

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
July 20 -21 2015

The Board convened on Monday, July 20, 2015 at 8:00 a.m. All Directors were present except Mr. Powers who participated by telephone conference although under AKC's Bylaws he was not permitted to vote. Also present were the Executive Secretary, and the Assistant Executive Secretary.

The June 2015 Board minutes, copies of which were made available to all Directors, were discussed. It was pointed out that on page 4 of the published June 2015 minutes, under the heading "Invitations to Apply", the word "motion" should have been "moratorium" and that on page 17, it should be made clearer that the Pee Wee Class special attraction was not pre-approved and had to be applied for and approved on a case-by-case basis.

Upon a motion by Ms. Cruz, seconded by Dr. Battaglia, the June 2015 minutes were approved as amended.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

NGKC Update

Mr. Sprung gave an update on NGKC. Mr. Sprung reviewed the history of the relationship especially focusing on business matters. Mr. Sprung informed the Board that the processing of registrations, DNA, other services had been suspended and it was his recommendation to terminate the business relationship as is permitted under the terms of the agreement. There was no objection to this recommendation. While AKC's business relationship with NGKC has basically ended, NGKC will remain on the list of registries with pedigrees acceptable for AKC registration.

AKC and FCI

Mr. Menaker reported on a meeting with FCI's Executive Committee, attended by Mr. Gladstone, Mr. Crowley, and himself. The meeting was held to discuss FCI's policy placing AKC judges who judge non-FCI shows in countries where there is an FCI club at risk of not being approved for future FCI assignments. Mr. Menaker reviewed the history of the FCI policy that has existed for a number years which gave the FCI the right to ban an AKC Judge from judging other FCI shows if they judge at a dissident FCI Kennel Club. Mr. Menaker further stated that whenever a foreign Kennel Club makes an inquiry regarding the judging credentials of an AKC judge the judge receives notice of such inquiry including notice of the FCI policy regarding dissident kennel clubs and he stated it is up the AKC judge to decide whether or not to judge at a dissident club. Based on AKC's objection to this policy being confined to AKC judges, the FCI Executive Committee agreed to take the policy up with The Kennel Club and the Canadian Kennel Club. In the meantime, the "status quo" prior to the recent "blacklist" was imposed and then withdrawn by the Asia Pacific Section of FCI. As in the past, all AKC judges will be reminded in the judges' newsletter of the long standing FCI policy.

AKC Breed History

As a result of recent FCI actions in changing the historical country of origin of some breeds, the Board reaffirmed its position on changing breed history as follows:

Changes to AKC Breed Histories

Questions have arisen regarding modification to the history of particular breeds of purebred dogs. The AKC will make no changes to breed historical references in its

records, unless there is a formal, documented and substantiated request made by the applicable AKC Parent Club. Any decision regarding the changes to historical breed references will be handled on a case-by-case basis when the request is received from a Parent Club.

The Institutionalizing of Mistreatment of Dogs

The Board discussed concerns over the heinous mistreatment of dogs in parts of China, and issued the following statement to express these concerns:

The Institutionalized Inhumane Treatment of Dogs

The recently held Yulin Dog Meat festival in China has resulted in cries of protest among the dog-loving public worldwide. The American Kennel Club believes that these protests are completely justified and imperative for there to be any chance of eliminating this institutionalized and heinous treatment, torture, and consumption of thousands of dogs each year. The AKC, as well as other purebred registries in the world, recognizes dogs as devoted companions and working partners, and denounces their use as food products and subjection to cruel and inhumane treatment.

Board Action Items

Mr. Sprung gave a status report on previous Action Items and included Staff reports provided by Michael Basone, Stephen Pessah, Keith Frazier, and Mark Dunn.

Real Estate Updates

Mr. Sprung reported that the Real Estate Committee continues to evaluate the future needs of the AKC as our leases in NYC and NC reach their expiration. He anticipates that additional information will be available for Board consideration in the months ahead.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Sheila Goffe and Mari-Beth O'Neill, AKC Staff, participated in this portion of the meeting by video conference.

AKC Bylaw Amendment - Term Limits

The Board reviewed a proposal submitted by the Clarksville Kennel Club to amend Article VII, Section 1 of the *Bylaws of the American Kennel Club* to eliminate term limits for members of the Board of Directors.

The Delegate Bylaws Committee voted to co-sponsor this proposed amendment. Based upon the position taken by the Delegate Bylaws Committee, there was a motion made by Mr. Gladstone, seconded by Mr. Kalter, and it was VOTED (unanimously; absent Mr. Powers) to join with the Delegate Bylaws Committee in recommending approval of this amendment. This will be read at the September Delegates meeting and voted on by the Delegates in December.

Nominating Committee

The Executive Secretary informed the Board that the Nominating Committee for the March 2015 election of AKC Directors must be appointed by August 15, and its report must be received no later than October 15, 2015.

Following discussion, the Board elected the Nominating Committee, which is to select candidates for positions on the Board of Directors, Class of 2020, which are to be filled at the March, 2016 Delegate Meeting:

Nominating Committee

John Shoemaker, Chair
Redwood Empire Kennel Club

Mary Manning-Stolz
Tampa Bay Kennel Club

Mary Lou Olszewski
American Bloodhound Club

Larry Sorenson
Dachshund Club of America

Margarette (Peggy) L. Wampold
South Windsor Kennel Club

Alternates

Ann Gallant
Petit Basset Griffon Vendéen Club of America

Kenneth Saenz
Chihuahua Club of America

Criteria for Parent Club Membership

The minimum requirements a Parent Club must meet to be eligible to become a member club is described in *The Charter and Bylaws of The American Kennel Club, ARTICLE IV, SECTIONS 1-3*. There are currently 33 national breed clubs for registrable breeds which are not member clubs. The Board instructed Staff to prepare a list of all additional policies that have been used to determine whether or not a club would be considered for membership to determine if they should be retained, modified, or eliminated.

Participation in Board Meetings

New York State Not-for-Profit Law does permit Board Member attendance and voting at a Board meeting "when authorized by the Bylaws." While AKC's Bylaws provide for Special Meetings by telephone conference, there is no such provision for regular meetings. The Board considered a Bylaw change that would permit a board member unable to physically attend a meeting, to participate and vote by means of a conference telephone or similar communications equipment allowing all persons participating in the meeting to hear each other at the same time and participation by such means shall constitute presence in person at such meeting.

After discussion it was the sense of the Board that there not be an amendment as the current requirements have ensured an excellent attendance record by Board members.

Pumi Eligibility to Compete in the Herding Group

The Board reviewed a request from the Hungarian Pumi Club of America (HPCA). The HPCA is seeking acceptance into the AKC Stud book and for the Pumi to be eligible to compete in the Herding Group. This will be discussed further at the September meeting.

Canine Legislation Position on Predatory Pet Leasing Schemes

The Board reviewed a recommendation to update the Canine Legislation Position Statement on *Protection for Puppy Purchasers* to include the issue of commercial leasing/rental arrangements for dogs as pets. It recommends the inclusion of a statement of opposition to predatory pet leasing arrangements in which prospective owners make hefty monthly payments for their pet, but are not given legal ownership of their pet. In recent years, a predatory new model of pet possession has emerged. Predatory pet leasing schemes will lease pets as companions over a multiple-year term for a monthly fee. Even after paying many times the value of the pet, the lessee may not own the pet.

In one model, the leasing company provides open-ended leases that include healthcare, food and other supplies at the discretion of the lessor in exchange for a monthly fee for the life of the pet.

Another model provides a lease for the pet only, which terminates after several years, at which time the individual may have the option to then purchase the pet. In either case, even after paying many times the value of the pet, the lessor may not, and may never, own the pet.

The AKC strongly believes that acquisition of a pet should be a commitment by a future owner for the lifetime of the pet. As legal property, pet "ownership" provides legal rights, responsibilities and liabilities that are valuable to both consumers and society, and may not be otherwise available.

Predatory pet leasing agreements allow the leasing company to obtain a significantly higher profit margin while potentially avoiding regulatory oversight and consumer protection laws. At least one state attorney general has looked into the practice after receiving complaints to its consumer protection unit. Lessees can end up making interest payments that may be as much as three times the price of the pet while giving up property rights and consumer protections usually associated with purchase and ownership of a pet.

The AKC strongly believes that acquisition of a pet should be a commitment for the lifetime of the pet. AKC supports a ban on predatory pet leasing schemes, which victimize potential owners, undermine a lifetime commitment to a pet, and do not confer the rights and responsibilities concomitant with pet ownership.

The following position statements will be considered further in September. Staff was also directed to prepare some legislation to curtail this practice in states where it's taking place.

The American Kennel Club supports reasonable laws and regulations intended to protect the pet-buying public in obtaining a sound dog of the breed represented. **AKC supports bans on predatory pet leasing schemes that victimize potential owners, undermine a lifetime commitment to a pet, and do not confer the rights and responsibilities associated with legal ownership of a pet.**

Breeders and/or sellers should be responsible for providing certain refunds, replacements, or reimbursements should the dog sold become ill or die from a condition contracted prior to the purchase. Such remedies should be conditioned upon the buyer's scrupulous adherence to the care and feeding program prescribed by the breeder and/or seller, as well as a timely examination by a state licensed veterinarian. Breeders and/or sellers should provide buyers with a written bill of sale detailing the responsibilities of both the buyer and seller. This bill of sale should also detail any exclusions to refunds, replacements, or reimbursements.

Canine Legislation Position Statements

The Board reviewed the current AKC Canine Legislation Position Statements as well as discussed topics for future Canine Legislation position statements.

Legal Status Reporting

Ms. McManus, Senior Attorney, presented a status report on pending litigation and other legal activities for the month of June 2015.

FINANCE

Joseph Baffuto, CFO, presented financial results through June 2015.

Mr. Baffuto presented unaudited second quarter financial results, which included, total revenues for the period ended June 30, 2015 of \$29.9 million. This was within 1% of budget, while being 3% above the prior year revenue during the same period. Total expenses of \$25.9 million were 9% below budget and slightly above the amount from the previous year. Operating income was \$3.9 million for the period ended June 30, 2015.

COMPANION AND PERFORMANCE

Doug Ljungren and Pamela Manaton, AKC Staff, participated in this portion of the meeting via video conference. Carrie DeYoung participated via telephone conference.

Allowing Deaf Dogs to Participate in Agility, Rally and Tracking Events

The Board reviewed a recommendation from the Agility Advisory Committee and the Sports and Events Department to allow deaf dogs to participate in Agility, Rally and Tracking events.

All Agility Advisory Committee recommendations were provided to the fancy for comment and polling. With 952 participants in the poll, the recommendation to allow deaf dogs to participate received the highest approval rating of any recommendation (93% love it/like it rating).

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

There was a motion by Mr. Gladstone, seconded by Dr. Garvin, to not bring the matter forward for consideration. This motion failed with the VOTE (affirmative: Mr. Gladstone, Dr. Garvin, Mr. Ashby, Mr. Menaker, Mr. Feeney; opposed: Mr. Kalter, Ms. Cruz, Mr. Dok, Dr. Battaglia, Mr. Arnold, Mr. Wooding, Dr. Davies; absent: Mr. Powers).

Staff was directed to contact The Kennel Club in the UK regarding their experience with deaf dogs competing in Agility as well as with veterinarians, so that this input was available when the Board considers this at its September 2015 meeting.

Beagle Two-Couple Pack National Championship

The Board reviewed a recommendation to create a new AKC National Championship event for the Beagle Two-Couple Pack sport. The sport of Beagle Two-Couple Pack (TCP) was introduced in 2005. A two-couple pack is made up of four dogs that are judged on their ability to chase a rabbit as a team. The sport has grown at an annual rate of 18% per year for the past five years. In 2014 the number of entries reached the level of the Beagle Large Pack sport, which has a National Championship event. This is the threshold that staff has said should be achieved to warrant creating a TCP National Championship event. This will require an addition to the Beagle Field Trial Rules and will need to be approved by the Delegate body. This will be discussed further at the September meeting.

Retriever Field Trials - Allowing The Same Club to Hold Back-to-Back Stand-Alone

The Board reviewed a recommendation to allow a club licensed to hold Retriever Field Trials to hold back-to-back stand-alone events consisting of a derby stake and a qualifying stake. This will be discussed further at the September meeting.

Rally Regulations Affected by Approved Obedience Regulation Changes

In April, the Board approved changes to the Obedience Regulations based on the recommendations of the 2014 Obedience Advisory Committee and staff, effective December 1, 2015. Nine of the approved changes in the Obedience Regulations are also cited in the Rally Regulations. With the separation of the obedience and rally regulation books, it has become necessary to also amend the following items in the Rally Regulations:

1. **Rally Regulations, Chapter 1, Section 3. Premium Lists and Catalogs.** Require clubs to publish, in the premium list, if two trials in one day will be held concurrently or consecutively.
2. **Rally Regulations, Chapter 1, Section 13. Transfers.** Clarify transfer verbiage to make it clear that clubs have the flexibility of accepting transfers prior to the day of a trial (but must be completed at least 30 minutes prior to the start of each trial as it is currently worded).
3. **Rally Regulations, Chapter 1, Section 20. Judging Program.** Revise - For all rally classes, the walk through times will be listed and the class time will be stated "class to follow."
4. **Rally Regulations, Chapter 1, Section 20. Judging Program.** Revise – List classes starting after noon as "After Noon" rather than "to follow."
5. **Rally Regulations, Chapter 1, Section 20. Judging Program.** Revise – If the judge and ring are available to start earlier than the stated time and all exhibitors have checked-in, and agree, allow the judging to start earlier. (May not start a 2nd trial on the same day before the published start time.)
6. **Rally Regulations, Chapter 1, Section 20. Judging Program.** Revise – No judge will be assigned to judge for more than eight hours in one day.
7. **Rally Regulations, Chapter 3, Section 5. Familiarization Time.** Shorten walkthrough time to "up to 10 minutes" (instead of a fixed time of 10 minutes).
8. **Rally Judges' Guidelines, Chapter 1, Section 3. Exhibiting.** Revise – Judges (including provisional) may not handle dogs that are not owned or co-owned by themselves or a family member at obedience and or rally trials."
9. **Rally Judges' Guidelines. Chapter 1, Section 5. Judging Assignments/Assignment Restrictions.** Modify the emergency judge policy to allow clubs greater flexibility in finding a replacement judge when a previously approved judge cancels within 72 hours or less; allowing a judge with an event conflict to accept the emergency judge assignment without impacting future assignments.

This will be considered for a VOTE at the September 2015 Board Meeting.

Fast CAT - A New AKC Sport

The Board reviewed a recommendation for a new AKC sport called Fast CAT. Fast CAT is a straight race of 100 yards where a dog chases a lure. Dogs are run singularly and earn points based on their handicapped speed. There are no placements. Titles are issued at designated benchmarks. The event will be open to all breeds and Canine Partners. Dogs must be registered/listed with the AKC. Fast CAT is meant to be a fun and healthy activity for dogs and their owners. One unique feature of Fast CAT will be a Top 20 Fastest Dogs by Breed by Year national standings, which will be posted on the AKC Fast CAT website. This will be discussed further at the September meeting.

Agility Course Test (ACT) Event Regulations

The Board reviewed the proposed regulations for the new Agility Course Test (ACT) event. ACT is an entry level agility event meant to introduce beginning dogs and handlers to the AKC agility program and, in a larger sense, the AKC as a dog sport organization.

There are two levels at ACT events – ACT1 and ACT2. ACT is designed to be used as graduation exercises for agility training classes. The structuring of ACT events resembles the CGC program in a number of ways.

Unique things about ACT events are –

- Can be hosted by an AKC club or an independent training facility provided the event is judged by an AKC agility judge or AKC approved ACT evaluator. Because the ACT is relatively simple, ACT evaluators are not required to obtain the same standard of training required of an AKC approved agility judge.
- Small ring size in order that the event can be held in most training facilities.
- Host organizations may accept day-of-event entries at their option.
- Dogs not yet registered/listed may participate. Results will be recorded by assigning the dog a temporary recording number. In essence the registration/listing process will be started with the hopes that the owner will complete the process in order to obtain a title and continue in AKC agility.
- No event application is required.
- Event recording fee is \$5.00 per entry.

The regulations will be discussed further at the October meeting. Staff was directed to have complete financials for the program at that time along with details on the plan to meet financial goals.

Why Do People Participate in Agility

The Board reviewed a memo that outlined the major findings of a survey conducted to gain insight into the question—Why do people participate in agility? Six motivational factors were noted.

- Building a Relationship with their Dogs
- The Challenge of Improvement
- Physical/Mental Activity
- Social Interaction
- Participant Feels a Sense of Control – less subjectivity than obedience or conformation.
- Recognition

What Motivates People to Participate in Dog Sports

The staff presented a memo that outlines information from two reports; one that looked into What Motivates People to Participate with Their Dogs in Sporting Events and a second study discussed the multiple roles of individuals within dog clubs and the factors related to their involvement. The majority of dog sport participants are motivated by the gratification they receive from the activities associated with developing their skills and their dog's skills, achieving their personal goals and the pleasure of social interactions associated with a sport. The degree of involvement is limited by the costs associated with their participation.

Board discussion around both of these reports centered on how to take this information and use it to strengthen our sport offerings. Staff was asked to consider how this information could be used to create initiatives to grow participation in our event offerings.

CLUBS

Best Practices for Recruiting Club Membership

The Board reviewed a memo from Staff that provides best practices for recruiting membership into AKC clubs/events. These best practices include input from the All-Breed Clubs and Companion Events Delegate Committees. The Board expressed appreciation for the work of both committees.

The All-Breed Clubs Delegate Committee conducted a survey of all-breed club presidents, secretaries and Delegates. They received 879 responses. The survey's primary findings are:

1. 7% of the all-breed clubs do not desire to increase membership.
2. 65% of the clubs said they have a problem attracting new members.
3. The two primary reasons people join clubs are to socialize and learn about dogs.
4. The four best ways to retain members are to:
 - Hold regular meetings
 - Hold social activities
 - Engage members to work at events
 - Offer educational activities
5. The four best ways to attract new members are to:
 - Offer educational activities
 - Hold training classes
 - Develop and keep up-to-date a club website
 - Use social media to spread the word

After review of the survey, the All-Breed Clubs Committee compiled a list of best practices for recruiting and retaining membership. The complete list was posted to the AKC website. The Companion Events Delegate Committee has assembled a list of best practices based on the committee member's experience. Further, they have been elaborating on some of the best practices and are posting these on the AKC website so they are available to all clubs.

www.akc.org/clubs/promote

The Companion Events Delegates Committee's suggestions for clubs to attract new members and retain existing members are:

1. Hold social activities
2. Develop a mentorship program for new club members

3. Offer fun matches the night prior to an event
4. Offer CGC classes and testing
5. Post training videos on club website and social media
6. Actively solicit youth organization participation
7. Spread information about the club through a club website, social media and a club brochure
8. Hold novice only trials, offer free lunch
9. Offer educational seminars, matches, show-and-go events
10. Conduct post-event surveys to gain feedback on what can be done better

Ms. Cruz expressed concern that amendments were being implemented with various effective dates, while the Board has previously directed that an effort be made to try to have multiple amendments for the rules and regulations of an event implemented at the same time so that the publications are not constantly changing.

CONSENT

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

- **Delegate and Club Approvals**
- **Limited Status Junior Judges, Eligible to Judge Group Shows**
- **Junior Showmanship, Master Class Criteria**
- **Allow Group and Specialty Clubs to Hold All-Breed Obedience/Rally A Matches**

Delegates Approved

Harry Booker, Bala-Cynwood, PA
To represent The Kennel Club of Philadelphia

Gale J. Golden, Marlborough, MA
To represent Framingham District Kennel Club

Kathleen M. Gregory, Garrison, NY
To represent Port Chester Obedience Club

Kathy Ann Hawkins, Springfield, MO
To represent Ozarks Kennel Club

Richard Su, Elberon, NJ
To represent Keeshond Club of America

Limited Status Junior Judges, Eligible to Judge Group Shows

The Board VOTED to allow an individual with Limited Status approval for Junior Showmanship for all breeds in a group, to be eligible to judge Junior Showmanship at a Group Show. This proposal is made by staff at the request of the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee. This will require revisions to the Conformation Junior Showmanship Regulations, Sections 2 and 4. The effective date will be October 1, 2015.

Junior Showmanship, Master Class Criteria

The Board VOTED to revise the eligibility criteria for the Junior Showmanship Master Class. Staff is proposing the criteria for the Master Class be revised to 10 Best Junior Wins with competition. The new criteria will be effective on October 7, 2015.

Allow Group and Specialty Clubs to Hold All-Breed Obedience/Rally A Matches

The Board VOTED to approve a recommendation from the Companion Events Department to clarify the Match Regulations to allow Group and Specialty clubs to offer all-breed Sanctioned A Matches at their option. The obedience and rally regulations allow Group and Specialty clubs the ability to offer all-breed licensed trials at their option. The Match Regulations allow Group and Specialty clubs to offer all-breed Sanctioned B Matches for obedience and rally at their option. However, the Match Regulations do not mention Sanctioned A Matches. The Club Relations Department has interpreted this as meaning Sanctioned A Matches held by Group and Specialty clubs must be restricted to their breeds only.

The purpose of Sanctioned A obedience/rally matches is to ensure a club is well prepared to run a licensed event prior to becoming licensed. Allowing a club to offer an all-breed Sanctioned A Match will only further prepare them to produce the required event materials correctly by having more entries and additional repetition of processes at their Sanctioned A events.

The Match Regulations will be clarified by adding a provision that specifically states the Obedience and Rally Sanctioned A Matches may be open to all breeds.

This change is effective September 1, 2015.

JUDGING OPERATIONS

Doug Ljungren, Tim Thomas, AKC Staff, participated in this portion of the meeting via video conference.

Judging Approval Process

Staff identified three aspects of the newly adopted process which require clarification. The staff proposed three modifications to the Conformation Judging Approval Process. The Board expressed its appreciation for the work of the Judges Department in preparing for the implementation of the new Judges Approval Process September 1, 2015.

Final Approval procedure

As written, the policy requires that all applicants are published twice in the AKC Gazette. The first publication occurs after the Department's final review any the automatic review by the Judges Review Committee (if applicable) for any breeds which the Judging Operations Department feels should not be awarded. The comment period follows and if there is not just cause for any breeds not to be awarded, the applicant is notified of the newly approved breeds and their eligibility to accept assignments. The expected time period from receipt of application to notification of eligibility is **up to four months**, assuming no delays.

Revising the order so that the first publication would appear in the first available issue of the AKC Gazette following receipt of the application would result in the comment period coinciding with the processing of the application which includes the interview and final review by the Judging Operations Department. The expected time period from receipt of application to notification of eligibility as a result of this modification would be **approximately 2 months**.

1. Maximum number of breeds the first time applicant may apply for

The policy does not define the number of breeds a first time applicant may apply for. The matrix, which defines the maximum number of permit breeds at one time, is specific to Additional Breed applicants.

Currently, first time applicants are permitted to apply for up to one complete group or the equivalent number of breeds in the largest group. In seeking clarification, Staff has been advised the intent was to limit first time applicants to no more than 50% of the number of breeds in the largest group. To clarify this topic and avoid confusion by the judging community Staff recommends the addition of the following paragraph under the section heading "FIRST TIME APPLICATION TO JUDGE NEW JUDGES".

The qualifications for the first time applicants are specific to breeds in which the applicant has documented hands-on experience in owning, breeding or exhibiting. Eligible fanciers on their first application may apply for up to 50% of the number of breeds in the largest group for which they are applying.

2. CEU credit assigned for attending a show where a low entry breed is present

Under the section "Qualifying Components" of the Judging Approval Process, the following component (#13) was added to the final version of the proposal prior to the June Board meeting (page 6):

13. With respect to a Low Entry Breed only, attending a show where the breed is exhibited, examining the dogs present and discussing the breed with the exhibitor(s) – 1 CEU. 1 additional CEU for each additional attendance. (Entries of 3 or less dogs cannot be repeated by additional attendance where the same dogs are entered.) Maximum 3 CEU

By its description this experience would be classified as a "tutoring experience" defined under #3 of the same section. The Low Entry experience described in #13 is assigned a lower CEU value than the corresponding tutoring session found under #3. This inconsistency is likely to cause confusion to applicants. Staff recommends eliminating #13 and re-numbering accordingly.

3. Adjunct Breed and Junior Showmanship Applicants

The Board reviewed recommendations to modify the Board policies regarding the approval of Adjunct Breed and Junior Showmanship applicants to be consistent with the newly adopted Judging Approval Process. The Adjunct Application Process defines the requirements and procedures for individuals who wish to apply for approval to judge new breeds assigned a date of full recognition. The Junior Showmanship Application Process defines the requirements and procedures for individuals who wish to apply for approval to judge Junior Showmanship Classes

with either All-Breed or Limited Status. Sections having proposed changes (underline) to the Adjunct Application Policy follow:

Application must be submitted with a \$25 non-refundable application fee per breed and completed breed exam. Credit will be applied on future application(s) of any breed(s) not approved.

All applicants must pass the Breed Standard Test and be interviewed satisfactorily by an AKC Executive Field Representative

For measurable breeds (height and/or weight as a disqualification or condition of class), adjunct applicant will be required to pass the applicable wicket and/or scales exam. Currently approved judges tested on the same apparatus in the five years preceding the submission of the adjunct application will be exempt from this requirement excluding those who have received a negative observation report on measuring procedure or failed the applicable wicket and/or scales test during the five year period.

- Following the interview, the complete application process and the result of the interview with the Executive Field Representative will be reviewed by the Department. Final approval of adjunct breeds will be approved either as permit or regular status and consistent with procedure as described in the Board approved Judging Approval Process. Judges will be informed by mail or email of their status. Failure of wicket or scales during the breed interview will result in a second wicket or scales demonstration needed before application is reviewed by the Department. Judges may not accept assignments until they have received official notification of their status. The judge's file and AKC's Website will be updated and the judge's name, number and the breeds granted on a regular or permit basis will be published in the next available issue of the GAZETTE. Status of applicant to be determined by the following:
- **Permit Status** is granted to Adjunct applicants currently approved for less than one complete group. Their names will be published and they may now accept assignments. Adjunct applicants granted permit status must meet the criteria defined in the Judging Approval Process in order to request regular status.

Additional breed applicants that have applied for a balance of a group in which an Adjunct breed would automatically be added upon final approval of the balance of that group will be required to be submit a non-refundable \$25 application fee per applicable adjunct breed(s) prior to being scheduled by staff for their interview on all applied breeds with an AKC Executive Field Representative. Applicant must be interviewed satisfactorily by an AKC Executive Field Representative on adjunct breed. Credit will be applied on future application(s) of any breed(s) not approved.

There was a motion by Mr. Gladstone, seconded by Dr. Battaglia, and it was VOTED (unanimously, absent Mr. Arnold and Mr. Powers) to consider the amendments to the judging approval process at this meeting, waiving the usual notice requirement.
There was a motion by Mr. Gladstone, seconded by Mr. Ashby, and it was VOTED (unanimously, absent Mr. Arnold and Mr. Powers) to implement the changes to the judging approval process, which became effective September 1, 2015.

Conformation Judges Books

There was a discussion on confusion and errors caused by the current requirements for checked boxes in conformation judges' books. The sense was that the incidences of the withholding of awards and grand champion points was extremely small compared to the confusion the current process is creating for exhibitors and clubs.

Following a motion by Dr. Battaglia, seconded by Mr. Gladstone, it was VOTED (unanimously, absent Mr. Arnold and Mr. Powers) to amend the Conformation Judges' Books as follows:

- Eliminate the check box for the withholding of Winners and Reserve
- Eliminate the box next to Best of Breed and Best of Opposite Sex and make the wording of Grand Championship Points the default rather than the withholding of such points. Change the wording to read: Indicate if points are not to be awarded to Best of Breed or Best of Opposite Sex.

It was further discussed that if a judge wishes to either withhold awards they would write it in the judge's book. These changes are to be effective January 1, 2016.

The Criteria for Groups Judging Approval

Ms. Cruz expressed the opinion that with the new judging approval procedure, the policy of granting a judge group status based upon being approved for breeds representing 80% of the entries in that group the preceding year be eliminated. There was no second to this motion.

Eligibility to Handle the 4-6 Month Puppy Competition

Ms. Cruz pointed out the inconsistency in handler eligibility between the 4-6 Month Puppy competition and the NOHS. In the former, anyone who has ever been a professional handler is ineligible, while in the latter only individuals who have handled within the past five year professionally would be ineligible to handle.

Following a motion by Ms. Cruz, seconded by Mr. Dok it was VOTED (affirmative: Ms. Cruz, Mr. Dok, Mr. Kalter, Mr. Feeney, Dr. Battaglia, Mr. Gladstone, Dr. Davies; opposed: Mr. Wooding, Dr. Garvin, Mr. Ashby, Mr. Menaker; absent Mr. Arnold, Mr. Powers) to only prohibit individuals who handled professionally within the past five years to handle in the 4-6 Month Puppy Class Competition and to make the restrictions on who may handle in this class identical to those for the NOHS. This is effective October 1, 2015 to enable it to be included in premium lists.

New Judging Approval Process Forms

At its June 2015 meeting, the Board of Directors voted to adopt a new Conformation Judging Approval Process to be effective September 1, 2015. Included in the newly adopted Board policy is the following excerpt, "Every form or request for information proposed for use to implement and administer this Judging Approval Policy shall be submitted to the Board of Directors."

The forms to be used were reviewed by the Board and will be distributed as recommended by staff.

Conformation Judging Application Quarterly Statistics

The Board reviewed the quarterly report from Judging Operations which provides to the Board statistics related to conformation judging applications considered by the Judges Review Committee in the previous three months.

Canine College

The Board had previously agreed that upon implementation of the new Judging Approval Process to properly resource a "Canine College" which had been previously proposed by Dr. Garvin. The goal of the Board is to assure proper training materials are available to prospective judges in a central digital library and to actively work with Parent Clubs to assure materials exist. It is also anticipated that use of new technology will be used to enhance the learning experience. There was a motion by Mr. Ashby, seconded by Dr. Battaglia, and it was VOTED (unanimously, absent Mr. Powers) to request the President to reallocate resources within the unfilled budget positions in the 2015 budget to hire a training specialist to implement the Canine College, to include a digital library in connection with the judging approval process. Dr. Garvin was asked to be the Board liaison on this project and to report to the Board on a regular basis on the progress of the Canine College.

The Board Adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Meeting reconvened on Tuesday, July 21, 2015 at 8:00 am. All Directors were present except Mr. Arnold and Mr. Powers, both of whom participated by telephone conference, but in accordance with the AKC Bylaws, were not permitted to vote. Also present were the Executive Secretary and the Assistant Executive Secretary.

COMPLIANCE

Heather McManus and Michael Liosis, AKC Staff, participated in this portion of the meeting via video conference.

Complaint filed by Mr. Gary Steele, Ms. Michelle Steele and Ms. Kimberlie Steele-Gamero against the American Boxer Club

The Board reviewed a complaint submitted in accordance with Article XII of the *Charter and Bylaws of the American Kennel Club* by Mr. Gary Steele, Ms. Michelle Steele and Ms. Kimberlie Steele-Gamero. After conducting a review of the complaint, staff recommended that jurisdiction over the matter should be denied, as the complaint alleged violation to the club's bylaws but since no specific violations were documented and summarized, no Board action was taken.

Complaint filed by Mr. Dennis Kirouac against the German Shorthaired Pointer Club of America

The Board reviewed a complaint submitted in accordance with Article XII of the *Charter and Bylaws of the American Kennel Club* by Mr. Dennis Kirouac. After conducting a review of the complaint staff recommends that jurisdiction over the matter should be denied. The Board voted not to entertain jurisdiction.

Complaint filed by Ms. Barbara Kym DeLisi against the Dogue de Bordeaux Society of America

The Board reviewed a complaint submitted in accordance with Article XII of the *Charter and Bylaws of the American Kennel Club* by Ms. Barbara Kym Delisi, a member of the Dogue de Bordeaux Society of America. After conducting a review of the complaint staff recommends that

jurisdiction over the matter should be denied. As the complaint alleged bylaws violations, but no specifics violations were documented and summarized, no Board action was taken.

AKC Kennel Inspections

Based on a request from the Board of Directors, Staff presented a plan to better enforce AKC Care and Conditions policy. The memo discussed the mechanics for attempting to accomplish this with AKC breeders who did not comply with AKC's care and conditions policies and due to neglect should have their dogs confiscated. There was discussion on the need where dogs are in imminent danger to get local authorities to seize the dogs due to the fact that AKC itself cannot seize another's dogs. Under current policy when dogs are deemed to be in imminent danger AKC notifies the local authorities for action. Although they are notified, due to other more pressing matters, actions are sometimes not taken.

Whether local law enforcement has the option to seize dogs depends on the specific provisions in the statute. AKC has for many years notified local, state and federal authorities when, during an inspection, it found the care and conditions of the dogs to be of immediate danger to the dogs.

Staff was directed to review current practices and to report on their effectiveness with regards to cases in the past years where reports of dogs in imminent danger were reported to the authorities.

Dealing With Misconduct Guidance

The Board requested that staff provide educational materials for club members in order for it to be easier for club members to comply with Dealing with Misconduct. Complying with Dealing with Misconduct is essential in order for incidents of conduct prejudicial at events to be properly handled; the accused to be able to defend themselves and the hearings be upheld should legal challenges be made. Compliance staff has spoken annually to the Executive Field Agents. Executive Field Agents routinely speak to club members. Executive Field Agents and Compliance staff are available to assist by providing procedural advice to clubs and those accused of conduct prejudicial at events. It could be of additional assistance to provide a Power Point presentation available from akc.org. The AKC will make available on akc.org a Power Point Presentation with a voice-over going through Dealing with Misconduct.

The following AKC Management actions were reported:

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

CONFORMATION

Doug Ljungren, Alan Slay, Tim Thomas, Glenn Lycan, and Bri Tesarz, AKC Staff, participated in this portion of the meeting via video conference.

Earning One Point for Best of Winners With Competition

The Board reviewed a recommendation by Staff to provide the opportunity for one Championship point to be awarded to the Best of Winners if a Championship point is not earned through the current point calculation process and the combined number of regular class competitors of both sexes is enough to earn one point based on their breed/division/sex. This change would apply to all breeds. This proposal was referred to the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee for its input.

AKC NOHS Program Enhancements

The Board reviewed Staff recommended enhancements to the National Owner Handled Series (NOHS) :

1. Establish recommended ribbon colors for all NOHS awards.

2. Incorporate the current NOHS best practices, frequently asked questions, and judging procedures into one comprehensive document called NOHS Polices & Best Practices
3. Indicate NOHS eligible dogs in the judges' book.
4. Offer NOHS Reserve Best in Show (approved by the Board at March 2015 meeting).

Following a motion by Dr. Garvin, seconded by Mr. Wooding, it was VOTED (affirmative: Dr. Garvin, Mr. Wooding, Mr. Ashby Mr. Kalter, Mr. Feeney, Ms. Cruz, Mr. Menaker, Dr. Battaglia, opposed: Mr. Gladstone, Mr. Dok, Dr. Davies; absent: Mr. Arnold, Mr. Powers) to remove number 3 from consideration.

There was a motion by Mr. Gladstone, seconded by Mr. Ashby, and it was VOTED (unanimously; absent Mr. Arnold, Mr. Powers) to adopt the following required ribbon colors for NOHS, effective October 8, 2015:

- NOHS Best of Breed/Variety Maroon
- NOHS Group 1 – Neon Pink
- NOHS Group 2 – Neon Green
- NOHS Group 3 – Teal
- NOHS Group 4 – Cream
- NOHS Best in Show – Turquoise
- NOHS Reserve Best in Show – Light Green

The subject of indicating NOHS eligible dogs in the judge's book is to be discussed further at the September 2015 meeting. Item 2 will be implemented including the guideline that a single person should not be used to do the entire NOHS judging nor should a judge be assigned the NOHS group *prior* to having that judge do the same group for the all-breed show.

Special Attraction: Pee Wee Class

The Dog Show Rules Committee proposed the addition of a Pee Wee Class as a pre-approved Special Attraction. While approving the Class as a Special Attraction, the Board would require a club to apply to hold it each time, with approval given on a case-by-case basis. Staff has worked with the committee to establish the Procedures and Guidelines for conducting the class, which the Board discussed at its June 2015 meeting. There was still concern among Board members regarding liability issues associated with the class. Heather McManus, AKC Senior Attorney, reviewed the release that parents/guardians must sign in order for the young person to participate. These releases must be obtained for each child prior to the beginning of the actual Pee Wee Class Special Attraction. Staff was directed to seek advice from AKC's insurance carrier .The final guidelines, after discussing it with the insurance carrier, are as follows:

PEE WEE CLASS SPECIAL ATTRACTION
Procedures and Guidelines

The Pee Wee Special Attraction is a pre-Junior Showmanship class. The Pee Wee class is geared for children 5–9 years of age. Safety is a primary concern.

Each Pee Wee unit consists of the child, his/her parent, guardian, or responsible adult, and the dog. Only one Pee Wee unit is in the ring at a time. This is not a competitive class, but rather a fun, learning experience for the child and the adult.

At an All-Breed Event the judge must be an AKC approved All Breed Junior Showmanship Judge. A Group Club or Specialty Club may have a Limited Status Junior Showmanship Judge that meets the criteria. The Judge MUST like children, be patient, kind, and have a sense of humor!

This Special Attraction must be listed as such in the premium list and in any public announcements which will include the following information:

- A dog must be at least four months of age to enter the Pee Wee class.
- Bitches in season will not be allowed to participate. If pre-entered, a dog may be substituted that meets the eligibility requirements as specified by the club.
- All dogs entered must have the proper lead and collar.
- A responsible adult must be present with the child both inside and outside the ring and the adult is to control the dog outside of the ring.
- At a Group or Specialty Club Show the dogs must be of the breed(s) eligible for the event.
- At an All-Breed event, all AKC fully recognized and Miscellaneous Class breeds must be allowed to enter, including dogs with a PAL listing.
- At an All-Breed event, it is up to the host club to decide if FSS breeds not in the Miscellaneous Class and All-American dogs are allowed to enter.
- It is up to the host club to decide if a dog must be registered to participate.
- How entries will be accepted is up to the host club. Clubs may take day-of-show entries if they wish.
- The entry fee, if any, shall be specified.
- Clubs may specify a limit on the number of dogs allowed to enter the class.
- Clubs assume full responsibility for the safety of everyone involved with its special attraction.
- The parent of the participant as well as the responsible adult accompanying the participant must sign a waiver; the terms of which have been approved by AKC.

The safety of both the dogs and Juniors inside and outside the ring is a primary concern. An additional lead, provided by the Club, should be at the Judge's table. At the Judge's discretion based upon the size of the child and the dog, for safety purposes the adult may be asked to attach a safety lead to the dog so both child and adult will walk the dog together.

It is essential that the club hosting this Special Attraction provide the support and time to greet the participants and make them feel welcome and be able to answer any question that may arise. There should be a minimum of three club members to assist participants, monitor the ring for safety, and one may act as the steward. Club members must be patient, pleasant, and willing to dedicate as

much time as needed to create a pleasant experience for the young Junior and his/her adult. THIS IS VITAL TO THE SUCCESS OF THIS PROGRAM.

Each of these club members assisting should make themselves familiar with the Junior Showmanship Conformation Regulations, Guidelines for Judging Juniors in Conformation, Juniors in Performance Event Regulations booklet. It is recommended that these Regulations be available to those junior entrants at the show along with the Pee Wee class procedures and guidelines. (The club may download the PDF of the booklet or order from the Order Desk.)

Although the word “judge” will be used, this is designed to be a learning and mentoring experience—no Junior will be “judged” but rather will be mentored with the age-appropriate amount of information to help prepare them for what they will be expected to know about AKC regular Junior Showmanship once they reach 9 years of age. Obviously, the older children can absorb more detail than the younger ones. The children will be mentored one child, their adult, and dog in the ring at a time. Each child will receive a participation ribbon or rosette to commemorate the experience. The club may select the color of the ribbon and may wish to add a small gift for the child or the dog to take home. It would be an added plus if the Judge were to be available for individual photographs with the show or club photographer which would serve as a memento and reminder to both the child and the adult of the fun experience and remind them to return again next year!

The Judge should explain the process of showing the dog to the Junior and the responsible adult in the ring including breed specific presentation. Depending on the size of the dog and the child, the adult may be asked to lift a table breed on or off the table, or the Club may mandate that the adult should do it regardless. Neither the youngster nor the adult should be asked to show the bite.

Consider either holding the Pee Wee Special Attraction at lunchtime, which would give the child and the responsible adult time to get to the show; or the Club may wish to schedule this before the groups, when rings may be available. It is important to maximize spectator attendance as this is a huge crowd pleaser! Ideally, a designated ring for this Special Attraction would allow more time for one-on-one mentoring for each child and adult. If that is not possible, then a ring that is vacant would do, preferably centrally located (perhaps near the Club tent) for maximum viewing by the greatest audience.

Some clubs offer a pizza party or cake in a separate location after the classes are over for the children and adults to make new friends and share this new common interest.

Clubs are required to in each instance apply for AKC permission to hold this special attraction agreeing to abide by the above procedures.

Junior Showmanship, Novice and Open Class Criteria

The Board reviewed a proposed revision to the Regulations for Junior Showmanship, Section 5. Classes and Divisions regarding the description of the Novice Class and Open Class to make the description consistent with how the regulations are currently being enforced. The proposed revision will eliminate confusion with juniors not moving up and losing wins.

If approved the revision of the criteria for the Novice and Open Class to be effective October 7, 2015.

This will be discussed further at the September meeting.

BPUP Entry Deadline Change

The Board reviewed a recommendation to amend the Four-to-Six Month (Beginner Puppy) Competition Regulations to allow clubs the option to accept entries for Beginner Puppy competition beyond the traditional closing date and time and even up until the day of the show.

This will be discussed further at the September meeting.

Standing Approval of Sweepstakes (Including Futurities and Maturities)

The Board reviewed a recommendation from Staff to grant standing approval for Sweepstakes (which includes futurities and maturities) held in accordance with AKC rules.

Proposed Board Policy follows:

Sweepstakes

Sweepstakes (which includes futurities and maturities) held in accordance with AKC rules, regulations, policies, and procedures are considered in compliance with Rules Applying to Dog Shows Chapter 2, Section 13, and are granted standing approval by the AKC Board of Directors. Clubs complying with this Board policy are not required to submit a sweepstakes event application or sweepstakes judge panel to AKC.

This will be discussed further at the September meeting.

Increase Participation in the Breeder of Merit Program

Staff presented its Marketing Plan to increase the number of approved BOM Applicants monthly.

The average number of new BOM by month for the past 13 months is 73 with the average number of full litters registered being 510 per month. Sport Services is working with the Marketing and Communications staff to increase the frequency of emails inviting Breeder of Merit Candidates to apply for the program from quarterly to monthly. The goal is to increase the number of applications per month which will increase the number of full litters registered monthly.

Additionally, the letters included in the title certificates and Bred by Exhibitor Medallion mailings now encourage the breeder to apply for the Breeder of Merit Program

Puyallup Pee Wee Approval

Based on a request from the Board, Staff presented information related to Puyallup Valley Dog Fanciers, Inc., holding the Pee Wee class at their June 6, 2015 event.

Concurrent Match

The Board asked Event Operations staff to look into the possibility of matches being held concurrently with dog shows as part of the initiative to attract new participants. After discussing the pros and cons of the idea, staff presented an alternative to holding a concurrent match.

A way to provide a stress-free experience for new exhibitors would be for a club to offer a show-and-go ring. A show-and-go ring could serve three functions during the event. At the start of the

event the ring could be used for the New Exhibitor Briefing. This would allow an appropriate segregated location to introduce new exhibitors to the event. For the majority of the day the ring could be used by exhibitors to practice with their dogs. Having practice rings was brought forward by the Executive Field Staff as a positive for exhibitors based on their experience at events that provide practice rings. Exhibitors would have the opportunity to work their dog in an event-type environment without the pressure associated with point competition. Lastly, clubs could offer set time frames throughout the day to provide mentoring; sign-up could occur at the New Exhibitor Briefing and throughout the day as time and slots remain available.

Knowledgeable club members would staff the show-and-go ring to assist new exhibitors. The mentoring option also provides the club an opportunity to increase their event revenue if they choose, by offering mentoring at a small fee or donation. Executive Field Staff pointed out that some shows setting up practice rings kept a donation box at the ring entrance.

The goal of the show-and-go ring is to provide an opportunity for new exhibitors to obtain an understanding of the conformation procedure that is unavailable during regular class judging. Members staffing the ring do not have to have specific breed knowledge but participation knowledge to assist with the basics: armbands, lead and collar (could be breed specific), stacking, movement patterns, table or not table, basic grooming tips. Additionally this will provide a focal point for new exhibitors to meet other like-minded individuals. Promoting the set-up of a practice ring and mentoring ring at events would have a positive impact on AKC conformation events by exposing new dog owners to a user-friendly training experience.

Providing a one-on-one opportunity for a new exhibitor can potentially lead to a memorable positive experience with their dog. Some will be inspired to enroll their dogs in classes and become future competitors and potentially future club members.

Without objection, staff will begin to promote the set-up of show-and-go practice rings at events and the use of these rings by clubs to provide New Exhibitor Briefings and stress-free mentoring experiences. This option could be implemented quickly by clubs, giving them the ability to provide a better event experience for new exhibitors.

Free Entries

Based on a request from the Board, Event Operations presented information on the option of offering one free entry to all new registrants as part of the initiative to attract new participants. Staff was directed to research if there are viable ideas for consideration and if so, advise the Board in October.

Sports and Events Initiatives

The Sports and Events Department presented for information only a list of recent and on-going initiatives that were created to help or support either AKC clubs, exhibitors or new dog owners.

Concurrent Group Shows

The number of dogs a judge may judge in the day when a Group and an All-Breed show are held concurrently was discussed. Since a judge may do 175 dogs in a day when doing an all-breed show alone, the Board did not see the need to reduce the limit to 100 dogs per day for a judge because the assignment was spread over two events. Staff was asked to bring this back in September for final actions by the Board.

Dog Show Rule Change - Certificate of Merit Eligibility up to 12 Months

In September the Delegate's will vote on extending a puppies ability to earn a Certificate of Merit while competing in the puppy class. This proposal, if passed, has the potential to involve new people in the sport and significantly benefit our Clubs through increase entries in the puppy classes by exhibitors seeking this suffix title. Puppy entries have decreased significantly over the past 10 years and today 72% of the puppy classes are a single entry. The Board asked staff

to share with the Delegates prior to the September Delegate Meeting the rationale for their proposal and why the Staff and Board feel this is in the interest of the Clubs and Exhibitors.

WOOFtale

Michael Basone, AKC Staff, gave the Board an update on the WOOFtale product which involves a wearable for the dog as well as a website and social media about all things dog.

It was VOTED to adjourn Tuesday, July 21, 2015 at 12:10 pm.

Adjourned

Attest:

James P. Crowley, Executive Secretary