

AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB

Delegates Meeting

June 11, 2024

Dennis B. Sprung, President in the Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. ET.
(National Anthem played.)

Delegates were reminded to check in at the reception desk for attendance purposes. When Staff prints the purple-colored badge, the Delegate is automatically marked as present.

The Chair introduced the persons seated on the dais: Dr. Thomas Davies, Chairman; Dominic Palleschi Carota, Vice Chairman; David Jackson, Professional Registered Parliamentarian; Gina DiNardo, Executive Secretary; Shari Cathey, Court Reporter.

The Executive Secretary read the names of Delegates seated since the last meeting:

Dr. Yves Belmont, Oxford, GA to represent Conyers Kennel Club of Georgia
Eugene R. Biller, Tampa, FL to represent Tampa Bay Kennel Club
Michelle Brislin, Scranton, PA to represent Chihuahua Club of America
Brenda Dorman, Norfolk, VA to represent Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever Club (USA)
Sheila Gallizzo, Flemington, NJ to represent Plainfield Kennel Club
Sue Goldberg, Warren, NJ to represent Lewiston-Auburn Kennel Club
Christine M. Gonsalves, Acushnet, MA to represent Wampanoag Kennel Club
Marlene Groves, Kiowa, CO to represent Plum Creek Kennel Club of Colorado
Joao Machado, Humble, TX to represent Oakland Dog Training Club
Sandra McCue, Antelope, CA to represent Del Valle Dog Club of Livermore
Sue Meachem, Indianapolis, IN to represent Central Indiana Kennel Club
D. Scott Pfeil, Ingleside, IL to represent International Kennel Club of Chicago
Sue Ratz, Pennsburg, PA to represent Huntingdon Valley Kennel Club
Marty Smith, Bordentown, NJ to represent Trenton Kennel Club
Robin Stansell, Clayton, NC to represent French Bulldog Club of America
Cledith Wakefield, Leadington, MO to represent Jefferson County Kennel Club of Missouri
Dorinne Waterman, Perris, CA to represent San Gabriel Valley Kennel Club
Richard Yoho, Apopka, FL to represent Dandie Dinmont Terrier Club of America

The following Delegates, who were attending their first meeting since being officially seated, were introduced from the floor:

Dr. Yves Belmont to represent Conyers Kennel Club of Georgia
Eugene R. Biller to represent Tampa Bay Kennel Club
Michelle Brislin to represent Chihuahua Club of America
Vincent P. Chianese to represent Ashtabula Kennel Club
Brenda Dorman to represent Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever Club (USA)
Sheila Gallizzo to represent Plainfield Kennel Club
Christine M. Gonsalves to represent Wampanoag Kennel Club

Marlene Groves to represent Plum Creek Kennel Club of Colorado
Joao Machado to represent Oakland Dog Training Club
Sandra McCue to represent Del Valle Dog Club of Livermore
Sue Ratz to represent Huntingdon Valley Kennel Club
Marty Smith to represent Trenton Kennel Club
Robin Stansell to represent French Bulldog Club of America
Dorinne Waterman to represent San Gabriel Valley Kennel Club
Richard Yoho to represent Dandie Dinmont Terrier Club of America

The minutes of the March 12, 2024 Delegate Meeting were published in the online April 2024 AKC *Gazette* and the complete transcript was posted on the Delegate Portal on AKC's website. There were no corrections, and the minutes were adopted as published.

The **Bracco Italiano Club of America** and the **Curly-Coated Retriever Club of America** were duly elected as members of The American Kennel Club.

Dr. Thomas Davies delivered the Chairman's Report as follows:

Good morning and welcome. I would like to begin with a topic that is of the utmost importance to everyone in our community.

In April, the Board of the American Kennel Club voted to approve a staff proposal concerning *educational requirements* as an additional measure toward creating a safe and respectful sports environment for all.

Effective immediately, the AKC Board of Directors, Inspectors, Field Staff across all sports, AKC Registered Handlers, and additional AKC Staff that regularly attend events are required to successfully complete the *Stewards of Children®* training, from the non-profit organization Darkness to Light, once every three years.

All Junior Showmanship Judges and Club Junior Coordinators are required at this time (and going forward) to successfully complete the same training. AKC will offer the initial course on a complimentary basis, and it must be refreshed every three years.

All current and future judges across all sports are also required to complete the *Stewards of Children®* training. The initial training will be provided on a complimentary basis by AKC. This requirement is being phased in with the help of the AKC Judges Department.

AKC strongly recommends that all Superintendents, AKC-approved Show Secretaries, and AKC-approved Agility Trial Secretaries take the *Stewards of Children®* course.

All club members and fanciers not included in the groups I named are encouraged to complete this training, which is available through the Darkness to Light website at a cost of \$16.

The Board is now discussing a policy concerning professional handlers and agents listed in dog show catalogues with respect to the *Stewards of Children®* training. Look for updates on this in the near future.

There are three complementary courses offered by the U.S. Center for SafeSport® which AKC recommends for Junior participants and their parents. The core courses are SafeSport® for Youth Athletes ages 13-17, SafeSport® for Kids ages 5-12, and SafeSport® Parent's Guide to Misconduct in Sports.

As of this time, among our community of dog fanciers, 797 individuals have enrolled in the course and 618 have successfully completed it. Among them are Junior Showmanship Judges, AKC Staff, the AKC Board, and Club Junior Coordinators. Junior Showmanship Judges were given three months until August 1, 2024 to complete the training. Staff continues to monitor compliance with these important new requirements, and updates will be provided regularly.

The purpose of these requirements is to ensure that our sports remain safe, healthy, positive and fun for everyone.

Full disclosure, and perhaps not a secret to many, I will admit that my psyche, which contains minor components of several conditions, such as PAPD and OCD, was, at first, concerned with being told that participation was mandatory. Common sense prevailed, and I did so. The program is compelling and gives us the tools to recognize, respond and react to child sexual abuse. I encourage everyone in our community to take advantage of this training.

I'll end my comments on this subject by paraphrasing the words of one of the training facilitators.

I'm grateful to be in a community that is guided by the teaching of and the perspective of an organization that believes that every human being has a purpose, and that life is really about finding that purpose and that unique place in life where you can make a difference.

We must be the light in children's darkness.

Speaking of fun, the summer season is upon us, with all of its celebrations, barbecues and socialization that come along with it. Our clubs work so hard throughout the year to host events for our dogs to earn titles, points, placements and rankings. And soon enough, it will all pay off with our incredible events in Orlando Florida just six months away.

Some of us prefer to ease up a bit in summer, to give our dogs a break from the heat, or to allow ourselves some time to relax as well. This is an excellent time of year for clubs to hold informal gatherings and events, like Matches and "Fun Days." A few Saturdays ago in New Jersey, a pair of Specialty Clubs for Pembrokes and Cardigans hosted a "Corgi Fun Day Sunday." There were activities like CGC and intro to Agility, as one would expect. But a valuable educational effort took place as well, surrounding the differences between the breeds and their respective talents. These are important stories for our breed clubs to tell. The event was a great success, with the vast majority of attendees

being pet owners who found their way there thanks to the clubs' Facebook promotion. AKC clubs *and your members* are the backbone of our organization. Your efforts advance the sport of dogs in so many ways. Even those non-competitive club events are an investment in our future.

Clubs are also an investment in *you*.

We all joined and formed our clubs to improve the lives of our dogs. But being a part of an AKC club helps us, too.

Medical and social researchers have documented that building and maintaining social connections become more difficult for many people as we age. They have also shown that group activities can lead to living longer and healthier lives. Joining and participating in clubs, associations and social groups has a positive impact on health and protects against social isolation and loneliness.

Participating in clubs offers physical and mental health benefits because they help us build important social networks. Spending time with friends who share our passion for dogs can bring far-reaching benefits including lowering the risk of cognitive impairment, depression, anxiety and even disease. Health insurance companies know this, too.

A new AKC sponsor called Grouper rewards people for being active in groups and clubs.

Grouper works with health insurance companies to help eligible members access something called Activity Benefits. Some insurance plans will reimburse members for being part of an official group – like an AKC club. If you are 65 or older and have a Medicare supplement plan like Medicare Advantage or some other types of insurance, Grouper will determine if your club dues can be reimbursed to you. Then, over the year, you can be further reimbursed for being active in your club. Eligible members will receive an initial payment of \$50 and an ongoing activity payment of \$20 for every 3 months of activity. There is no cost to join.

Grouper invites clubs that are interested in attracting members to be listed on their site at no cost, where up to 14 million eligible members can find your events and activities.

Look out for a link with more information about eligibility coming soon in AKC Communicates. The website is www.hellogrouper.com and their tagline is “Benefits with Friends.” We hope it can be a benefit to you and your club members.

May you enjoy a healthy, safe and relaxing summer, and see you in September.

Mr. Sprung delivered the President's Report as follows:

Sometimes it is good for us to take a step back and look at many of our ongoing and united achievements. Proudly, we remain the world's largest all-breed registry and dog sport organization. Our strength encompasses 5,037 clubs, holding over 26,000 events annually in 28 sports. Last year's record-breaking total exceeded 3.6 million entries. Our economic impact study reveals helpful information for clubs securing and maintaining event sites as we inject millions of dollars each weekend nationwide. This means AKC events generate over \$2.7 billion a year in local spending, a tool that

clubs should be touting in their communities and with elected officials.

Beyond inspecting kennels, our field agents are busy educating breeders to ensure proper care and conditions exist as well as the integrity of recordkeeping. Since the year 2000, we conducted more than 83,000 inspections nationwide. That is an impressive 300 every month.

We created the AKC Canine Good Citizen program to educate the public about responsible dog ownership. Almost 1.3 million dogs have achieved the CGC title certification. AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy has 272,000 puppies that have earned that award.

Our comprehensive Education Department provides teachers with lesson plans and activities for future generations that incorporate core subject areas for grades K-12, educating students about the many attributes of purebred dogs. AKC Canine College offers amongst others, 26 courses on breeding, 74 breed-specific courses in collaboration with our Parent Clubs; Also, Conformation for Beginners, Stewarding at the Dog Show, 10 different courses on Puppy Training, an Obedience Judges Education Program and an AKC Fetch Judge's Education course.

For more than 15 years, the AKC Humane Fund has provided grants to women's shelters that house victims of domestic abuse with their pets. The fund offers financial assistance to your Parent Clubs and those affiliated non-profits as there are more than 450 AKC Rescue groups making us the largest rescue network in America.

AKC Reunite continues to bring together lost pets and their owners and has done so almost 700,000 times. They have donated 111 trailers. They continue to give microchip scanners to shelters. Their Adopt A K-9 Cop Program has donated funding for more than 560 police K-9s throughout our nation.

AKC Canine Health Foundation funds research projects focusing on the physical, mental and social well-being of our dogs. AKC CHF's \$67.5 million in grants has resulted in 1,167 research grants, countless canine health projects and peer-reviewed publications. AKC has contributed \$36 million to AKC CHF.

The AKC Museum of the Dog preserves, interprets and celebrates the role of dogs in society, educating the public about the human canine bond through its 1,700-piece rotating collection and 4,000 volume library.

The Detection Dog Task Force addresses the shortage of high-quality U.S. bred and trained explosive detection dogs to protect public safety and national security. The Patriotic Puppy Program works with breeders and enthusiasts to teach how to raise puppies for a future career as a detection dog. To date, 90 graduates have gone on to working careers.

We created the not-for-profit Purebred Preservation Bank. This endeavor is to assist Parent Clubs and breeders in the preservation of purebred dogs, maintain genetic materials and continue the breeding of healthy dogs. This affiliate was structured to enhance gene pools in multiple ways without financial gain.

Each of these accomplishments are a shared ongoing effort in the AKC universe for the well-being of dogs. This is summarized on a one-page document entitled *AKC is More than Champion Dogs, We're the Dog's Champion*. A copy will be distributed by mail to every Delegate along with the economic impact sheet. I thank you and your clubs for your contribution to these continued successes.

Dominic Palleschi Carota, Vice Chairman, delivered an award presentation as follows:
Good morning, everyone. We'll now honor AKC clubs that have 125 years or more of membership with the American Kennel Club. We are grateful for their service, contributions and lasting commitment to the mission of the American Kennel Club:

1884 Westminster Kennel Club

1886 American Fox Terrier Club

1887 Collie Club of America and the National Beagle Club

1889 American Spaniel Club and the Great Dane Club of America

1890 Bulldog Club of America

1893 Boston Terrier Club of America

1895 Dachshund Club of America and the New England Beagle Club

1897 was a big year, we had five clubs that year: Bull Terrier Club of America, French Bulldog Club of America, Irish Terrier Club of America, Irish Setter Club of America, and the Rhode Island Kennel Club.

1898 St. Bernard Club of America and Texas Kennel Club.

If the Delegates for these clubs are present, would you please line up here – meet me on the floor so I may award you your certificate. For those Delegates that are not here, the certificates will be mailed to your clubs. Thank you and may we have a round of applause for the clubs.
(Delegates in attendance accepted awards.)

Ted Phillips, CFO, delivered the Financial Report as follows:
Thank you, Dennis. Good morning, Delegates. As always, thank you for attending today's meeting. We appreciate your time and your support.

Today I'll be presenting key performance indicators of non-financial results, and the interim financial results of operations for the fiscal quarter ended March 31, 2024. First quarter results are positive with solid revenue results and expense control by management.

Let's take a look at some of these non-financial key performance indicators. This chart presents the first quarter totals for litter and dog registrations. Litter registrations total 65,000, which is 17 percent lower than the first quarter of 2023. Dog registrations total 154,000 which is 15 percent lower than the first quarter of 2023. Online litter and dog registrations continue to exceed 85 percent of all registrations.

For our sports and events activities, we see solid results. As of March 31, events totaled 5,782 or 14 percent higher than the first quarter of 2023. Entries totaled over 823,000, which is 5 percent higher than the first quarter of 2023 as well. We thank our breeders, the entire Delegate Body, our Board of

Directors, our Management and Staff for the continued strength of these programs.

Next, let's take a look at a high-level overview of the first quarter operating results. These results reflect the Board-approved spending plan for 2024. In the first quarter, AKC had a net operating income of \$2.2 million. These positive financial results represent and demonstrate delivery of these budgeted programs. The Q1 results are driven by operating revenues totaling \$25.5 million; 67 percent of these revenues are from registration and event fees, in total \$17 million. When you break this down, registration revenues total \$12.6 million, and event and entry fees total \$4 million. Advertising, sponsorship and royalty revenues, which revenue represent a solid and growing line of revenue for AKC's business operations, total \$5 million or 20 percent of total revenues. Finally, various e-commerce products and services totaled \$3.3 million or 13 percent of operating revenue.

Now let's take a look at expenses. Operating expenses are reported to the Board monthly and to you four times a year and represent what's authorized to spend in the operating budget. Total operating expenses for the first fiscal quarter are \$23.3 million. Staff expense totals \$12 million or 53 percent of that total. There are other substantial operating expense lines on this slide, includes professional fees and product fulfillment, which is \$6.8 million or 29 percent of total expenses. These programs support the activities of AKC individual programs. Each of the operating expense areas reflect cost increases over 2023, due to additional business activity and price inflation. We expect that the remaining three quarters of the year we'll see higher but manageable costs, and we will endeavor to complete all the programs presented in the budget. We continue to support our charitable affiliates with donations equal to 5 percent of operating expenses. Also, please remember non-operating expenses are reported to the Board, and they include the annual cost of retiree benefit expenses and the change in value of investments.

This slide presents the AKC's financial position or our balance sheet as of March 31, 2024. Total assets are \$266 million. This is primarily comprised of investment assets, cash and some fixed assets. Our investment performance for the first quarter was positive, beat our benchmarks and resulted in a 5.4 percent return. Asset manager selection helped us in the first quarter. The liability section is primarily comprised of pension and retirement and lease obligations, which will continue to be a long-term cost for AKC.

As always, thank you for your time. I appreciate your attention. We look forward to serving you and I'm available if you have any questions. Thank you.

The first vote is on the amendment to **Article VII, Section 1** of the *Charter and Bylaws of The American Kennel Club*, which removes two consecutive term limits for AKC Board Members. This amendment was proposed by the Greater Clark County Kennel Club and brought forward with approval by the AKC Board of Directors.

The Chair recognized Dr. Charles Garvin, Delegate from the Dalmatian Club of America, who spoke as follows:

Charlie Garvin, Dalmatian Club of America. Just like to make three fairly brief comments. First my disclosures. When I first ran for the Board, there were no term limits. I was not nominated by the

nominating committee. I ran by petition. I ran against a full slate of incumbents and was successful in that. That capability is still there. Eliminating term limits will not eliminate the Delegate's ability, responsibility, and authority to eliminate incumbent Board Members if they are underperforming.

Second point, if you look at the AKC, the AKC Canine Health Foundation has no term limits. AKC Reunite has no term limits. AKC Museum of the Dog has no term limits. AKC Humane Fund has no term limits. AKC Purebred Preservation Bank has no term limits. The Delegate Committee members have no term limits. The Delegate Committee Chairs have no term limits. AKC Officers have no term limits. The Board is the only aspect of the AKC that does have term limits.

Finally imagine, if you will, a conversation that I overheard from a couple of Delegates. The first one says at election time, "I've studied this situation carefully. I've done tremendous due diligence. I've decided that Jane Doe is the best possible Delegate to be on the Board." The other Delegate says, "Well, I agree but you're not allowed to vote for her." "Why not?" "Because of term limits." "But she's the best one." "It doesn't matter. You can't vote for her." "What's the reason behind this?" "Well, some people think that this capability adds fresh ideas to the Board." The first one says, "So instead of voting for the best, I have to settle for a less qualified candidate?" "That's right." "But that's illogical, it makes no sense." "That's the way it is." "That rule should be changed. I want to vote for the best candidate."

In order to change that, you need to vote yes for this amendment. Thank you.

The Chair recognized Pat Cruz, Delegate from the Heart of the Plains Kennel Club, who spoke as follows:

Good morning. My name is Pat Cruz. I'm from Heart of the Plains Kennel Club. This year, this June, this meeting is probably one of the most important meetings besides our March elections. For the fifth time, Delegates will be asked to vote to eliminate term limit provisions. Past attempts have failed to meet the two-thirds required of the seated assembly to pass that vote. It's hard to believe that Belmont, Osgood, Mortimer and others expected that Board members would make a career when they formulated Charter and Bylaws of The American Kennel Club. The argument that the Board will be deficient with term limits and the hiatus it requires doesn't address the fact that whenever there is an election, there are still nine or ten seated Board members to hold office, and an open seat gives the Delegate Body more options. If passed, it's the one-year hiatus that this vote will eliminate, but that hiatus could encourage sitting Board Members to act more with courage on issues, facing issues that affect all of us.

Knowing there is a time limit on their service, a member may prioritize meaningful change over re-election concerns. Nothing is lost during a term a Board Member's hiatus. A displaced member can continue to work as a Delegate and have time to reflect on time served. If the worry that a Board member will fall out during the hiatus, so be it. If that time is a deterrent to prevent anybody from running again, the Board hasn't lost anything. Neither has the AKC. There are no obstacles to running again after the hiatus. It's healthy to step back and see what you've accomplished during your time served. Term limits ensure that every Delegate has a chance to serve and bring new ideas and perspectives to the Delegate Body and to their clubs. Other clubs may find a seat in the boardroom.

Delegates can still vote for whomever they choose, and the status quo would be eliminated. We have an untapped resource here in this room and with all the Delegates that serve their clubs. Who's to say that new eyes on anything wouldn't help any organization including ours. New or returning Board members or face new thinking and bring new thinking to all Board members, and certainly, current seated Board members know the parameters when they ask for your vote. You know you'll either come back a winner, try again or not. Most sitting Board members sitting today are sitting because someone termed out. In closing, this is an important meeting. Remember, the AKC has not suffered any major loss. If a Board Member has termed out, there are still nine or ten experienced Members able to guide the new elected. It is an honor and a privilege to serve, not a lifetime career. True competition stops complacency and entrenchment of sitting members. More clubs will be represented at the Board level and maybe more qualified Delegates will step up willing to serve. With this, Mr. President, I ask for a roll call vote.

There was second from the floor for a roll call vote as a non-debatable motion.

There was a vote requiring a majority in favor to conduct a roll call vote. There was not a majority in the affirmative.

The Chair declared that there would not be a roll call vote.

The Chair recognized Marylyn DeGregorio, Delegate from the Taconic Hills Kennel Club, who spoke as follows:

Marilyn DeGregorio, Taconic Hills Kennel Club. In the past couple of days, I've read and heard that we want change. We want a fresh voice on the Board. The thing is, we are the fresh voice. We are the ones who bring ideas to the Board. We are the Delegates. That's our job. We interact between our clubs and the Board and AKC. Stuff that comes out of the Board that's new comes from us. They wouldn't need to be generating new ideas, we do. To call for change, these things come from us. This our power from our clubs, from the fancy. We bring our ideas from our committees to the Board, ultimately to the AKC. I can point to a number of things I went through at the caucus yesterday, things that my club wanted done. The Juniors who don't have to own their own dogs. That came from my club, and I kept on pestering everybody until finally the Board acted on it.

The Crow. The Crow is on his last legs. Know the Crow? Yeah, we want the Crow to go. I spoke up about it, so did Cathy De La Garza, and Marc Crews did. I'm sure other people did too. We asked for that and the Board acted on it because we needed it. The fancy needed it. The judges needed it. It's our job to guide the AKC. It is also our duty and our power to have the freedom to choose the Delegates to run for the Board to serve on the Board that we want. Every single year we have a term limit. We don't have people sitting in the Board seats to keep that Board seat warm. The ones who have to run again, shouldn't have to sit out a year if they're capable and if they want to serve. But if they want to serve, if they want to give the time – and if a Board Member is doing a good job and is engaged, we know what they're doing because we get reports all the time. We read the Board minutes – I seldom do until somebody sends them to me. There's a lot of work that's being done. Different subcommittees that are working on stuff, and then they address the stuff that we ask for. You want fresh ideas? All we have to do is ask. How many of you guys would ask a Board Member? I

would bug Dan and Dominic, sometimes Tom. They would tell me, go to this committee, present it to the committee. See what you can do. Eventually if it has, if enough of the fancy wants it and you really believe in it, you're going to get it done. Those are our ideas. What we need is we need capable people who are stable on a Board, and we need to keep the power to choose our Board Members. There's no reason we have to have an artificial one year. It doesn't make sense. It doesn't make any sense. Steven Hamblin, when he decided to run for the Board, he ran from the floor, didn't he? Yes. I didn't know who Steve was. He came up to me in Orlando, shook my hand, introduced himself, gave me a sheet of paper about himself, told me about himself and told me why he wanted to serve on the Board, and guess what? He got on the Board, and he's doing a good job. He said he was ready and wanted to serve. Most people on the Board are the people who want to be there and who are capable, it doesn't matter if they've been there for 10 years, I don't care. This is an election which every term every year we have the opportunity to actually choose who serves on our Board. Don't give up the power. Don't give our power away for just an arbitrary one year sit out. Please vote in favor. Use your power as Delegates.

The Chair recognized Kenneth Levison, Delegate from the Tucson Kennel Club, who spoke as follows: Kenneth Levison, from the Tucson Kennel Club. I'd like to call the question, please.

There was a second from the floor to call the question.

There was a two-thirds vote in the affirmative to call the question.

There was a standing vote that was too close to make a visual decision of two-thirds.

The Chair called for a counted standing vote.

Those in favor of eliminating term limits were counted totaling 137 Delegates.

Those opposed to eliminating term limit were counted totaling 114 Delegates.

The Chair declared there was not two-thirds in the affirmative. The amendment was not adopted.

The next vote was on the amendment to **Chapter 14, New Section 36** of the *Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedure for Pointing Breeds*, which allows for a National Walking Gun Dog Championship for English Setters. This amendment was proposed by the English Setter Association of America and brought forward with approval by the AKC Board of Directors.

There were no questions or discussion.

There was a two-thirds vote in the affirmative, and the amendment was adopted.

The last vote was on the proposed amendments to the **Standing Rule on Delegate Committees**, which reorganizes, clarifies and makes the standing rule current. These amendments were proposed by the Delegate Coordinating Committee.

There were no questions or discussion.

There was a two-thirds vote in the affirmative, and the amendments were adopted.

Mr. Sprung informed the Delegates that the proposed rule changes to **Chapter 9, Section 11** and **Chapter 11, Section 12** of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* would be read/voted as one amendment.

The Chair called on the Executive Secretary to read the proposed amendment to **Chapter 9, Section 11** of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* – Superintendents and Show Secretaries and **Chapter 11, Section 12** of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* – Dog Show Entries, Conditions of Dogs Affecting Eligibility. Delegates were given the opportunity to discuss each rule change.

Ms. DiNardo: The amendment to **Chapter 9, Section 11** of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* – Superintendents and Show Secretaries and **Chapter 11, Section 12** of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* – Dog Show Entries, Conditions of Dogs Affecting Eligibility, deletes “where there is no Superintendent” for greater clarity that Show Secretaries for any event, including one where the services of a Superintendent are also used by the club, must adhere to the eligibility requirements defined by Chapter 11, Section 12 of the *Rules*. It also deletes “where there is no Superintendent” for greater clarity that the eligibility restrictions for Show Secretaries and members of their household apply to any event they service, including one where the services of a Superintendent are also used by the club.

This amendment was proposed by the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee and brought forward with approval by the AKC Board of Directors.

It will be published in two issues of the *AKC Gazette*, and you will be asked to vote on it at the September 2024 meeting. The full text is on the worksheet previously emailed.

There were no questions or discussion.

Mr. Sprung informed the Delegates that the proposed rule changes to **Chapter 10, Section 2** and **Section 5** of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* will be read/voted as one amendment. Delegates were given the opportunity to discuss each rule change.

The Chair called on the Executive Secretary to read the proposed amendment to **Chapter 10, Section 2** and **Section 5** of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* – Show Veterinarians.

Ms. DiNardo: The amendment to **Chapter 10, Section 2 and Section 5** of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* – Show Veterinarians, adds the obligation for the Show Veterinarian to examine a dog referred by the event committee for examination to those who may become ill or injured at a show and adds the obligation that any cost associated with the examination of a dog by the Show Veterinarian is to the owner or owner’s agent of the dog. It replaces veterinarians with Show Veterinarians for consistency. It deletes the requirement for a club to be responsible for any expenses incurred in the examination of a dog it remands to determine if its presence endangers the health of other dogs. It also assigns responsibility for any expenses to the dog’s owner or agent.

This amendment was proposed by the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee and brought forward with approval by the AKC Board of Directors.

It will be published in two issues of the *AKC Gazette*, and you will be asked to vote on it at the September 2024 meeting. The full text is on the worksheet previously emailed.

There were no questions or discussion.

The Chair called on the Executive Secretary to please read the proposed amendment to **Chapter 15, Section 1** of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows – Protests Against Dogs*.

Ms. DiNardo: The amendment to **Chapter 15, Section 1** of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows – Protests Against Dogs*, inserts that a dog remanded for examination by an event committee may only return to compete that same day, weekend, circuit, or cluster if the Show Veterinarian has examined the dog and determined its presence does not endanger other dogs.

This amendment was proposed by the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee and brought forward with approval by the AKC Board of Directors.

It will be published in two issues of the *AKC Gazette*, and you will be asked to vote on it at the September 2024 meeting. The full text is on the worksheet previously emailed.

There were no questions or discussion.

The Chair called on the Executive Secretary to read the proposed amendment to **Chapter 14, Section 4** of the *Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedure for Retrievers*.

Ms. DiNardo: The amendment to **Chapter 14, Section 4** of the *Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedure for Retrievers*, will standardize the rotation and make every stake to be conducted in the same fashion when it comes to the running order.

This amendment was proposed by the Retriever Field Trial Advisory Committee and brought forward with approval by the AKC Board of Directors.

It will be published in two issues of the *AKC Gazette*, and you will be asked to vote on it at the September 2024 meeting. The full text is on the worksheet previously emailed.

There were no questions or discussion.

Mari-Beth O'Neill, Vice President of Support Services, delivered a special announcement:
Good morning. For the first time AKC and the Junior Task Force Committee is presenting certificates to clubs who have given support and assistance to 4-H Canine Clubs in their communities – providing education, competition opportunities, introducing and encouraging youth to become AKC exhibitors,

breeders and club members in the future.

The first group that I'd like to recognize are the clubs that make up the Springfield Thanksgiving Cluster, which is Springfield Kennel Club, Wyndham County Kennel Club, South Windsor Kennel Club, and a special thanks to Jane Wilkinson from Holyoke Kennel Club, who is extensively involved in the New England 4-H. These clubs initiated the concept of offering an AKC event that would be available for 4-H members or Juniors only in Obedience and Rally, which created the Junior Showcase event. Additionally, the cluster offers the AKC RHP Junior Clinic, Seminar and social gatherings and other ongoing support. The youth that started in these events have now earned titles through Intermediate Rally and are competing in Rally Advanced.
(Delegates in attendance accepted awards.)

We'd also like to pay special recognition to Manatee Kennel Club, who's been supporting 4-H by offering scholarships to the youth competing in Hillsborough County, Florida. Scholarships have been awarded annually for the past decade in honor of Phyllis White, Jerry Manning and Manatee Kennel Club. Manatee Kennel Club stepped up to hold the first official Junior Showcase event in Obedience and Rally in 2018.
(Delegate in attendance accepted award.)

For the rest of you who are doing things for 4-H, I'm anxious to hear what you're doing. Please write to me, share with me your experiences and we'll share with each other. Thank you.

The Chair called on the Executive Secretary to read the list of vacancies for the Delegate Standing Committees that are to be filled in September.

Ms. DiNardo: These are the vacancies on Delegate Standing Committees that are to be filled at the September 2024 Delegate Meeting:

All-Breed Clubs Committee: 4 - three-year terms, 1 - two-year term, 1 - one-year term

Bylaws Committee: 3 - three-year terms and 1 - one-year term

Canine Health Committee: 3 - three-year terms

Companion Events Committee: 4 - three-year terms

Delegate Advocacy and Advancement Committee: 4 - three-year terms and 1 - two-year term

Dog Show Rules Committee: 4 - three-year terms and 1 - one-year term

Field Trial & Hunting Test Events Committee: 3 - three-year terms

Herding, Earthdog, Coursing and Scent Work Events Committee: 4 - three-year terms

Parent Clubs Committee: 4 - three-year terms and 1 - one-year term

Perspectives Editorial Staff: 6 - two-year terms and 2 - one-year terms

Mr. Sprung announced that the Delegates will be emailed self-nomination forms by the end of June. The self-nomination form must be returned to the Executive Secretary by Friday, July 19, 2024.

Questions on the procedures to be followed should also be directed to the Executive Secretary. Delegates may only self-nominate for one committee, except that a member of the *Perspectives* Editorial Staff may also serve on another standing committee.

In August, the Delegates will be emailed the nominees for each committee, and their qualification statements with the September Delegate Meeting notification.

Chris Sweetwood, Delegate from Trap Falls Kennel Club, delivered an update on AKC PAC as follows: Thank you, ladies and gentlemen. Just a couple of quick notes. I'll keep it real short. Your donations to the PAC have helped us get the results we need in the House of Representatives. We now take the bill to the Senate, and this is the AG Bill (Farm Bill). We're going to be stuck with it for five years. We spent a lot of time in D.C. Your PAC fund donations give us the access to the legislators. Without them, we cannot get the job done. We need your help. I'm going to beg you to please set up a reoccurring donation, but to help motivate you this year, we have been very, very fortunate to thank fellow Delegate Gini Denninger who has donated her waterfront property in Costa Rica. It includes your airfare, your accommodations, and your transfers to get you there. So, you have a chance to win a week on the beach. You're going to need a passport. I'll say it upfront, probably not to get there, but coming home could be problematic without it, and you must be six months of age, microchipped and have a rabies vaccination certificate in order to come back into the United States. Here's the deal. We've limited this to only 1000 tickets. You get five tickets for a \$100. We'll be standing in the back. We take Mastercard, Visa, American Express, checks, and of course, cash. Please stop by. Help us out because I think these tickets are going to go fast. Thank you.

The Chair informed the Delegates that the Tuesday, September 10, 2024, Delegate Meeting will be held at the Doubletree Newark Airport Hotel. More detailed meeting information will be emailed to the Delegates as soon as it becomes available.

Lunch was served following the meeting's conclusion on the Terrace.

Delegates were not required to return the badges; new badges will be printed at the September meeting. Delegates were given an option to recycle the badge holders and lanyards.

There was no New Business heard from the Delegate Body.

The Chair adjourned the meeting.

(One sharp rap of the gavel.)

(Proceedings concluded at 11:30 a.m. ET.)

The opinions expressed by the speakers may not necessarily reflect those of The American Kennel Club.