

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
June 8 - 9 2015

The Board convened on Monday, June 8, 2015 at 12:50 p.m. All Directors were present except Mr. Arnold and Mr. Powers. Also present were the Executive Secretary, and the Assistant Executive Secretary. Mr. Powers participated by telephone conference, but in accordance with the AKC Bylaws, he was not permitted to vote. The April 2015 Board minutes, copies of which were made available to all Directors, were discussed. They were amended to reflect that on the vote to reconsider a decision to rescind breeds from Mr. Bengtson, Dr. Davies had abstained. Upon a motion by Mr. Gladstone, seconded by Dr. Battaglia, the April 2015 minutes were approved and amended.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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.

Economic Benefit of AKC Events

The Board reviewed a report that covers the findings from an online quantitative survey conducted by the AKC during a one month period from April 10 to May 11, 2015.

The objective of this study was to gather current and relevant information to assess the benefits of AKC events to regional economies. This information will be used to help clubs illustrate the value that AKC dog event participants bring to local communities through significant spending on such services and products as lodging, food, transportation, etc.

Just over 84,000 surveys were emailed. A total of 14,288 respondents who have attended an AKC dog event in the past 12 months completed the survey for a response rate of 17%. Of those respondents, 3,516 say they have chaired an AKC event (25% of the total respondents). The survey results show that AKC Events generate significant dollars in spending by both Exhibitors and Clubs.

- Events in the Midwest can generate up to \$370 million annually to the Midwest region.
- Events in the Northeast can generate up to \$309 million annually to the Northeast region.
- Events in the Southeast can generate up to \$285 million annually to the Southeast region.
- Events in the West can generate up to \$271 million annually to the West region.
- Events in the Southwest can generate up to \$271 million annually to the Southwest region.

In total AKC events have the potential to generate over \$1.5 billion in spending nationwide every year.

WOOFtale

Michael Basone, Steve Pessah, AKC staff, and Jay Cahill, from Bluefin Technology Partners were present for this portion of the meeting. Mr. Cahill gave the Board an update on the status of WOOFtale.

IT Conversion

Michael Basone, AKC Vice President of Technology, presented a full set of recommendations, budget, and timeline for AKC's Information Technology resources. His ultimate goal is to reduce the overall cost of our information technology operations while providing the level of services that AKC requires both today and in the future.

There was a discussion on the expanded Online Competition Management System (OCMS). Mr. Basone indicated that additional resources were needed in a supplemental IT budget in order to complete OCMS, so that it could be made available to clubs.

Following a motion by Mr. Kalter, seconded by Ms. Cruz, it was VOTED (unanimously; absent Mr. Arnold, Mr. Powers) to approve an additional \$360,000 to complete the OCMS project.

Mr. Basone explained work that had to be done to maintain the current legacy systems while carrying out the migration to the Cloud technology. He indicated that this would require 2015 expenditure of two million dollars in a supplemental 2015 IT budget.

Following a motion by Mr. Menaker, seconded by Ms. Cruz, it was VOTED (affirmative: Mr. Menaker, Ms. Cruz, Mr. Ashby, Mr. Kalter, Dr. Battaglia, Dr. Garvin, Mr. Dok, Dr. Davies, Mr. Wooding, Mr. Feeney; absent: Mr. Arnold, Mr. Powers; abstaining: Mr. Gladstone) to approve an expenditure of two million dollars in 2015 in the supplemental budget, to initiate the migration and modify the current legacy systems.

Real Estate Committee

Mr. Sprung reported on a survey of AKC's Real Estate Committee (REC) and management that has been completed regarding the anticipated space needs for the future. The REC will receive recommendations from CBRE, the real estate firm AKC has contracted, and the REC will be making a recommendation to the AKC Board.

Registration Development

Mark Dunn, AKC staff, participated in this portion of the meeting.

There was a report on the status of the roll out of the new Bred With H.E.A.R.T (BWH) program. The AKC goal is to encourage breeders to work in tandem with AKC's commitment to dog health, breeder education and dog welfare through health testing of breeding stock and our care and conditions policy resulting in a responsible breeding community. The Breeder of Merit (BOM) and the BWH programs are an important part of our breeder outreach and complement one another. These programs constitute the only programs in the United States which are aimed at the responsible breeding of purebred dogs and provide the tools to do so. BOM and BWH both recognize and support breeders who certify that applicable health screens are performed on their breeding stock as recommended by the Parent Club.

AKC Canine Health Foundation

Mr. Ashby, Vice Chairman, reported that AKC and the AKC Canine Health Foundation agreed to an executed Memorandum of Understanding to replace the previous which had expired. The Board had previously voted to provide a matching grant of up to \$500,000 for new money raised in 2015 under the same conditions that applied in 2014. This grant was contingent upon the executed Memorandum of Understanding. The terms of the grant are that:

AKC will provide a 1 to 1 dollar-amount match for any cash contribution collected from a new donor in 2015 up to \$500,000. AKC matching dollars will be only used for grants, however, regardless of the type of donation made by the new donor. A new donor is defined as a donor who has not contributed to AKC-CHF in the past 2 calendar years (i.e. 2013 and 2014) including their immediate family members or corporations or foundations for which they control or are on the board of. AKC will only match cash contributions or amounts that are readily convertible to cash within 30 days.

The funding will be based on quarterly statements to AKC with payments made each time as soon as possible, except for the last statement which is funded after the KPMG confirmation with a listing of new donors who qualify for the match as of December 31, 2015 together with a report from KPMG verifying the matching criteria was met for the year is received. Costs related to such service will be borne by AKC-CHF.

AKC Pension Plan

Dr. Garvin, Chairman of the Pension Committee reported on an amendment to the Pension Plan. It would provide individuals, who are neither retired and receiving a pension benefit nor still employed by AKC, but who are vested in a future pension benefit, with the option of taking an immediate lump-sum cash payment in lieu of monthly payments at some future date.

Affected individuals will be contacted with the specifics of this option.

This was approved in principle at the April 2015 meeting with final approval contingent upon agreeing to the actual wording.

Following a motion by Dr. Garvin, seconded by Dr. Davies, it was VOTED (unanimously; absent: Mr. Arnold, Mr. Powers) to adopt the amendment to the AKC Employees Retirement Plan.

The Board Adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

Meeting reconvened on Tuesday, June 9, 2015 at 8:00 am. All Directors were present except for Lee Arnold and Tom Powers. Mr. Powers participated by telephone conference, but in accordance with the AKC Bylaws, he was not permitted to vote. Also present were the Executive Secretary and the Assistant Executive Secretary.

The discussion on the Bred With Heart program continued.

When fully implemented, BWH will support AKC's continued commitment to canine health as well as help the general public identify the most responsible breeders from which to buy a family pet.

New Management Employees

The Board were introduced to the following new management employees,

Aimee Ritell, Director of Marketing
Brandi Hunter, Director of Public Relations
Elie Orgel, Marketing Manager.

Judging Approval Procedure

There was a discussion on proposed revisions to the Judging Approval Process.

The Board discussed the final version of the proposed Judging Approval Process. This version incorporates changes resulting from the April 2015 comment period.

Following a motion by Mr. Gladstone, seconded by Dr. Battaglia, it was VOTED (affirmative: Mr. Gladstone, Mr. Menaker, Dr. Battaglia, Mr. Kalter, Mr. Ashby, Mr. Dok, Dr. Davies; opposed: Mr. Feeney, Mr. Wooding, Ms. Cruz, Dr. Garvin; absent Mr. Arnold, Mr. Powers) to adopt the revised Judging Approval Process attached to these minutes.

The revised policy becomes effective September 2015.

Staff was directed to prepare a report for the Board so that the effect of the new policy could be measured. Staff will administer the tracking report and provide the results to the Board on an annual basis. Prior to the start of the new process, staff will provide the benchmark numbers to

the Board for each of the five measurements, and the sourcing data used to arrive at these benchmarks. Four of the items are statistical, while the second will require establishing a survey and methodology. The report, based on an annual survey and in-house data, is to track any changes to the following matrixes on a year-to-year basis:

- What percentage of the judges are judging what percent of the dogs competing.
- What is the perception of judging competency among exhibitors.
- What is the number of unique dog show entries.
- What Component Educational Units (CEU's) are being used by applicants and which are not being used.

Invitations to Apply

Pat Cruz pointed out that under the previous judging approval policy there was a provision for extending invitations to individuals to apply for additional breeds. A moratorium had been placed on that provision which was still in place.

Following a motion by Ms. Cruz, seconded by Mr. Menaker, it was VOTED (unanimously; absent: Mr. Arnold, Mr. Powers) to remove the moratorium as the provision no longer exists in the judging approval process.

CONSENT

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

- Delegate and Club Approvals
- Agility Premier Class Regulations
- Eligibility to Judge CAT
- Employee Participation in the Sports
- Recognizing GCH Levels as Titles
- Concurrent Group and All-Breed Events
- Changes to Rules Applying to Dog Shows, Obedience Regulations, Rally Regulations and Tracking Regulations to Allow for Electronic Documents

Delegates Approved

Karen J. Clausing, El Dorado, KS
To represent Miniature Pinscher Club of America

Josephine De Menna, Wilton, CT
To represent Progressive Dog Club

Mark A. Essary, Edmond, OK
To represent Oklahoma City Kennel Club

Mary E. Gauthier-Teeling, Cofu, NY
To represent Tonawanda Valley Kennel Club

Julie M. Lux, Kearny, MO
To represent Heart of America Kennel Club

Richard Nosiglia, Romulus, NY
To represent Saint Bernard Club of America

Agility Premier Class Regulations

The Board VOTED to approve the recommended regulations for a new higher level class in agility called the Premier class. The class provides more difficult challenges than is currently offered in the AKC agility program.

Clubs may start applying to hold the Premier Class after July 1, 2015. Clubs may start running the Premier class at their agility trials effective October 1, 2015.

AGILITY REGULATIONS

NEW Chapter 11

Premier Championship Classes

Section 1. Purpose. These optional titling classes are designed to challenge dogs and handlers at an increased speed and skill level above those set for the Master level classes.

Handlers/dogs will need to negotiate courses that require varied approach angles, spacing, and obstacle discriminations to be successful in these classes. These classes are offered as separate titling tracks and are not part of the MACH/PACH Championships.

The classes may be offered once per day as an additional class or classes. Clubs may, but are not required to offer Premier Standard and Premier Jumpers with Weaves on the same day.

Section 2. Eligibility. Dogs with an AX title are eligible to enter Premier Standard Regular. Dogs with an AX or AXP title are eligible to enter Premier Standard Preferred. Dogs with an AXJ title are eligible to enter Premier Jumpers with Weaves Regular. Dogs with an AXJ or AJP title are eligible to enter Premier Jumpers with Weaves Preferred. Dogs with Regular titles may crossover to the Premier Preferred level as noted above.

Section 3. Performance Standards

- Minimum allowable score required to qualify = 100.
- The course must be completed before the dog reaches the Maximum Course Time (MCT).
- Additional Non-Qualifying faults (beyond those listed in Chapter 5, Sections 5 and 6).

-Any Course Fault

Maximum Course Times (MCT)

Premier Standard

Regular:

- 55 seconds for the 20 and 26 inch Regular jump heights.
- 60 seconds for the 16 and 24 inch Regular jump heights.
- 65 seconds for the 8 and 12 inch Regular jump heights.

Preferred:

- 60 seconds for 16 inch Preferred jump height.
- 65 seconds for 12 and 20 inch Preferred jump heights.
- 70 seconds for 4 and 8 inch Preferred jump heights.

Note: For timing purposes all Premier Standard classes may have timer set for MCT of 70 seconds.

Premier Jumpers With Weaves

Regular:

- 40 seconds for 20 and 26 inch Regular jump heights.

- 45 seconds for the 16 and 24 inch Regular jump heights.
- 48 seconds for the 8 and 12 inch Regular jump heights.

Preferred:

- 45 seconds for 16 inch Preferred jump height.
- 50 seconds for 12 and 20 inch Preferred jump heights.
- 53 seconds for 4 and 8 inch Preferred jump heights.

Note: For timing purposes all Premier Jumpers With Weaves classes may have timer set for MCT of 53 seconds.

Minimum Obstacle Requirements:

- Quantity = 19-21
- Obstacles required, allowed, and not allowed will be the same as the Master level courses as noted in Chapter 6, Section 5 for Standard; and Chapter 7, Section 5 for Jumpers With Weaves, except that both classes will have a maximum of three tunnel passes and Standard will not have a table.
- In both classes the viaduct jumps, as described in Chapter 13, Section 9, can be substituted for the panel jump or a spread jump, as long as the viaduct jump can be set for all heights.

Section 4. Obstacle and Jump Positions. Shall generally follow the requirements set forth in Chapter 4, Section 4, with the following exceptions:

A Distance of 25 – 30 feet between two obstacles may be approved up to two times on a course.

Distances of greater than 30 feet between obstacles may be approved to allow for turns between obstacles as necessary.

There may be one bi-directional tunnel or bar/single bar jump on the course.

Section 5. Approach Angles. Shall generally follow what is stated in Chapter 4, Section 5, except as detailed in the AKC Agility Judges Guidelines for the Premier Class.

Section 6. Titles. To earn the Premier Agility Dog (PAD), Premier Agility Dog Preferred (PADP), Premier Jumpers Dog (PJD) or Premier Jumpers Dog Preferred (PJDP) titles, a dog must earn 25 qualifying scores with five qualifying scores earned for placing in the top 25% of the dogs that competed in their jump height.

Dogs that are absent or withdrawn will not count toward the number of dogs competing in the jump height. The 25% calculation will be rounded down to determine the number of 25% placements in each jump height. In the case of a tie for the last 25% placement, a run-off will be held per Chapter 5, Section 2. If a class has two or three dogs competing, the 1st place dog will be awarded a top 25% placement qualifying score. If only one dog competes in the jump height, there will be no top 25% placement earned in that jump height.

Lifetime Achievement titles (bronze, silver, gold and century) will be awarded for each additional 25 qualifying scores earned in the Premier class.

Eligibility to Judge Coursing Ability Test (CAT)

The Board VOTED to approve changes to Sections 7 and 8 of the Coursing Ability Test (CAT) Regulations. This is a modification to the eligibility requirements regarding who may judge Coursing Ability Tests.

Changes to Section 7 (underlined) permit anyone with three or more years of experience in the sport of Lure Coursing to judge a Coursing Ability Test (CAT).

Section 7.

All AKC approved Lure Coursing event judges are approved to judge a Coursing Ability Test. People who are not Lure Coursing judges may be approved to judge a Coursing Ability Test provided they meet the following minimum requirements: (1) Must be in good standing with the AKC and are at least 21 years of age, and (2) Have a minimum of three years of experience in the sport of Lure Coursing. It is the responsibility of the hosting club to assure these requirements are met.

Changes to Section 8 (underlined) shift the responsibility for a safe course design from the judge to the event committee.

Section 8. Course Design.

The course shall be designed with safety for non-sighthound breeds as a primary consideration. There shall be no turns more acute than 90 degrees. The total length of the course shall be no less than 600 yards and should be as close to 600 yards as possible. The lure will consist of plastic strips. Depending on the size and type of dog, the dog will run either the full course or a 300 yard course. The 300 yard distance shall be clearly marked. Safety is of utmost importance. Many of the dogs running the Coursing Ability Test will not possess the agility of a sighthound and this must be a consideration in the design of the course.

The event committee is responsible for the safety of the course by ensuring they have experienced, knowledgeable individuals in course design at the event. The judge is responsible for walking the course prior to the start of the event in order to look for hazards.

Employee Participation in AKC Sports

The Board VOTED to amend the policy on AKC employee participation in the sport.

The intent of this change is to give the AKC staff the opportunity to participate in AKC's many event types, providing them a broader understanding of our events and their role in fulfilling our mission. The changes enable Vice Presidents, Assistant Vice Presidents and Field Staff to compete in events for which they have no administrative responsibilities. Employees will be able to compete for a Grand Championship title, but not for the Gold, Silver, or Platinum levels.

Employees will be able to judge any AKC non-titling event. The new policy follows:

Many employees are attracted to the AKC because of their love for dogs. Employees and members of their household are encouraged to compete at AKC events provided their job responsibilities do not result in a potential conflict of interest.

Dogs owned or co-owned by an employee or household members may be exhibited at AKC events unless one of the following conditions apply.

1. Field staff in Conformation, Companion Events and Performance Events and employees who are involved in the judging approval process, and household member of any of these groups, may not exhibit in the sport(s) for which they have administrative responsibilities. Dogs owned or co-owned by field staff or their household members

likewise may not be exhibited in these sports. Employees and their household members may exhibit at sports outside their responsibility. However, exhibiting may only take place at events in which the employee is not officially assigned.

2. Dogs owned or co-owned by an employee or household members, may be exhibited until such time as they achieve a title or titles, through the highest title listed below in each category:

Conformation..... Grand Champion (but not including
Bronze, Silver, Gold, and Platinum)
Obedience.....Obedience Trial Champion(OTCH)
Tracking..... Champion Tracker
Performance..... ..FC, AFC
Hunting Tests.....Master Hunter
Herding Trials..... Herding Champion
Lure Coursing.....Field Champion
Earthdog.....Master Earthdog
Agility..... Agility Champion (MACH1/PACH1)
Rally..... ..Rally Advanced Excellent (RAE)

After the highest title is achieved in a sport, dogs owned or co-owned may continue to be exhibited in non-regular classes in that sport.

3. Executive Officers and their household members may not exhibit at AKC events. CMC members involved in administering a Sport and their household members may not exhibit dogs in a Sport they administer, but may exhibit in any Sport outside their area of responsibility. CMC members not directly involved in administering events, as well as members of their household may exhibit in any AKC event with the same restrictions as apply to all employees.

4. Juniors who live in the same household as an employee may enter AKC events as a Junior Handler. However, exhibiting may only take place at events in which the employee is not officially assigned.

5. Employees may only judge at non-titling AKC events e.g. sanctioned events, sweepstakes, Futurities, Non-Regular Classes, and, if invited, at events held outside of the United states.

6. Unusual situations may occur. These should be brought to the attention of the CMC member in charge of the department, who will address the situation in consultation with the head of the Human Resources department.

Any questions or concerns regarding this policy should be referred to a member of the Human Resources professional staff.

Recognizing GCH Levels as Titles

The Board VOTED to modify the Grand Champion program so that the additional achievement levels are recognized as titles. The designations will be GCHB (Bronze), GCHS (Silver), GCHG (Gold), and GCHP (Platinum). This will require an amendment to Chapter 16, Section 7, of the Rules Applying to Dog Shows (new wording underlined below) and must be approved by the

Delegate body. It will be read at the September Delegate meeting and voted at the December Delegates meeting. If approved by the Delegate, it will become effective on January 1, 2016.

SECTION 7. Any champion which shall have won twenty-five points shall become a Grand Champion of Record, if nine or more of said points shall have been won at three shows with a rating of three or more Grand Championship points each and under three different judges, and some one or more of the balance of said points shall have been won under some other judge or judges than the three judges referred to above and at least one Champion was defeated at three shows. A dog becomes a Grand Champion when it is so officially recorded by The American Kennel Club and shall be entitled to a Grand Championship certificate.

Any Grand Champion which shall have won 100 Grand Championship points shall become a Grand Champion Bronze (GCHB). Any Grand Champion which shall have won 200 Grand Championship points shall become a Grand Champion Silver (GCHS). Any Grand Champion which shall have won 400 Grand Championship points shall become a Grand Champion Gold (GCHG). Any Grand Champion which shall have won 800 Grand Championship points shall become a Grand Champion Platinum (GCHP). After earning Grand Champion Platinum title, for each additional 800 Grand Championship points earned the Grand Champion Platinum title initials will be followed by a numeric designation indicating the quantity of times the dog has met the requirements of the Grand Champion Platinum title as defined above, e.g., 1,600 Grand Championship points = GCHP2. The AKC will identify dogs qualifying for these titles by the appropriate designations preceding their AKC name in all official AKC records. In each case, the higher title will supersede the preceding title in all official AKC records such that the highest title will be listed.

The change will be retroactive to the beginning of the Grand Champion program and the dog's titled name will be modified to reflect the highest GCH title they have earned. These dogs have already been awarded an achievement certificate and a medallion for each level previously earned, therefore, a title certificate will not be issued as part of the implementation. Dogs that earn a Grand Championship title after the implementation will receive a standard title certificate. Medallions will continue to be issued for winning the Grand Champion title as well as the advanced Grand Champion titles.

Concurrent Group and All-Breed Events

The Board VOTED to approved the Concurrent Group and All-Breed Events Pilot program as described below. It is approved with effective dates of July 1, 2015 – December 31, 2016. Staff will monitor these events and come back to the Board with a recommendation for the future of the program after the 18-month Pilot program.

Concurrent Group and All-Breed Events Pilot Program

Group and All-Breed events may be held concurrently with the following limitations:

1. Permission must be obtained from the all-breed club in order to apply.
2. The events must be held on the same grounds (i.e., the same physical address).

3. Ownership of the corresponding date must be agreed upon in writing and submitted with the event applications prior to event approval.
4. The breed judging in the all-breed event must be held prior to the breed judging in the group event in order to avoid delays in group judging in the all-breed event. Likewise, the group judging for the all-breed event must be held prior to the group judging in the group event.
5. Any judge who is shared by the two clubs involved is limited to 100 breed entries (for the two events combined) for the day plus any group or Best in Show assignments.
6. Evening or concurrent specialties are permitted for breeds that are not part of the group that is holding an event concurrently with the all-breed event.
7. All-breed events must offer group and Best in Show competition. Group events must offer group competition.
8. The use of multiple group rings is encouraged.
9. Junior Showmanship competition is allowed.
10. Obedience and Rally competitions are allowed, and encouraged, but must have their own ring(s) for competition.

Requests for multiple group events on the same day and site of an all-breed event will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

Changes to Rules Applying to Dog Shows, Obedience Regulations, Rally Regulations and Tracking Regulations to Allow for Electronic Documents

The Board VOTED to approve changes to Rules Applying to Dog Shows Chapter 4, Section 2; Chapter 7, Section 12; and Chapter 12, Sections 1, 3, 4, and 6; to allow for publication of electronic documents at the club's discretion.

This recommendation would be read at the September Delegates meeting and voted at the December Delegates meeting to be effective January 1, 2016. The Board also VOTED to approve the changes to the Obedience Regulations Chapter 1, Sections 3 and 26, Rally Regulations Chapter 1, Section 3 and 20, and Tracking Regulations Chapter 1, Section 18, contingent upon the Delegates approval of the change to Rules Applying to Dog Shows effective January 1, 2016.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Heather McManus Senior Attorney, participated in this portion of the meeting, and Sheila Goffe, AKC Staff, participated in this portion of the meeting by video conference.

Delegate Eligibility - "Professional" Judge

The Board reviewed a proposal that was submitted on behalf of the Delegate Bylaws Committee. The Delegate Bylaws Committee is proposing an amendment to Article VI, Section 5 of the Bylaws of The American Kennel Club that would permit Delegate Judges to charge a fee of up to \$150 per assignment over and above actual expenses.

Following a motion by Mr. Gladstone, seconded by Dr. Garvin, it was VOTED (affirmative: Mr. Gladstone, Dr. Garvin, Mr. Kalter, Mr. Menaker, Mr. Feeney, Mr. Ashby, Ms. Cruz, Dr. Davies, Mr. Wooding, Mr. Dok, opposed: Dr. Battaglia; absent: Mr. Arnold, Mr. Powers) to approve the addition of the following underlined wording to the first paragraph of ARTICLE VI, SECTION 5 of the Bylaws of The American Kennel Club:

SECTION 5. Any person in good standing with the AKC who is a resident citizen of the United States, its territories or possessions, or has permanent resident

alien status as defined by the Immigration and Naturalization Act, shall be eligible to become or remain a Delegate, providing this person meets the criteria for occupational eligibility given herein. No person is eligible to become or remain a Delegate if he or she (a) is a professional handler or trainer of dogs, professional judge of purebred dog events, a professional judge defined as one who charges a fee of more than an amount of \$150 in excess of actual expenses, (b) is engaged in trade or traffic in dogs, which includes commercial breeders or brokers of dogs for resale, (c) is employed full time in the manufacture or sale of dog food or dog supplies, (d) is a publisher or other person who promotes show dogs/kennels through solicitation or acceptance of advertisements in commercial dog publications, dog show superintendents or his or her employees. (e) has a significant interest in a dog registry, dog event-giving organization or any organization deemed to be in competition with AKC or in conflict with its objects. Significant interest would include but not be limited to, ownership in, employment by, a directorship of, and holding office in.

This proposed change will be read at the September Delegates meeting and voted upon at the December Delegates meeting.

2016 and 2017 Meeting Calendar

In April 2015, the Board VOTED to base the 2016 and beyond calendar on the second Tuesday of the month with the exception of February (Westminster Kennel Club dog show) and December (AKC/Eukanuba National Championship). The Bylaws require that the Delegate Meetings be held in March, June, September, and December or January (based on AKC/Eukanuba being in either month).

The Bylaws also require that there be at least eight regular Board meetings in a year. Beginning in 2016, the Board meetings are to be held in the eight months where there are no Delegate Meetings. The Board reviewed the projected 2016 and 2017 calendars for both the Board and Delegates meetings. Following a motion by Dr. Battaglia, seconded by Mr. Dok, it was VOTED (affirmative: Dr. Battaglia, Mr. Dok, Mr. Menaker, Mr. Ashby, Ms. Cruz, Mr. Kalter, Dr. Davies, Dr. Garvin, Mr. Feeney, Mr. Gladstone; opposed: Mr. Wooding; absent: Mr. Arnold, Mr. Powers) to approve the 2016 and 2017 dates indicated with the February 2017 dates contingent on the dates of the Westminster Kennel Club dog show.

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. It was reported that the Delegate Bylaws Committee voted to endorse and to co-sponsor this amendment.

This will be discussed further at the July Board meeting.

Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee for the March 2016 election must be appointed by August 15, and its report must be received no later than October 15, 2015. The Board was reminded that as there is no August 2015 Board meeting, the appointment must be made at the July 2015 meeting to meet the requirements of the AKC Bylaws.

Canine Legislation Position on Predatory Pet Leasing Schemes

The Board was given 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. This will be discussed further at the July meeting.

Litigation Against Discriminatory Legislation

Based on a request from the Board, Staff presented information on becoming more aggressive in litigation against "discriminatory laws," meaning laws that potentially may harm or discriminate against certain dog owners such as breeders, owners of certain breeds of dogs, or individuals with disabilities utilizing a service dog. It might also include issues related to AKC and/or dog owners' interests such as regulation of pet sales, the role of animals as legal property, and other issues.

This will be discussed further at the July 2015 meeting.

Importation and Interstate Transport of Dogs for Retail Rescue

Based on a request from the Board, Staff provided a report detailing the problems surrounding the importation and interstate transportation of dogs for retail rescue (also known as "dog trafficking") and resulting public health concerns, and discussed potential public policy solutions to better protect the public health and breeders' interest.

State governments, particularly those most impacted in New England, have begun looking at the influx of imported dogs and responding to the challenge with regulations requiring quarantines and health examinations of dogs and registration or licensing of rescue groups that import them.

State federations remain concerned with the impact public health has on dog trafficking, and the lack of public funding available to enforce animal importation laws and regulations.

The Board discussed the fact that opportunities exist for states to better address issues related to dog trafficking. Solutions could be pursued through legislative and regulatory advocacy efforts spearheaded by AKC, state federations, and other allied organizations.

This will be discussed further at the July 2015 meeting.

Legal Status Reporting

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was an Executive Session to discuss personnel matters with nothing reported out of this session.

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 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 will be posted to the AKC website following their June meeting.

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 CE 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

COMPLIANCE

Proposed Breeder Assistance Program

The Board was given a Staff report on a proposed program that would assist breeders in need of rehoming dogs. Such a program would benefit those who, because of illness, resources, natural disasters, etc., are unable to care for their dogs and who seek a discreet and confidential program through which to rehome their dogs.

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, Mari-Beth O'Neill, and Bri Tesarz, AKC Staff, participated in this portion of the meeting via video conference.

Defibrillators at Shows

The Board discussed the question of having defibrillators at all-breed and group shows. Currently, AKC requires that group and all-breed clubs have a qualified Emergency Medical Technician (CPR certified) in attendance from one hour prior to the start of judging until completion of all judging at group and all-breed conformation events. While Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) are trained in the use of defibrillators, it is not required that they provide one onsite. It should be noted that if the event is held in a public facility (physical structure), these facilities likely will have AEDs onsite in order to be in compliance with state regulations. Requiring superintendents to provide and operate an AED would necessitate the training of employees, the purchase and maintenance of equipment, and compliance with state requirements for each state where their services are provided.

Given the EMTs' availability, their training, their ongoing need to maintain the AED device and their familiarity with local laws, it is the staff's recommendation that the EMTs should be the ones responsible for providing the AED.

Clubs holding AKC events are required to complete a Disaster and Emergency Plan as part of their application. This provides a vehicle to convey the importance of AED devices.

Following a motion by Mr. Kalter, seconded by Dr. Garvin it was VOTED to approve two changes to the Disaster and Emergency Plan effective September 1, 2015.

- 1) The following wording will be added to the cover letter of the Disaster and Emergency Plan as recommendation number 9

9. Clubs holding group and all-breed conformation events in public facilities must identify the location of all onsite automated external defibrillators (AED). If the event location does not have onsite AEDs, it is recommended that the club request the EMT in attendance provide an AED.

2) On the Disaster and Emergency Plan form itself, the following question with a checkbox should be added:

For group and all-breed shows, does the show location have automated external defibrillators onsite?

This is a modification to Board policy.

Low-Entry Breeds

The Board continued to discuss ways to assist low-entry breeds with regards to earning Championship points. It was agreed that any recommendations should be based upon verifiable statistical information.

Limited Status Junior Judges, Eligible to Judge Group Shows

The Board reviewed a recommendation 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 involve, if approved, revisions to the Conformation Junior Showmanship Regulations, Sections 2 and 4. If approved by the AKC Board, the effective date will be October 1, 2015.

The Board will discuss this further at the July meeting.

Junior Showmanship, Master Class Criteria

The Board reviewed a Staff proposal 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. If approved, the new criteria will be effective on October 7, 2015. The Board will discuss this further at the July meeting.

Addition of the Pee Wee Class to the List of Special Attractions with Standing Approval

The Dog Show Rules Committee proposed the addition of a Pee Wee Class as a pre-approved Special Attraction. Staff has worked with the committee to establish the Procedures and Guidelines for conducting the class. There was still concern among Board members regarding liability issues associated with the class and were not prepared to consider it as a pre-approved Special Attraction. Staff was directed to seek advice from AKC's insurance carrier before approving it at all on a case-by-case basis.

PEE WEE CLASS SPECIAL ATTRACTION Procedures and Guidelines

The Pee Wee Class will be added to the list of approved Special Attractions.

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.
- 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.

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.

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. This will be discussed at the July 2015 meeting.

COMPANION AND PERFORMANCE

Doug Ljungren, Pam Manaton, and Carrie DeYoung, AKC Staff, participated in this portion of the meeting via video 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).

Input from the Companion Events Delegate Committee will be sought in June. This will be discussed further at the July meeting.

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

The Board reviewed 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 Companion Events Department is requesting that the Match Regulations be clarified by adding a provision that specifically states the Obedience and Rally Sanctioned A Matches may be open to all breeds.

These sports are governed by Regulations and may be modified by a vote of the Board. If approved, the change would become effective September 1, 2015. This will be discussed by the Board further in the July meeting.

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.

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

It was VOTED to adjourn Tuesday, June 9, 2015 at 1:00 pm.

Adjourned

Attest:

James P. Crowley, Executive Secretary