

American Kennel Club, Inc.
MEETING of the BOARD OF DIRECTORS
AKC Offices at 101 Park Avenue, New York, NY
November 11-12, 2024

The Board convened on Monday, November 11, 2024, at 8:00 a.m. Eastern Time.

All Directors were present in the New York office except for Ms. Biddle, who participated via video conference. The Executive Secretary, the Chief Operating Officer, and the Chief Financial Officer were also present.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Sprung called an EXECUTIVE SESSION to discuss business matters. Nothing was reported out of this session.

Legal Update

The Board reviewed the Legal Department update as of October 2024.

CMS Upgrade Project

Doug Ljungren, EVP of Sports & Events; Keith Frazier, EVP Business Support Services; Torraine Williams, Director of Engineering; and Ian Hennigan, Sports and Events Project Manager participated in this portion of the meeting via video conference.

The purpose of the CMS Upgrade Project is to provide a comprehensive system which enables all users to collaboratively exchange information to efficiently manage their involvement with AKC sports and events. Staff provided a status update.

There are 13 projects that have been or will deploy in 2024. Examples include:

- Added all existing titles to the Title Application Portal
- Identify Package Shows
 - Allowing for better communication and coordination of Cluster Events.
- Upgraded Judge Panel Management (JPM) System
 - Added improved history/audit of judge changes so clubs and superintendents can track changes to Judge Panels.
 - Assist clubs in finding replacement judges in overload situations or due to cancellations.
- Fast CAT® logic check of speeds
 - Automatically catching errors in electronically results submitted by Event Secretaries.
- Club Relations Portal
 - More efficient and communitive management of new club application process.
- API for info transfer to Agility Secretaries
 - Provide Agility Trial Secretary info similar to superintendents. Will reduce errors in results, allowing faster processing.
- Improved Sports & Events Tracking Report by Sport

AKC Humane Fund, Inc. Update

The AKC Humane Fund's recent activities as of October 2024 were shared via memo.

The AKC Humane Fund measures impact in the number of organizations and individuals it has helped over the past decade or more. Since inception, the Fund has awarded \$1.94 million in scholarships and grants to hundreds of institutions and organizations. In 2023, grants and scholarships were awarded in the amount of \$382,401, totaling \$129,645 and \$252,756, respectively. Of the grants awarded, \$63,000 were for domestic violence shelters, \$61,440 were for breed rescue organizations and \$5,000 for the annual recipients of charities designated by ACE Awards winners.

The AKC Humane Fund enjoys coverage and naming rights in the American Kennel Club's televised show, *AKC Heroes: 2024 Awards for Canine Excellence*, which will air in December on ESPN2 and features stories of the winners of the Awards for Canine Excellence. The Fund has been earning growing recognition among the public through this program for the past four years. Some advertising revenue from the television show has been shared with the AKC Humane Fund in past years.

In July 2024, based on the recommendation of AKC Vice Chairman Dominic Carota, the AKC Humane Fund voted to expand the Awards for Canine Excellence with an additional grant to be made in the Search and Rescue category. Currently, the five categories are Uniformed Service K-9, Exemplary Companion, Search and Rescue, Therapy Dog and Service Dog. Effective January 2025, an additional award in the Search and Rescue category will be made to a SAR dog-and-handler team that has worked in disaster relief and or recovery. Additionally, a Lifetime Achievement Award will be presented.

FINANCE

Ted Phillips, Chief Financial Officer, presented unaudited interim financial results as of September 30, 2024. Net Operating Income is \$2.2 million. Total Revenues are \$72 million. This total is comprised of registrations from litters and dogs, recording and event service fees and related revenues which total \$47.9 million. Advertising, sponsorship, and royalty revenues total \$14.2 million. Product and service sales total \$7.8 million. Total operating expenses are \$69.7 million.

Annual Operating Revenue and Expense Forecast Update

Due to lower economic activity in 2024, registration revenue is projected to be 11% lower than the approved budget. We have managed operating expenses to be 3% lower than the approved budget, and with these changes, we forecast that net operating income will be zero at the end of the year.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Sprung called an EXECUTIVE SESSION to discuss business matters. It was reported of this session that the 2025 Budget was discussed. Dog and litter registration volumes are expected to be lower. The number of events and entries are expected to increase. The largest operating expenses are staff, service and professional fees including IT support and development and product fulfillment. The budget allows us to continue making donations of over \$4.9 million to the AKC

Canine Health Foundation, AKC Museum of the Dog, AKC Humane Fund, AKC Purebred Preservation Bank and other dog-related organizations. There was extensive discussion on registration, IT costs, staffing, benefits and non-controllables and new business opportunities.

Following questions and further discussion, there was a motion by Mr. Tatro, seconded by Mr. Powers, and the Board VOTED to approve the 2025 Budget. (Mr. Hamblin Opposed)

October Minutes

Copies of the October 7-8, 2024, Board Meeting minutes had previously been provided to all Directors for review. Upon a motion by Mr. Powers, seconded by Mr. Sweetwood, the Board VOTED to approve the October 2024 Board Meeting minutes.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Gina DiNardo, Executive Secretary, and Brandi Hunter Munden, VP of Communications and Public Relations participated in this portion of the meeting. Mari-Beth O'Neill, VP of Sport Services, Sheila Goffe, VP of Government Relations and Ashley Jacot, Director of Education participated in this portion of the meeting via video conference.

Alaskan Klee Kai

The Alaskan Klee Kai Club of America requests approval to move the breed into the Miscellaneous Class.

The Board of Directors approved the Alaskan Klee Kai to be eligible for recording in the Foundation Stock Service® (FSS®) program with a Non-Sporting designation in October 2020. The Alaskan Klee Kai Club of America has met the Recognition of New Breeds Board Policy requirements, approved in February 2017. Requirements include an active Parent Club, with serious and expanding breeding activity over a wide geographic area and documented club activity.

Following a motion by Mr. Sweetwood, seconded by Dr. Battaglia, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to approve the Alaskan Klee Kai for advancement to the Miscellaneous Class, effective June 25, 2025.

Staffordshire Bull Terrier Proposed Breed Standard Revision

The Staffordshire Bull Terrier Club of America, Inc. (SBTCA) has submitted a proposed revision to the Color and Disqualifications sections of the breed standard. The current Staffordshire Bull Terrier breed standard was approved November 14, 1989.

Staff recommends the Board approve the proposed revision for publication for comment in the December 2024 Secretary's Page of the *AKC Gazette*.

Following a motion by Dr. Garvin, seconded by Mr. Sweetwood, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to publish the proposed changes for comment in the December 2024 Secretary's Page of the *AKC Gazette*.

New Breed for Foundation Stock Service® – Canadian Eskimo Dog

The Board was advised that the Foundation Stock Service (FSS) Committee recently approved a petition for the Canadian Eskimo Dog to be accepted into the FSS program.

The Canadian Eskimo Dog is known to have been resident in the Arctic for at least four thousand years. The Thule People first bred the Canadian Eskimo Dog. The people of the Thule originally resided in Alaska in 500AD, and later Nunavut, Canada. The Canadian Eskimo Dog or Canadian Inuit Dog as it is known in Canada is a large breed of Arctic dog. It is one of North America's oldest purebred indigenous dogs. The dogs were used by the migrant Inuit people as sled dogs to pull their homes and sled's laden with their spoils from hunting. They were also used to hunt, hold at bay polar bears and in some cases for their fur. There are still people that use these dogs in the traditional ways as transport across the frozen arctic tundra but mostly teams are used for research and expedition trips.

AKC Museum of the Dog – Traffic Update

Based on Board discussion in October, Staff was asked to obtain the AKC Museum of the Dog's attendance data since the Museum opened in NYC. The information was presented via memo.

AKC Communications Q3 Report

Brandi Hunter Munden participated in this portion of the meeting.

AKC Communications department media coverage totals and activity highlights.

TOTALS: Clips Evaluated in Q3: 6,302 (+7% from 5,890 in 2023)

Q3 Totals Comparison of Year Clips Evaluated

2021 **4,754**

2022 **5,852**

2023 **5,890**

2024 **6,302**

Q3 PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS

- 5.18% increase in media relations and press coverage in Mandarin language and Spanish language publications (vs. 4.25% in 2023)
- 12% increase in the media visibility of our Chief Veterinary Officer (vs. 11% in 2023)
- Maintained a 94.41% positivity rating (on par 94.1% in 2023)
- Increased McClatchy pick up (up to over 700 newspapers weekly) (on par with 2023)
- 12.3 % increase media coverage of AKC Affiliates (AKC Reunite, AKC MoD, AKC Humane Fund and AKC CHF) (vs. 12.9% in 2023)

AKC Education Q3 Review

Ashley Jacot participated in this portion of the meeting.

AKC Canine College

In Q3, the AKC Canine College developed and published 5 new courses, adding 41 modules to the catalog. The Learning Management System (LMS) now hosts 465 courses, totaling 1,123 modules.

Breed-Specific Courses

In Q3, four new breed-specific courses were launched, bringing the total to 78 available on AKC Canine College.

Breeder Education Courses and Exams

39 breeder courses, webinars, and exams are now available on AKC Canine College. In Q3, the third section in a series of new Breeder Education courses optimized by Kyle Trail, and reviewed by Dr. Jerry Klein and Dr. Carrie Thurber, began development, with five of the eight modules reviewed. The three remaining modules are currently under review or in development.

- M1: Genetics & Breeding
- M2: Reproductive Anatomy
- M3: Mating Options
- M4: Pregnancy Diagnosis & Care
- M5: Nutrition for Adults
- M6: Feeding Guidelines (*in review*)
- M7: Animal Welfare (*in development*)
- M8: General Health Care (*in development*)

Additional breeder-focused eLearning courses currently under development include *A Beginners Guide to Responsible Dog Breeding*, *Health Testing Basics*, and *Disease and Sanitation*.

Meet the Breeds with Bailey: A Video Series:

MTB with Bailey video series is a project aimed to capture the attention of parents and educators alike through AKC's YouTube channel. The videos are interactive and engaging and provide information on a dog breed's origin, purpose, size, and temperament. The videos last approximately three minutes long. Since the release date of July 24, 2024, the first released video has received 267 views. The second installment was released on September 26, 2024, and has already received 354 views.

Bailey's Summer Reading Challenge:

From June 1-September 1, 2024, Public Education ran a summer reading challenge to encourage children to read dog-themed books. A list of recommended dog books was provided, along with discussion questions, reading response items, and a log to record books read. Participants who turned in the log and reading responses were awarded prizes based on different tiers.

AKC Character Education:

The AKC Character Education Program is a dog-themed social-emotional learning curriculum designed for elementary classrooms. It focuses on nine key character traits, each paired with a mentor text or video that showcases the trait from the perspective of various dog breeds. Students earn dog breed badges upon completing each lesson, with the goal of filling up their entire badge board. Each character trait includes a lesson plan and differentiated activities tailored to the developmental needs of each grade band. The program is available as a free digital download on Teachers Pay Teachers, with new lessons being released on a rolling basis.

AKC Government Relations

Sheila Goffe participated in this portion of the meeting.

AKC Canines at the Capitol, U.S. Capitol, Washington DC

AKC GR organized a celebration of AKC's 140th Anniversary at the U.S. Capitol on September 17, 2024. The focus of the event was to familiarize lawmakers and congressional staff with AKC leadership in responsible canine policy and the many exceptional things AKC does for dogs and responsible dog ownership. Highlights of the day and event included:

Congressman David Rouzer (NC) introduced [U.S. House Resolution 541](#) honoring the AKC for the contributions it makes to the wellbeing of dogs.

Dennis Sprung, AKC President & CEO and Sheila Goffe, AKC VP Government Relations presented the AKC 2024 Legislator of the Year Award to Congressman G.T. Thompson (PA-15).

Throughout the day, several dogs, and their owners/ handlers – along with representatives from AKC – participated in meetings with members of the U.S. House and Senate and their staff.

The evening reception at the U.S. Capitol featured a “mini” Meet the Breeds with specially selected representatives from each of the seven groups, and extensive information about AKC and the achievements of the organization. Evening reception speakers included Congressman GT Thompson (PA) and Don Davis (NC).

The successful event brought positive attention to AKC, and provides benefits in terms of reputation, access, and policy impact on issues of crucial importance to AKC, the sport, and dogs in general.

Government Relations (GR) Update Third Quarter 2024

AKC GR Staff has been monitoring more than 1,700 legislative bills that could impact responsible dog ownership, the health and wellbeing of dogs, the rights of dog owners, and/or the interests of the sport and The American Kennel Club.

To date, AKC GR has published 209 legislative alerts delivered via geo-targeted emails to impacted constituents, the AKC GR legislative action center, and social media.

Many state legislatures met early and adjourned following short sessions this election year. At the federal level, the key areas of focus in the third quarter focus remained the federal “Farm Bill”, a must pass quinquennial (every five years) congressional funding reauthorization for U.S. Agricultural programs that typically serves as a vehicle for a broad range of federal canine legislation.

AKC GR is monitoring more than 450 pending proposed regulations (administrative or implementing changes) to dog laws at the state and federal level. In the third quarter of 2024, GR prepared and published 38 geo-targeted legislative alerts, and provided direct advocacy to lawmakers, or written and/or oral testimony for more than 30 measures.

Detection Dog Task Force: GR provides the staff lead for this board-directed task force. After more than a year of planning, on July 23-25, 2024, GR Staff with support from members of the Detection Dog Task force conducted the AKC 2024 National Detection Dog Conference in Wilmington Ohio. Survey reviews from the conference indicate this was the most popular and successful conference yet.

COMPANION and PERFORMANCE

Doug Ljungren, EVP of Sports & Events; and Caroline Murphy, Director of Performance Events participated in this portion of the meeting via video conference.

Vizsla Club of America Request Allow Field Trial Judges to Ride ATVs/UTVs at Walking Trials

The Vizsla Club of America (VCA) has requested that judges at Pointing Breed Field Trials be allowed to ride motorized vehicles on a one-year trial basis.

In 2018, the Performance Department surveyed Pointing Breed Field Trial participants (the primary owner of dogs that placed plus all judges) to determine their opinion. The survey was repeated in 2022. The question was – “There are pros and cons to allowing judging from ATVs/UTVs in walking stakes. Taken as a whole, do you believe it would be beneficial for the sport to allow judges to ride ATVs/UTVs in walking stakes at the option of the host club?”

PBFT Participants	2018	2022
Strongly Agree/Agree	41%	42%
Strongly Disagree/Disagree	45%	40%
Uncertain	14%	18%

The 2022 survey recorded results by the participants breed. There was no breed where more than 48% of the participants Strongly Agreed/Agreed that allowing judges in walking field trials to ride ATVs/UTVs would be beneficial for the sport.

The Performance Events Department will conduct another survey early in 2025 to determine the current opinions on this topic.

CONFORMATION

Doug Ljungren, EVP of Sports & Events; Mari-Beth O’Neill, VP of Sports Services; Tim Thomas, VP of Conformation; and Mark Desrosiers, Director of Event Programs, participated in this portion of the meeting via video conference.

Neutered Dogs and Spayed Bitches in Brace & Team Classes – Rules Applying to Dog Shows Chapter 11, Section 8

Following a motion by Mr. Tatro, seconded by Mrs. Wallin, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to approve a recommendation by the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee (DSRC) to modify **Chapter 11, Section 8 of *The Rules Applying to Dog Shows***, to allow dogs that have been neutered or spayed to compete in Brace and/or Team classes at independent specialties or all-breed dog shows that do not offer competition beyond Best of Breed;

They also VOTED to correspondingly amend **Chapter 6, Section 2 of *The Rules Applying to Dog Shows*** to add verbiage specifying that it must be stated in the premium list if neutered or spayed entrants are permitted to compete in the Brace and/or Team classes.

The proposed rule changes will be read at the December 2024 Delegate meeting and VOTED at the March 2025 Delegate meeting as one amendment.

If approved by the Delegate Body, the effective date will be **July 2, 2025**.

CHAPTER 11

SECTION 8. A dog which is blind, deaf, castrated, spayed, or which has been changed in appearance by artificial means except as specified in the standard for its breed, or a male which does not have two normal testicles normally located in the scrotum, may not compete at any show and will be disqualified except that a castrated male may be entered as Stud Dog in the Stud Dog Class and a spayed bitch may be entered as Brood Bitch in the Brood Bitch Class. A dog will not be considered to have been changed by artificial means because of removal of dewclaws or docking of tail if it is of a breed in which such removal or docking is a regularly approved practice which is not contrary to the standard. Neutered dogs and spayed bitches would be allowed to compete in Brace, Team, Veterans, and all other single entry non-regular classes only at independent specialties and/or those all-breed shows which do not offer any competitive classes beyond Best of Breed.

The remainder of this section is unchanged.

CHAPTER 6

SECTION 2.

Previous portions of this section are unchanged.

- the name and address of the superintendent and/or show secretary who has been approved by The American Kennel Club
- the entry fee(s)
- whether the show is benched or unbenched
- the exact location of the show
- the date or dates on which it is to be held
- the times of opening and closing of the show

Notification must be printed in the Premium List only if the club is not offering the three-point major to the Reserve Winners at the National Specialty.

Notification must be printed in the Premium List for independent specialties and/or all-breed shows which do not offer any competitive classes beyond Best of Breed only if neutered dogs and spayed bitches are allowed to compete in Brace, Team, Veterans and/or any other single entry non-regular classes.

All-Breed Conformation events whose entries are limited must have a defined date and time for the opening of entries that is to be prominently displayed in the premium list. For these events, the premium list is required to be published at least 72 hours prior to the acceptance of entries.

JUDGING OPERATIONS

Tim Thomas, VP of Conformation, and Doug Ljungren, EVP of Sports & Events, participated in this portion of the meeting.

Judging Approval Process – Appeals

The Board approved *Judging Approval Process* provides the requirements and procedures associated with the approval of Conformation dog show judges. The policy specifies an applicant or judge's right to appeal specific components related to the policy.

Staff recommends that the Board take no action to modify the *Judging Approval Process* to require all appeals to be submitted to the Executive Secretary.

Following a motion by Dr. Garvin, seconded by Mrs. Wallin, the Board VOTED to approve the Staff's recommendation. (Opposed: Dr. Battaglia)

Mandatory Ramp Examination – Spanish Water Dog

The Spanish Water Dog Club of America (SWDCA) has requested that the Board of Directors mandate the use of a ramp for the examination of the Spanish Water Dog through all levels of Conformation competition. Currently, the Spanish Water Dog may be judged either on the ground or the ramp at the discretion of the judge.

Following a motion by Mr. Tatro, seconded by Mr. Hamblin, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to add the Spanish Water Dog to the list of breeds required to be judged on the ramp through all levels of conformation competition effective February 26, 2025.

Judging Appeals

At the October Board meeting the Board asked Staff to clarify how the different appeal scenarios for Conformation Judges are managed.

The items subject to appeal are outlined in Board Policy and include the denial of any breed(s), a judge's belief an Executive Field Representative has gone beyond the intent of the Judge Breed Commentary observations, the department's remanding of a judge to attend a Basic Judging Institute following consistent and habitual procedural issues, and the Board's removal of a breed.

Per policy, the appeal must be filed in writing to the Judging Operations Department within 15 days of the letter of notification and requires the submission of a \$50 Appeal fee. The appeal request must include the applicant's reasons for the appeal and why the denied breed(s) should be approved. Upon receipt, the department must review the reasons for appeal and determine within 15 days if any change should be made to its original decision. If yes, the affected breed(s) are granted, and the fee is returned. If the department decides no change should be made, a hearing before the Board Appeals Committee is scheduled pursuant to policy.

Stewards of Children Accommodations

At the Board's October 2024 meeting a discussion ensued involving how to address those required by Board Policy to complete the Stewards of Children® course provided Darkness to

Light® who have had individual experiences that make it difficult or impossible to complete the course.

Staff provided the company's feedback and will implement their suggestions.

CLUBS

Doug Ljungren, EVP of Sports & Events participated in this portion of the meeting via videoconference and Lisa Cecin, Director of Club Relations, participated in this portion of the meeting in person.

REPORT ON MEMBER CLUB BYLAWS APPROVED IN SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER

Anatolian Shepherd Dog Club of America (2010)
Monterey Bay Dog Training Club, Watsonville, CA (1994)
Nebraska Kennel Club, Omaha, NE (1937)
Scottish Terrier Club of America (1921)

REPORT ON NEWLY LICENSED CLUBS APPROVED IN SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER

Irish Wolfhound Association of Lake Erie; Fredonia, NY (including communities west to Erie, PA, east to Binghamton/Interstate 81, south to New York/Pennsylvania state line), 21 total households, 13 local.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

COMPLIANCE

Bri Tesarz, Director of Compliance, participated in this meeting portion via video conference.

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

REGISTRATION DEVELOPMENT

Mark Dunn, EVP of Registration participated in this portion of the meeting.

Pyrenean Mastiff Association of America Semen Bank

The Pyrenean Mastiff Association of America (PMAA) requests that the AKC Board allow the registration of frozen semen litters wherein the frozen semen owner is a canine reproductive bank established by the PMAA.

This request is in keeping with AKC Board Policy established in February 2017. Registration Staff recommends approval of the request.

Following a motion by Mr. Hamblin, seconded by Mr. Powers, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to approve the PMAA's request.

The Board recessed at 5:22 p.m.

The Board Meeting reconvened on Tuesday, October 8, 2024, at 8:00 a.m. All Directors were present in the New York office except for Ms. Biddle, who participated via video conference. The Executive Secretary, the Chief Operating Officer, and the Chief Financial Officer were also present.

MARKETING

Kirsten Bahlke, VP of Marketing; Jacqueline Taylor, Director of Marketing; and Brandi Hunter Munden, VP of Public Relations & Communications participated in this portion of the meeting.

AKC Brand Campaign Update

The Board received an update on deliverables completed since August Board presentation for the new brand awareness and registration campaigns.

The new brand awareness campaign video and photo shoot was held in Atlanta, GA from October 14-18, 2024. Staff and LEAP Group, AKC's Agency of Record, are on track to launch the new brand awareness campaign in January 2025 (including a 60 second commercial airing on ABC during AKC National Championship broadcast) and the new registration brand awareness campaign in March 2025.

Walter Harris, VP, Director of Client Services; Kenny Friedman, VP, Executive Creative Director; Laura Valentine, Senior Market Research Analyst, and Jenelle Alleman-Fouchia, Senior Account Director from LEAP Group joined the meeting.

LEAP Group lead a presentation on the registration awareness campaign, highlighting the two final creative options and presenting survey metrics on their effectiveness. Following discussion of the registration campaign creative elements, LEAP Group presented the rough cut of the brand awareness 60-second spot.

Strategic Planning

Gordon Comfort, COO, presented an outline overview of how Staff will create a rolling three-year strategic plan. It will layout AKC's path forward with a strategy for success and clear measurable metrics.

The plan will be used to allocate resources, set goals, and identify risks and opportunities. There was a discussion of the Board directed Vision, Mission, Values and Imperatives. These will continue to drive Staff's daily responsibilities, long term goals, objectives and strategies.

The plan details will be fleshed out and presented to the Board in February 2025.

CONSENT

Master National Retriever Club Request to Determine Size of Entry

The Board VOTED to clarify in the Regulations that the Master National Retriever Club can

determine the maximum number of entries to accept in the Retriever Master National Hunting Test depending on the event's location and the club's resources. This is a once-per-year event that rotates around the country. Currently, the club must take all entries.

The test is to be the equivalent of two weekend Master Hunter Tests. Allowing the club to determine the entry limit will allow the club to better manage the quality of the event.

This is a change to the *Regulations & Guidelines for AKC Hunting Tests for Retrievers* and will become effective January 1, 2025.

Chapter 6

Master National Hunting Test

A Master National Hunting Test for qualified Retrievers shall be run not more than once in any calendar year by a club or association formed for that purpose. The club shall file an application for permission to run the event under the *Regulations and Procedures for Retriever Hunting Tests* subject to such modifications of these *Regulations and Procedures* as may be considered necessary by the club.

The Master National Hunting Test is a quality event that showcases the hunting abilities of highly trained retrievers. As such, dogs must be tested to a level that exceeds an average weekend Master Hunter test. This level of testing shall be demonstrated over the equivalent of two Master Hunter tests.

As the resources available to the host organization will vary by location and over time, in order to hold a quality event and achieve the required level of testing, the host organization is provided the option to determine the maximum number of entries given the time allotted to the event. This will allow the host organization to better plan and manage the event. The AKC Performance Events Department reserves the right to review and approve the maximum number of entries.

The event shall be run in as many divisions as the club deems necessary to achieve this end. The club may also make special Regulations or Procedure as are deemed necessary for the conduct of the test. Modifications of the Regulations and Procedures, as well as such special Regulations and Procedures as may be made by the club or association are subject to the approval of the Board of Directors of The American Kennel Club.

Beagle Field Trial and Two-Couple Pack Procedure Revisions

The Board VOTED to allow four changes to be made to the *Procedures Governing Beagle Field Trials*, as was voted on by the Beagle Advisory Committee. The summary of changes are:

- 1) Allow hounds to be measured on an elevated surface such as a table.
- 2) Remove the drawing procedure for hounds by the same owner in Gun Dog Brace Trials.
- 3) Offer a new Grand Master Hunter (GMH) suffix title in Two-Couple Pack Hunting Tests.
- 4) Allow the definition of a Derby hound in Two-Couple Pack to be under two years of age.

AKC will implement these changes starting on January 1, 2025, except for #3; it will become effective April 1, 2025.

BEAGLE FIELD TRIAL RULES AND STANDARD PROCEDURES FOR BRACE, SMALL PACK AND SMALL PACK OPTION FIELD TRIALS AND TWO-COUPLE PACK HUNTING TESTS
PROCEDURE 3. MEASURING

3-D A measuring stand made entirely of metal and meeting the requirements of The American Kennel Club must be used for all measuring at field trials including Official Measurement. The contact bar shall have a smooth edge, and there shall be no markings or calibrations on the measuring stand or stick. Any calibrations shall be on a separate part or sleeve, so that the stick is set and locked before the measurers know the hound's height in inches. The calibrations must be checked with a gauge or rule for each class. The contact bar shall be loosely placed across the shoulder blades at the highest point, the hound standing in a naturally alert position with the head up but not stretched upward and with its feet well under it and forelegs vertical on a flat, level board with a non-slip surface, placed at floor or ground level or alternatively on a raised, flat, extremely stable surface such as a table. All classes must be measured consistently using the same measuring method, either at floor or ground level or on a raised surface. The contact bar must never be set in advance at a specified height but may only be set at the height of the particular hound being measured. The hound shall be posed for measurement by the measurers, and once the reading has been made, no additional measurements shall be taken.

ADDITIONAL STANDARD PROCEDURES FOR BEAGLE FIELD TRIALS RUN IN BRACES ON RABBIT OR HARE

PROCEDURE 6. CLOSING, DRAWING, BRACING ABSENTEES

6-B The running order of the hounds entered in each class shall be determined by drawing, and the hounds shall be drawn in braces, or trios if applicable, for the first series. In the first series the hounds must be run in the order drawn.

ADDITIONAL STANDARD PROCEDURES FOR BEAGLE FIELD EVENTS

PROCEDURE 9. BEAGLE HUNTING TEST FOR TWO-COUPLE PACK

23. **Master Hunter Title.** The title of Master Hunter will be granted to any hound which has earned a total of 60 points and three First places at Two-Couple Pack Hunt Tests with at least 6 packs starting. This title will be designated by the suffix title MH in all official AKC records.

24. **Grand Master Hunter Title.** The title of Grand Master Hunter will be granted to any hound which has earned a Master Hunter Title and then has earned 3 additional First places and an additional 60 points at Two-Couple Pack Hunt Tests with at least 6 packs starting. This title will be designated by the suffix title GMH in all official records.

Definition of a Beagle Derby

A Beagle is a Derby throughout the calendar year, January 1 through December 31, if it was whelped not later than June 30 of the previous year and not earlier than July 1 of the year before that, except that at trials held in Large Packs on hare or in Two-Couple Pack a Beagle shall be a Derby if it has not reached its second birthday on the first day of the trial.

Breed Specific Temperament Test Title – Rottweiler

The American Rottweiler Club (ARC) VOTED to permit AKC to recognize a Breed Standard Evaluation (BSE) title awarded to Rottweilers that pass the Parent Club's Breed Standard Evaluation Test. The (BSE) suffix title would be offered under the AKC Parent Club Title

Recognition Program.

A BSE title will be earned after passing an ARC Breed Standard Evaluation.

The recording of the BSE title will be at the owner's request, who will submit a title application accompanied by a fee. Title requests will be honored retroactively.

This Title will be added to the Parent Club Performance Event Title Recognition Program. AKC will begin processing title applications on February 5, 2025.

Cocker Field Trials – Criteria to Judge

The Board VOTED to approve the request of the English Cocker Spaniel Club of America (ECSCA) that an individual must apprentice three All-Age Stakes before becoming a licensed judge for Cocker Field Trials. Currently, the requirement is two apprentice judging assignments.

This is a change to the *Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedure for Spaniels* and will become effective January 1, 2025.

CHAPTER 5

Judges

SECTION 1.

Cocker Spaniel Field Trials

The following judging eligibility requirements apply to All-Age stakes and water tests.

Prior to Becoming a Licensed Judge: An individual must have attended an AKC Spaniel Field Trial judge's seminar and apprentice judged three All-Age stakes under a minimum of two different senior judges at AKC Spaniel Field Trials (either Cocker or Springer).

National Obedience Champion Entry Process

The Board reviewed a recommendation to update the National Obedience Championship entry process to make it easier to understand. Two years ago, invitation eligibility was expanded from the top three dogs from each breed to the top six. This change has insured adequate participation and a high level of competition. The Board VOTED to approve the updates.

Obedience Regulations

CHAPTER 9

National Obedience Champion

A National Obedience Champion title will be awarded annually to the dog who wins the National Obedience Championship. The winner of the event will be designated as National Obedience Champion (NOC) of _____ (year) and the AKC will permit the use of the letters NOC preceding the name of each dog that earns the award.

The National Obedience Championship event will include a variety of obedience exercises performed as described in these regulations. This event is by invitation only for dogs who qualify during the event qualifying period.

Section 1. Invitation Process.

To be invited to enter the National Obedience Championship, a dog must meet one of the following criteria:

- Be ranked in the top 25 dogs across all breeds by OTCH points.
- Be ranked in the top six of its breed by OTCH points; dogs listed with the AKC Canine Partners will be considered one breed.
- If a breed has more than 30 dogs who have earned an OTCH point during the qualifying period, invitations will be sent to 10% of the total number of eligible dogs in that breed in addition to the top six.
- Be ranked as one of the top four dogs in one of the regional qualifying competitions.

To be eligible to be included in the final rankings in a regional qualifying event, a dog must:

- Have a UD title prior to competing at the regional competition.
- Enter and compete in both Open B and Utility B in all three of the trials held at the regional competition. Each dog's cumulative totals will determine the rankings in each region.

Should a dog qualify based on ranking in a regional event but also earn an invitation by being in the top 25 dogs or top six of its breed, the next highest scoring dog in that regional will be invited.

Rhodesian Ridgeback Proposed Breed Standard Revision

The Rhodesian Ridgeback Club of the United States (RRCUS) submitted a proposed revision to the color and disqualifications sections of the breed standard. The current standard was approved by the AKC Board on August 9, 1988.

The Board VOTED to approve having the standard changes sent to the RRCUS membership to be balloted according to the club's Constitution and Bylaws.

The National Redbone Coonhound Club

The Board VOTED to approve the National Redbone Coonhound Club's request to keep the breed's Stud Book Open indefinitely. The Redbone Coonhound Stud Book was scheduled to close on January 1, 2025. Currently, AKC will accept dogs registered with the United Kennel Club and the Professional Kennel Club.

Delegates

The following Delegates were approved:

Sara Gildersleeve

To represent Rockland County Kennel Club

Published September, October 2024

Leslie Puppo-Rogers

To represent Curly-Coated Retriever Club of America

Published August, September 2024

Leslie Savoye
To represent Contra Costa County Kennel Club
Published September, October 2024

Allison Schultz
To represent Bracco Italiano Club of America
Published September, October 2024

Dale Suzanne Tarbox
Great Dane Club of America
Published September, October 2024

Request For AKC Membership

The Board VOTED to approve Membership for the following club:

American Hairless Terrier Club of America

Households: 95 Total Households
1st Licensed Show: June 13, 2017
Bylaws: Acceptable
Published in September 2024 & October 2024 AKC Gazettes.

NEW BUSINESS

Mid-Continent Kennel Club of Tulsa, Inc. requested the Board approve a third show at the Tulsa State Fairgrounds on week 17 (the last week in April). At the Tulsa State Fairgrounds, week seventeen is less than 500 miles from shows in Springfield II, which would not meet the criteria to grant third show approval.

Following a motion by Mr. Tatro, seconded by Mr. Knight the Board VOTED to approve a third show at the Tulsa State Fairgrounds on week 17 (the last week in April) for Mid-Continent Kennel Club of Tulsa, Inc.

It was VOTED to adjourn on Tuesday, November 12, 2024, at 11:44 a.m. Eastern Time.

Adjourned
Attest: _____
Gina M. DiNardo, Executive Secretary