

American Kennel Club, Inc.
MEETING of the BOARD OF DIRECTORS
AKC Offices at 101 Park Avenue, New York, NY
January 13-14, 2020

The Board convened on Monday, January 13, 2020 at 8:30 a.m.

All Directors were present except for Dan Smyth; also present was the Executive Secretary.

The November 2019 Board minutes, copies of which had been provided to all Directors, were reviewed. Upon a motion by Dr. Davies, seconded by Mr. Sweetwood, the November 2019 minutes were approved unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Mr. Sprung provided the Board with a high-level recap of 2019 accomplishments.

- Sports and Events revenue was \$567,000 above budget and \$604,000 higher than 2018.
- Total Entries across all events was 3,300,000. The largest number in AKC history
- 2019 AKC National Championship was the largest event held in AKC's 135-year history – 11,008 entries
- Registration:
Dogs up 1.2% to 587,777. This is the sixth (6th) consecutive year of year-over year increases
Litters up 3% to 258,362. This is the fifth (5th) consecutive year of year-over year increases
Unique breeders up 5%
- Registration revenue was \$1MM below budget but \$1.5MM higher than 2018.
- AKC.org 72 million users, a 10m increase, up 16%. Page views +6% and time spent +7%
- Social Media Instagram up 11.7%
- E-commerce traffic increased by 9.6% traffic and revenue was above budget
- AKC Marketplace 31,600 breeders advertised 53,000 litters vs. 28,200 breeders from 44,700 litters in 2018
- Parent Club tool used by 105 parent clubs
- Public Relations – The PR department obtained more than 2,000 media placements for the opening of the AKC Museum on the Dog in New York City.
- AKC.TV – over 6.5m views with more than 3.5m new users
- 2019 budget of \$4.19m net operating will achieve approximately \$5.1m.

Board Action Items

Mr. Sprung reviewed Action Items and reported on Staff initiatives.

Legal Status Report

The Board reviewed a status report on pending litigation and other Legal activities for the months of November and December 2019.

FINANCE

Joseph Baffuto, CFO, presented AKC's unaudited financial results for the eleven months ended November 30, 2019. Total year to date revenues of \$71.4 million were \$2.0 million or 2.8% below budget, but \$3.2 million or 4.8% greater than the 2018 comparative period. Dog Registrations YTD are 4% below Budget, but 1% higher than 2018. Litters processed are 3% under Budget levels, but 2% above previous year's activity. Total operating expenses of \$66.7 million were \$4.5 million or 6% under budget as well as remaining \$3.3 million or 4.8% below last year's eleven-month actual. Operating income for the year to date through November 30, 2019 was \$4.6 million which was favorable compared to both 2019 budgeted operating income of \$2.2 million as well as the 2018 mark of (\$1.9 million). Additionally, our operating investment portfolio reflects total unrealized gains for the year of \$14.1 million dollars.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Mari-Beth O'Neill, Vice President, Sport Services, and Sheila Goffe, Vice President, Government Relations, participated in this portion of the meeting via video conference.

2022 and 2023 Delegate Meetings

For planning purposes, meeting dates should be set as far in advance as possible. Per the AKC Bylaws, the December Delegate meeting date must be set two years in advance. The Board reviewed the dates proposed for the 2022 and 2023 Board meetings and Delegates meetings. Following a motion by Dr. Garvin, seconded by Mr. Carota, the Board VOTED (unanimously, absent Mr. Smyth) to approve the proposed schedule for the 2022 and 2023 Board meetings and Delegates meetings.

Canine Legislation Position Statement on Proper Care and Humane Treatment of Dogs

The Board reviewed proposed amendments to the AKC's Canine Legislation Position Statement on Proper Care and Humane Treatment of Dogs. In recent years, AKC Government Relations has tracked an increasing number of legislative proposals that allow an individual to break into a vehicle if they believe an unaccompanied animal inside is in distress. AKC appreciates the good intentions of these "Good Samaritan" measures but is troubled that many are written so broadly that they remove all liability for breaking into a vehicle and removing a dog, without first requiring certain safeguards to protect the dog and its owner and their property – particularly if the dog was not in distress.

Following a motion by Mr. Powers, seconded by Mr. Sweetwood, the Board VOTED (unanimously, absent Mr. Smyth) to the following revised position statement (changes underlined):

Proper Care and Humane Treatment of Dogs. Dog owners bear a special responsibility to their canine companions to provide proper care and humane treatment at all times. Proper care and humane treatment include an adequate and nutritious diet, clean water, safe and clean living and travel conditions, regular veterinary care, kind and responsive human companionship, and training in appropriate behavior. The American Kennel Club® believes that dogs should not be kept in circumstances or numbers where these needs cannot be adequately fulfilled.

No dog should be left in a vehicle if its comfort, health, and safety is in question. Good Samaritan legislation must provide a balanced approach that protects both the health and safety of dogs and the interests of responsible dog owners.

Canine Legislation Position Statement on Rehoming of Research Dogs

The Board recommendations for a new canine legislation position statement regarding legislative efforts to direct the rehoming of dogs used in research. Staff are concerned about the introduction of a new class of legislative proposals at the federal and state levels that mandate that facilities that conduct animal research offer animal research subjects to external “rescue” organizations for adoption – without regard to the health of the animal, the appropriateness of placement, or the ownership rights of the research facility.

Following a motion by Mr. Sweetwood, seconded by Mr. Powers, the Board VOTED (unanimously, absent Mr. Smyth) to approve the following new canine legislation policy position statement on the rehoming of research dogs:

Rehoming of Dogs Previously Used in Research. The American Kennel Club® (AKC) recognizes that protecting biomedical research practices is crucial to developing new ways to identify, prevent, treat, or eradicate disease, and to improve human and animal health. Where appropriate, retired healthy research and teaching animals should be rehomed, either through rehoming programs at the university/research facility, by groups with special expertise in rehoming research animals, or by qualified outside groups selected by the animals' owner.

Field Spaniel Proposed Breed Standard Revision

The Board reviewed proposed revisions to the Field Spaniel standard, specifically to add a disqualification for the sable color pattern, as submitted by the Field Spaniel Society of America, Inc. (FSSA). The current standard was approved September 14, 1998.

Following a motion by Dr. Garvin, seconded by Mrs. Wallin, the Board VOTED (unanimously, absent Mr. Smyth) to permit the FSSA to proceed to ballot its membership on the suggested standard changes in accordance with the club’s Constitution and Bylaws.

Proposed Revision to Color are underlined

Color: Black, liver, golden liver or shades thereof, in any intensity (dark or light); either self-colored or bi-colored. Bi-colored dogs must be roaned and/or ticked in white areas. Tan points are acceptable on the aforementioned colors and are the same as any normally tan pointed breed. White is allowed on the throat, chest, and/or brisket, and may be clear, ticked, or roaned on a self-color dog. The sable pattern, a lighter undercoat with darker shading as tipping or dark overlay, with or without a mask present, is a disqualification.

Disqualifications: The sable pattern, a lighter undercoat with darker shading as tipping or dark overlay, with or without a mask present, is a disqualification.

Parent Club Designation for American English Coonhound

The National American English Coonhound Association (NAECA) is requesting that the AKC Board designate the club as the Parent Club to represent the American English Coonhound with the AKC. The NAECA has been holding meetings since March of 2019 and has established a membership of 70 members, 15 of which were members of the former parent club, the American English Coonhound Association. The membership has extensive knowledge and background in Coonhound events and AKC Conformation events.

This will be discussed further at the February meeting.

COMPANION AND PERFORMANCE

Doug Ljungren, Executive Vice President, Sports & Events, was present for this portion of the meeting. Caroline Murphy, Director, Performance Events, participated in this portion of the meeting via video conference, and Pamela Manaton, Director, Obedience, Rally & Tracking participated in this portion of the meeting via conference call.

Fast CAT – Ribbons & Clarification of Course/Equipment

The Board reviewed a recommendation for eight changes to the *Regulations for Fast CAT*. Two are new requirements – (1) host clubs must award ribbons to each dog that completes the 100-yard dash, and (2) clubs holding a Fast CAT event in conjunction with another event are required to fence the course, including the run-out area. The other six changes are clarifications to existing Regulations pertaining to the course and equipment. All these changes are intended to bring greater consistency between events and address issues that have arisen in the field.

#1 – Clubs must award a ribbon to dogs that successfully complete the course. Currently it is an option.

#2 – Start box – must be marked on the ground.

#3 – Start box – provide enough space behind the start box for the dog's body.

#4 – Timing – a person cannot time a dog which they or a member of their immediate family/household own/co-own.

#5 – Return string – cannot be run in front of the run-out area exit gate.

#6 – Course – course must be straight, including the start box and run-out area.

#7 – Retrieval devices – for clubs that use retrieval devices to return the drag to the start line, the devices must be located at least 30 yards behind the finish line.

#8 – Fencing – clubs holding Fast CAT in conjunction with another event must fence the course and run-out area. Currently this is suggested but not required. In addition, clubs are advised to provide sufficient distance between events to minimize interference and disruption.

Following a motion by Mr. Carota, seconded by Ms. Biddle, the Board VOTED (unanimously, absent Mr. Smyth) to approve the eight (8) recommended changes to the *Regulations for Fast CAT*. These changes will be effective February 1, 2020.

Regulations for Fast CAT (Changes underlined)

Chapter 16. Section 8. Ribbons and Awards

A club holding a Fast CAT event must award a ribbon to each dog that completes the 100-yard dash. The ribbon shall be at least two inches wide and eight inches long and shall bear on its face a facsimile of the seal of The American Kennel Club, the words "Fast CAT", and the name of the test-giving club. Ribbons shall be light blue in color. Special ribbons or awards may be offered by the host club. If special ribbons or awards are offered, they must be clearly explained in the premium.

Chapter 16. Section 10. Course/Equipment.

Paragraph B. The Start: Dogs may start up to 10 feet behind the starting line. Clubs must clearly mark the 10 feet start box on the ground. A dog may be released from anywhere within the start box, however, at a minimum, a dog's front paws must be inside the start box when it is released. Enough space must be provided behind the back of the start box to accommodate the dog's body to be aligned straight down the course.

Paragraph D: An individual may not operate a timing device for any run in which they or a member of their immediate family or household own or co-own the running dog.

Paragraph E. Lure Equipment: Clubs may use either a drag or continuous loop system. If a continuous loop system is used, the “return” string and lure must be set outside of the running course. The return string shall not run in front of the catch area exit gate and shall be located to minimize interference with spectators. The lure operator and the lure equipment shall be safely positioned in a manner that does not interfere with the retrieval of the dog at the end of the course. Clubs may, but are not required to, list the name of the lure operator in their premium list. Clubs are required to be equipped with a backup lure machine should one fail and become inoperable during the event.

Paragraph G. Course/Fencing: The course must be essentially flat and the center of the course must be straight from the back of the starting box to the end of the run-out area. The course can only be measured using a tape measure and no type of measuring wheel. The course must be free of any potential hazards. Pulleys are prohibited from placement inside the course. For clubs using drag lures, retrieval devices used to return the lure to the start line must be located at least 30 yards from the finish line and must be on the side of the course.

Clubs holding Fast CAT events held in conjunction with another event must enclose the entire course with a fence. The fence must be of sufficient height and substance as to prevent dogs from accessing or escaping the course. The fenced area shall include the starting and run-out areas. Clubs holding stand-alone Fast CAT events should consider fencing the course, however this is up to the decision of the club given the specifics of the setting. The premium must state if the course is enclosed with fencing.

Fast CAT is an energizing sport. Dogs watching Fast CAT may become excited. If Fast CAT is being held in conjunction with another event, clubs must provide sufficient distance between events (including the parking areas). Sufficient distance is defined as enough separation to minimize the disruption of dogs that are present for the other event.

Retriever Field Trials – Marking the Blind Retrieve with a Conspicuous Object

The Board reviewed a recommendation from the Retriever Field Trial Advisory Committee to clarify that in Retriever Field Trials, the location of the bird in a blind retrieve should be clearly marked with a conspicuous object. This clarification will bring greater consistency between trials.

This will be discussed further at the February meeting.

Dalmatians Request to Participate in Herding

The Board reviewed a request from the Dalmatian Club of America to allow Dalmatians to participate in AKC Herding events. This will be discussed further at the February meeting.

Lure Coursing – All Whippets Must Be Measured

The Board reviewed a recommendation from the American Whippet Club (AWC) to require that Field Champion (FC) titled Whippets be measured at the time of roll call.

At the time of roll call an inspection committee examines each entry for possible breed standard disqualification(s). Current regulations require all Whippets except Field Champion Whippets must be measured. The measuring of a Field Champion Whippet is only required “on request”. The language “on request” is equated to mean in cases of a competitor protesting a dog. This recommendation which would require that all Whippets be measured at each AKC lure coursing trial. All Whippets would include both Field Champions and non-Field Champions. The Herding Earthdog Lure Coursing Delegate Committee met in December and was unanimously in favor of this recommendation.

Following a motion by Mr. Sweetwood, seconded by Ms. McAteer, the Board VOTED (unanimously; absent Mr. Smyth) to consider the matter at this meeting, waiving the normal notice procedures.

Following a motion by Mr. Tatro, seconded by Mr. Carota, the Board VOTED (unanimously; absent Mr. Smyth) to approve the recommendation from the American Whippet Club (AWC) to require that Field Champion (FC) titled Whippets be measured at the time of roll call.

Revised regulation follows:

Regulations for Lure Coursing Tests and Trials

Chapter III, Section 7. Inspection and Measuring Committee.

5. The procedure for measuring Whippets is as follows:

(Paragraphs (a) through (c) remain unchanged.)

(d) All Whippets will be measured only once at the time of roll call at each and every Field Trial. Whippet Field Champions which are measured out will be barred from running on that day but shall retain the title.

Alaskan Malamute Obedience Jump Height Requirements

The Board reviewed a request from the Alaskan Malamute Club of America, that the jump height requirements in obedience be lowered to three-quarters of the height of the breed at the withers. Under the current regulations, Malamutes typically jump at 22" – 24". With the recommended change, they will jump at 16" – 18". The club has submitted the appropriate AKC form to request an exception to the standard jump height along with supporting information. The request is consistent with similar breed adjustments already approved for obedience competition (see Chapter 4, Section 13 and Appendix A of the Obedience Regulations). This will be discussed further at the February meeting.

Pointing Breed Hunting Tests - Three Recommended Clarifications

The Board reviewed a Staff recommendation for three changes to be made to the Regulations for AKC Hunting Tests for Pointing Breeds meant to clarify issues that have arisen in the field. Specifically, (1) better define what is meant by "no training on the grounds", (2) clarify that when two dogs are on point in close proximity to one another, the judges should take control of the situation by instructing one handler to hold up while the other dog completes its bird work, and (3) clarify how to handle the situation where a Junior level dog catches a bird and proceeds to mouth it excessively.

This will be discussed further at the February meeting.

Separate CAT/Fast CAT Regulations Book

Staff advised the Board that it plans to separate the Regulations governing the Coursing Ability Test (CAT) and Fast CAT from the Lure Coursing Regulations book. There was no objection to this plan.

Junior Showmanship Scholarships

The Board approved \$30,000 in additional spending in the 2020 Budget for Junior Showmanship scholarships. The \$30,000 will be divided equally between companion, performance and conformation event program. A new Companion Events Scholarship Program will receive \$10,000, a new Performance Events Scholarship Program will receive \$10,000 and \$10,000 will be added to the funds approved and allocated for the Scholarships that are offered as awards to the Finalists at the AKC National Championship increasing the amounts offered.

Scholarship Awarded to Junior Finalist at the AKC National Championship:

	2019 amount	2020 amount
First Place	\$2,000	\$5,000
Second Place	\$1,500	\$4,000
Third Place	\$1,200	\$3,000
Fourth Place	\$1,000	\$2,000
Remaining Finalists (8)	\$0	\$500
Total:	\$5,700	\$18,000

AKC Total Scholarship Program for 2020 is \$402,700.

AKC Total Scholarship Program - 2020

1. Junior Scholarships (existing program open to all Juniors)	\$22,700
2. Junior Finalists at AKC National Championship	\$18,000
3. Companion Events Scholarship Program	\$10,000
4. Performance Events Scholarship Program	\$10,000
5. Veterinary Student Scholarship Program	<u>\$35,000</u>
Total Funded Exclusively by the AKC	\$95,700
6. Versatility Scholarships offered by donations to the AKC Humane Fund	\$7,000
7. Theriogenology Residency funded 85% by AKC jointly with CHF a 15% Contribution.	\$300,000
Grand Total Scholarship Funding	\$402,700

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

CONFORMATION

Doug Ljungren, Executive Vice President, Sports & Events, and Tim Thomas, Vice President of Dog Show Judges participated in this portion of the meeting. Mari-Beth O'Neill, Vice President, Sport Services; Glenn Lycan, Director, Event Operations Support; Alan Slay, Director, Event Programs; and Heidi Spaeth, Manager, Dog Show Rules & Programs, participated in this portion of the meeting via video conference.

Rewording and Reorganization of Chapter 14 Sections 3, 4 and 6 and Chapter 15, Section 2 of Rules Applying to Dog Shows

At the November 2019 Board meeting the Board reviewed a request from the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee (DSRC) to reword Chapter 14, Sections 3, 4 and 6 of *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* renaming as Sections 1, 2 and 3 respectively; and in addition, a recommendation to add new section to address a judge's authority on conditions of class other than color, to be inserted as Section 4.

The Board voted not to approve the rule change as proposed and returned it to the DSRC with comments and suggestions. The DSRC was provided a summary of the specific points the Board asked it to revisit in a November 13, 2019 memo and it was discussed at their December meeting. The DSRC unanimously approved the suggested changes.

The Board reviewed the proposed revisions to Chapter 14 Sections 3, 4 and 6, and Chapter 15, Section 2 of *Rules Applying to Dog Shows*. In addition, staff recommended the Board approve the proposed insertion of a new Chapter 14 Section 6-A to address a judge's authority on conditions of class other than color.

Following a motion by Mr. Powers, seconded by Mr. Sweetwood, the Board VOTED (unanimously; absent Mr. Smyth) to approve the recommended rules changes.

They will be read at the March Delegate meeting for a VOTE at the June Delegate meeting.

Rules Applying to Dog Shows

CHAPTER 14 - Measuring, Weighing and Color determination When Factors of Disqualification In Breed Standards or Eligibility Under The Conditions of A Class or Division of a Class Cancellation of Awards

CHAPTER 14, Section 3

SECTION 3. In those breeds where certain heights are specified in the breed standard as disqualifications, or in any class specifying height limits, the judge has the authority to determine whether any dog measures within those limits, provided the dog has not been previously measured during any competition at that show, excluding sweepstakes, futurities, and other special attractions.

If, in the opinion of a competing exhibitor in the ring, the height of a dog in that ring appears to be outside the limits of the breed standard or the conditions of that class, such exhibitor may, before every dog has been individually examined and individually gaited, request that the judge measure the dog and the judge shall comply provided the dog has not been previously measured during any competition at that show, excluding sweepstakes, futurities, and other special attractions.

If the judge finds that the dog's height is within the breed standard or the conditions of the class, s/he shall mark and initial the judge's book "Measured in." If the judge finds that the dog's height is outside the allowable limits of the breed standard, s/he shall disqualify the dog and mark and initial the judge's book "Measured out – disqualified."

A dog that has thus been disqualified by three different judges may not again be shown.

If the judge finds that the dog's height is not in accordance with the conditions of the class, s/he shall mark and initial the judge's book "Measured out – ineligible." A dog thus declared ineligible for its class shall be considered entered incorrectly and cannot be transferred to any other class at that show. A dog thus found ineligible by three different judges may not again be shown in that class.

In subsequent shows, this dog may be entered in another class for which the dog meets the height limit or transferred to an eligible Open Class per Chapter 11, Section 6.
In all cases, the judge shall use a wicket that meets American Kennel Club requirements.

CHAPTER 14, Section 4

In those breeds where certain weights are specified in the breed standard as disqualifications, or in any class specifying weight limits, the judge has the authority to determine whether any dog weighs within those limits, provided the dog has not been previously weighed during any competition at that show, excluding sweepstakes, futurities and other special attractions.

If, in the opinion of a competing exhibitor in the ring, the weight of a dog in that ring appears to be outside the limits of the breed standard or the conditions of that class, such exhibitor may, before every dog has been individually examined and individually gaited, request that the judge weigh the dog, and the judge shall comply provided the dog has not been previously weighed during any competition at that show, excluding sweepstakes, futurities and other special attractions.

If the judge finds that the dog's weight is within the breed standard or the conditions of the class, s/he shall mark and initial the judge's book "Weighed in." If the judge finds that the dog's weight is outside the allowable limits of the breed standard, s/he shall disqualify the dog and mark and initial the judge's book "Weighed out – disqualified."

A dog that has thus been disqualified by three different judges may not again be shown.

If the judge finds that the dog's weight is not in accordance with the conditions of the class, s/he shall mark and initial the judge's book, "Weighed out – ineligible." A dog thus declared ineligible for its class or division shall be considered entered incorrectly and cannot be transferred to any other class at that show. A dog thus found ineligible by three different judges may not again be shown in that class. In subsequent shows, this dog may be entered in another class for which the dog meets the weight limit or transferred to an eligible Open Class per Chapter 11, Section 6.

In all cases, the judge shall use a scale that meets AKC requirements including a platform of sufficient size as determined by the American Kennel Club to safely accommodate all applicable breeds.

CHAPTER 14, Section 6

In those breeds where certain color(s), pattern or markings are specified in the breed standard as disqualifications, or in any class or division of a class where certain color(s), pattern or markings are required, the judge shall determine if a dog is to be disqualified or declared to be ineligible for the class provided that such determination has not been previously made during competition at that show, excluding sweepstakes, futurities, and other special attractions.

If, in the opinion of the judge, the dog's color(s), pattern or markings require disqualification, the judge shall disqualify the dog, and mark and initial the judge's book "Disqualified – Color (or Pattern or Markings)".

If, in the opinion of the judge, the dog's color(s) pattern or markings do not meet the requirements of the class or division of a class in which the dog is competing, the judge shall declare the dog ineligible to compete in that class or division of class, and, s/he shall mark and initial the judge's book, "Ineligible – Color (or Pattern or Markings)".

If, in the opinion of any competing exhibitor then in the ring, the color(s), pattern or markings of a dog in the ring are disqualifications under the breed standard or do not meet the requirements of the class or division of a class, such exhibitor may, before every dog in the ring has been individually examined and individually gaited, request that the judge render an opinion of the dog's color(s), pattern or markings, and the judge shall comply provided that such determination has not been previously made during competition at that show. If the judge finds that the dog's color(s), pattern or markings are disqualifications under the breed standard, the judge shall disqualify the dog and mark and initial the judge's book "Disqualified – Color (or Pattern or

Markings)". A dog that has thus been disqualified by three different judges may not again be shown.

If the judge finds that the color(s), pattern or markings of the dog do not meet the requirements of the class or division specified by the breed standard, s/he shall mark and initial the judge's book, "Ineligible - Color (or Pattern or Markings)".

Any dog thus declared ineligible for its class shall be considered entered incorrectly and cannot be transferred to any other class or division at that show. In subsequent shows, this dog may be entered in another class for which the dog meets the requirements or transferred to an eligible Open Class per Chapter 11, Section 6.

CHAPTER 14, Section 6-A

In those breeds where certain physical traits (ear carriage, coat length, etc.) are specified as a condition of a class or a division of a class, the judge has the authority to make a determination as to whether a dog meets those requirements. If the judge finds that the dog does not meet the requirements of the class, s/he shall mark and initial the judge's book, "Excused, ineligible for class."

Any dog thus declared ineligible for a class or division of a class shall be considered to have been incorrectly entered and cannot be transferred to any other class or division at that show. In subsequent shows, this dog may be entered in or transferred to another class for which the dog meets the requirements or transferred to an eligible Open Class per Chapter 11, Section 6.

CHAPTER 15, Section 2

Any person who is handling a competing dog in the ring in any conformation competition may verbally protest to the judge before every dog in the class has been individually examined and individually gaited, alleging that a dog being shown in the competition has a condition which makes it ineligible to compete under Chapter 11, Section 8, or Chapter 11, Section 8-C, of these rules or a condition requiring disqualification under the standard for the breed; except that a verbal protest alleging that the height or weight or natural color and markings of a dog requiring its disqualification under the breed standard or a determination of its ineligibility under the conditions of its class must be made under Chapter 14, Sections 3, 4, 6 or 6-A.

The balance of this section is unchanged.

Rules Applying to Dog Shows Chapter 11, Section 9 - Communicable Diseases

The Board reviewed a recommendation from the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee (DSRC) to modify Chapter 11, Section 9 of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows*, which defines the eligibility restrictions related to dogs with communicable diseases.

This will be discussed further at the February meeting.

NOHS Levels of Achievement

In September, the All-Breed Delegates Committee discussed and supported the idea of NOHS Levels of Achievement in order to provide exhibitors with tangible goals and encourage continued participation. This idea is consistent with what the Sports & Events staff has been considering. Staff shared their general ideas for the structure of the new program with the Board in November 2019 and it was presented to the All-Breed Delegates Committee at their December 2019 meeting.

The Board reviewed a Staff memorandum which presented a formal recommendation to implement NOHS Levels of Achievement to include Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum awards to exhibits obtaining a predetermined number of NOHS points based on the current NOHS point

system. The primary owner of a dog achieving these levels will receive an appropriately colored NOHS pin and will be emailed a Certificate of Achievement.

<u>Recognition Level</u>	<u>Minimum Level of NOHS Points</u>
Bronze	250
Silver	500
Gold	1,000
Platinum	2,000

This will be discussed further at the February Board meeting.

Eligibility to Participate in the 4-6 Month Beginner Puppy Competition

The Board reviewed a recommendation submitted by the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee asking the Board to modify the 4-6 Month Beginner Puppy Competition Regulations to allow minor children of professional handlers with amateur status to participate in the Four-to-Six Month (Beginner Puppy) Competition. This idea was originally proposed by Board Member Patricia Cruz.

This will be discussed further at the February Board meeting.

Bred-By-Exhibitor Puppy Classes

The Board reviewed a recommendation to create a Bred-By-Exhibitor Puppy (BBEP) class in conformation. This idea was originally proposed in 2017 by Board Member Patricia Cruz. Many exhibitors are motivated to earn the Bred-By-Exhibitor medallion. Currently they are inhibited from showing in the Puppy classes on the chance that they earn Championship points, which would eliminate them from earning the medallion. Offering BBEP classes will be at the option of the host club. The recommendation is consistent with AKC's focus on the importance of breeders and the Board's decision to dedicate 2020 as the "The Year of the Breeder".

This will be discussed further at the February Board meeting.

Limited Number of Events Policy

Starting in January 2019, the Limited Number of Events Policy was changed to provide flexibility across the country. The goal was to assist clubs that might want to hold a third show and provide additional opportunities for local exhibitors without negatively impacting other clubs in the region. Given one year of experience under the new policy, the staff presented a memo to explore possible additions to the policy that could further assist clubs without negatively impacting other clubs in the area. The goal is to keep the existing criteria plus add additional provisions to provide even greater flexibility.

This will be discussed further at the February Board meeting.

Staff Review Process for Dogs Disqualified by Event Committees

The Staff presented the procedures that will be utilized should the change to *Rules Applying to Dog Shows*, Chapter 11, Section 8-A be approved by the Delegates at the March 2020 meeting.

Currently a dog can only be disqualified by an Event Committee if there is an injury to a dog or person. There are cases where a dog attacks but there is no injury due to quick reactions or simply by luck. The recommended change is to allow the Event Committee to determine if a dog that attacks presents a hazard and, if so, it may disqualify a dog for aggression without an injury.

There has been some concern that the revised rule could be misused. To mitigate these concerns, exhibitors need to be confident that the AKC has a solid review process in place to confirm that the Event Committee acted properly, and the facts of the matter support the conclusion of the Event Committee.

Event Committee Review Process

The Review must include written documentation describing the incident along with signed eyewitness statements. This documentation must be submitted to the AKC.

Internal Staff Review Process

The AKC Sports & Events Department will create a Staff DQ Review Committee consisting of three staff members with significant event experience to review the documents submitted, assure that the Event Committee properly investigated the complaint, and confirm that the facts support the conclusion of the Event Committee. The internal review will occur within two business days of receiving the paperwork. In order to fully inform the Delegates of the review process, an article will be included in the March 2020 edition of *Perspectives*, the Delegates' Newsletter.

JUDGING OPERATIONS

Doug Ljungren, Executive Vice President, Sports & Events, and Tim Thomas, Vice President of Dog Show Judges participated in this portion of the meeting.

Oregon Dog Judges

In November 2019 the Board reviewed a request submitted by the Oregon Dog Judges asking that it be assigned Advanced Judging Institute designation for its annual seminar series offered in-conjunction with the January Rose City Classic Cluster in Portland, Oregon.

Staff presented to the Board the recommendation of the Chairman's Committee and Judging Operations on this issue. The Chairman's Committee and Judging Operations department recommend that the Board approve the Oregon Dog Judge's request to assign Advanced Judging Institute designation to its annual seminar series offered in-conjunction with the January Rose City Classic Cluster in Portland, Oregon; and that the AKC will consider requests from other seminar groups for Advanced Institute Designation based on their compliance with the expected conditions and its ability to consistently provide quality educational opportunities and to maintain that level over time. Conditions that should be expected when weighing applications for Advanced Institute designation would include but not be limited to:

1. Seminars/workshops held in accordance to AKC guidelines
2. Seminars utilizing parent club materials and a presenter approved by the parent club
3. Seminars preferably offering breeds in a complete group or of an equivalent number to meet or exceed
4. Seminars held at facility conducive to learning and of physical space to comfortably accommodate all attendees and ring area sufficient in size to properly evaluate dogs for hands-on workshop portion including gaiting.
5. Seminars held in-conjunction with events of size and magnitude that provide a superior pool of dogs.

Following a motion by Mr. Powers, seconded by Mr. Sweetwood, the Board VOTED (In favor: Biddle, Carota, Cruz, Davies, Garvin, Hamblin, McAteer, Powers, Sweetwood, Tatro, Wallin opposed: Mr. Feeney; absent Mr. Smyth) to consider the matter at this meeting, waiving the normal notice procedures.

Following a motion by Mr. Powers, seconded by Ms. Biddle, the Board VOTED (unanimously; absent Mr. Smyth) to approve the Oregon Dog Judge's request to assign Advanced Judging Institute designation to its annual seminar series offered in-conjunction with the January Rose City Classic Cluster in Portland, Oregon; and that the AKC will consider requests from other seminar groups for Advanced Institute Designation based on their compliance with the expected

conditions and its ability to consistently provide quality educational opportunities and to maintain that level over time.

Mandatory Ramp Examination - Cirneco dell'Etna

The Board reviewed a request from the Cirneco dell'Etna Club of America that the Board of Directors mandate the use of a ramp for all examinations of the breed including during group and Best in Show judging. Currently, Cirneco dell'Etnas may be judged either on the ground or the ramp at the discretion of the judge.

This will be discussed further at the February meeting.

The Board adjourned at 5:28 p.m.

The Board Meeting reconvened on Tuesday, January 14 at 8:32 a.m.

All Directors were present, except for Mr. Smyth and Mrs. Wallin. Also present was the Executive Secretary.

Mr. Smyth arrived at 8:38 a.m. during the report from the Judges Appeal Committee.

JUDGING OPERATIONS - Continued

Doug Ljungren, Executive Vice President, Sports & Events, and Tim Thomas, Vice President of Dog Show Judges participated in this portion of the meeting.

Belgian Breeds

Per internal judging policy, the three current Belgian breeds (Malinois, Sheepdogs and Tervurens) are granted together for all first-time judging applications who meet AKC's requirements to apply for any one of the breeds. This exception is predicated upon the agreement of all affected parent clubs and the close relationship of the individual breeds. The Staff provided the Board with a memorandum to advise the Board of Judging Operations intent to include the Belgian Laekenois in this special provision. Further, current judges who were approved for Belgian Malinois, Belgian Sheepdogs and Belgian Tervurens on their first application but not yet approved for the complete Herding group will be provided the opportunity to have Belgian Laekenois added to the list of eligible breeds to judge by passing the breed exam and submission of the \$35 fee by June 30, 2020. Once the breed enters the group on July 1, 2020 all current judges would be required to apply for the breed under the traditional additional breed application process. There was no objection to this procedure.

Conformation Judging Statistics

Judging Operations provided the Board statistics related to conformation judging applications considered by the Department in the preceding three months; as well as are the 2019 year-end summary statistics for New Breed and Additional Breed applicants.

Sport Demographics

Doug Ljungren, Executive Vice President, Sports & Events, and Tim Thomas, Vice President of Dog Show Judges participated in this portion of the meeting. Mari-Beth O'Neill, Vice President, Sport Services; Glenn Lycan, Director, Event Operations Support; Alan Slay, Director, Event Programs; and Heidi Spaeth, Manager, Dog Show Rules & Programs, participated in this portion of the meeting via video conference.

The Marketing department in conjunction with Sports & Events administered a survey to AKC sport participants to assess and update information regarding demographics of the sports.

The results of this survey indicate that AKC sports are diverse, with each sport having its own demographics and culture. However, in a broader sense, participants in AKC sports do not reflect the diversity of the US population. The survey indicates that AKC's new sports/activities are attractive to new segments of the dog-owning public. However, there are opportunities to further expand AKC's reach by developing activities that appeal to dog owners that are currently not engaged. Sports & Events should continue to develop AKC activities that fit the interests, resources and life styles of this underserved segment of the dog-owning public.

The Sports & Events staff believes understanding the demographics across AKC's wide variety of sports is important to successfully managing and growing these sports.

CLUBS

Doug Ljungren, Executive Vice President, Sports & Events, and Lisa Cecin, Director, Club Relations, participated in this portion of the meeting.

Delegates and Member Clubs

The Board reviewed a report on the prospective Delegate credentials to be published in two issues of the AKC *Gazette*, a report on Requests for AKC Membership and a report on Member Club Bylaws approved and newly licensed clubs.

Report on Member Clubs Bylaws Approved in November and December 2019

Australian Terrier Club of America (1977)
Field Spaniel Society of America (1991)
German Shepherd Dog Club of America (1913)
Kalamazoo Kennel Club, Kalamazoo County, MI (1954)
Reno Kennel Club, Reno, NV (1961)
Sioux Empire Kennel Club, Minnehaha County, SD (1968)

Report on Newly Licensed Clubs Approved in November and December 2019

Big South Fork Coon Hunters Club, Strunk, KY, 18 total households, 11 local.

Bluebonnet English Setter Club, greater Dallas-Fort Worth, TX (including communities north to McKinney, south to Grand Prairie, west to Azle, east to Terrell), 22 total households, 21 local.

East Howellville Beagle Club, East Howellville, NC (including communities north to St. Pauls, south to Bladenboro between Routes 301 and 87), 19 total households, 8 local.

Henagar Alabama Beagle Club, greater Henagar, AL (including communities north to TN/AL state line, south to Route 68, west to Huntsville, east to GA/AL state line), 15 total households, 10 local.

Mid-Atlantic Basenji Club of Maryland, greater Westminster, MD (including communities north to Wormleysburg, PA, west to Winchester, VA south to Arlington, VA and east to Glen Burnie, MD), 54 total households, 17 local.

Papillon Club of the Carolinas, Asheboro, NC (including all communities in North Carolina and South Carolina), 22 total households, 21 local.

Sonlight Agility Club of Brooksville, greater Brooksville, FL (including communities north to Beverly Hills, south to Spring Hill, east to Route33), 46 total households, 24 local.

COMPLIANCE

David Roberts, Executive, Breeder Development; Bri Tesarz, Director, Compliance, and Marcus Bach, Director, Investigations & Inspections participated in this portion of the meeting via videoconference. Mark Dunn, Executive Vice President, participated in this portion of the meeting.

The following AKC Management actions were reported:

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

REGISTRATION DEVELOPMENT**Registration Update**

Mark Dunn, Executive Vice President, participated in this portion of the meeting. David Roberts, Executive, Breeder Development; Linda Duncklee, Director, Registration Services and Vanessa Skou, Internal Consultant participated in this portion of the meeting via videoconference.

Staff presented information about AKC's breeders and breeder initiatives. Those initiatives included the following:

- Breeder of Merit Registration Rate Improvement Campaign: This email campaign celebrates the work that Breeders of Merit do. It also encourages all program participants to ensure that the puppies they breed are individually registered, as all breeders promised when they sign up to be a Breeder of Merit.
- Parent Club Statistics and Data Support: This on-going effort to supply Parent Clubs with informative data, including ad hoc special requests, will continue in 2020.
- Parent Club Reproduction Semen Bank Toolkit: Staff is working with Dr. Gregory and Dr. Greer to document the requirements and best practices to establish a Parent Club Reproduction Semen Bank similar to the Otterhound Club of America's bank.
- Best Bred-by Exhibitor Free Litter Registration: This is a program for breeders where AKC will award a Best Bred-by Exhibitor Free Litter Registration Award to every Best BBE at All-Breed, Group and Parent Club shows. In order to participate, a club must apply, and every winner has 12 months to redeem the certificate.
- Breeder Development: Breeder Field Reps will continue to work with breeders to encourage health testing and event participation.
- Online Breeder Education: The Registration Department is working with the AKC Education Department to update AKC Online Education Courses available for free in AKC Canine College.
- AKC Bred with H.E.A.R.T. Marketing Campaign: AKC Marketing staff is working with the Registration Department to improve awareness and participation in this important program.
- New Breeder Toolkit: This initiative will update our Online Record Keeping system, creating a more useful and easily used tool for AKC breeders.
- Online Foreign Registration: This initiative will allow dog owners to electronically submit all the documents and pictures required for AKC Foreign Registration, improving the speed and accuracy of foreign applications. Currently all applications and documents must be physically mailed to AKC.

CONSENT

Following a motion by Dr. Garvin, seconded by Mr. Powers it was VOTED (unanimously) to approve the following Consent items:

- Delegate and Club Approvals
- Chow Chow Proposed Breed Standard Revision

- Cirneco Dell'Etna Proposed Breed Standard Revision
- Lagotto Romagnolo Proposed Breed Standard Revision
- Norwegian Buhund Proposed Breed Standard Revision
- WHWTCA "Quality Westie" Program - Recognition as CCA Title

Delegates Approved

Karen L. Dewey, Newport, NH
To represent Woodstock Dog Club

Glen J. Lajeski, Cloverdale, CA
To represent Doberman Pinscher Club of America

Jolyne K. Lea, La Center, WA
To represent Vancouver Kennel Club

Arna B. Margolies, Needham, MA
To represent Ladies' Dog Club

Judy F. Murray, Baldwinsville, NY
To represent Onondaga Kennel Association

Jack Smith, Fallbrook, CA
To represent Great Western Terrier Association of Southern California

Dr. Donald Sturz, Brooklyn, NY
To represent Poodle Club of America

Janet A. Wolf, Lexington, KY
To represent Lexington Kennel Club

Chow Chow Proposed Breed Standard Revision

The Board VOTED to approve the Chow Chow Club (CCC) to proceed to ballot its membership on the proposed revisions to the "Nose" section of the Breed Standard in accordance with the CCC Constitution and Bylaws.

Proposed Revision to Nose Color

Reds, Blacks and Cinnamons must have a solid black nose. Blue chows may have a solid blue or slate nose. Cream chows may have a range of nose color, from dark black/brown solid pigment, fading to pinkish pigment, with or without darker nose rim pigment at the outer edge, as puppies or adults; all of which are equally correct.

Cirneco Dell'Etna Proposed Breed Standard Revision

The Board VOTED to approve the breed standard balloted by the membership of the Cirneco Dell'Etna Club of America with an effective date of March 31, 2020.

Standard for the Cirneco Dell'Etna

General Appearance: General Appearance: Medium sized hunting dog, elegant, slender build but strong and hardy. Long limbed, of light construction and square outline with a fine coat and erect ears always alert. Honorable scars indicating a working and hunting dog are never to be penalized.

The following description is that of the ideal Cirneco dell'Etna. Any deviation from the below described dog must be penalized to the extent of the deviation. Characteristics: A keen

hunter. Adaptable to difficult terrain. Hunts by scent, sight and hearing. Strong-willed, alert and an excellent companion.

Size, Proportion, Substance: Height - Dogs 18 to 20 inches; bitches 17 to 19 inches. Height not within the stated limits is a disqualification. Length from point of shoulder to point of buttock equal to height at withers.

Head: Expression - Alert expression. **Eyes** - Relatively small, oval in shape, set somewhat obliquely. Amber or ochre blending with coat. Pigmentation of the eyelid rims corresponding to the color of the nose. Brown or yellow iris is a fault to be severely penalized. Walleye, an eye with a whitish iris or a blue eye(s) is a disqualification. **Ears** - Set very high and close together, erect and rigid, parallel or almost parallel when alert. Triangular shape with narrow tip. Length slightly less but no more than half the head. Totally hanging ears or bat ears are a disqualification.

Skull - Width of skull less than one half the length of the head, in profile almost flat. Lean and well chiseled. Stop - Slight stop. **Muzzle** - Length equal to, but not less than 80% of the length of the skull. Planes - Top of skull and foreface parallel or slightly divergent. Nose - Bridge of nose straight. Nose rather large, flesh colored, blending with coat. Cheeks - Flat cheeks. Mouth - Lower jaw lightly developed with receding chin. Overshot mouth or undershot mouth is a disqualification. Lips - Thin, taut lips, just covering the teeth of the lower jaw. **Bite** - Regular and complete scissor bite, i.e. upper teeth closely overlapping lower teeth and set square to the jaws.

Neck, Topline and Body: Neck - Length the same as the head. Strong, clean, well arched and muscular. Set well into shoulders. **Topline** - Straight topline sloping from withers towards croup. **Body** - Chest - Reaches to, or nearly to, the elbow, without going beyond. Ribs - Slightly sprung, narrow but never flat.

Underline & Tuck-up - Clean, gently rising, lean underline. excessive tuck-up is a severe fault. Back - Upper profile straight without conspicuous muscles, the length is approximately three times the length of the loin. Loin - Length of loin is approximately one fifth of the height at the withers and its width is nearly the same as its length. Short, slightly developed muscles but firm. Croup - Croup has flat profile, sloping steeply downwards to root of tail. **Tail** - Low set, fairly thick at base, reaching to point of hock. Of equal thickness for most of its length. Carried high and curved when dog is in action; sabre fashion when in repose. Hair on tail is semi-long and close. Tail curled over the back is a fault to be severely penalized.

Forequarters: Angulation - Shoulder blade (scapula) to horizontal 55 to 60 degrees. Shoulders - Strong, long, moderately laid back. Shoulder blades - Upper tips close together. Length close to one-third the height at the withers. Upper Arm - Length of upper arm slightly less than length of shoulder blade. Elbow - Level or below the line of the brisket and well tucked in. Legs - Forelegs straight and parallel when viewed from the front. Length just over $\frac{1}{2}$ the height at the withers. Pasterns - Strong and slightly sloping. Dewclaws - May not be removed.

Hindquarters: Strong and muscular. Limbs parallel when viewed from behind. Angulation - Not excessively angulated. In profile a vertical line from rear point of buttock to ground close to or touching the tips of the toes. Angle between pelvis and upper thigh is about 115 degrees. Legs - Upper thigh - Broad, long, upper thigh with flat muscles. Stifle - Moderate bend of stifle. Second thigh - Slightly shorter than the upper thigh. Lean and distinct musculature with light bone structure. Groove at Achilles tendon well marked. Hock joint - Angle at the joint is about 135 degrees. Hocks - Wide outer surface, cylindrical shape and vertical position. Length from sole of foot to point of hock is just over a quarter of the height at

the withers. Dewclaws - Absent. Feet: Strong, well knuckled, firm, slightly oval, turning neither in nor out. Pads - Well padded, hard and of the same color as the nails. Nails - Brown or flesh colored. Black nails are a disqualification.

Coat: Short on head, ears and legs. Semi-long (about 1 inch) on body and tail, but sleek and close, ranging from fine to slightly coarse. No feathering.

Color: Self-colored light to dark shades of tan, with a mixture of slightly lighter and darker hairs, or tan with white blaze or mark on head, chest and/or throat, white feet, point of tail, and/or belly. A white collar is less desired. Total depigmentation, self-colored brown or liver; brown patches or hairs; brindle coat: or any presence of black, whether patches, hairs, or pigmentation including of mucous membranes, are a disqualification.

Gait: Springy trot without excessive extension. Viewed from behind, hind legs track the forelegs. Tendency to throw feet sideways or hackney action undesirable. Temperament: Strong, lively, independent temperament. Gentle and affectionate.

Disqualifications: Height not within the stated limits: Dogs under 18 inches or over 20 inches, Bitches under 17 inches or over 19 inches. Walleye, an eye with a whitish iris or a blue eye(s); overshot mouth or undershot mouth. Totally hanging ears or bat ears. Total depigmentation; self-colored brown or liver; brown patches or hairs; brindle coat: or any presence of black whether patches, hairs, or pigmentation, black nails, or mucous membranes.

Lagotto Romagnolo Proposed Breed Standard Revision

The Board VOTED to approve the breed standard balloted by the membership of the Lagotto Romagnolo Club of America, Inc. with an effective date of March 31, 2020.

Official Standard of the Lagotto Romagnolo

General Appearance: Small to medium-sized dog, well-proportioned, powerfully built, of rustic appearance, with a dense, curly coat of wooly texture. The dog should give the impression that he has the strength and endurance to work all day in difficult and challenging terrain.

Size, Substance, Proportions: *Size* – Height at the withers: Dogs 16½ to 19½ inches; Bitches 15½ to 18½ inches. Disqualification - Dog under 16½ or over 19½ inches; bitches under 15½ or over 18½ inches. *Substance* - Males 28 to 35 pounds. Females 24 to 31 pounds. *Important Proportions* - The Lagotto is a square dog, measured from the prosternum to the point of ischium and from the highest point of the shoulder to the ground. The length of the head is 40 percent of the height at the withers. The neck is slightly shorter than the length of the head. The length of the skull should be slightly more than half the length of the head. The legs are slightly more than half the height of the dog at the wither.

Head: Viewed from above and from the side, the *head* is a broad blunted wedge. The length of the skull, from stop to occiput, is the same as the width at the widest point of the zygomatic arch. The somewhat arched skull is slightly longer than half the length of the head (56 percent skull to 44 percent muzzle) with unpronounced occiput. Planes of the *skull* and *muzzle* diverge slightly - extreme divergence, parallel planes or dish faced appearance are serious faults. Nasal bone is straight. The stop is moderate, with a distinct furrow between the eyes. Frontal sinuses are well developed, giving good fill beneath the eye. Cheeks are flat. The wide robust underjaw defines the shape of the muzzle so that the lips form an upside-down semi-circle. The nose is large with wide open and mobile nostrils and a strongly pronounced median groove. It protrudes very slightly from the front edge of the lips. The nose should be fully pigmented in shades from light to dark brown, varying with coat color. Anything else is a serious fault. Lips are rather tight and not thick. The strong lower jaw determines the profile of the muzzle. The flews are tight fitting and dry. Pigment of the lips varies with coat color from light to dark brown. Well-

developed teeth meet, ideally, in a scissor or level *bite*. A reverse scissor bite is acceptable. Full dentition is preferred. Disqualification - Overshot or undershot bites (where the incisors do not touch those of the opposing jaw). The eyes are set somewhat frontal-obliquely, and fairly well apart. They are large, rounded, fill the sockets, and very slightly protruding. The color of the iris ranges from ochre to hazel to dark brown – no other colors are acceptable. Eyelids are close fitting. Eye rim color will vary with coat color from light to dark brown. Eyelashes are very well developed. The arch of the eyebrow is prominent. The *ears* are medium-sized in proportion to the head, triangular with rounded tips. The base of the ear is rather wide and is set just above the zygomatic arch. When alert, the top of the ear rises to widen the appearance of the skull, and the front edge of the ear is close to the cheek. When pulled loosely forward, the ear should cover about $\frac{1}{4}$ of the length of the muzzle. The Lagotto's expression should be intelligent, friendly and attentive.

Neck Body, Topline: The *neck* is strong muscular, thick, and oval in shape. It is lean, well set off from the nape, and slightly arched. The length of neck is slightly less than the total length of the head. Neck should blend smoothly into shoulders. Muscles are extremely powerful. A correct neck is fundamental to function. The Lagotto *body* is square, compact and strong. The length of the dog, measured from the prosternum to the point of the buttocks, should be the same as the height at the top of the scapulae, which are long and quite high-set, rising well above the level of the back. Chest is wide and well-developed, reaching down to the elbows, but not below them. The ribcage is slightly narrowed in front, widening from the sixth rib back, allowing elbows to move smoothly along the body. Ribs are well sprung (width of ribcage at the widest point is about 30 percent of the height of the dog). Underline is straight, with a slight tuck-up at the flank. The scapulae are set high, back straight, loin slightly arched, croup slightly sloping, and tail follows the line of the croup. A line drawn from the top of the shoulder to the hip will be slightly sloping. A dog high in the rear or low in the withers is to be penalized. The Lagotto's back is straight and very muscular. The loin is short-coupled, very strong, and slightly arched. Its width is equal to or slightly exceeds the length, giving strength for digging. Croup is slightly sloped, quite long, broad, and muscular. It forms an angle of approximately 25/30 degrees from the horizontal. Flat or steep croups are to be severely penalized. The *tail* is set on following the line of the croup. At rest, it is carried scimitar-like, and no higher than the back. When excited, the tail is decidedly raised, and carried in a loose arc above the level of the back. Tip of tail should not be carried further forward than the pelvis. The tail should never be curled or carried straight up. The tail tapers from base to end and should reach to just above the hock. Ringtails or tails carried over the back are serious faults.

Forequarters: The shoulder blades are long (30 percent at the height of the withers), well laid back (yet not too close at tips), muscular, and strong. They are closely attached to the chest but move freely. The angle formed between the shoulder blade and the upper arm should be approximately 115 degrees. The elbow will fall on a vertical line lowered from the back of the scapula to the ground. The upper arm is as long as the shoulder blade, of light bone structure, muscular, and tucked firmly against the brisket. Legs are straight. The forearm is long, with strong, compact, oval bone. The carpus is fine, robust and mobile, and in complete alignment with the forearm. Pasterns are also in perfect alignment with forearm, and of slightly finer bone. They are moderate in length and slightly sloping. Forefeet are webbed, rounded, and compact, with well-arched, tight toes. Pads have particularly hard soles. Nails are curved and range in color from white to extremely dark brown.

Hindquarters: Angulation of the hindquarter is slightly less than the angle of the forequarter (approximately 110 degrees). Legs are powerful and parallel when seen from the rear. The upper thigh is slightly longer than the shoulder (35 percent of height at withers). It is quite broad, convex, and with well-defined muscles. The second thigh is slightly longer than the upper thigh, well boned and strong. The hindquarters must be perfectly parallel to the spine. The angle of the

stifle should be more open than the angle at the hip, (approximately 130 degrees). The hock joint is well let down, wide, clean and strong. Pasterns are thin, cylindrical, and perpendicular to the ground when the dog is standing freely. A vertical line from the point of buttocks to the ground will fall slightly in front of the toes. Hind feet are slightly oval, compact, and webbed. The toes of the back feet are not quite as arched as those of the forefeet; thus, the nails may be straighter.

Skin, Coat: The skin of the Lagotto is thin, firm and close-fitting all over the body, without wrinkles. Pigmentation of the skin and pads harmonizes with the color of the coat, ranging from dark pink to dark brown. Depigmentation anywhere on the body is a serious fault. Coat is extremely important in this breed. Hair should be of wooly texture, semi-rough on the surface. Topcoat should be quite thick, and undercoat visible. The combination of the two repel water. A correct coat is never luxurious or shiny. The body is covered with tight ring-shaped curls, not frizz. Skull and cheeks are covered with thick hair, and the looser curls of the head form abundant eyebrows, whiskers, and a rather bristly beard. The coat covering the tail is both curly and somewhat bristly. The Lagotto must not be corded. Disqualification - smooth or straight coat. The correct trim must always be unpretentious, and contribute to the natural, rustic look typical of the breed. In a curled state the body coat must be trimmed to no more than 1½ inches in depth (not brushed/combed out), and it should be uniform with the silhouette of the dog. Only on the head can the coat be longer than 1½ inches but should never cover the eyes (should be penalized). The edges of the ears should be trimmed to the leather; the surface of the ear flap should show looser curls but remain wavy. The area around the genitals and anus may be clipped short. Hair must be of sufficient length that curls, and texture can be assessed. Corded dogs or excessively groomed dogs (sculpted or blown out) should be so severely penalized as to be eliminated from competition.

Color: Lagotti can be off-white solid color, white with brown or orange patches, brown roan, orange roan, brown, orange, or sable (in different shades), with or without white. Some dogs have extremities darker than their body color. Tan markings (in different shades) allowed. The colors have a tendency to fade, sometimes to such an extent that the brown areas can appear as silvery/gray roan. All the above colors are equally desirable, including the faded or diluted colors. Disqualification - Black or gray coat or patches; black pigmentation.

Gait/Movement: Lagotti should exhibit an energetic, lively, balanced trot, with moderate reach and drive. Back should remain firm and strong with no tendency to roll. At a trot, the rear foot covers but does not pass the footprint of the front foot. Movement from the front is parallel at a walk or slow trot, never wider than the dog's shoulder, and tends toward a center line as speed increases. Rear legs are also parallel at a slow gait, converging at increased speed, with hocks staying in a straight line between hip and foot. As the dog increases speed, the neck moves slightly lower and forward. The Lagotto should move with distinction and nobility of bearing. He should not be exhibited in an elongated trot – it is atypical and incorrect for the breed.

Behavior, Temperament: The Lagotto is tractable, adaptable, keen, affectionate, and extremely attached to its owner. He is both highly intelligent and easily trained. He is an excellent companion and a very good watchdog. A natural gift for searching and a very good nose have made the breed very efficient in finding truffles. The former hunting instinct has been modified by genetic selection to avoid distraction by game. This breed should never be aggressive or overly shy.

Faults: Any departure from the foregoing points should be considered a fault and the seriousness with which the fault should be regarded should be in exact proportion to its degree and to the degree that it will affect the dog's ability to perform its traditional work, as well as the health and welfare of the dog.

Disqualifications:

Size - Dogs under 16½ inches or over 19½ inches. Bitches under 15½ inches or over 18½ inches.

Bite – Overshot or pronounced undershot bite (incisors of the upper jaw and lower jaw do not touch).

Coat – Smooth or straight.

Color – Black or gray coat or patches; black pigmentation.

Norwegian Buhund Proposed Breed Standard Revision

The Board VOTED to approve the breed standard balloted by the membership of the Norwegian Buhund Club of America with an effective date of March 31, 2020.

Official Standard of the Norwegian Buhund

General Appearance: The Norwegian Buhund is a herding dog. It is a typical northern breed, a little under medium size and squarely built, with a tightly curled tail carried over the back. The head is wedge-shaped and not too heavy, with prick ears. As it is extremely intelligent by nature, consistent training is needed from early puppyhood. The Buhund has a lot of energy, strength and stamina. This self-appointed watchdog is also content lying at your feet at the end of the day. Broken teeth, broken whiskers and honorable scars incurred in the line of herding/working duty are acceptable. The breed is to be shown in a natural state. Any shaving or trimming of the coat or shaving of whiskers, is to be severely penalized.

Size, Proportion, Substance: **Size** - Height at the highest point of the shoulder blade in dogs, 17 to 18 1/2 inches; in bitches, 16 to 17 1/2 inches. Disqualifying faults - more than a 1/2 under, or 1 inch over the height at the highest point of the shoulder blade. **Weight** - For dogs 31 to 40 pounds; for bitches, 26 to 35 pounds. **Proportion** - Square in profile. The height, measured vertically from the ground to the highest point of the shoulder blade, equals the length, measured horizontally from the prosternum to the rear projection of the upper thigh. **Substance** - Substance and bone is in proportion to the overall dog.

Head: The size of the **head** should be in proportion to the body and not too heavy. The **skull** is wedge-shaped, almost flat, and parallel with the bridge of the nose. The **muzzle** is about the same length as the skull, with a stop that is well defined but not too pronounced. The nasal bridge is straight and well filled out under the eyes. The lips should be black and tightly closed. The teeth should meet in a scissors **bite**, with complete dentition. Disqualifying fault - overshot or undershot mouth. Whiskers serve a function, purpose. Removal of facial whiskers is to be severely penalized. **Eyes** - Oval shaped, color as dark as possible, black eye rims. **Ears** - Medium sized, prick ears with pointed tips, carried strongly erect yet very mobile. When relaxed or showing affection the ears go back, and the dog should not be penalized for doing this during the judge's examination. **Nose** - Black.

Neck, Topline, Body: **Neck** - Of medium length, is well set on, with no loose skin on the throat. **Topline** - The back is level; croup with as little slope as possible. **Body** - Chest deep, ribs well-sprung; tail set high, tightly curled and carried over the center line of the back.

Forequarters: Shoulders moderately sloping, elbows well set, turned neither in nor out; legs substantial but not coarse in bone, legs seen from the front appear straight and parallel; pastern seen from the side moderately sloping; feet oval in shape with tightly closed toes, feet turned neither in nor out.

Hindquarters: Moderate angulation at stifle and hock, upper thigh powerful, well-muscled; lower thigh well-muscled, seen from behind legs are straight and strong, feet same as above. Dewclaws are optional. If present, they may be double or single.

Coat: Outer coat is thick and hard, but rather smooth lying. The under coat is soft and dense. The coat on the head and front of the legs is comparatively short. The coat on the neck, chest and back of thighs is longer. The coat should not be trimmed except for the trimming of feet. Shaving, sculpting, removal of outer coat, should be so severely penalized as to eliminate from competition.

Color: Wheaten - Any shade from pale cream to bright orange, with or without dark tipped hairs; as little white as possible; black mask acceptable. Black - Preferably without too much bronzing; with as little white as possible. Areas where white is permissible: a narrow white ring around the neck, a narrow blaze on the face, a small patch of white hairs on the chest, white feet and tip of the tail.

Gait: The action is free and effortless. The topline remains level while moving. Sound movement is essential for working ability.

Temperament: Self-confident, alert, lively, and very affectionate with people.

Faults: The foregoing description is that of the ideal Norwegian Buhund. Any deviation from the above described dog is to be penalized to the extent of the deviation.

Disqualifying Faults: More than ½ inch under or 1 inch over the height at the highest point of the shoulder blade. Over shot or under shot mouth.

West Highland White Terrier Club of America “Quality Westie” Program-Recognition of CCA Title

The Board VOTED to approve the request of the West Highland White Terrier Club of America (WHWTCA) to recognize the Quality Westie (QW) program by awarding the suffix Certificate of Conformation Assessment (CCA) title to any dog that passes the QW evaluation. The owner must apply for the title and pay a \$25 application fee.

The Quality Westie program is a non-competitive event to evaluate conformation. In the QW event, dogs are judged against the breed standard rather than against each other, and owners receive both verbal and written feedback regarding the traits of their dog.

It was VOTED to adjourn Tuesday, January 24, 2020 at 12:03 p.m.

Adjourned

Attest: _____

Gina M. DiNardo, Executive Secretary