events Professional Search which includes requirements of the Core constituents. A comprehensive stakeholders group has been working on the product which will launch with improved set of features in the 3rd Quarter. Uploading and storing Premium Lists and Judging programs is being developed and is expected to launch in the 4th Quarter.

AKC Logo

The Board was asked to review possible new treatments for the AKC logo. Following a motion from Mr. Wooding, seconded by Mr. Carota, it was VOTED (affirmative: Mr. Carota; Mr. Dok; Mr. Feeney; Dr. Garvin; Ms. McAteer; Mr. Menaker, Mr. Powers; Mr. Wooding; opposed: Ms. Cruz; Mr. Gladstone; Dr. Davies; abstained: Ms. Biddle; absent: Dr. Battaglia), to approve enhancements to the logo which consist of a stronger font that is more legible, and the use of a fresher more contemporary blue color.

DELEGATES & CLUBS

The following Delegate credentials are to be published in two issues of the AKC Gazette.

DELEGATES FOR PUBLICATION:

Toby Frisch, Lake Grove, NY
To represent Bichon Frise Club of America

Susan Kissik, Mathews, AL
To represent American Pointer Club

Donna Smiley, Inyokern, CA
To represent Harrier Club of America

A report was provided on requests for AKC Membership

United States Neapolitan Mastiff Club
69 Households
First License Show: October 9, 2004

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

Greenville Kennel Club, Greenville County, SC (1950)

Papillon Club of America (1935)

A report was provided on New Clubs Licensed in February and March:

Boston Terrier Club of Virginia, greater Newport News, VA (including communities north to Ark, VA, no further west than Wakefield, VA)

Eastern Oklahoma Hillbilly Beagle Club (SPO-FT), greater Muskogee, OK,

Great Basin Non-Sporting Club of Utah, greater Salt Lake City, UT.

Great Lakes Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Club, greater Kalamazoo, MI

Mid Ohio Good Ol Boys Beagle Club (SPO-FT), greater Ashland, OH (including communities north to Oberlin, southwest to Fredericktown, east to Wooster, west to Mansfield, OH),

Potomac Staffordshire Bull Terrier Club, greater Baltimore, MD (south to Annapolis, MD, north to Hagerstown, MD, including Wilmington, DE)

Southeast Missouri Herding Club, greater Puxico, MO (including communities north to Fredericktown, south to Blytheville, AR)

Southern Oregon Terrier Association, greater Roseburg, OR (including communities along I-5, from Eugene, OR, south to the CA/OR border, no further east of Jackson, Douglas and Lane Counties)

Spokane Agility Club, greater Spokane, WA (including Coeur de 'Arlene, ID)

COMPLIANCE

Heather McManus, Deputy General Counsel, participated in this portion of the meeting. Wanda Forlines, Director of Compliance, participated by teleconference.

Ms. Monica Monroe

The Board reviewed a request from Ms. Monica Monroe. Ms. Monroe has requested reinstatement of her privileges pursuant to Article XV, Section 7, of the *Charter and Bylaws of The American Kennel Club*. Ms. Monica Monroe is suspended from all AKC privileges for one (1) year and fined \$1,000 due to a charge of neglect at or in connection with an event by an individual. The Staff Event Committee has reviewed her request and recommends that it be denied. Following a motion by Dr. Garvin, seconded by Mr. Powers, it was VOTED (unanimously; absent: Dr. Battaglia), to approve the staff recommendation.

The following AKC Management actions were reported:

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

JUDGING OPERATIONS

Tim Thomas, Director Dog Show Judges and Leslie Fetzer, Education Project Manager, were present for this portion of the meeting by teleconference.

Conformation Judging Statistics

The Board was provided with the list of New Breed (NB) and Additional Breed applicants presented for final approval during the months of January – March, 2017.

There were 19 New Breed judging applicants and 154 Additional Breed judging applicants, for a total of 173 Breed Judging Applicants requesting 941 breeds.

The Board adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Meeting reconvened on Tuesday, April 11, 2017 at 8:10 am.

All Directors were present except for Dr. Battaglia. Dr. Battaglia participated in the entire meeting by telephone conference, but could not vote by Board policy. Also present were the Executive Secretary, the Senior Executive Vice President and General Counsel, the Executive Vice President and Chief Growth Officer, and the Vice President Sports & Events.

AKC Canine College Update

Tim Thomas, Director Dog Show Judges and Leslie Fetzer, Education Project Manager, were present for this portion of the meeting by teleconference.

The Staff provided the Board of Directors with an update on the scheduling of breeds for the breed specific judges' education courses.

CONFORMATION

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.

Sports & Events: 2016 Review - 2017 Initiatives

Doug Ljungren, AKC Vice President Sports and Events, gave a review of 2016 accomplishments in the Sports and Events departments and discussed 2017 initiatives. In 2016, total entries across all sports were up by 37,000. Entries in Performance Events and activity in the CGC program were at all-time record highs. Agility grew with the introduction of the Premier class and the ACT class. The decline in conformation entries was the smallest in 13 years. A modern judges education platform, the Canine College, was launched in September. The Club Development Department was launched in December. Enhancements were made to promote conformation B-matches, including an email blast program to prospective participants that can be customized by the host club. Two new sports were launched – Fast CAT and Farm Dog Certified. Junior Showcase Events were approved in order to promote Junior participation in companion events.

2017 initiatives include the launch of AKC Scent Work, the AKC Trick Dog program, the Achiever Dog pilot program, the conformation Puppy of Achievement pilot program, and the addition of two new classes in Rally. In addition work is underway to email owners at key milestones as their dogs' progress toward titles. This will start with a welcome email the first time a dog is shown. Also the Breeder of Merit program will be tiered to acknowledge long-time breeders that have successfully bred a large number of titled dogs.

Changes to Dogs Counted for Select for Grand Championship Points

The Board reviewed a recommendation to amend Chapter 16, Section 6, of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows*, to modify how Grand Championship points are calculated for Select Dog/Bitch to include that exhibit. Following a motion by Mr. Wooding, seconded by Ms. Biddle, the Board

VOTED (affirmative: Ms. Biddle; Mr. Carota; Ms. Cruz; Dr. Davies; Mr. Dok, Mr. Feeney; Mr. Gladstone; Ms. McAteer; Mr. Menaker; Mr. Powers; Mr. Wooding; opposed: Dr. Garvin; absent: Dr. Battaglia), to approve the change. This will be read at the June Delegates' meeting and voted at the September Delegates' meeting. If approved, the effective date will be November 1, 2017.

Achiever Dog Pilot Program

The Board reviewed a recommendation to implement an AKC Achiever Dog program. Any dog that has been awarded a placement or earned a qualifying score in three different sports would receive an AKC Achiever Dog certificate. The purpose is to encourage owners to participate in a variety of sports, hopefully finding those in which they enjoy and achieve success. The desired result for AKC is to keep owners engaged and increase entries across all sports. The program will be implemented on a pilot basis. During the pilot period, the AKC would issue a certificate that would not be considered an AKC title. At the end of one year, all owners who have received the certificate will be surveyed to determine the program's impact on entries. The future of the program would depend on the results of the survey. This will be discussed further at the May meeting.

Puppy of Achievement (POA) Pilot Program

The Board reviewed a recommendation to create an introductory conformation certificate called Puppy of Achievement (POA) on a pilot basis. A certificate would require a dog to earn 10 POA points from the 4-6 Month Beginner Puppy Competition (BPUP) and/or the regular Puppy classes. The purpose of this new certificate is to encourage exhibitors to compete by providing a realistic goal for puppies while they gain ring experience. During the pilot period the AKC would issue a certificate; it will not be considered an AKC title. At the end of one year, all owners who have received the certificate will be surveyed to determine the success of the program. The future of the program will depend on the results of the survey. This will be discussed further at the May meeting.

Bred-By-Exhibitor Class at FSS Open Shows

The Board reviewed a recommendation to add the Bred-By-Exhibitor (BBE) class to FSS Open Shows. Currently, the classes offered at FSS Open Shows are: 4-6 Month Puppy; 6-9 Month Puppy; 9-12 Month Puppy; and Open. Staff often receives feedback from exhibitors that there is only one class for adult exhibits which limits the number of adult dogs they can enter when multiple dogs are owned by the same exhibitor. By adding the BBE class to FSS Open Shows, exhibitors have the option to enter another adult dog in a class other than Open class. Additionally, this change would bring more consistency between FSS Open Shows and the Miscellaneous Class in the class offerings and allow breeder/owner/exhibitors of these newer breeds to be recognized for their accomplishments and dedication to the breed and sport. This recommendation is a change to Regulations and may be made by a vote of the Board. If approved, this change would become effective July 1, 2017. This will be discussed further at the May meeting.

FSS Open Show Judging Conflict

The Board reviewed a recommendation to create a judging conflict solution between FSS Open Shows and Miscellaneous Class judging so that the same individual is not assigned these classes within 30 days or 100 miles. The recommendation is to create a 30 day or 100 mile judging conflict criteria for FSS Open Shows and events with breed(s) overlap. This recommendation is a change to Regulations and may be made by a vote of the Board. If approved, this change would become effective July 1, 2017. This will be discussed further at the May meeting.

Criteria for Accrediting New Specialty Local Conformation Clubs

The Board reviewed a recommendation to modify the current Board policy pertaining to the accreditation of new local Specialty clubs seeking to become licensed for conformation. Currently, a new local Specialty conformation club must be located more than 100 miles from an existing local Specialty club of the same breed. The criterion is distance based. The recommendation is to change this to membership based. Specifically, the AKC will approve new local Specialty clubs provided two-thirds (67%) of their members of the club are not members of another local Specialty conformation club of the same breed and the new club is not the result of a split from an existing club. The new club cannot be located within the territory of an existing local Specialty club of the same breed. The recommendation shifts the primary accreditation criteria from distance to new members. This will be discussed further at the May meeting.

Breeder of Merit Levels of Recognition

The Board reviewed a recommendation for tiered levels of recognition in the Breeder of Merit (BOM) Program based on titles earned by dogs bred. The purpose for this enhancement is:

- (1) provide an incentive for breeders to encourage their puppy buyers to become involved in AKC sports since accomplishments will reflect back on their breeding program, and
- (2) provide recognition to those long-term successful breeders that have produced numerous titled dogs.

Program requirements for higher level recognition for Breeders of Merit will be discussed further at the May meeting. The BOM program may be modified by a vote of the Board. If approved, the new levels of recognition would go into effect on October 1, 2017.

Promotion of NOHS & BPUP Competition

Staff presented an overview of procedures the Club Development department utilizes to promote the holding of AKC National Owner-Handled Series (NOHS) and 4 to 6-month beginner Puppy (BPUP) competitions and outlined potential next steps. Club Development is working with Marketing to communicate to clubs the benefits of holding NOHS and 4 to 6 month competitions. Marketing will refresh the messages going out to clubs and exhibitors to increase interest in the competitions. Event Operations has identified the events which did not hold NOHS and/or 4 to 6 month competitions. Additional promotional emails will be created through a collaboration with Marketing which fit the club's situation i.e. a club did not hold NOHS or 4 to 6-month competition at all or the club held the competitions at some but not all of their events. These emails will be distributed accordingly.

Monitoring All-Breed Events Offering the NOHS

Staff presented an update on the number of all-breed events offering the AKC National Owner-Handled Series (NOHS). Event Operations uses an internal report that tracks, by event month and year, the percentage of approved events that are offering the NOHS. In 2016, the NOHS Competition grew by 36% over the previous year. Through the first four months of 2017, there is a 3% growth in clubs offering NOHS.

Kachina Kennel Club Request for an Additional Show

The Board reviewed a request from the Kachina Kennel Club. The Kachina Kennel Club is requesting approval to hold a third show on a one-time basis in 2017. Kachina Kennel Club is located in Glendale, Arizona. The club is requesting a one-time variance to the two-show limit in order to change their show dates from the January to September. They are not requesting isolated status. The impetus behind this request is based on the continued monetary loss the club has sustained, the pending increase in site fees. All of which lead to an agreement between Kachina Kennel Club and Prescott Kennel Club to hold a cluster on Prescott's dates in September.

The club is requesting this variance in order to hold a show on the 38th weekend in 2017 to avoid a 20-month gap between events. AKC did a preliminary check on the 38th weekend of

2016 and found no conflicts with any other clubs based on current policy guidelines. The current closest all-breed event on that weekend is 600 miles away in Paso Robles, California.

Following a motion from Mr. Wooding, seconded by Mr. Powers it was VOTED (affirmative: Ms. Biddle; Mr. Carota; Dr. Davies; Mr. Dok, Mr. Feeney; Mr. Gladstone; Dr. Garvin; Ms. McAteer; Mr. Menaker; Mr. Powers; Mr. Wooding; opposed: Ms. Cruz; absent: Dr. Battaglia), to grant Kachina Kennel Club a one-time variance allowing them to hold a third show in 2017.

Match Promotion

Staff provided an update on the conformation B-match promotion initiative which began in February 2016. Sports and Events sends promotional emails to the primary owner of an AKC registered dog between the ages of 3 and 36 months within 100 miles of the event site, alerting them of conformation B-matches. The standard information for the event is: host club name; date of the event; location of the event; event chair and email; links to the club's website and to AKC's website. Clubs have the option to opt out of the promotion.

In October of 2016, Sports and Events added the option of allowing clubs to provide their own verbiage to customize the email. In a poll of 28 clubs holding matches in early 2017, 22 reported an increase in entries, 3 reported a decrease and 3 reported no change. There was an average increase of 30% amongst all of the matches. 12 matches reported entries of 50 dogs or greater.

Concurrent Match

The Board reviewed a staff recommendation to allow matches to be held concurrently with dog shows. This is part of the initiative to attract new participants and to support the holding of concurrent and evening matches by including them on the list of additional activities clubs can offer to meet their *Eligibility Requirements to Hold Future Dog Shows*.

Providing a beginner level competition concurrently with a point show will give new exhibitors the opportunity to participate in a fun competition and at the same time gain knowledge and exposure to AKC point shows. There is not a rule or policy regarding the time a match may be held. The long-term department procedure had been that a match held in conjunction with a show may not begin until 30 minutes following the completion of regular judging at the show. The Board agreed with the Staff recommendation.

Plum Creek Kennel Club - 4/3 Experiment

The Staff provided the Board with a review of the Plum Creek Kennel Club (PCKC) event held on February 17th and 18th, 2017. This event was the first to hold two days of events in a 4, 4/3, 3 configuration, holding 4 groups twice the first day and 3 groups and BIS twice the second day.

COMPANION & PERFORMANCE

Pamela Manaton, Director of Obedience, Rally and Tracking, Caroline Murphy, Director of Performance Events, and Dr. Mary Burch, Director of CGC participated by teleconference.

Obedience and Rally - Transfer of Entries After Closing Date

The Board reviewed a recommendation to remove restrictions on when an exhibitor is allowed to transfer from one class to another at obedience and rally trials. The recommendation is to allow a transfer of an entry from one class to another, if the handler and dog are eligible, at the request of the exhibitor after the closing date for entries, regardless of when the dog earned the title, provided the club allows transfers, and only if the class and judge are available. The recommendation applies to both Obedience and Rally.

This recommendation is a change to Regulations and may be made by a vote of the Board. If approved, it will become effective July 1, 2017. This will be discussed further at the May meeting.

Retriever Field Trials - Honoring

The Board reviewed a recommendation to require dogs competing in Retriever Field Trials (RFT) to honor another dog's work during a marked retrieve except in Derby stakes.

An honor in Retriever field trials is when a dog, after it has finished making its retrieves, steps to the side, sits down and calmly watches (honors) as the next dog make its first retrieve of a marked fall. It is a test of control since a dog may break its honor and attempt to make the retrieve itself.

Honoring is a common occurrence during duck hunting when there are multiple hunters with dogs. It has always been the intent in RFTs that dogs should honor. However, the current RFT Standard Procedures use the word "should". Over time, and particularly in recent years, judges are interpreting this to mean that honoring is an option. The dropping of honoring has reached the point where the RFT Advisory Committee has made the request that the word "should" be changed to "shall". This will make it clear that dogs must honor and will result in greater consistency in the required performance of dogs competing in Retriever field trials.

This is a change to Retriever Field Trial Standard Procedures and may be made by a vote of the Board. If approved, the change would become effective June 1, 2017. This will be discussed further at the May meeting.

Recognizing Stunt Dog Titles

The Board reviewed a recommendation to expand AKC's new Trick Dog titling program by recognizing four Stunt Dog titles created by *Do More With Your Dog (DMWYD)*.

This recommendation may be approved by the Board of Directors. If approved, the Stunt Dog titles will start to be recognized by the AKC on March 15, 2018, to coincide with the *DMWYD* National Trick Dog Championship.

This will be discussed further at the May meeting.

CONSENT

Following a motion by Dr. Davies, seconded by Ms. Cruz, it was VOTED (unanimously, absent: Dr. Battaglia) to approve the following Consent Items:

Delegate and Club Approvals

Obedience & Rally - Closing of Entries

Retriever Field Trials - Declaration of Amateur Status

Resolution - Lee Arnold

Resolution - Carl Ashby

Resolution - Alan Kalter

DELEGATE APPROVALS

Norma C. Baley, Wayne, IL

To represent Park Shore Kennel Club

Kathleen Bencin, Highland Heights, OH

To represent Western Reserve Kennel Club

Gregory K. Benkiser, Cumming, GA

To represent Sawnee Mountain Kennel Club

Thomas Graham, Chocowinity, NC

To represent Norfolk Terrier Club

Jean Highlands, Twinsburg, OH
To represent Great Dane Club of America

Betsy Horn Humer, Pungoteague, VA
To represent Salisbury Maryland Kennel Club

Bob Kimber, Gallatin, TN
To represent Wolverine Beagle Club

Lisa Pruksa, Rockton, IL
To represent Border Collie Society of America

James R. (Bob) Steel, Jr., Pittsburgh, PA
To represent Italian Greyhound Club of America

Michael W. Zarlenga, Alexandria, VA
To represent American Water Spaniel Club

CLUB APPROVALS

REQUEST FOR AKC MEMBERSHIP

American Polish Lowland Sheepdog Club

First License Show: April 6, 2002

Hungarian Pumi Club of America

First License Show: October 16, 2016

Obedience and Rally - Closing of Entries

The Board VOTED to approve changes to the Rally Regulations and the Obedience Regulations to permit obedience and rally to establish a closing time for entries and that the closing time shall be no later than 11:59 pm on the third Wednesday prior to the trial for trials held on Friday through Monday.

Rally Regulations – Chapter 1. Section 3. Premium Lists, Closing of Entries and Catalogs.

(Insert as paragraph 2)

Obedience Regulations - Chapter 1, Section 3. Premium Lists, Entries, Closing of Entries.

(Insert as paragraph 5)

Every premium list shall specify the date and time at which entries for a trial shall close. The premium list shall also specify the name and address of the Superintendent or Trial Secretary who is to receive the entries. For all trials the specified closing date and time must be no later than as outlined in the following schedule:

For a trial which opens on Friday, Saturday, Sunday, or Monday, entries accepted not later than 11:59PM on the third Wednesday prior to the trial.

For a trial which opens on Tuesday, entries accepted not later than 11:59PM on the third Thursday prior to the trial.

For a trial which opens on Wednesday, entries accepted not later than 11:59PM the third Friday prior to the trial.

For a trial which opens on Thursday, entries accepted not later than 11:59PM on the third Wednesday prior to the trial.

Clubs in a cluster of no more than five consecutive days have the option of closing no later than 11:59PM on the third Wednesday prior to the last trial in the cluster.

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

All other paragraphs in these sections remain unchanged.

Retriever Field Trials – Declaration of Amateur Status

The Board VOTED to approve a method by which field trial handlers can proclaim their change of status from a professional handler to an amateur. The process will require a handler seeking to compete in Amateur stakes to submit their declaration to Retriever News. This is an addition to the “Standing Recommendations of the Retriever Advisory Board”, and is effective as of May 1, 2017.

FIELD TRIAL RULES AND STANDARD PROCEDURE FOR RETRIEVERS

New Regulation

STANDARD RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE RETRIEVER ADVISORY BOARD

3. Amateur Definition

(b). For purposes of eligibility of a person to compete in an Amateur All-Age stake at a licensed or member retriever trial under Section 10 of Chapter 14, the standard set forth in paragraph (a) above shall apply but the time period applicable shall be one year preceding the trial in question. Professional handlers seeking to enter as an amateur must officially declare their change of status in Retriever News. Handlers will not be charged to place this declaration in this publication. The declaration must clearly state the intention of the handler which is to proclaim their amateur status, their name and specifically the date in which this is effective.

Resolution - Lee Arnold

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

held on April tenth, two thousand and seventeen,
The following Resolution was unanimously adopted
WHEREAS,

Lee Arnold

First became the Delegate for the Chinese Shar-Pei Club of America on July thirteenth, nineteen hundred and ninety-eight, serving until he became the Delegate for the Southern Colorado Kennel Club on November fourth, two thousand and four; and,

WHEREAS, he was elected to the Board of the Directors of The American Kennel Club on

March tenth, two thousand and nine, serving until March fourteenth, two thousand and seventeen; and,

WHEREAS, he served as Board Liaison to the Delegate Canine Health Committee, the Delegate Field Trial and Hunting Test Committee, and the Delegate Bylaws Committee and the Ad Hoc Canine Health Advisory Panel; and,

WHEREAS, he chaired the Board Appeals Committee and was on the Board of the AKC Canine Health Foundation, serving also as its Chairman and Secretary; and,

WHEREAS, his deep involvement in all aspects of broadcasting was a great asset to the Board of Directors as it expanded its Communication efforts and in two thousand and eleven and two thousand and twelve he was a co-anchor and commentator for the televised AKC National Championship Show; and,

WHEREAS, we will ever cherish our association with this distinguished commentator, sportsman, gentleman and, most of all, friend; and,

NOW THEREFORE, be it

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

Resolution – Carl Ashby

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

held on April tenth, two thousand and seventeen,
The following Resolution was unanimously adopted
WHEREAS,

Carl C. Ashby, III

First became the Delegate for the United States Kerry Blue Terrier Association on June twelfth, nineteen hundred and ninety; and,

WHEREAS, he was elected to the Board of Directors of The American Kennel Club on March tenth, two thousand and nine, serving until March fourteenth, two thousand and seventeen; and,

WHEREAS, he has served as Board liaison to the Delegate All-Breed Clubs Committee, Delegate Companion Events Committee, Delegate Herding, Earthdog, and Coursing Events Committee and Delegate Bylaws Committee; and,

WHEREAS, while on the Board he has served on the Pension Committee, the Compensation Committee, as Chairman of the AKC Political Action Committee, and on the Board of AKC Reunite; and,

WHEREAS on March tenth, two thousand and fifteen, he was elected Board Vice Chairman, serving until March fourteenth, two thousand and seventeen; and,

WHEREAS, his background in the Sport, and as an executive in small and large businesses, were a great assets to the AKC Board, as it expanded its Marketing efforts and ventured into start-up businesses, through the formation of LLC's to provide needed alternate revenue sources for the future; and,

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

NOW THEREFORE, be it

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

Resolution – Alan Kalter

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

held on April tenth, two thousand and seventeen,
The following Resolution was unanimously adopted

WHEREAS,

Alan Kalter

First became the Delegate for the American Bullmastiff Association on January ninth, two thousand and seven; and,

WHEREAS, he was elected to the Board of Directors of The American Kennel Club on March tenth, two thousand and nine, serving until March fourteenth, two thousand and seventeen; and,

WHEREAS, he served as Board Liaison to the Delegate Parent Clubs Committee; and,

WHEREAS, while on the Board, he served on the Audit Committee, as Chair of the Board Compensation Committee, as Chair of AKC Reunite, on the Board of the AKC Political Action Committee, and was actively involved with the AKC Canine Legislative Support Fund, and as a Board member on the International Partnership for Dogs and the Theriogenology Foundation; and,

WHEREAS, he served as Board Chairperson from March thirteenth, two thousand and twelve until March tenth, two thousand and fifteen; and,

WHEREAS, his background in the Sport as a successful and active breeder and exhibitor, producing over one hundred and sixty Champions, as well as Specialty and Best in Show

winners, resulting in The American Kennel Club recognizing him and his wife, Chris Lezotte, as AKC's 2016 Breeders of the Year; and,

WHEREAS, his extensive experience in the advertising field was a great asset to the Board as it greatly expanded its Communications and Marketing efforts; and,
WHEREAS, we will ever cherish our association with this distinguished businessman, sportsman, gentleman and, most of all, friend;

NOW THEREFORE, be it

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

Foundation Stock Service Procedures, Parent Club Designation and Requirements for Breed Recognition

Following a motion by Dr. Davies, seconded by Ms. McAteer, it was VOTED unanimously (Dr. Battaglia could not vote), that the AKC Foundation Stock Service's procedures document and the AKC's requirements for Breed Recognition and Parent Club Designation become Board Policy.

Foundation Stock Service Process and Procedures

How Breeds Enter the FSS® Program

The American Kennel Club considers requests to enter FSS® from breed clubs or individual fanciers of a breed. AKC considers adding new breeds to the FSS® or its registry only upon request. The breed must be recognized by an acceptable foreign or domestic registry. If the breed developed within the United States, there must be a documented history of a minimum of 40 years. Those wishing to pursue recording with FSS® must:

- Provide AKC with a letter requesting admission into FSS®.
- Fill out a questionnaire for new breeds.
- Provide a written breed history documenting the distinct breed over a period of many decades (40 years). The source of the historical information must also be provided.
- Provide an official written breed standard, indicating the origin of that standard. If the standard differs from the official breed standard in the breed country of origin, please specify those differences.
- Provide photographs of the breed, including puppies and adults, as well as both dogs and bitches. If there are different accepted types in the breed, photographs of each should be included.

The FSS® is not open to "rare" breeds that are a variation of an AKC-registrable breed or the result of a combination of two AKC-recognized breeds. This includes and is not limited to differences such as size (over and under), coat type, coat colors, and coat colors and/or types that are disqualifications from Conformation Events by AKC breed standards.

FSS® Recording and Certificates

When a dog is recorded in the Foundation Stock Service®, it is issued a numbered FSS® Certificate. This certificate indicates that the dog is the product of a purebred sire and dam of the same breed. In some cases, a breeder will determine that a dog should be recorded with "limited" status. A limited FSS® Certificate indicates that no offspring of the dog is eligible to be recorded in the FSS®.

Dogs with two-generation pedigrees, one-generation pedigrees or names of sire and dam only, are eligible for enrollment in FSS® as the foundation stock of future generations. FSS® Certificates will be issued to all dogs enrolled in FSS®.

Note: Any dog that has less than three-generations documented with registration numbers from another registry will not move into full AKC recognition.

Parent Club Designation for a Breed in the Foundation Stock Service and Progression to Full Recognition

Upon contact with AKC, the information on how to form a club, and sample bylaws/club policies applicable to Parent Clubs, are provided.

A club seeking Parent Club status must submit the following:

- Club history
- Club membership list designating club member involvement
- Constitution and bylaws
- Minutes of annual meetings and board meetings for a minimum of two years, including financial information
- Confirmation that the membership of the club wishes to seek AKC recognition
- List of events conducted or in which the breed has participated.
- Demonstration that members are actively involved as breeders, determined by increase in dogs and litters enrolled in AKC Foundation Stock Service.
- Members are actively competing in the AKC Events in which the breed is eligible as well as participation at AKC Meet the Breeds, Responsible Dog Ownership Day events, or other opportunities to educate the public about the breed. Members are encouraged to join an All-Breed Club.

Upon review of all club materials and demonstration that the club is a viable entity, a request may be submitted to the AKC Board requesting Parent Club status.

Once the Parent Club has been designated, staff will work with the Parent Club on the breed standard to comply with the AKC Breed Standard Guidelines. The Parent Club Delegate Subcommittee will provide mentoring to the club to gain full recognition and membership status with AKC.

Eligibility to request Miscellaneous Class Status requires:

- Parent Club designated to represent the breed
- A breed entering the FSS® based upon being an established breed in a foreign registry must have reached full recognition status
- The Club has balloted the membership to seek AKC recognition
- Breed Standard reviewed to meet AKC Breed Standard Guidelines
- Minimum of 150 dogs enrolled with three-generation pedigrees

- Formal presentation for AKC Club status is sent to Club Relations for review and bylaw commentary to follow, if necessary.
- Request to move into Miscellaneous Class submitted to AKC Board—date of entry January 1, or on or about July 1.

Eligibility to request full recognition:

- While in the Miscellaneous Class the club will be working with a facilitator, a Delegate from the Parent Club Delegate Committee, to gain further understanding of the responsibilities of a Parent Club.
- The Parent Club self -study materials will be provided to the club to utilize as they develop.
- Club Business and Annual Meeting/Election to be conducted in accordance with constitution and bylaws
- Constitution and bylaws, to be reviewed by Club Relations, revisions recommended to be made and approved by the club membership
- Minutes of Board and Annual Meeting submitted and reviewed
- Membership updated annually, including a separate electronic membership-list upload using officer-issued access code
- Parent Club conducts minimum of two Open Shows for all Miscellaneous and FSS breeds (minimum of six months apart, geographically distributed)
- Confirmation of Board-approved interest in applying for Member Club status
- Membership growth to approximately 100 members, with reasonable geographic distribution
- Minimum of ten dogs earning Certificate of Merit (CM) titles owned by Parent Club members
- Growth in registration of litters and dogs to a minimum of 300 dogs with three-generation pedigrees
- A minimum of 20 litters bred and enrolled while the breed is in Miscellaneous to ensure that the breed is established and sustainable
- Minimum of three Judges Education Seminars conducted by the Parent Club while in the Miscellaneous Class
- Judges Education course developed in collaboration with AKC Staff, to be made available on the AKC Canine College for the purpose of providing educational opportunities for prospective judges of the breed
- A minimum of one year has elapsed since entering the Miscellaneous Class.

Gordon Setter Club of America National Gun Dog Championship

Following a motion by Mr. Wooding, seconded by Dr. Davies, it was VOTED (unanimously, absent: Dr. Battaglia) to grant the Gordon Setter Club of America the right to hold a National Gun Dog Championship field trial. The dog who wins the event would be granted the title NGDC. The event is limited to walking handlers. This is consistent with events currently held by Brittany's, German Shorthaired Pointers, Vizslas and Irish Setters. This is an addition to the Pointing Breed Field Trial Rules. This rule change will be read at the June Delegate meeting for a vote at the September Delegate meeting. If approved by the Delegates, the breed will be allowed to hold a National Gun Dog Championship in 2018.

FIELD TRIAL RULES AND STANDARD PROCEDURE FOR POINTING BREEDS

Proposed Regulations

(Line In)

Chapter 14. Section 22A. A National Gun Dog Championship for Gordon Setters may be held not more than once in any calendar year. This shall be a walking stake. The stake must be held by the Parent Club. If the Club fails to hold its traditional horseback National Championship field trial, the right to hold the walking NGD Championship stake may be suspended by the Performance Events Department. The event shall be for dogs over six (6) months of age. The GSCA may develop entry qualifications that exceed the AKC minimum standard. Dogs placing in this stake shall be credited with championship points in accord with the schedule for Field Championships and the winner shall be entitled to the designation "National Gun Dog Champion of 20 . ." (NGDC).

The remainder of this section is unchanged.

It was VOTED to adjourn Tuesday, April 11, 2017 at 12:30 p.m.

Adjourned

Attest:

Gina M. DiNardo, Executive Secretary