

American Kennel Club, Inc.
MEETING of the BOARD OF DIRECTORS
AKC Offices at 8051 Arco Corporate Dr. Raleigh, NC
August 11-12, 2025

The Board convened on Monday, August 11, 2025, at 8:30 a.m. Eastern Time.

Present at the Meeting: Dr. Thomas Davies (Chairman), Dr. Michael Knight (Vice Chairman), Ms. Gina DiNardo (President & CEO), Dr. Carmen Battaglia, Ms. Sally Fineburg, Mr. Eduardo Fugiwara, Dr. Charles Garvin, Mr. Steven Hamblin, Mr. Daniel Smyth, Mr. Robin Stansell, Mr. Christopher Sweetwood, Mr. Harold Tatro, Ms. Sylvia Thomas, Ms. Ann Wallin.

The Chief Operating Officer (Mr. Gordon Comfort), Chief Financial Officer (Mr. Ted Phillips) and Executive Secretary (Ms. Sheila Goffe) were also present.

Copies of the July 7-8 2025, Board Meeting minutes had previously been provided to all Directors for review. Upon a motion by Mr Sweetwood, seconded by Dr. Battaglia, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to approve the July 2025 Board Meeting minutes.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Ms. DiNardo reported that the 2026 AKC Meet the Breeds® event will take place on February 7-8, at the Javits Center in New York City.

She recently returned from the World Show in Helsinki, Finland, where she had very positive meetings with other national kennel clubs, many of whom are eager to work with the AKC.

AKC staff have completed work on an updated AKC Code of Sportsmanship for the Board's review. To better acknowledge the value of respectful and courteous behavior, the title has been expanded to the AKC Code of Sportsmanship and Civility. The Code of Sportsmanship and Civility expands AKC core values and is designed to foster an environment of fair play, respect, integrity and courtesy that is welcoming to all.

Legal Update

The Board reviewed the Legal Department update as of July 2025.

AKC Code of Sportsmanship and Civility

Doug Ljungren, EVP Sports & Events participated in this portion of the meeting in person. Brandi Hunter Munden, VP of Public Relations and Communications, participated in this portion of the meeting via video conference.

Staff recommended updates to the AKC Code of Sportsmanship. The Board reviewed the following:

AKC Code of Sportsmanship and Civility Preface:

The tradition of competitive purebred dog events predates 1884 – the year the American Kennel Club (AKC) was founded. Those involved in these sports share core values, including a strong commitment to sportsmanship and a welcoming, respectful culture that embraces the diverse community united by a love of dogs. These values are evident across all aspects of the sport: Conformation, Performance, Companion, and family dog activities. Many believe that the enduring principles of sportsmanship and civility are key reasons the sport has thrived for over 140 years.

Recognizing that periodically reaffirming our shared values strengthens our community, the revised code will be shared widely to highlight the foundational values and principles that define the sport.

- Sportspeople always place the welfare of their dog above all else.
- Sportspeople prioritize the long-term health and preservation of their breed, making decisions that reflect a deep commitment to responsible breeding and ownership.
- Sportspeople respect the history, traditions and integrity of the sport of purebred dogs.
- Sportspeople conduct themselves in a manner that reflects positively on the sport, the American Kennel Club, and themselves.
- Sportspeople appreciate, encourage and support all who associate with and participate in the sports by fostering an environment where respect, equity, inclusion, and courtesy are foundational.
- Sportspeople understand, uphold and abide by all AKC bylaws, rules, regulations and policies.
- Sportspeople contribute to a positive atmosphere at events by avoiding negative gossip, disparagement, or unsportsmanlike behavior.
- Sportspeople extend their values of civility, fairness, and respect to all digital and social media platforms.
- Sportspeople actively support the education and mentorship of newcomers, helping them learn the rules, values, and traditions of the sport in a respectful way.
- Sportspeople recognize that they are role models in the sport, and strive to lead by example through humility, kindness, and ethical conduct.
- Sportspeople treat fellow exhibitors, judges, officials, volunteers, spectators, and AKC staff with dignity and respect, regardless of experience, background, or differences in opinion.
- Sportspeople are committed to fair play, honesty, courtesy, and competition, approaching both winning and losing with grace.
- Sportspeople understand that strong competition and civility can – and should – coexist. They appreciate the quality of their competitors, and the effort put forth by others.
- Sportspeople uphold their responsibilities to the sport of purebred dogs and refuse to let personal gain or self-interest influence their decisions or behavior.
- The sportsperson judges only on the merits of the dogs and considers no other factors.
- The sportsperson judge or exhibitor accepts constructive criticism.
- The sportsperson exhibitor declines to enter or exhibit under a judge where it might reasonably appear that the judge's placements could be based on something other than the merits of the dogs.

- The sportsperson exhibitor refuses to compromise the impartiality of a judge.
- Sportspeople are willing to share honest and open appraisals of both the strengths and weaknesses of their breeding stock.
- Sportspeople decline to exploit any positions of authority or recognition for personal advantage.
- Sportspeople appreciate those that have gone before them and realize they are responsible for maintaining and enhancing the sport for future generations.

Upon a motion by Mr. Tatro and a second by Mr. Hamblin, the board VOTED (unanimously) to consider approval of the code of conduct and civility.

Upon a motion by Mr. Tatro and a second by Mr. Stansell, the board VOTED (unanimously) to approve of the code of conduct and civility.

Quarterly Information About Communications, Social Media & Digital Content

Mrs. Munden provided a quarterly update on AKC Communications department media coverage totals and activity highlights, as well as the social media and digital content totals and activity highlights.

AKC Communications Q2 Report

Clips Evaluated in Q2: 8,759 (+34% from 6502 in 2024 (+9% from 5,946 in 2024)).

Q2 Performance Highlights:

- 5.19% increase in media relations and press coverage in Mandarin language and Spanish language publications; slight decrease due to the lack of consumer facing press releases which is what is generally sent to these audiences.
- 9% increase in the media visibility of our Chief Veterinary Officer (1% decrease from Q2 2024).
- Maintained a 96% positivity rating (on par with Q2 2024).
- Increased McClatchy pick up (up to over 700 newspapers weekly) (on par with 2024).
- Media coverage of AKC Affiliates (AKC Reunite, AKC MoD, AKC Humane Fund and AKC CHF) on par with Q2 2024.

Social Media Aggregate Performance (2025 YTD through Q2)

- Impressions: 166,368,337 (+29.6% YoY)
- Engagements: 8,850,325 (+13.7% YoY)
- Link clicks: 493,361 (+6.4% YoY)
- Net audience growth: 153,299 (+26.1% YoY)
- Audience 5,656,714 (+6.8% YoY)

Communications/PR Activities

- Ongoing media pitching executed to key audiences with stories that speak to positive qualities of AKC purebreds and breeders. Distributed 15 press releases to appropriate media outlets.
- Continued raising the visibility of the Chief Veterinary Officer as an expert in an increasing number of media requests.
- Promoted all major AKC events and broadcasts on ESPN with press releases and media

alerts.

- Continued positioning the American Kennel Club and its spokespeople as the expert on all things dog.
- Weekly “AKC Tips” articles written for McClatchy-Tribune reaching 700 newspapers, including the Chattanooga Times Free Press, Dayton Daily News, Duluth News-Tribune, Fresno Bee, Idaho Statesman, Kingsport Times-News and Rochester Democrat and Chronicle, among others.

Reddit Kick-Off

Reddit is a social news website with a large and active user base that is increasingly important in the context of online search. AKC has begun implementing a community engagement and owned community (/r/AKC) strategy to establish, build, and grow our presence there.

AKC Education – Q2 Review

The Board reviewed an update on the educational activities of the Education Department.

AKC Canine College

In Q2 2025, the AKC Canine College (AKC CC) developed and published 3 new courses. The Learning Management System (LMS) now hosts 481 courses, totaling 1,274 modules. Over 300 customer phone calls and emails were responded to by the AKC CC team.

AKC Canine College Virtual Canine Training Center

From June 11-20, the AKC Canine College Multimedia Team, Aidan Gerety, Susu Hauser, and Misha Abbenhouse, captured footage for over 60 short videos designed to teach training basics geared toward adult dogs, giving pet owners expert guidance from the comfort of their homes. This course will serve as an accessible entry point, encouraging dog owners to find trainers, join clubs, and engage more deeply with the AKC community. Now entering post-production, videos will be edited and produced throughout 2025, with a full program launch anticipated in 2026.

Future courses will introduce foundational skills for AKC Sports such as Fast CAT®, Scent Work, and Fetch and AKC Titles like STAR Puppy and CGC. This effort underscores the value of cross-department collaboration with AKC Sports and Events, building pathways for first-time dog owners and inspiring experienced fancy members to explore new sports and titles within the AKC family

Canine + Kids Program

AKC Canine College is entering the production phase of the Canine + Kids eLearning program, designed to help families safely integrate dogs and young children into their homes. The AKC Canine College Multimedia Team are scheduled to film from July 15–20 in Cary, NC, capturing both instructional and lifestyle footage with featured families, dogs, and on-camera trainer talent.

AKC Puppy Training Series

The AKC Canine College team, with the support of Marketing, has successfully launched its first paid media campaign for the AKC Puppy Training Series. In collaboration with the Marketing Department and Leap agency, updated creative assets and promotional videos were developed in video, carousel, and static formats for Facebook and Instagram. These ads highlight core training topics such as crate

training, puppy socialization, and play-based enrichment.

The American Kennel Club proudly announced the launch of the AKC Canine College branded mobile app, now available on the App and Google Play Stores. To date the app has 1,500+ downloads.

In Q2, two breed-specific courses were updated, three breed courses are under Parent Club review, and four new breed courses are in development or undergoing updates. In Q2 of 2025 there were 335 course enrollments.

Required Judge's Exams

In Q2, 2,684 exam enrollments were purchased, which included 1,316 breed exams, 205 judge recertification exams, 297 performance exams, and 866 CGC Evaluator exams. Three new breed exams for judges were launched in Q2: Basset Fauve de Bretagne, Russian Tsvetnaya Bolonka, and Teddy Roosevelt Terrier. In collaboration with Judging Operations, we updated the Recertification exams for Conformation judges.

AKC Education hosted eight webinars for 2,227 participants, bringing the total number of participants to 82,394 since March 2020.

FINANCE

Ted Phillips, Chief Financial Officer, presented unaudited interim financial results as of June 30, 2025.

Net operating loss (NOL) is \$3.1 million, excluding investment income and spend rate allocation, primarily due to lower registration revenue. This NOL is 7% of operating revenues as compared to 2024 net operating income of 2%. Registration revenues from both litters and dogs total \$16.6 million and trail prior year by 6%. Recording and event service fees, title recognition and event application fees total \$8.9MM, is consistent with prior year. Advertising, sponsorship, and royalties total \$8.4MM, is lower than prior year by \$1.4MM (14%).

CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

Gordon Comfort, COO and Tim Pursell, Director of IT, participated in this portion of the meeting in person.

Mr. Comfort and Mr. Pursell reported that AKC's IT Division has made progress in modernizing its operations, but legacy systems and a fragmented architecture continue to limit agility and alignment with business goals. As a data-centric organization, AKC's success depends on a reliable, scalable, and strategically aligned IT function.

To address current challenges, staff provided updates and made recommendations on the following:

- Conduct a comprehensive IT assessment.
- Define a clear vision for the future of IT.
- Deliver quick wins by fiscal year-end 2025.
- Develop a multi-year transformation roadmap.
- Present a draft plan to the Board in October 2025 for input and alignment.

Mr. Comfort also provided updates on the website, registration, and the AKC strategic plan.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Sheila Goffe, Executive Secretary and VP of Government Relations, and Mari-Beth O'Neill, VP of Sport Services participated in this portion of the meeting in person.

Parent Club Designation for Barbado da Terceira Club

The Barbado da Terceira Club USA has requested designation as the Parent Club for the breed, allowing them to hold FSS Open Shows.

The Barbado da Terceira Club USA has an active membership participating in Companion Events and FSS Open Shows when available. The club provides regular updates on club activities and Board Meetings.

Staff recommended the Barbado da Terceira Club USA be designated as the Parent Club representing the Barbado da Terceira with the AKC.

This will be discussed further at the October Board meeting.

Government Relations Q2 2025 Update

All 50 state legislatures, Congress and many cities and counties have already met in 2025. The majority of state legislatures have either adjourned for the year or are on summer recess. Congress, and legislatures in 6 states (California, Massachusetts, Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin) are in session.

In the second quarter, GR monitored 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.

GR prepared and published 66 geo-targeted legislative alerts, and provided direct advocacy to lawmakers, or written and/or oral testimony or official comments on the same.

Legislative Monitoring & Advocacy: Through Q2, the largest proportion of legislation tracked by GR fell into the category of cruelty & breeder regulations. Categories are determined by keywords assigned by legislatures, based on bill text, which is why breeder regulations often fall into the same category with cruelty.

By volume, the most common types of bills (federal and state combined) monitored related to:

- Breeder regulation/cruelty (276)
- Working Dogs (261)
- Veterinary (199)
- Hunting/field/land use (189)
- Animal Control (165)
- Service Dogs (114)
- Other (108)

Regulatory Monitoring: Hunting and land use policy continues to be the most common regulatory issue tracked, comprising 53.77% of GR's regulatory tracking. Proposed regulatory changes in this area may impact the conduct of, or participation in AKC sanctioned events, or training for them, primarily on public lands (some do apply to private properties). The other categories comprising the five most common are:

- Veterinary Medicine: 14.93%
- Dogs in Public: 6.90%
- Service Dogs/Working Dogs: 3.85%
- Breeding Regulations and Restrictions: 2.73%.

An overview of legislative alerts and successes was provided.

Other project and program highlights included:

Congressional Briefing

On April 28, 2025, GR staff presented an educational briefing at the U.S. Capitol to members of Congress and U.S. House and Senate Agriculture Committee staff on the federal Animal Welfare Act (AWA), its current requirements, and impact on dog ownership.

AKC Legislative Conference

St Louis, MO. GR staff conducted a small but successful Legislative Advocacy Conference and Educational Day on June 14, 2025. Twenty Legislative Liaisons and federation leaders gathered to sharpen their advocacy skills for dogs, learn about legislative trends, and network with other advocates.

New Resources:

- Updated AKC Impact/Economic Benefits by State. GR updated expanded surveys of dog show exhibitors in April. The new report features data from 2024 and includes updated information for all 50 states and national specialties. The data gathered serves as the basis for a series of new reports and resources that highlight the economic benefits of AKC dog shows, and further, the overall positive impact that AKC, its clubs and affiliates have in the U.S. on a state-by-state basis.
- New Research Shows Mixes are Not Healthier Than Purebred Dogs
- Flying Pets in Cargo: What you Need to Know for 2025
- New Policy Explainer Video: Mandatory Spay/Neuter. This new 90-second educational video explains AKC policy and the problems with Mandatory Spay/Neuter Laws. This is part of a comprehensive packet of information in which AKC offer legislative/ policy alternatives to address common concerns about shelter populations and irresponsible ownership.

Staff also provided updates on:

- The Detection Dog Task Force
- Legislative Seminars and Training Events
- Lawmaker/ Policymaker Conference participation
- In-State Advocacy
- The AKC PAC

- Op Eds/Externally Published articles (3)
- Policy Blogs & Updates (16)

COMPANION and PERFORMANCE

Doug Ljungren, EVP of Sports & Events; Mari-Beth O'Neill, VP of Sports Services; and Caroline Murphy, Director of Performance Events, participated in this portion of the meeting in person.

Employee Participation in AKC Sports

Employees and members of their household should be encouraged to participate in AKC sports provided their job responsibilities do not result in a potential conflict of interest.

Staff recommends a change to the Employee Participation in AKC Sports policy to update the policy and more clearly state under what conditions employees may participate in the sports.

This recommendation modifies the existing policy in three ways:

1. Eliminates the "highest title" in a sport limitation.
2. Clarifies restrictions on judging.
3. Allows all employees to participate in and act as an evaluator for Family Dog activities and to participate in Fast CAT[®], where there is no judge.

This will be discussed further at the October Board meeting.

Retriever Hunting Tests – Timing of Qualifying Ribbons

Staff recommends a change to the *Regulations & Guidelines for AKC Hunting Tests for Retrievers* that will allow clubs the option to award qualifying ribbons following each dog's run during the hunting test rather than waiting until the entire test has concluded.

This is a change made to the *Regulations & Guidelines for AKC Hunting Tests for Retrievers* and may be made by a vote of the Board. If approved, these changes will become effective for events taking place after November 1, 2025.

This will be discussed further at the October Board meeting.

CONFORMATION

Doug Ljungren, EVP of Sports & Events; Mari-Beth O'Neill, VP of Sports Services; Tim Thomas, VP of Conformation; Glenn Lycan, Director of Event Operations Support; and Mark Desrosiers, Director of Event Programs, participated in this portion of the meeting in person.

Limited Registration - Rules Applying To Dog Shows – Chapter 11, Section 1

Chapter 11, Section 1 of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* specifies those dogs eligible to be exhibited in a licensed or member dog show, prohibiting a dog with an AKC Limited Registration from competing. The Board discussed a recommendation to modify Chapter 11, Section 1 of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* to allow Limited Registration dogs to compete in Conformation dog shows. Dogs must still be intact to compete. The topic will be brought to the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee at the September Delegate meeting.

This will be discussed further at the October Board meeting.

If the Board approves it at that time, the proposal will be read at the December 2025 Delegate meeting and voted at the March 2026 Delegate meeting. If approved by the Delegate Body, the effective date will be July 1, 2026.

Specialty Shows – Rules Applying to Dog Shows – Chapter 2, Chapter 3 and Chapter 16, Section 2

Chapter 2, Section 7 and Chapter 2, Section 8 of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* defines that a specialty club may hold a show confined to the breed which it sponsors. The Board discussed a recommendation to:

1. Insert a new Chapter 2, Section 9 of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* to allow specialty clubs to hold events to include classes for breeds of similar purpose or origin; and
2. Insert a new Chapter 3, Section 17 of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* to establish the awarding of Best in Event at a show held by specialty clubs where classes for breeds of similar purpose or origin are offered.
3. A proposed amendment to Chapter 16, Section 2 of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* would articulate that if a dog awarded winners is awarded Best in Event at a show held by a specialty club where classes for breeds of similar origin, background or purpose are offered, it shall be awarded the greatest number of championship points awarded to winners in any bred or variety competing at the event.

This will be discussed further at the October Board meeting.

If the Board approves it at that time, the proposal will be read at the December 2025 Delegate meeting and voted at the March 2026 Delegate meeting. If approved by the Delegate Body, the effective date will September 2, 2026.

Bred-By Exhibitor Medallion Ranking System

Staff has recommended the addition of a BBE Platinum recognition level for individuals who are the breeder-owner-handler of 25 different dogs that have become champions of record and received an original Bred-By Medallion through their participation in AKC Events, and the addition of Rally Champion and Tracking Champion to the list of AKC titles credited toward the BBE recognition.

Upon the motion of Dr. Battaglia, and a second by Mr. Smyth, the board VOTED (unanimously) to consider the recommendation immediately.

Upon a motion by Mr. Sweetwood, and a second by Mr. Smyth, the board VOTED (unanimously) to approve the recommendation.

The tentative implementation date is January 7, 2026. The actual date of implementation may be delayed due to priorities for projects that require programming by IT.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was an EXECUTIVE SESSION to discuss business matters. The Board approved increasing the event service fee across all sports. Beginning January 1, 2026, the AKC event fee will see its first adjustment since 2008 – an increase of \$1.00 from \$3.50 to \$4.50 per entry. The following year, on January 1, 2027, it will adjust again, moving from \$4.50 to \$5.50 per entry.

Scottsdale Dog Fanciers Association 3rd Show Request

Scottsdale Dog Fanciers Association requested approval to hold a 3rd show at the WestWorld of Scottsdale site on week 19 (2nd week in May). WestWorld of Scottsdale is 295 straight line miles and 363 driving miles from the Del Sur Kennel Club, Inc. shows in Lakeside CA.

This will be discussed further at the October Board meeting.

NOHS Regionals 2025 - 2026

Staff provided the Board with the 2025 – 2026 National Owner Handler Show Regional host clubs and schedule.

Club	Date	State
Austin Kennel Club	9/19/2025	TX
Warren County Kennel Club of Ohio, Inc.	3/27/2026	OH
Kern County/San Luis Obispo Kennel Club	3/28/2026	CA
Mid-Continent Kennel Club of Tulsa, Inc.	4/24/2026	OK
Spokane Kennel Club	5/22/2026	WA
Bryn Mawr Kennel Club	6/20/2026	PA
Greater Monroe Kennel Club	7/18/2026	NC
Topeka Kennel Club	8/21/2026	KS

AKC Event Information Provided to Superintendents

Staff have implemented a process to limit the event information that is provided to the superintendents to only the events that the superintendent is involved with. Prior to this change, superintendents received information for all Conformation, Obedience and Rally events.

This sound business practice was communicated to the superintendents and implemented in mid-July. There has been no objection from the superintendents.

Fines and Reprimands

Staff updated the Board on recent fines and reprimands.

(Fines and reprimands are reported on the Secretary’s Page.)

Events and Entries

Staff updated the Board on event and entry numbers.

JUDGING OPERATIONS

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

Mandatory Ramp Examination – English Springer Spaniel

The English Springer Spaniel Field Trial Association (“ESSFTA”) has requested that the Board of Directors mandate the use of a ramp for the examination of the English Springer Spaniel through all levels of Conformation competition. Currently, English Springer Spaniels may be judged either on the ground or the ramp at the discretion of the judge.

Staff recommends the Board approve the ESSFTA’s request for the English Springer Spaniel to be added to the list of breeds required to be judged on the ramp through all levels of Conformation competition. If the Board should vote to approve the ESSFTA’s request at its October 2025 meeting, the effective date will be January 1, 2026.

This will be discussed further at the October Board meeting.

AKC Educational Requirements Policy Update

Staff provided the Board with updates on implementation progress of the AKC Educational Requirements Policy adopted in April 2024 which requires all judges to complete the Stewards of Children® course from Darkness to Light®.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

CLUBS

Lisa Cecin, Director of Club Relations, participated in this portion of the meeting via video conference.

Club Relations Portal

Ms. Cecin informed the Board that the Club Relations Portal is now available on AKC.org under the Clubs and Delegates tab and is listed under Helpful Links. The portal will allow the public to engage with AKC to Apply for Accreditation and License status online through the submission of electronic forms and uploaded documents for club presentations.

REPORT ON MEMBER CLUB BYLAWS APPROVED IN JUNE AND JULY

Greater Kingsport Kennel Club, Kingsport, TN (1992)

Salina Kennel Club, Salina County, KS (1972)

REPORT ON NEWLY LICENSED CLUBS APPROVED IN JUNE AND JULY

Deer River Retriever Club, Jackson, TN (including communities north to Greenfield, south to Henderson, in proximity to Route 45), 24 total households, 12 local.

Leonberger Club of Texas, greater Huntsville, TX (including communities north to Dallas, south to Alvin, west to Midlothian and southeast to Humble), 50 total households, 19 local.

National Redbone Coonhound Club, 29 total households (4 households in 4 states west of the Mississippi River, 25 households in 12 states east of the Mississippi River).

Red River Sporting Society, greater Gainesville, TX (including communities north to Route 70, south to Route 20, west to Route 154 and east to Route 283, including Athens, TX), 26 total households, 12 local.

Scissortail Agility Club of Stillwater, Stillwater, OK (including communities in proximity to Route 177. south to Interstate 44 and north to Route 64), 30 total households, 12 local.

COMPLIANCE

Heather McManus, VP & General Counsel, Bri Tesarz, Director of Compliance & Inspections, and Jessica Lopez, Compliance Manager, participated in this portion of the meeting in person.

Staff Event Committee Report of Actions Taken

The Board received a report of actions taken.

Summary of Actions by Management Disciplinary Committee – Charges Preferred - Non- Inappropriate Treatment

The Board received a report of preferred charges.

Summary of Actions by Management Disciplinary Committee – Charges Preferred - Inappropriate Treatment

The Board received a report of preferred charges.

Summary of Finalized Disciplinary Actions as of July 18, 2025

The Board received a report of finalized disciplinary actions as of July 18, 2025.

Compliance Status Report

The Board received a report of compliance actions for the second quarter of 2025.

Inspections Status Report

The Board received a report on inspections activity for the second quarter of 2025.

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

REGISTRATION DEVELOPMENT

Linda Duncklee, Director of Registration Development, joined this portion of the meeting in person.

The Board discussed the current ban on the registration of Russian dogs, how other registries handle Russian dogs, estimates of registration and revenue loss, and customer concerns.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was an EXECUTIVE SESSION to discuss business matters. The Board approved dogs born in Russia that have been exported to other countries, with registrations recognized by the American Kennel Club (AKC) and registered in that country before being imported into the United States, to be registered with the AKC.

The following restrictions remain in place:

- Judges licensed by the Russian/Belarusian Kennel Federations will not be able to judge at American Kennel Club events.
- Entry to American Kennel Club events will not be allowed by dog owners living in Russia and Belarus.
- Judges and exhibitors are strongly advised not to judge or exhibit at canine events in Russia/Belarus.

MARKETING

Kirsten Bahlke, VP of Marketing, and Jacqueline Taylor, Director of Marketing, participated in this portion of the meeting via video conference.

The Board received an update from staff and the LEAP Group on the performance of the AKC digital marketing campaign. Compared to early benchmarks and historical data, the campaign is providing a lower cost per conversion, which is a direct result of campaign strategy, optimizations and execution. The presentation outlined brand tracker results, brand campaign media strategy, brand campaign launch and Always On results, impact of awareness on conversion, registration campaign results and next steps.

CONSENT

Upon a motion by Mr. Sweetwood, seconded by Ms. Wallin, it was VOTED (unanimously) to approve the following Consent items:

Jackson TN Dog Fanciers Association (JTDF) 3rd Show Request

As an exception to Board Policy given the Limited Number of Events isolated criteria for distance, the Board VOTED to approve Jackson TN Dog Fanciers Association request to hold a 3rd show at the Jackson Fairgrounds Park on week 12 (3rd week in March). From Jackson Fairgrounds Park, it is 458 straight line miles and 545 driving miles from the closest shows in Maquoketa IA.

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

The Sanctioned Four-to-Six Month (Beginner Puppy) Competition Regulations defines that judges for the Four-to-Six Month Puppy competition must be individuals with an AKC Conformation judge's number (approved breed or FSS/Open Show Judge). The Board VOTED to approve the modification to the regulations allowing non-approved individuals approved to judge a specialty show, to also judge the Four-to-Six Month (Beginner Puppy) Competition when held in conjunction with the specialty show they are assigned to judge.

This is effective immediately.

Fast CAT® – Public Display of Run Times

The Board VOTED to approve the addition of a regulation to the *Coursing Ability Test (CAT) and Fast CAT® Regulations* to require clubs to publicly post the run time of each dog during a Fast CAT® event. The change is effective October 1, 2025.

Retriever Hunting Tests – Judges Must Score All Abilities

The Board VOTED to approve a change to the *Regulations & Guidelines for AKC Hunting Tests for Retrievers* to emphasize that judges are required to assign a numeric score for each of the four abilities – Marking, Style, Perseverance and Training as part of their evaluation of a dog's performance. This recommendation was communicated to the Field Trial and Hunting Test Events Delegate Committee in June 2025 and there was no objection.

These changes are effective for events taking place on or after October 1, 2025.

Scent Work – Dogs with Coloring

The Board VOTED to approve a change to the *Regulations for AKC Scent Work*, allowing dogs with coloring to participate in Scent Work trials. The purpose of allowing dogs to have coat coloring is to add an element of fun to events by allowing clubs to adopt themes or to encourage dogs to “run for the cause” in support of a local activity.

The change is effective September 1, 2025.

Scent Work – Revised Specs on Buried Searches

The Board VOTED to approve a change to the *Regulations for AKC Scent Work* on the amount of sand that must be used in Buried Classes as well as redefine what constitutes a “scent vessel” for Buried Classes where water is required. Specifically, this change would allow Buried Classes where sand is the substrate, to use one inch of sand covering the scent vessel. The scent vessel can range from one inch to two inches. This recommendation will reduce the weight of the buried container.

The change is effective October 1, 2025.

Acceptance of Pedigrees from Canine Owners and Breeders Association (COBA)

The Board VOTED to approve the Canine Owners and Breeders Association (COBA), Nigeria's national kennel club, be added to the list of registries with pedigrees acceptable for AKC registration. Staff provided background information to accept COBA pedigrees for the AKC Foreign Registration of dogs born in Nigeria.

Delegate Approvals

James Conroy
To represent Boca Raton Dog Club
Published July, August 2025

Michael Faulkner
To represent Westminster Kennel Club
Published June, July 2025

Sandie Friend
To represent Boston Terrier Club of America
Published June, July 2025

Lisa Giannone
To represent Kennel Club of Northern New Jersey
Published June, July 2025

Mark Francis Jaeger
To represent English Toy Spaniel Club of America
Published July, August 2025

Lisa Leffingwell
Belgian Sheepdog Club of America
Published June, July 2025

Alejandro Lima
To represent Fort Lauderdale Dog Club
Published June, July 2025

Jennifer Martin
To represent Weimaraner Club of America
Published June, July 2025

Susan Patterson
To represent Greater Lowell Kennel Club
Published June, July 2025

Janine Rose
To represent Parson Russell Terrier Association of America
Published July, August 2025

Rhonda Shifferd
To represent Greater Ocala Dog Club
Published June, July 2025

Bruce Van Deman
To represent Hawaiian Kennel Club
Published June, July 2025

The Board recessed for the day at 5:01 p.m. Eastern Time.

The Board reconvened on Tuesday, August 12, 2025, at 8:30 a.m. Eastern Time.

Present: Dr. Thomas Davies (Chairman), Dr. Michael Knight (Vice Chairman), Ms. Gina DiNardo (President & CEO), Dr. Carmen Battaglia, Ms. Sally Fineburg, Mr. Eduardo Fugiwara, Dr. Charles Garvin, Mr. Steven Hamblin, Mr. Daniel Smyth, Mr. Christopher Sweetwood, Mr. Harold Tatro, Ms. Sylvia Thomas, Ms. Ann Wallin. Absent: Mr. Robin Stansell.

The Chief Operating Officer (Mr. Gordon Comfort), Chief Financial Officer (Mr. Ted Phillips) and Executive Secretary (Ms. Sheila Goffe) were also present.

Training

The Board participated in a training on harassment prevention as required annually by New York State law.

Foundation Stock Service® Guidelines

Mari-Beth O'Neill, VP of Sport Services, participated in this portion of the meeting in person.

The AKC Foundation Stock Service®, was established in 1995 to serve individuals with rare or developing breeds by providing a method to maintain registration records and a studbook, streamlining the transition of the registry once the breed obtains full recognition status with the American Kennel Club. The Guidelines provide the requirements that a breed must obtain to move to establish a Parent Club, request to move into the Miscellaneous Class and then to full recognition.

Staff recommended the approval of updated guidelines to expand the requirements for a Parent Club requesting full recognition to reflect active involvement by the club in holding an Open Show, an increased number of CM titles from 10 to 20 to be earned by a minimum of five Parent Club members, a minimum of 20 litters bred and enrolled within a three year period while the breed is in Miscellaneous, establishment of at least one local specialty club, and other requirements.

Upon the motion of Mr. Hamblin, and a second by Mr. Tatro, the Board VOTED (unanimously; Absent: Mr. Stansell) to consider the recommendation immediately.

Upon a motion by Mr. Hamblin and a second by Mr. Smyth, the Board VOTED (unanimously; Absent: Mr. Stansell) to approve the recommendation of staff, effective immediately.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

Canine Health Foundation Presentation

Dr. Stephanie Montgomery, CEO of the AKC Canine Health Foundation, and Ms. Andrea Fiumefreddo, Chief Operating Officer of the AKC CHF, briefed the AKC Board on the successful AKC CHF Conference in the previous week (August 7-9, 2025) in Durham, NC.

It was VOTED to adjourn on Tuesday, August 12, 2025, at 12:15 p.m. Eastern Time.

Adjourned

Attest: _____

Sheila H. Goffe, Executive Secretary