

American Kennel Club, Inc.
MEETING of the BOARD OF DIRECTORS
AKC Offices at 101 Park Avenue, New York, NY and via Video Conference
November 10, 2020

The Board convened via Zoom Video Conference on Tuesday November 10, 2020 at 11:03 a.m.

Mr. Sprung was present in the NY Office. All other Directors participated in the meeting by video conference. The Executive Secretary was present in the NY Office and participated by video conference.

The October 13, 2020 Board meeting minutes, copies of which had been provided to all Directors, were reviewed.

Upon a motion by Dr. Battaglia, seconded by Mr. Sweetwood, the October 13, 2020 Board meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Mr. Sprung reported that registration is continuing to do well during the COVID-19 pandemic spike. Litters, individual dogs, pedigrees, DNA, AKC GoodDog! Helpline and AKC PuppyVisor™ enrollments are each up.

Events and Entries: As of November 9, 2020, events are down 62% in the aggregate from mid-March to year end.

A total of 14,147 events have been cancelled or postponed in 2020.

Fast CAT, Scent Work, Hunt Tests, Field Trials, Agility and Conformation Specialties are doing well.

Total entries through September 30, 2020 are down 1,311,000.

STAFF: Thirty-eight (38) individuals are back to work, one (1) went to work for AKC REUNITE and eleven (11) former employees were offered positions or have advised AKC that they would not return. Five (5) more positions are planning to return in 2020 and fifteen (15) in 2021, for a total of seventy (70) positions. There are an additional 16 positions that are approved for rehire in 2021 as workload requires.

I.T.: The IT Department is set for the November 16-20, 2020 Delegate Committee meetings and the December 2, 2020 Delegate meeting which will be conducted via the Zoom platform.

ORLANDO: A very robust and well-thought-out plan will be implemented in Orlando with extraordinary safety and social distancing measures in place. It is truly a multi-departmental venture.

Conformation entries opened October 23, 2020 and closed on November 18, 2020. To date Conformation has 3,058 entries; Bred-By-Exhibitor: 549; Agility: 608 + 78 Juniors; Puppy and Juniors Stakes: 668; National Owner-Handled Series Finals: 317.

The National Championship experience will be very different this year due to the event modifications for COVID-19.

Gina DiNardo, Executive Secretary, and Paula Spector, Vice President, Corporate Services, participated in this portion of the meeting to share with the Board details about these modifications and safety measures planned for the National Championship week.

Legal Update:

The Board reviewed a legal update as of October 2020.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

FINANCE

Ted Phillips, Chief Financial Officer, provided a financial update for the nine months ending September 30, 2020.

Despite the ongoing challenges due to COVID-19, a positive report of AKC's operations was conveyed.

YTD Net Operating Income is \$9.6 million primarily due to higher registration revenues and cost containment, offset by lower recording and service fees.

Registrations Statistics: 2020 YTD Litter Reg. was 6.5% ahead of budget, 8.2% better than 2019 YTD. 2020 YTD Dog Reg. was 15% ahead of budget, 17% better than 2019 YTD.

Registration Fees exceed the prior year by 18% or \$4.4 million. This increase is led by Dog Registration ahead of 2019 by 23% or \$3.9 million.

Events and Entries continue to reflect the impact of COVID-19 cancellations. Compared to the same period in 2019, Events & Entries were down by 53.5% & 57%, respectively. Events & Other Fees trail budget and 2019 Actual by 25% and 27% respectively. This is primarily due to Recording & Service Fees which trail prior year by 52% or \$4.6 million.

One key offset is Pedigree & Other Litter Fees exceed budget by 22% or \$1.1mil primarily due to 3Generation Pedigree Sales.

Product & Service Sales exceed budget by 14% or \$1.1 million led by Merchandise Sales due to increases in e-commerce sales ahead of prior year by 44% or \$520k.

Advertising, Sponsor/Royalties trail budget by 12.5% or \$1.1 million due to a combination of lower income across all lines due to lower activity due to the pandemic.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Mari-Beth O'Neill, Vice President, Sport Services; Sheila Goffe, Vice President, Government Relations; Brandi Hunter, Vice President, Communications and Public Relations; and Ashley Jacot, Director of Education, participated in this portion of the meeting via videoconference.

American Hairless Terrier Stud Book

The Board reviewed a request from the American Hairless Terrier Club of America to keep the Stud Book Open for the Breed until January 1, 2026. The American Hairless Terrier Stud Book is scheduled to close January 1, 2021. Currently AKC will accept dogs registered with United Kennel Club.

Following a motion by Mr. Tatro, seconded by Mr. Sweetwood the Board VOTED (unanimously) that the American Hairless Terrier Stud Book will remain open until January 1, 2026.

Siberian Husky Proposed Breed Standard Revision

The Board reviewed the proposed revisions to the Nose, Color and Disqualification sections of the Siberian Husky breed standard as submitted by the Siberian Husky Club of America, Inc. (SHCA). The current standard was approved October 9, 1990.

Following a motion by Dr. Davies, seconded by Dr. Garvin, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to approve the proposed Standard revisions for ballot by the SHCA in accordance with the Siberian Husky Club of America's Constitution and By-laws.

Acceptance of Pedigrees from the Azerbaijan Kennel Club

The Board reviewed a request from the Azerbaijan Kennel Club to be added to the list of registries with pedigrees acceptable for AKC registration. Kennel Union of the Republic of Azerbaijan (hereinafter referred as KURA) is a national non-profitable canine organization in Azerbaijan, which was established in 2001 and a member of FCI (Fédération Cynologique Internationale) since 2006, and FCI full member since 2015. KURA is the only all breed registry authority in the country. KURA issues Pedigrees and records registration records of all pure breed dogs in Azerbaijan.

In 2019, KURA registered approximately 2500 dogs. Since 2015, KURA organizes CRUFT'S Qualification shows 2 times per year and International Dog Shows inviting FCI international judges; and KURA conduct and participate in education programs, seminars.

This will be discussed further at the January Board meeting.

Mudi Eligibility to Compete in the Herding Group

The Board reviewed a request from The Mudi Club of America (MCA). MCA has submitted a petition seeking acceptance into the AKC Stud Book and for the Mudi to be eligible to compete in the Herding Group. MCA also submitted a proposed breed standard for approval. The Standard for the Mudi is in the AKC format. The Sport Services Department has approved the standard, and the club membership approved the standard in October 2017.

While in the Miscellaneous Class, MCA held four Open Shows and national breed specialties. During this time the club has also conducted 4 judges workshops and breed seminars throughout the United States.

The dogs are currently exhibited on a regular basis in the Miscellaneous Class at AKC events throughout the United States. 83 Mudi have competed in 287 different conformation events in 29 different states since moving into Miscellaneous. They have earned 42 Certificate of Merit Titles. Additionally, 63 Mudi have competed in companion and performance events earning 229 titles.

This will be discussed further at the January Board meeting.

Parent Club Designation for Danish-Swedish Farmdog

The Board reviewed a request from the Danish-Swedish Farmdog Club of America to be designated as the Parent Club for the Breed allowing them to hold FSS Open Shows.

The Danish-Swedish Farmdog Club of America has an active membership participating in Companion Events and FSS Open Shows when available.

This will be discussed further at the January Board meeting.

Russian Toy Eligibility to Compete in the Toy Group

The Board reviewed a request from The Russian Toy Club of America (RTCA). RTCA has submitted a petition seeking acceptance into the AKC Stud Book and for the Russian Toy to be eligible to compete in the Toy Group. RTCA also submitted a proposed breed standard for approval.

The Standard for the Russian Toy is in the AKC format. The Sport Services Department has approved the standard, and the club membership approved the standard in October 2017.

While in the Miscellaneous Class they held six Open Shows and national breed specialties. During this time the club has also conducted 3 judges workshops and breed seminars throughout the United States.

The dogs are currently exhibited on a regular basis in the Miscellaneous Class at AKC events throughout the United States. 205 Russian Toy have competed in 450 different conformation events in 39 different states since moving into Miscellaneous. They have earned 30 Certificate of Merit Titles. Additionally, 48 Russian Toy have competed in companion and performance events earning 144 titles.

This will be discussed further at the January Board meeting.

AKC Detection Dog Task Force Patriotic Puppy Program Update & Strategic Plan

Sheila Goffe, Vice President, Government Relations provided an update on the AKC Detection Dog Task Force Patriotic Puppy Program. The Detection Dog Task Force committee members are AKC Board members Dr. Carmen Battaglia, Co-Chair; Christopher Sweetwood, Co-Chair; Rita Biddle, Dominic Carota and Ann Wallin and AKC Staff members AKC Vice President,

Government Relations, Sheila Goffe; Executive Vice President, Mark Dunn and Executive Vice President Doug Ljungren.

The purpose of the AKC Detection Dog Task Force is “to study specific areas in which the AKC could help address the crisis of a shortage of high-quality explosives detection dogs for U.S. national and public security while also advancing recognition of AKC as preeminent authority on canines”.

The DDTF focuses on three major areas:

- Breeder Education and Outreach,
- Conferences/Webinars and,
- Public Policy (GR)

The Patriotic Puppy Program (PPP) is a pilot program that falls within the education and outreach mission of the DDTF. The purpose of the patriotic puppy program is to study whether AKC breeders can provide a suitable and reliable source of future “green” dogs that could then be purchased by law enforcement or government agencies for advanced training and successful deployment, primarily as explosives detection dogs (EDDs).

In August, the Patriotic Puppy Program transitioned to phase 2 of the program. Phase 2 restructures the program to broaden training and outreach to include the development of detector dogs for deployment at local and state levels. The Primary goal of PPP Phase 2 is to establish training protocols, assist trainers and place graduate puppies with local, state and federal Law enforcement.

Government Relations Update Third Quarter 2020

The Board reviewed an update for the for the third quarter of 2020 and a status update on current GR department activity, major projects, significant activities and legislative successes.

The pandemic and response continue to have a dramatic impact on legislatures and policymaking at all levels of government. Legislative offices at the U.S. Capitol and many state capitols are closed to one-on-one constituent meetings. Instead, many meetings and communications are increasingly conducted by phone or zoom or similar electronic platforms.

Through the third quarter of 2020, AKC GR has monitored, evaluated and responded to more than 3,300 federal, state and local bills and 630 pending (750 tracked) implementing regulations that could impact responsible dog ownership, the health and wellbeing of dogs, the rights of dog owners, and/or the interests of the American Kennel Club. This represents a nearly 50% increase in legislative analysis activity and a 40% increase in pending regulations over the same period in 2019.

In addition, AKC GR has published alerts on more than 190 legislative proposals on state, local and federal issues that impact dog owners, and provided written and/or oral testimony for more than 175 of these measures. This represents a 46% increase in advocacy engagements over the same period in 2019.

GR also monitored 753 proposed regulatory (administrative rule) changes at the state and federal level, with approximately 630 of these actively pending.

In addition, AKC GR is monitoring, analyzing and responding to constantly changing state executive orders in all 50 states, state and federal legislation and relief packages, business/events closure requirements, and efforts to limit legal liability regarding COVID-19 transmission for organizations that follow CDC, state and other relevant health and safety precautions.

AKC Education Q3 Report

The Board reviewed a memo that provided an update of the Education department's activities and accomplishments for the third quarter of 2020 and provided a status update of current projects and initiatives.

Canine College

Breed Courses

Breed courses were offered with a 50% discount through September 30, 2020. The number of breed courses purchased in Q3 of 2020 was 29.5% higher than Q3 of 2019.

- The Whippet breed course is undergoing final changes from the Parent Club and is scheduled to launch at the end of October.
- The Azawakh, Pekingese, Norfolk Terrier and PBGV courses were updated in Q3.
- The Italian Greyhound, Chihuahua, English Cocker Spaniel and Silky Terrier courses are currently under development.

Breeder Education

The Breeding Systems and Genetic Defects and Health courses were completed and launched. The courses were completely redesigned and relaunched in Q3, featuring the most up to date information, as well as state of the art interactivities

- A total of 2,359 Breeder Education courses were ordered in Q3 of 2020, which is an increase of 17.4% from Q3 of 2019.
- The breeder exams for Breeding Systems and Genetic Health and Defects were updated in Q3.

Public Education

- The AKC PupPals Program continues to grow and expand, most recently including those affected by the California wildfires. Since its launch in August 2019, we've received over 4,000 dog submissions and more than 900 requests for PupPals.
- The Virtual AKC Patch Program continues to receive sign ups daily, with more than 40 children completing this program in Q3.
- AKC Canine Ambassadors continue to teach about purebred dogs and responsible dog ownership through virtual offerings, though they are eager to return to the classrooms and libraries. We now have more than 380 active Canine Ambassadors
- AKC Breed of the Week for Kids continues to be updated with a new breed each week. During Q3, the following breeds were introduced to the participants: Dogo Argentino, Sealyham Terrier, Australian Shepherd, Pomeranian, Great Pyrenees, Black and Tan Coonhound, Bulldog, and Vizsla.

AKC Education Webinar Series

AKC Education continues to collaborate with Judging Operations to host breed webinars for judges. Webinars are currently offered every Tuesday evening.

In Q3, 20 breeds were featured, reaching 5,162 live attendees. Since its launch in March 2020, 82 breeds have been presented to 24,041 live attendees. In addition, the recordings have been watched 6,267 times.

Since March 2020, AKC reached more than 31,000 constituents using these educational webinars. Webinars on various topics will continue through the rest of 2020 and into 2021.

AKC Communications Q3 Report

The Board reviewed an update on the Communications' departments' accomplishments for the third quarter of 2020.

TOTALS:

Clips Evaluated in Q3:	3,540
Q3 Potential Audience Reached:	6,722,492,060
Publicity Value for Q3:	\$7,699,835.59

**Numbers and values provided by media monitoring platform Cision.*

Highlights of Communications/PR Activities:

- Promoted the second AKC Virtual Top Dog Challenge, resulting in a segment on PIX11 Morning News.
- Created materials for AKC National Championship.
- Distributed 13 press releases to appropriate media outlets.
- Weekly "AKC Tips" articles written for McClatchy-Tribune reaching **600** newspapers, including the *Chattanooga Times Free Press*, *Dayton Daily News*, *Duluth News-Tribune*, *Fresno Bee*, *Idaho Statesman*, *Kingsport Times-News* and *Rochester Democrat and Chronicle*, among others.
- Offered outreach assistance to clubs to promote events or send cancellation notifications due to the COVID-19 outbreak.
- Promoted first ever Virtual AKC RDO Day in September 2020.
- Worked with AKC Reunite to create press materials to promote unveiling of trailers through their Pet Disaster Relief program.

COMPANION and PERFORMANCE

Doug Ljungren, Executive Vice President, Sports & Events; Pamela Manaton, Director, Obedience, Rally, Tracking; Carrie DeYoung, Director, Agility; and Caroline Murphy, Director, Performance Events participated in this portion of the meeting via video conference.

Assisting the Sports – Making Permanent Obedience, Rally and Tracking Modifications That Expire at Year-End

In Obedience, Rally and Tracking six (6) Regulations were temporarily suspended or modified in 2020 to provide clubs and exhibitors flexibility due to COVID-19.

The Staff recommends that these six modifications become permanent in 2021. The six modifications are – (1) Closing dates seven days prior to the event, (2) Eligibility restrictions for exhibitors, (3) Eligibility restrictions for dogs, (4) Eligibility restrictions during emergency judge

changes, (5) Modifying the obedience Figure Eight exercise, and (6) Publishing the rally course maps.

Recommendation

- (1) Closing Dates – The recommendation is to permanently change the Regulations to allow clubs holding obedience and rally trials, at their option, to close the events at a specified closing date and time no later than 11:59PM seven (7) days prior to the event. This is a change to the Regulations and may be made by a vote of the Board. If approved, this change will be effective for all trials held on or after January 1, 2021.
- (2) Eligibility Restrictions for Exhibitors – The recommendation is to permanently change the obedience, rally and tracking Regulations effecting an exhibitor's eligibility from thirty days to ten days prior to an event. This is a change to the Regulations and may be made by a vote of the Board. If approved, this change will be effective for all trials held on or after January 1, 2021.
- (3) Eligibility Restrictions for Dogs – The recommendation is to permanently change the obedience and rally Regulations effecting a dog's eligibility from thirty days to ten days prior to an event. This is a change to the Regulations and may be made by a vote of the Board. If approved, this change will be effective for all trials held on or after January 1, 2021.
- (4) Eligibility Restrictions During Emergency Judge Changes – If numbers (2) and (3) above are approved, staff recommends permanently changing the Regulations for obedience and rally to waive the eligibility restrictions on exhibitors and dogs when there is an emergency judge change. This is a change to the Regulations and may be made by a vote of the Board. If approved, this change will be effective for all trials held on or after January 1, 2021.
- (5) Modifying the Obedience Figure Eight Exercise – The recommendation is to permanently change the *Obedience Regulations* to use cones instead of Stewards for the Figure Eight exercise. This is a change to the Regulations and may be made by a vote of the Board. If approved, this change will be effective for all trials held on or after January 1, 2021.
- (6) Publishing the Rally Course Maps – The recommendation is to permanently change the *Rally Regulations* to allow a club to distribute the rally course maps by email and to post them electronically online no earlier than 6PM the evening before each trial. This is a change to the Regulations and may be made by a vote of the Board. If approved, this change will be effective for all trials held on or after January 1, 2021.

Following a motion by Mrs. Wallin, seconded by Mr. Powers, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to approve these changes on a permanent basis.

CHAPTER 1 OBEDIENCE REGULATIONS GENERAL REGULATIONS

Section 3. Premium Lists, Entries, Closing of Entries and Catalog Order. *(Paragraph 5)*
The premium list shall specify the name and address of the Superintendent or Trial Secretary who is to receive the entries.

Opening & Closing Dates. In order to provide fair opportunity for all exhibitors to enter upcoming events, premium lists are required to be published at least 72-hours prior to the acceptance of entries. Events whose entries are limited must have a defined date and time for the opening of entries which is to be prominently displayed on the cover page of the premium list. In addition, every premium list shall specify the date and time at which entries for a trial shall close. For all trials the specified closing date and time must be no later than 11:59PM seven (7) days prior to the trial.

Whenever the closing day falls on a postal holiday, entries received in any form up to 24 hours from the published closing date and time may be accepted.

Section 14. Dogs That May Not Compete. *(Paragraphs 8 & 9)*

No exhibitor may show a dog under a judge at an obedience trial if the exhibitor has participated in a training session taught by that judge within ten (10) days prior to the date of the event.

No dog may be entered or shown under a judge at an obedience trial if the dog is owned or handled by any person who has regularly served as a trainer or instructor of that judge, either individually or through classes, or if the dog has been regularly trained or instructed by the judge within ten (10) days prior to the date of the obedience trial. "Trained or instructed" applies equally to judges who train professionally or as amateurs and to judges who train individual dogs or train or instruct dogs in classes with or through their handlers (see "Glossary of Terms").

In either case above, the ten (10) day period is not in effect when a judge has been assigned on an emergency basis within 72-hours of an event.

**CHAPTER 3
OBEDIENCE REGULATIONS
NOVICE**

Section 5. Heel on Leash and Figure Eight.

(Paragraph 6)

For the Figure Eight, the handler will stand and the dog will sit in heel position facing the judge, midway between two cones that are 17 to 37 inches high and no more than 15 inches wide at the base, that will be placed 8 feet apart. The Figure Eight in the Novice classes will be done on leash; the handler may go around either cone first. The judge will ask "Are you ready?" before giving the first order. The handler and dog will walk briskly around and between the two cones twice. There will be no about turn, fast or slow, but the judge must order at least one halt during this exercise and another halt at the end.

**CHAPTER 2
OBEDIENCE REGULATIONS
REGULATIONS FOR PERFORMANCE AND JUDGING
JUDGING STANDARDS AND PROCEDURES**

Section 1. Standardized Judging.

Heeling Pattern. *The same pattern should be maintained as far as practicable for each competing dog. This is a foundation exercise, and it determines the standards for all exercises in which the dog is heeling. The minimum heeling requirements for any class are normal heeling, a fast, a slow, a left turn, a right turn, an about-turn, a halt, and a sit.*

The heeling patterns should not be in the area of the table and/or gate and should have only one element of an exercise on a leg. (For example, there shall not be a halt and a slow on the same leg of an exercise.) A fast must always be on a long dimension of the ring; slow may be either on the short or long dimension of the ring. The fast and slow should be of significant

length, not just several steps. No pattern will have more than one fast and one slow. If possible, have one leg of the heeling pattern with no element on it. The "L" pattern is a minimal pattern. Other patterns are acceptable, but excessive complexity should be avoided.

The judge may leave the Figure Eight cones in position in the ring, provided this equipment will not interfere with the performance of the other exercises.

CHAPTER 1 AKC RALLY® REGULATIONS GENERAL REGULATIONS

Section 2. Premium Lists, Entries, Closing of Entries and Catalog Order. *(Paragraph 2)*

The premium list shall specify the name and address of the Superintendent or Trial Secretary who is to receive the entries.

Opening and Closing Dates. In order to provide fair opportunity for all exhibitors to enter upcoming events, premium lists are required to be published at least 72-hours prior to the acceptance of entries. Events whose entries are limited must have a defined date and time for the opening of entries which must be prominently displayed on the cover page of the premium list. In addition, every premium list shall specify the date and time at which entries for a trial shall close. For all trials the specified closing date and time must be no later than 11:59PM seven (7) days prior to the trial.

Whenever the closing day falls on a postal holiday, entries received in any form up to 24 hours from the published closing date and time may be accepted.

Section 13. Dogs that May Not Compete.

(Paragraphs 8 & 9)

No exhibitor may show a dog under a judge at a rally trial if the exhibitor has participated in a training session taught by that judge within ten (10) days prior to the date of the event.

No dog may be entered or shown under a judge at a rally trial if the dog is owned or handled by any person who has regularly served as a trainer or instructor of that judge, either individually or through classes, or if the dog has been regularly trained or instructed by the judge within ten (10) days prior to the date of the rally trial. "Trained or instructed" applies equally to judges who train professionally or as amateurs and to judges who train individual dogs or train or instruct dogs in classes with or through their handlers (see "Glossary of Terms").

In either case above, the ten (10) day period is not in effect when a judge has been assigned on an emergency basis within 72-hours of an event.

CHAPTER 2 AKC RALLY® REGULATIONS REGULATIONS FOR PERFORMANCE AND JUDGING; JUDGING STANDARDS, PROCEDURES AND SCORING

Section 25. Walkthrough Time. The course for each class will be posted at the ring when the judge arrives. The Trial Secretary may send copies of the course to exhibitors by email no earlier than 6PM on the evening preceding each trial and the courses may be published online electronically by the Trial Secretary at the same time, if available. The club should have a few printed course copies available for those that cannot take photos of the posted courses or the ability to access the website.

When there are not more than 20 dogs entered, and the same start time is listed for the A and B classes of the same title level the judge will combine the walkthrough. At the listed start time

for the class, a walkthrough of up to 10 minutes will be allowed for handlers without their dogs and judging of the class will follow. The judge must remain in the ring during the walkthrough but will not brief the handlers.

For classes with 40 or more dogs entered an additional walkthrough time of up to 10 minutes will be provided.

An additional 10 minutes must be added into the first hour of judging for the first walkthrough.

CHAPTER 1 TRACKING REGULATIONS GENERAL REGULATIONS

Section 12. Dogs that May Not Compete.

(Paragraph 8)

No exhibitor may show a dog under a judge at a tracking test if the exhibitor has participated in a training session taught by that judge within ten (10) days prior to the date of the event.

CHAPTER 2 TRACKING REGULATIONS REGULATIONS FOR PERFORMANCE AND JUDGING

Section 9. *(Paragraph 4)*

People cannot act as tracklayers for dogs if, within the past 10 days, they have boarded, laid track for, or regularly trained the dogs whose tracks they are to lay. The tracklayer must not be a person with whom the dog has resided or a member of the household or a member of the immediate family of the dog's handler. The judges will determine the order in which the tracks are run and the number of each track.

Virtual Obedience Test Program

The Board reviewed a recommendation to create an AKC Virtual Obedience Test Program consisting of two beginning level classes – Virtual Beginner Novice and Virtual Novice. The purpose is to provide owners that are not able or willing to attend an in-person event an opportunity to stay engaged in the sport by evaluating their skill and teamwork via video. The experience with Virtual Rally has demonstrated, a virtual approach also attracts new participants to the sport. The exercises in virtual obedience will be slightly different than in-person tests, therefore the titles earned will be designated with the letter V - Beginner Novice Virtual (BNV) and Companion Dog Virtual (CDV).

There will be two beginning levels of virtual obedience offered, with possible expansion of the program over time. The first two levels in the Virtual Obedience Test program will be Virtual Beginner Novice and Virtual Novice classes.

Following a motion by Mr. Powers, seconded by Mrs. Wallin, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to consider the matter at this meeting, waiving the normal notice procedures.

Following a motion by Dr. Battaglia, seconded by Mr. Sweetwood, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to approve an AKC Virtual Obedience Test Program effective March 1, 2021.

Retriever Hunting Tests – Amateur Set Aside Entries in the Master Hunter Test

The Board reviewed a recommended change to the Retriever Hunting Test Regulations to provide for clubs to set aside either 25% or 35% of the entries (club's option) for amateur handlers in a limited entry Master Hunter test. Currently amateurs are having difficulty entering the Master level test because professional handlers are entering many dogs. This situation is undermining amateur involvement in the sport.

This recommendation specifically sets aside entries for amateur handlers. If the entries are not used within one day, the slots are open to all handlers. No slots are lost; however, the change provides a degree of relief for amateur handlers, who are the backbone of the sport. Strong amateur participation will promote the future health of the program.

The Retriever Hunting Test Advisory Committee unanimously supported this recommendation.

Following a motion by Mrs. Wallin, seconded by Mr. Powers, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to consider the matter at this meeting, waiving the normal notice procedures.

Following a motion by Ms. Biddle, seconded by Mr. Powers, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to approve is a change to the Regulations and Guidelines for AKC Hunting Tests for Retrievers effective for events approved by the AKC after April 1, 2021. Events receiving AKC approval prior to April 1, provided they have not yet started accepting entries, may implement the amateur set aside program, provided the host club reaches agreement with their entry service provider.

Chapter 1, Section 4. Entry Requirements.

New paragraph #7 entitled "Amateur Set Aside Entries".

Amateur Set Aside Entries

A club holding a limited entry Master Hunter test must set aside either 25% or 35% of the Master entries for amateur handlers. The amateur set aside level of 25% or 35% is at the host club's option and shall be provided at the time the event application is submitted to the AKC. This percentage applies to the total entries, prior to worker set aside entries. The number of MH entries set aside for amateurs shall be as follows:

	Entries in a Limited MH Test			
	<u>66</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>132</u>	<u>200</u>
Amateur Set Aside 25%	17	25	33	50
Amateur Set Aside 35%	23	35	46	70

Entries eligible for the amateur set aside slots must provide only one handler per dog and the handler must be an amateur. The entry must be submitted by an amateur and the dog must be handled by an amateur in the Master test.

Entries reserved for amateurs shall open one day prior to general opening at 8:00 pm in the time zone where the event is being held. If the amateur entry limit is reached in the 24 hours prior to the general opening, entries shall stop until the general opening. Additional amateur

handled dogs are eligible to enter at the time of general opening. If the amateur entry limit is not reached prior to the general opening, the unused amateur entry slots may be filled by any handler at the time of the general opening.

If a dog is entered under the amateur set aside provision and the amateur handler is not able to attend the event, the dog may participate provided it is handled by another amateur. Any handler/owner misusing the amateur set aside provision will forfeit the ability to enter in this manner and may be subject to a fine from AKC. The amateur set aside provision does not apply to the Master Nationals or the Master Amateur Nationals.

Agility – For Exhibition Only Runs & The Fix and Go Option Made Permanent

In July 2019 the Board approved allowing the offering of For Exhibition Only (FEO) entries and the Fix and Go concept in Agility for a one-year trial period that started January 1, 2020. While the pandemic slowed the use of these ideas, they have been overwhelmingly accepted by the fancy. During the one-year trial period there have been no issues regarding these two additions to the program.

Following a motion by Mr. Tatro, seconded by Mr. Carota, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to make the additions a permanent part of the AKC Agility program.

Virtual Pilot Programs

Sports & Events launched several virtual pilot programs in 202.0 – Virtual Rally Novice and Intermediate classes, Virtual Agility ACT1 and ACT2 classes, and Virtual Water Test for Pointing Breeds. These programs have all proven to be successful. The Staff requested that these programs become permanent additions to their respective sports.

Following a motion by Mr. Powers, seconded by Mr. Tatro, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to extend these programs through 2021; Staff will report back on impact and results a year from now.

See Appendix A for the **AKC VIRTUAL OBEDIENCE REGULATIONS**

CONFORMATION

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

Opening of Entries for All-Breed Conformation Shows

With the demand for conformation dog shows and the entry limits being imposed, clubs are structuring the acceptance of entries in a manner which may not be fair to all potential exhibitors. This Board considered a Board Policy that limits the opening of entries for a show to a single time regardless of the method of submission.

The *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* Chapter 11, Section 4 lists what an entry must have in order to be acceptable, the final paragraph of this section states:

All the requirements of the foregoing paragraph and all other specific requirements printed in the premium list must be met before an entry can be considered acceptable.

This sentence allows clubs, among other criteria, to only accept an entry via a single submission method or multiple submission methods. Recently, clubs have included multiple opening dates depending upon the type of entry submission.

There was no motion to approve the suggested policy.

Assisting the Sports – Making Permanent Conformation Modifications That Expire at Year-End

The Board reviewed modifications to regulations and policies made in 2020 for conformation to provide clubs and exhibitors flexibility due to COVID-19.

This Staff recommends making two modifications – (1) to make permanent the modification allowing specialty clubs to hold up to four designated specialties in a calendar year in addition to the current two specialties or two days of specialties, (2) extend the change in Regulations to allow judges assigned to NOHS Groups/Best in Show to exhibit on the same day through December 31, 2021.

Following a motion by Dr. Garvin, seconded by Mrs. Wallin, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to make this a permanent change to the Limited Number of Events Policy to allow allowing specialty clubs to hold up to four designated specialties in a calendar year in addition to the current two specialties or two days of specialties; and the Board VOTED (unanimously) to extend this change to the NOHS Regulations through December 31, 2021 to allow judges only assigned to NOHS Groups and/or NOHS Best in Show to exhibit the day they judge, but may not compete in the NOHS.

These changes are effective immediately.

Limited Number of Events Policy amended as follow:

Local specialty clubs have the option to hold shows on two days per year or two shows per year, at their option. Local specialty clubs have the option to hold one additional show in conjunction with their breed's national specialty. Local specialty clubs may hold up to four designated specialty events in addition to the shows allotted in this section. There is no limit on national clubs.

The Use of a Club's Name Cannot be Transferred

The Board reviewed a recommendation for a Board policy to interpret and clarify Chapter 2, Section 5 of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows*. The Rule states “the use of a club's name for show purposes cannot be transferred.” The purpose of the Board policy is to clarify the Rule by stating the activities that the host club cannot delegate to a third party.

In discussing this proposal, the Board acknowledged that the management of an event must be the responsibility of the AKC member or licensed club which has applied for and been approved

to hold the event. The Board believes that it is imperative that Superintendents have their assigned roles which should not cross over into a club's roles.

The Board discussed the long-term implications for the AKC and the sports that were considered and deliberated in discussing the adoption of a new policy:

- Allowing third parties to hold events on behalf of the club undermines the primary purpose of clubs. Over time, clubs could become shells that get a small slice of the funds. This is a dramatic change from the network of engaged clubs that currently exist.
- Local community interaction and support is necessary for the long-term health of the AKC and its sports. Turning events over to "outside" organizations reduces this local interaction. If this were to become common across the country, it will have a detrimental effect in the long run.
- The motivation for hosting a show is dramatically different between a local club and a third party. The clubs are motivated to hold a quality event in order to give back to the sport. The third party is motivated to maximize profit.
- It would be unhealthy for the sport to allow a handful of third-party service providers to select judges.
- From AKC's perspective, separating the responsibility for the event (the third party) from the accountability for the event (the club) increases the likelihood of administrative issues.

Following a motion by Dr. Battaglia, seconded by Mr. Powers, the Board VOTED (unanimously) effective immediately, to approve the following policy which lists the activities that cannot be delegated to a third-party service provider:

The policy is as follows -

The Use of a Club's Name for Show Purposes Cannot be Transferred

The management of an event must be the responsibility of the AKC member or licensed club which has applied for and been approved to hold the event. To fulfill this responsibility, the following activities must be performed by the host club, sometimes in combination with the management of a cluster of events. Responsibility for these activities cannot be delegated to third party service providers.

1. *A club officer or club show chair must submit the AKC event application and other necessary documents.*
2. *Obtaining local permits required to hold the event and paying all taxes.*
3. *There must be an event committee with a minimum of five club members.*
4. *Selection of and contracting with the judges.*
5. *Selection of and contracting with the event facility. The host club must act as the liaison with the facility and provide the necessary insurance.*
6. *Selection of and contracting with the veterinarians to service the event.*
7. *Selection of and contracting with the official photographer.*
8. *Preparing and posting the Disaster and Emergency Plan for the event, including having a qualified emergency medical technician in attendance.*
9. *Contracting with vendors.*
10. *Entering into sponsorship agreements for the event/cluster.*
11. *Entering into an agreement to televise/broadcast the event.*
12. *Assigning committee chairs to be responsible for managing the event.*
13. *Only the host club can decide "other specific requirements" regarding how entries will be accepted.*

Conformation Junior Showmanship, Canine Partners

The Board reviewed a proposal to create an 18-month pilot program to allow Juniors with AKC Canine Partners-listed dogs to be eligible to compete in Conformation Junior Showmanship. The implementation of allowing Juniors to handle AKC Canine Partners will allow new young people and their families into the AKC, which will support the future of clubs and events.

This will be discussed further at the January Board meeting.

Event Application Practices That Expire at Year End

In early April, two changes were made to the event application process to provide clubs flexibility – (1) If an event was cancelled, the application fee was applied to the next event of the same type, and (2) Clubs were allowed to submit applications later than the normal due date without penalty.

Staff recommends that these practices be continued for 2021.

Following a motion by Mr. Sweetwood, seconded by Ms. McAteer, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to permit the Event application fee for a cancelled 2021 events to be applied to the next event of the same type.

Following a motion by Mr. Tatro, seconded by Dr. Battaglia, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to permit clubs to submit an event application up to 30 days prior to the event without incurring a late fee for future 2021 events.

AKC Vet Out-Reach Up-Date

The Sport Services Department coordinates the Vet Out-Reach Programs and Activities. Staff provided an update on accomplishments in 2020.

Vet Out-Reach programs coordinated and assisted in awarding Veterinary Scholarships in the amount of \$35,000.

Staff coordinates Lunch 'N Learn programs at the Vet Schools, providing an overview of the AKC, AKC Events, Purebred dogs and the AKC Affiliates. COVID-19 required the cancellation of presentations scheduled after March 15, 2020. Staff reached out to schools and coordinated 14 virtual presentations for the Fall semester, with Dr. Jerry Klein providing each of the presentations. A total of 20 Schools will have AKC presentations in 2020.

Vet Students Tour of local Dog Show: Staff has developed suggestions for conducting a tour of the Dog Show which is provided to clubs interested in hosting a group of Veterinary Students, Pre-Vet, or Vet Tech Students.

Guest Lecture: Staff gave a lecture for the Undergraduate Animal Science Class at NC State January of 2020 and coordinated tour of AKC Operations Center for 100 students in February 2020.

Veterinary Conferences: Prior to COVID-19, staff attended multiple Vet Conference Annually including:

- Student AVMA Conference – sponsoring the 5K Promoting AKC FIT Dog
- AVMA Conference
- Theriogenology Conference

- AKC CHF Parent Club Conference 2019
- NC State Veterinary School Open House
- New York Vet

JUDGING OPERATIONS

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

Conformation Judging Approval Process – Non-Approved Judges

The Board reviewed a recommended change to the Judging Approval Process from the Chairman's Committee on the Judging Approval Process, regarding a Parent Club's ability to request a non-approved individual to judge a breed specialty show.

The Committee recommended a modification to the policy regarding a Parent Club's ability to request a non-approved individual to judge a breed specialty show. Under current policy, parent clubs may request for a non-approved individual to judge a specialty show in its breed. There was agreement amongst the committee members approvals under this provision should not be limitless and that after a point, if one wished to continue to be invited to judge specialties they need to apply for judging approval. As a result, the Chairman's Committee recommends that non-approved individuals may not be approved to judge more than five (5) breed specialties cumulatively.

Following a motion by Dr. Garvin, seconded by Ms. Biddle, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to revise to the Conformation Judging Approval Process as follows (changes underlined):

PARENT CLUB'S MAY REQUEST APPROVAL OF AN ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL TO JUDGE A BREED SPECIALTY SHOW

Requirements for Applicant/Judge

- Any eligible individuals including, but not limited to, professional handlers may be approved on a case-by-case, event-by-event request from the Parent Club for approval to judge a specialty in its breed.
- Must be 21 years of age.
- Must be occupationally eligible, except that professional handlers may be approved under this policy.
- Should be knowledgeable, with success in breeding/exhibiting/handling in the breed for 15 years or more.
- Procedure and anatomy test required and if applicable, scale or wicket test required.
- A \$35 per breed fee is required for non-approved judges.
- Individuals may not be approved for more than one specialty per calendar year and no more than five specialties cumulatively.

Conformation Judging Approval Process – Continuing Education

The Board reviewed a recommended change to the Judging Approval Process from the Chairman's Committee on the Judging Approval Process, to require the addition of continuing education requirements for Conformation Judges; the requirements should entail the completion of a recertification course/exam on current AKC procedures and policies related to conformation judges every five years. The committee also agreed the most effective and efficient means to deliver the course/exam would be via AKC's Canine College.

Following a motion by Mr. Tatro, seconded by Mr. Carota, the Board VOTED (In favor: Battaglia, Biddle, Carota, Davies, Garvin, Hamblin, Knight, McAteer, Powers, Sweetwood, Tatro, Wallin; Against: Smyth) to approve the requirement for Conformation Judges to complete a recertification course/exam on current AKC procedures and policies related to conformation judges every five years.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

Approved judges have an obligation through experience and ongoing study to demonstrate sound knowledge of current procedures and polices related to judging at AKC Conformation events.

As the sound judging procedure, ring control, and a thorough knowledge of AKC Rules and Policies is essential to inspire the confidence of the fancy, all approved Conformation judges are required to successfully complete a re-certification course on current judging procedures and polices every five years.

The re-certification course shall be completed online in AKC's Canine College. Judges who fail to successfully complete will be marked inactive and ineligible to accept assignments until such time this requirement is met

This requirement will be implemented by January 1, 2022, allowing time to create and develop an effective and thorough course/exam. Fulfillment will be spread over time, with the most experienced judges who judge infrequently asked to complete first and ending with judges approved in recent years. Newly approved judges post implementation would be scheduled to complete in five years.

Conformation Judging Approval Process – Recertification Fee

The Board reviewed a recommendation to the Judging Approval Process from the Chairman's Committee on the Judging Approval Process, to charge a \$50 fee for a recertification course/exam on current AKC procedures and policies related to conformation judges which would be required once every five years. There is a similar requirement for judges of other sports.

For other AKC sports, the frequency for completion and associated fee varies from three to six years, with fee up to \$100.

- Agility Judges – every three years at cost of \$75-\$100
- Obedience Judges– every three years at cost of \$50
- Rally Judges - every three years at cost of \$50 (must also complete Obedience requirement)
- Retriever Hunt Tests – every four years at cost of \$25+
- Pointing Breed Hunt Tests – every five years at cost of \$25+
- Herding Trials – every four years at cost of \$25+
- Lure Coursing – every six years at cost of \$25+

Following a motion by Mr. Tatro, seconded by Dr. Garvin, the Board VOTED (In favor: Carota, Davies, Garvin, Hamblin, Knight, McAteer, Powers, Tatro, Wallin; Against: Battaglia, Biddle, Sweetwood, Smyth) to approve a \$50 fee for the course/exam associated with the requirement

for Conformation Judges to complete a recertification course/exam on current AKC procedures and policies related to conformation judges every five years.

CLUBS

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

Assistance to Member Club Applicants

Current Board policy for processing Member club requests includes a minimum household within their local territory requirement. Some licensed clubs eligible to submit a membership request are not able to meet the local household requirement despite possessing extensive experience in holding successful AKC events. Staff suggests a policy change to waive the local household requirement for member clubs based on event experience and history so they may be approved under Board policy.

Staff recommends removing the minimum local household requirement for Member clubs from what is currently applicable, and require only 30 total households for All-Breed Clubs, 20 total households for Group, Local Specialty, Obedience, multiple-breed Field Trial and Agility clubs.

This will be discussed further at the January 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*, requests for AKC membership applications, and a report on Member Club Bylaws approved and newly licensed clubs.

Report on Member Clubs Bylaws Approved in September and October 2020

Contra Costa County Kennel Club, Antioch, CA (1949)
Philadelphia Dog Training Club, Philadelphia, PA (1949)
Saccarappa Obedience Club, Westbrook, ME (1990)
Saluki Club of America (1930)

Report on Newly Licensed Clubs approved in September and October 2020

Greater Pittsburgh Tracking Club, greater Pittsburgh, PA, 18 total households, 17 local.

Houston Area K9 Scent Work Club, greater Houston, TX (communities no further north to Spring, east to Baytown, south to Missouri City, west to Sealy), 67 total households, 35 local.

On Track Agility Club of Maine, greater Augusta, ME (including communities in proximity to Interstate 25, east to Deer Isle, south to Portland), 27 total households, 19 local.

COMPLIANCE

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

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

REGISTRATION

Mark Dunn, Executive Vice President; Kirsten Bahlke, Vice President, Consumer Demand; and Aurora Greenberg, Senior Brand Marketing Specialist, participated in this portion of the meeting via video conference.

Registration Overview:

September was our best month for Dogs since 2007 and our best September for Litters since 2009.

YTD Total Revenue from Registration and related products and services is \$41.5MM, which is 13% better than planned and \$7.0MM better than the same period last year.

The percentage of dog registrations that were registered by a “new” AKC owner increased from 57% in April – August 2019 to 62% in April – August 2020.

Selected Results from Dog Registration Survey

Staff conducted a survey of recent dog registrants who hadn't registered a dog in the past 20 years to determine why they registered. Key insights from the survey were presented to the Board. Across all respondent segments, maintaining accurate breed records, breed pride and desire for a pedigree are the top 3 motivations for registering. Survey results indicate that Breeders are by far the most frequently cited way respondents learned about registration.

AKC Dog Registration Email Optimization

Staff recently redesigned three AKC Dog registration triggered emails. The Board was shown the creative designs and launch plan.

MARKETING

Kirsten Bahlke, Vice President, Consumer Demand participated in this portion of the meeting via video conference.

Overview of Q3 2020 Results

- AKC.org continues to grow behind continuous search engine optimization and production of relevant content.
- Q3 was an exceptional revenue quarter for AKC Shop despite lack of significant traffic growth - Q3 revenue +39% versus Q3 2019
- AKC email sends grew by 30% in Q3 2020 versus 2019 while keeping engagement metrics strong
- Responsible Dog Ownership Day went virtual with great success and lessons learned for even better execution going forward
- The AKC social department continues to grow key social channels through innovative and relevant programming. AKC Facebook finished Q3 2020 with a total of 4,012,919 followers. AKC Instagram finished Q3 2020 with a total of 334, 687 followers. AKC Twitter finished Q3 2020 with a total of 98,986 followers

- Marketing collaborated with Sports & Events to host a second and third AKC Virtual Top Dog Challenge with the addition of prize money for Group and Best in Show winners. Group winners were awarded \$100 and BIS winners were awarded \$200.
- Donations were made to AKC Reunite's Adopt A K-9 Cop program and to the California Fire Foundation's Supplying Aid to Victims of Emergency (SAVE) program.

AKC MEDIA

Ron Furman, Director, AKC Media and William Ellis, Manager, AKC.tv participated in this portion of the meeting via video conference.

Broadcasting, Sponsorship, Licensing and Media – are actively maintaining the ongoing operations in their respective verticals. Engagement with clients, brands, vendors and outside communications are all geared to the proper tonality of the current situation while adapting, activating the priority projects to insure AKC mission & financial attributes.

Planning for AKC.tv coverage for the AKC National Championship, including pre-shows that will lead into livestreams of the main shows and live streaming of all breed judging is underway.

CONSENT

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

- Assisting the Sports – Extending Obedience, Rally and Tracking Modifications That Expire at Year-End
- Assisting the Sports – Scent Work Modification That Expire at Year End
- CAT and Fast CAT – Dogs with Coloring to Participate
- Dalmatian Club of America - Two Additional Road Dog titles
- Assisting the Sports - Agility Modifications That Expire at Year End
- Delegate and Club Approvals
- Resolution Edd E. Bivin
- Resolution Ronald H. Menaker
- Resolution Frank T. Sabella

Assisting the Sports – Extending Obedience, Rally and Tracking Modifications that Expire at Year-End

Four (4) Regulations were suspended or modified until year end 2020 for obedience, rally and tracking, that provide clubs and exhibitors flexibility due to COVID-19. The Board reviewed recommendations on how to handle these four modifications in 2021. The four modifications are – (1) Two judges required to earn a title, (2) Waiver of 30 days and 100 miles restriction for judges, (3) Distance between exhibitors in obedience Novice group exercises, and (4) Tracking test certification expiration dates.

The Board VOTED to extend the following:

Two-Judge Requirement to Title – The waiver will continue through December 31, 2021. With judges less inclined to travel during the pandemic, this will provide exhibitors more opportunities

to earn titles, enabling them to continue their growth in the sport by moving up to the next higher level. This waiver will be reevaluated prior to December 31, 2021.

Waiver of 30 days and 100 Miles Restriction for Judges – These accommodations will extend through December 31, 2021. (Previous limitations were judges could not judge again within 30 days and 100 miles of a previous assignment, nor could they judge the same classes at a cluster more than twice.) These waivers will be reevaluated prior to December 31, 2021.

Distance Between Exhibitors in the Obedience Novice Group Exercises – The distance between exhibitors in the Novice group exercise will continue to be increased to eight feet through December 31, 2021. With social distancing still a requirement due to the pandemic, this will provide greater safety to exhibitors.

Tracking Test Certification Expiration Dates – The expiration dates for tracking test certifications expiring in 2020 and 2021 will be extended for one year. This will allow continued eligibility for dogs to be entered in tracking tests.

Assisting the Sports – Scent Work Modification That Expires at Year End

The waiver of 30 days and 100-mile restriction for Scent Work judges was instituted to help clubs hire judges that did not need to fly or in some cases even stay in hotel rooms. Some states still have quarantine or testing restrictions and many judges still are not wanting to fly or stay in hotels. This waiver is due to expire on December 30, 2020. **The Board VOTED to extend** the waiver of the 30 days and 100-mile restriction for Scent Work judges through December 31, 2021. (Previous limitation was a judge could not judge again within 30 days and 100 miles of a trial.) This waiver will be reevaluated prior to December 31, 2021.

CAT and Fast CAT – Dogs with Coloring to Participate

The Board reviewed a recommendation to allow dogs with coloring to participate in AKC Coursing Ability Tests (CAT) and Fast CAT events. The purpose of allowing dogs to have coat coloring is to add an element of fun to events by allowing clubs to adopt themes or to encourage dogs to “run for the cause” in support of a local activity

The Board VOTED to amend the CAT and Fast CAT Regulations to allow dogs with coloring to participate in AKC Coursing Ability Tests (CAT) and Fast CAT events.

Dalmatian Club of America – Two Additional Road Dog titles

The Board reviewed a request from the Dalmatian Club of America. The Dalmatian Club of America (DCA) is requesting their breed be eligible to apply for Road Dog Champion (RDCH) and Road Dog Excellent Champion (RDXCH) suffix titles through the AKC Parent Club Title Recognition Program.

AKC currently recognizes three suffix Road Dog titles for the Dalmatian – Coaching Certificate (CC), Road Dog (RD), and Road Dog Excellent (RDX). Each one a higher level of achievement than the other. Coaching tests a dog’s ability to coach or follow while Road Dog tests both coaching ability and endurance. Road Dog Excellent evaluates coaching and extended endurance.

The Board VOTED to approve the request of the DCA to offer two additional titles, the Road Dog Champion (RDCH) title and the Road Dog Excellent Champion (RDXCH) title.

Assisting the Sports - Agility Modifications That Expire at Year End

For Agility, three Regulations were suspended or modified until year-end 2020 to provide clubs and exhibitors flexibility due to COVID-19. The three modifications are - (1) Two judges required to earn a title, (2) Closing dates seven days prior to the event, and (3) Waiver of 30 days and 100-mile restriction on judges.

The Board VOTED to approve the three modification as follows:

(1) Two-judge requirement to title - this waiver will be continued through December 31, 2021.

(2) Closing Dates –to permanently change Chapter 1 of the *Regulations for Agility Trials* to allow clubs licensed for agility, at their option, to close the event not less than seven (7) days prior to the trial. This is a change from fourteen (14) days prior to the trial. This change will be effective January 1, 2021.

REGULATONS FOR AGILITY TRIALS AND AGILITY COURSE TEST (ACT)

CHAPTER 1

Section 14. Opening and Closing Dates.

Opening Date: For all trials, clubs shall set a date and time that entries will first be accepted. Entries received prior to the opening date shall be considered invalid entries and shall be returned as soon as possible.

Closing Date: Clubs shall set a date and time that entries will close.

- The closing date for the trial shall not be less than seven (7) days prior to the trial.
- Entries must be received prior to the published closing date and time.
- Entries for any agility trial may be accepted until the official closing date and time even though the advertised limit has been reached.
- The club may contact exhibitors to notify them of their entry status prior to the closing date.
- Following the closing date, the Trial Secretary shall promptly contact all entrants and advise them of their status. Entries not accepted shall be returned within seven (7) days of the closing date

(3) Waiver of Judge Distance and Time Regulation – to extend this accommodation Waiver of 30 days and 200-mile restriction on judges through December 31, 2021. This waiver will be reevaluated prior to December 31, 2021.

Delegate Approvals

The Board VOTED to approve the following individuals to serve as Delegates:

Claudia L. Burk, Bakersfield, CA
To represent Kern County Kennel Club

Carey Fayram, Gilroy, CA
To represent Del Monte Kennel Club

Jan Ritchie Gladstone, Stokesdale, NC
To represent St. Petersburg Dog Fanciers Association

Heidi Henningson, Springfield, NE
To represent American Chesapeake Club

Michael L. Moscovitz, New Haven, CT
To represent Shoreline Retriever Club

Sherri Swabb, Sugarcreek Township, OH
To represent Dayton Dog Training Club

Laurie Zembrzuski, Leesburg, VA
To represent Bedlington Terrier Club of America

Request for AKC Membership

The Board VOTED to approve the following Club of Membership:

Arrowhead Kennel Club
Focal Point: Peoria, AZ

Resolution Edd. E. Bivin

AT A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF
THE AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB
Held on **November first, two thousand and twenty,**
The following Resolution was unanimously adopted:

WHEREAS,
Edd Embry Bivin

First joined the Chairman's Committee on the Judging Approval Process at the July of two thousand and seventeen meeting of the Board of Directors to review the Board Approved Judging Approval Process and determine where modifications may be warranted, and served on the Committee until April of two thousand and twenty; and,

WHEREAS, as a member of Chairman's Committee on the Judging Approval Process he played an integral role in upholding the principals of fair play and

the pursuit of excellence that form the foundation upon which our cherished institution rests; and

WHEREAS, as a Committee Member he brought to bear his invaluable experience gained during his time on the Judges Review Committee from March two thousand and twelve to April two thousand and thirteen, his many years as Vice Chancellor of Texas Christian University, and his nearly sixty years as an AKC judge whose keen knowledge and impeccable reputation has earned him the respect and esteem of dog fanciers around the world; and, WHEREAS, the work of the Chairman's Committee on the Judging Approval Process resulted in the revised Judging Approval Process presented to and approved by the Board of Directors in November of two thousand and seventeen and effective January the first, two thousand and eighteen; and WHEREAS, the revised process placed emphasis on reestablishing the difference between equality of opportunity and identical treatment of applicants, and provided a clear and defined path for approval while upholding the Mission Statement and Core Values of The American Kennel Club; and, WHEREAS, we are ever mindful of the vital contributions he has made to The American Kennel Club and the Sport of Purebred Dogs; and, WHEREAS, we will ever cherish our association with this dog show judge of unprecedented achievement, educator, sportsman, and friend; and,

NOW THEREFORE, be it

RESOLVED, the Directors of The American Kennel Club extend their most sincere best wishes for the years ahead and their deep appreciation for his dedicated service to The American Kennel Club.

Dr. Thomas M. Davies
AKC Chairman

Resolution Ronald H. Menaker

AT A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF
THE AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB
Held on **November first, two thousand and twenty**,
The following Resolution was unanimously adopted:

WHEREAS,
RONALD H. MENAKER

Established the AKC Chairman's Committee on the Judging Approval Process and assumed the role of the Committee's Chairman at the July of two thousand and seventeen meeting of the Board of Directors to review the Board Approved Judging Approval Process and determine where modifications may be warranted, and served as Chairman of the Committee until April of two thousand and twenty; and,
WHEREAS, as Chairman of the Committee on the Judging Approval Process he played a leadership role in upholding the principals of fair play and the pursuit

of excellence that form the foundation upon which our cherished institution rests; and

WHEREAS, as Committee Chairman he was uniquely qualified to lead the review of the Judging Approval Process by virtue of his many years as an AKC Delegate, his long tenure on the AKC Board of Directors, his term as AKC Vice Chairman of the Board, his fourteen years as AKC Chairman of the Board, his work during ten years as Show Chairman of the AKC National Championship Show, and his status as a respected dog show judge of international reputation; and,

WHEREAS, the work of the Chairman's Committee on the Judging Approval Process resulted in the revised Judging Approval Process presented to and approved by the Board of Directors in November of two thousand and seventeen and effective January the first, two thousand and eighteen; and

WHEREAS, the revised process placed emphasis on reestablishing the difference between equality of opportunity and identical treatment of applicants, and provided a clear and defined path for approval while upholding the Mission Statement and Core Values of The American Kennel Club; and,

WHEREAS, we are ever mindful of the vital contributions he has made to The American Kennel Club and the Sport of Purebred Dogs; and,

WHEREAS, we will ever cherish our association with this sportsman, businessman, friend, and towering figure in the history of our organization; and,

NOW THEREFORE, be it

RESOLVED, the Directors of The American Kennel Club extend their most sincere best wishes for the years ahead and their deep appreciation for his dedicated service to The American Kennel Club.

Dr. Thomas M. Davies
AKC Chairman

Resolution Frank T. Sabella

AT A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF

THE AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB

Held on **November first, two thousand and twenty,**

The following Resolution was unanimously adopted:

WHEREAS,

Frank T. Sabella

First joined the Chairman's Committee on the Judging Approval Process at the July of two thousand and seventeen meeting of the Board of Directors to review the Board Approved Judging Approval Process and determine where modifications may be warranted, and served on the Committee until April of two thousand and twenty; and,

WHEREAS, as a member of Chairman's Committee on the Judging Approval Process he played an integral role in upholding the principals of fair play and the pursuit of excellence that form the foundation upon which our cherished institution rests; and

WHEREAS, as a Committee Member he brought to bear his more than twenty years as one of America's most successful and popular professional dog handlers whose expert presentation of Poodles set a high standard for future generations of handlers and dogs, and his experience gained over forty-five years as a highly esteemed AKC judge who is one of only seven individuals to have handled a dog to Best in Show at Westminster Kennel Club and to have judged Best in Show at that same prestigious venue; and,

WHEREAS, the work of the Chairman's Committee on the Judging Approval Process resulted in the revised Judging Approval Process presented to and approved by the Board of Directors in November of two thousand and seventeen and effective January the first, two thousand and eighteen; and

WHEREAS, the revised process placed emphasis on reestablishing the difference between equality of opportunity and identical treatment of applicants, and provided a clear and defined path for approval while upholding the Mission Statement and Core Values of The American Kennel Club; and,

WHEREAS, we are ever mindful of the vital contributions he has made to The American Kennel Club and the Sport of Purebred Dogs; and,

WHEREAS, we will ever cherish our association with this legendary handler of show dogs, revered dog show judge, sportsman, and friend; and,

NOW THEREFORE, be it

RESOLVED, the Directors of The American Kennel Club extend their most sincere best wishes for the years ahead and their deep appreciation for his dedicated service to The American Kennel Club.

Dr. Thomas M. Davies
AKC Chairman

It was VOTED to adjourn Tuesday, September 10, 2020 at 5:27 p.m.

Adjourned

Attest: _____

Gina M. DiNardo, Executive Secretary

APPENDIX A

AKC VIRTUAL OBEDIENCE REGULATIONS **PURPOSE**

Responsible dog ownership includes training your dog to be a well-mannered and happy companion. Obedience training is the foundation for all the fun activities and performance sports available to you and your dog. The American Kennel Club Virtual Obedience program provides an opportunity for exhibitors to train their dogs, evaluate their skill and teamwork, and stay engaged in the sport of Obedience when they are not able to attend events in person.

The performance area, known as the ring, may be set up outside or inside and on any surface. Instructions are provided to assist you in properly setting up the ring and positioning the camera. Once the online entry form is received, you will receive a confirmation email and your video will be assigned to a judge for review. AKC will notify you of the preliminary scoring results via email. All eligible qualifying scores will be recorded on your dog's AKC record and applied towards the relevant title.

If, after reading the information contained in these Regulations, you have questions about the virtual obedience program, you may email VOE@akc.org.

CHAPTER 1 **GENERAL INFORMATION** **REGULATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS** **VIRTUAL OBEDIENCE**

Section 1. General Eligibility. To be entered in an AKC Virtual Obedience event, the dog must be six months of age or older and registered with the American Kennel Club or recorded through the AKC Purebred Alternative Listing Program (PAL) or Canine Partners Program.

- [PAL Program](#)
- [Canine Partners Program](#)
- [Registration](#)

Section 2. Class Eligibility. The requirements to enter a class are covered under each class section in these Regulations. Any dog that has been disqualified at an AKC event is not eligible to be entered in any AKC events, including all virtual events.

Section 3. Assignment Conflicts. To avoid judge assignment conflicts, the following owners/exhibitors should send an email stating the conflict and entry information to VOE@akc.org as soon as the entry is submitted.

- If the exhibitor has participated in a training session with one of the virtual judges within ten (10) days of submitting the entry.
- If the exhibitor resides in the same household as one of the virtual obedience judges.
- If the dog is owned or being exhibited by one of the virtual obedience judges or by a member of the same household.
- If a dog has been owned, sold, held under lease or handled in the ring within six months by a virtual judge or by any person residing in the same household as the judge.

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Section 4. Dogs that May Enter. The following dogs **may** enter Virtual Obedience events:

- Any dog that has been surgically altered to correct a congenital or hereditary defect.
- Spayed bitches or castrated dogs, and dogs with disqualifying conformation faults.
- Females in season.
- Dogs with artificial coloring in their coats; however, the coloring must not cover more than one-third of the dog's coat, must not be in poor taste and cannot contain profanity.
- Handicapped dogs, such as three-legged dogs, provided that the dog appears willing and does not show any signs of discomfort or pain.
- Dogs with pacemakers; these dogs may perform with a harness on, if one is medically necessary (please send an email to VOE@akc.org before submitting an entry).
- Deaf dogs.
- One-eyed dogs.

Section 5. Dogs that May Not Enter. The following dogs **may not** enter in Virtual Obedience events:

- No dog under six months of age.
- A dog that is blind, as in without useful vision.
- A dog that appears sick or in pain.
- A dog that is disqualified from AKC events.

Section 6. Collars, Leashes, and Training Aids. The dog must wear a properly fitted collar, not too tight and not too loose. No harnesses or special training collars, such as electronic or prong collars, will be permitted. Nothing may be hanging from the dog's collar or leash.

- If an obedience exercise requires a specific length of leash, it is specified in the description of the exercise.
- The leash must be made of material other than chain and be long enough to provide adequate slack.
- Martingale and chain collars, flat or rolled leather collars, and fabric collars are all acceptable.
- In all exercises where a leash is required, it must be clipped to the collar. During the performance, the leash may be held in either hand or both hands but must not be used to aid or guide the dog.
- Handlers who carry or offer food or toys in the ring, or who verbally or physically discipline their dogs, will receive a non-qualifying (NQ) score.
- Handlers who carry or wear such things as waist packs/pouches/cell phones or any item that, in the judge's opinion, appears to be a training device or aid will receive a non-qualifying (NQ) score.

Section 7. Performance Area and Ring Size Requirements. The performance area is defined as a ring. The ring should resemble a rectangle.

- Minimum size for the Beginner Novice and Novice ring is 30 feet x 40 feet.
- Maximum size for the Beginner Novice and Novice ring is 40 feet x 50 feet.

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Section 8. Ring Set Up and Equipment. The ring may be set up inside or outside on any surface. The owner/exhibitor is responsible for following all local/state mandates and ordinances.

- The four ring corners must be identified. The corners may be marked using tall cones, chairs, or posts of any kind. Ring gates and/or ropes may be used but are not required.
- Small cones, pots, buckets, or signs must be used as markers to define the location of each exercise and as heeling pattern markers according to the ring layout map.
- Avoid having obstacles in the ring that may obstruct the judge's view of the performance.
- The obedience heeling pattern markers may be set up using rally signs, handwritten signs on sticks, cones, etc., to mark the halts, turns and changes of speed. If signs are used, they must be upright and not lying flat on the ground.
- The obedience heeling pattern markers are placed to the right of the of the handler's path except for those indicating a change of direction; those markers are placed directly in front of the team's path.
- Cones, pots, buckets, or posts of any kind spaced 8' apart may be used for the Figure 8.

Section 9. Camera Position and Filming. The video must be clear, not blurry. The leash must be visible to the judge throughout the entire performance. Lighting must be considered; avoid filming directly into the sun and be careful of sun glares where portions of the dog and leash disappear. Heavily shaded areas may cause the video to be too dark.

- Minimum resolution to view videos is 720p HD. Check the camera settings before filming and set the video to the highest resolution.
- Filming must be done in landscape (horizontal) mode. Do not use the selfie mode as this will put the dog on the wrong side of the handler.
- Filming must be done from the location shown on the map. The camera should remain in a stationary position.
- A second person may do the filming to pan and zoom, provided a tripod is used and the person remains outside the ring.
- The camera should be elevated to approximately eye level. The team must be in full view of the judge throughout the performance.
- The video must contain audio. The judge must be able to hear the sounds closest to the camera. Background noises are expected but do not add music to the performance. If a person is filming, they must remain silent once the performance begins and until the team exits the ring.
- Prior to beginning the performance, the handler must be near the camera to state the dog's call name and breed, to verbally confirm that they will not have any food or toys with them in the ring, and to show the camera the dog's collar and leash.
- Once the handler enters the ring to perform, the video must be continuous, with no pauses and no edits.
- To avoid cutting out portions of the performance, it is recommended to start recording at least 5 seconds before starting and to not stop recording until about 5 seconds after the team exits the ring.
- To avoid delays in judging, review the video on a device other than the one you used to film it to ensure it is a working link and meets the requirements outlined in these Regulations.

Section 10. Obedience Performance Requirements and Scoring. These Regulations set the standard of perfection by which the performance of each dog is scored; however, not every possible error and penalty is covered, only the more common and serious ones. Performance requirements are described for each exercise followed by the relevant scoring section.

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The judge must carry a mental picture of the theoretically perfect performance for each exercise and score each dog and handler against that standard. The dog should demonstrate the utmost in willingness, enjoyment and precision while the handler remains gentle, smooth and natural. Speed alone does not indicate willingness. A lack of willingness and enjoyment on the part of the dog is to be penalized, as must a lack of precision. Roughness in handling or harsh commands by the handler will be penalized.

A perfect score in obedience is 200 points, and there will be no deduction of less than one-half point. A minor deduction is defined as ½ - 2 ½ points. A substantial deduction is defined as 3 points or more, up to and including a non-qualifying (NQ) score. A qualifying score consists of more than 50 percent of the points for each exercise with a total score of at least 170 points; this certifies that the team has performed all the required exercises according to these requirements.

A qualifying score must never be awarded to a dog whose performance has not met the minimum requirements, to a dog that shows fear or resentment, or to a dog that relieves itself while in the ring.

In deciding whether a faulty performance of an exercise warrants a qualifying score, the judge will consider whether the awarding of an obedience title would be justified if all teams performed the exercise in a similar manner. The judge must not give a qualifying score for the exercise if they decide that it would be contrary to the best interest of the sport if all teams were to perform in the same way.

The dog and handler are under judgment from the time they enter the ring until they leave the ring.

The virtual obedience judge will follow these Virtual Obedience Regulations and refer to the regular Obedience Regulations for additional matters concerning judging.

Section 11. Physically Challenged Handlers. Specific requirements of these regulations may be modified so that physically challenged handlers may compete. Such handlers must be able to move around the ring without physical assistance or guidance. However, an assistant may position a blind handler before, between and after each exercise, read any ring markers used in the class and communicate to the handler the dog's performance. Dogs handled by such handlers will be required to perform all parts of all exercises as described in these regulations and will be penalized for failure to perform any part of an exercise.

Physically challenged handlers should email Virtual Obedience at VOE@akc.org with specific questions.

Section 12. Double Handling. Any attempts to control the dog by someone other than the handler, or to assist the handler, must be penalized substantially.

Section 13. Decisions. The decision of the judge will be final in all matters concerning the performance and scoring of the team.

Section 14. Heel Position. The heel position as defined in these regulations applies whether the dog is sitting, standing, lying down or moving at heel. The dog should be at the handler's left side, straight in line with the direction the handler is facing. The area from the dog's head to shoulder is to be in line with the handler's left hip. The dog should be close to but not crowding its handler, so that the handler always has freedom of motion.

Section 15. Hands and Arms. The handler is required to have their hands and arms in a natural position throughout each exercise to avoid penalty.

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The Heel on Leash and Figure Eight exercise specifically states that the hands must be in a natural position, i.e. not behind the handler's back, but do not require that they be at the handler's side while heeling on leash.

In all exercises where the dog is required to heel free, i.e. off leash, one of these options should be followed:

- When the handler is in motion, the arms and hands must move naturally at the sides and must hang naturally at the sides when stopped; or
- The right hand and arm must move naturally at the side, while the left hand must be held against the front of the body, centered in the area of the waist, with the left forearm carried against the body.

There will be a substantial deduction if the hands and arms are not carried in one of these positions. The hands and arms may be adjusted during the fast portion of an exercise in order to maintain balance.

In any exercise that requires a dog to sit in front, the handler's arms and hands must hang naturally at the sides until the dog has sat in front. The handler must receive a substantial deduction for not doing so.

- Any movement of the handler's hands or arms, from the time the dog sits in front and prior to the dog returning to the heel position, will be considered an additional signal or command and will be penalized, unless such movement is otherwise permitted by these regulations.

In any exercise that requires the dog to stay in one position until the handler returns to heel position, handlers may fold their arms once while leaving and once while returning to the dog without penalty. Additional movement of the arms and hands that aid the dog will be considered additional signals and will be penalized.

No judge should consider that a handler's position is unnatural just because they do not perform with the hands and arms in the same position for each exercise. Handlers need not maintain the same position of hands and arms across exercises.

Section 16. Commands and Signals. Each exercise states when a command or signal is permitted, only one or the other, or if both a command and/or signal may be used.

- When these regulations mention a command or signal, only a single command or signal may be given.
- When these regulations specify command and/or signal, the handler may give either one or the other, or both command and signal simultaneously.

Loud commands by handlers to their dogs create a poor impression of obedience and should be avoided. If a dog is properly trained to respond to a normal tone of voice, shouting is not necessary. Commands the judge feels are excessively loud under the circumstances will be penalized substantially.

When a signal is permitted, it must be a single gesture with one arm and hand only, and the arm and hand must immediately be returned to a natural position.

- A handler may bend their body and knees to bring their hand level with the dog's eyes while giving a signal to a dog in heel position.
- Signals must be inaudible, and the handler must not touch the dog. Any unusual noise or motion may be considered a signal.
- Position of the arms and hands and movements of the head and/or body that aid the dog will be considered additional signals.
- Signaling a correction to a dog is forbidden and will be penalized.

Lack of prompt response by the dog to a command or signal is subject to a penalty. Delays by the handler in giving a command or signal, beyond the obvious pause, must be penalized. The dog should never anticipate the handler's directions but will wait for the appropriate commands and/or signals. Moving forward at the heel without any command or signal other than the natural forward movement of the handler's body will not be considered anticipation.

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The dog's name may be used once immediately before a verbal command or before a verbal command and signal when these regulations permit a command and/or signal. A dog that responds to its name without waiting for the verbal command will be scored as having anticipated the command. The name will not be used with any signal not given simultaneously with a verbal command. Whistling is prohibited and must be penalized.

Any extra commands or signals must be penalized. An extra command and/or signal in any non-principal part of an exercise (e.g., the finish in the Novice Recall) does not constitute a failing score for that exercise.

Section 17. Additional Commands or Signals. If a handler gives an additional command or signal not permitted by these Regulations, the dog shall be scored as though it had failed to perform that part of the exercise. This includes giving a signal or command when none is permitted or using the dog's name with a permitted signal but without a permitted command.

Section 18. Praise. Praise and petting are allowed between and after exercises, but points will be deducted from the total score for a dog that is not under reasonable control while being praised. There will be a substantial penalty for any dog that is picked up or carried at any time in the obedience ring.

Section 19. Handling Between Exercises. In the Beginner Novice and Novice classes, the dog may be guided gently by the collar between exercises. No other physical guidance is permitted and, if used, must receive minor or substantial penalties, depending on the circumstances. *Judging Procedures: Errors occurring before, between or after an exercise will be penalized under miscellaneous penalties.*

Section 20. Misbehavior. The handler is required to enter and exit the ring with the dog under control and without jumping, pulling or tugging on the leash. Any display of fear or nervousness by the dog must be penalized according to the seriousness of the misbehavior whether it occurs during or between an exercise or before or after judging.

If a dog is working smartly and continuously but goes outside a ring boundary while completing an exercise (as opposed to a dog that bolts out of the ring or leaves the ring between exercises), the penalty, if any, is left to the discretion of the judge.

If the misbehavior occurs during an exercise, the penalty must first be applied to the score for that exercise. Should the penalty be greater than the value of the exercise, the additional points will be deducted from the total score under Miscellaneous. If such behavior occurs before or after the judging or between exercises, the entire penalty will be deducted under Miscellaneous.

Section 21. Performance Results, Explanations and Title Certificates. Handlers will receive their preliminary performance results, via email, after an event's judging is complete. Results will include the overall score and scores for the individual exercises; judges may add brief comments on occasion. Once the official results are posted to the dog's record, a title certificate will be mailed to the address on file. Please notify us if your address has changed in the last five years.

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CHAPTER 2 **VIRTUAL BEGINNER NOVICE OBEDIENCE**

Section 1. Virtual Beginner Novice Class. The Beginner Novice Virtual class is a titling class for all dogs who are eligible according to Chapter 1 of these Virtual Obedience Regulations.

Section 2. Virtual Beginner Novice Class Exercises and Scores. The exercises and maximum scores:

<u>1. Heel on Leash</u>	<u>40 points</u>
<u>2. Figure Eight</u>	<u>40 points</u>
<u>3. Sit for Exam</u>	<u>40 points</u>
<u>4. Sit Stay</u>	<u>40 points</u>
<u>5. Recall</u>	<u>40 points</u>
<u>Maximum Score</u>	<u>200 points</u>

Section 3. Virtual Beginner Novice Title and Requirements. The letters BN-V will be added after the name of each dog that has been certified to have received three qualifying scores in the Virtual Beginner Novice class. That dog will receive a Virtual Beginner Novice title certificate from the AKC.

The letters BN-V will be followed by a numeric designation indicating the number of times a dog has met the requirements of the BN-V title as defined in the regulations. (BN-V2 for six qualifying scores, BN-V3 for nine qualifying scores, BN-V4 for twelve qualifying scores, etc.)

Section 4. Virtual Beginner Novice Ring Set Up. There are two different ring layouts to choose from <add links>. Set the exercises up according to the layout on the map. The grids are 10' x 10'.

Section 5. Introducing the Team. Prior to beginning the performance, the handler will be near the camera to state the dog's call name and breed, verbally confirm they won't have any food or toys with them in the ring, and show the dog's collar and leash to the camera.

Section 6. Before and After Each Exercise. There must be an obvious pause at the start of each exercise. Handlers may choose to cue the dog prior to the start (e.g., "ready") but must then pause before beginning. There also must be an obvious pause at the end of each exercise before the handler releases, pets, or praises the dog.

Praise and petting are allowed between and after exercises. The dog must remain under control between exercises to avoid deductions.

Section 7. Heel on Leash Description. The principal feature of this exercise is the ability of the dog and handler to work as a team.

The signs/pattern markers used for this exercise are "Start," "Right Turn," "Left Turn," "About Turn," "Slow," "Normal," "Fast," and "Halt/Sit." Slow means to slow down noticeably and fast means the handler and dog must move forward at a noticeably accelerated speed. Turns will be used only when the handler is moving at a normal speed.

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The handler will enter the ring with the dog on a loose leash and stand at the Start marker with the dog sitting in heel position. After pausing, the handler may give a command or signal to heel and will walk briskly and naturally with the dog on a loose leash. The dog should walk close to the handler's left side without moving wide away from, lagging behind, forging ahead of, or crowding the handler. The dog should not interfere with the handler's freedom of motion at any time. At the Halt/Sit marker the handler will stop and the dog should sit promptly and straight in heel position without a command or signal. After an obvious pause, the exercise is finished, and the handler may release, pet and/or praise the dog, and move efficiently to begin the Figure Eight exercise.

Section 8. Heel on Leash, Scoring. If the leash is consistently tight, i.e. not loose, or if the handler is constantly controlling the dog by tugging on the leash, constantly talking to the dog or is adapting to the dog's pace, that dog must receive a non-qualifying (NQ) score for this exercise.

Minor or substantial deductions will be made for a handler who does not pause at the start prior to moving forward, and after the Halt/Sit.

Minor deductions will be made for lagging, heeling wide, forging, crowding, poor sits, failure to sit at a halt, and other heeling imperfections. Similar deductions will be made for any tightening or jerking of the leash, for guiding the dog with the leash or failing to walk at a brisk normal pace. Minor deductions will be made for additional commands or signals to heel, or for failure of dog or handler to speed up noticeably for the fast or slow down noticeably for the slow.

A one-time single phrase of praise or encouragement by the handler to the dog is allowed without penalty. (Good, yes, nice, super, great, and attaboy/girl, are some examples of praise that would be allowed.)

Section 9. Figure Eight Description and Scoring. The principal feature of this exercise is the ability of the dog and handler to work as a team.

The Figure Eight posts will be spaced 8 feet apart. This exercise is performed on leash. The handler and dog will move to the place indicated on the map for this exercise. The handler will stand with the dog sitting in heel position, slightly back and centered between the two posts, facing forward. The Figure Eight will be performed in the direction of the arrow. The team will complete one Figure Eight and halt in the middle, pause, and then continue to complete the second Figure Eight with a halt in the middle and pause. After the second obvious pause, the exercise is finished, and the handler may release, pet and/or praise the dog, and move efficiently to set up for the Sit for Exam exercise.

During the exercise, a one-time single phrase of praise or encouragement by the handler to the dog is allowed without penalty.

Scoring is the same as described in the Heel on Leash.

Section 10. Sit for Exam Description. The principal feature of this exercise is that the dog sits in position before and during the examination.

This exercise is performed with the dog on a 6-foot leash held by the handler. The handler may gather the leash when approaching the dog for the exam and/or returning to heel position.

The handler and dog will move to the place indicated on the map for this exercise. The handler will stand with the dog sitting in heel position. The handler may command the dog to sit, pause, then may give the command and/or signal to stay, walk straight forward to the end of the 6-foot leash, turn, face the dog, and pause. The handler will then move forward to approach the dog from the front. Using the fingers and palm of either hand, the handler will briefly touch the dog's head, and then walk around behind the dog to return to heel position. After an obvious pause, the exercise is finished, and the handler may release, pet, and/or praise the dog, and move efficiently to begin the Sit Stay – Handler Walk Around the Ring exercise.

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Section 11. Sit for Exam, Scoring. A dog must receive a non-qualifying (NQ) score if it stands, lies down, or moves away from the place where it was left either before or during the examination.

Substantial deductions will be made for any extra command and/or signal given to the dog after the handler has left the heel position.

Minor or substantial deductions will be made for dropping or tightening of the leash during the exercise, or if the dog stands and/or moves away after the examination has been completed.

Minor deductions will be made for a dog that moves its feet at any time.

Section 12. Sit Stay – Handler Walk Around the Ring Description. The principal feature of this exercise is that the dog remains in the sit position once the handler has left the dog and until the handler has returned to heel position.

During this exercise, the leash remains clipped to the dog's collar.

The handler and dog will move to the place indicated on the map for this exercise. The handler will stand with the dog sitting in heel position and will drop/place the leash on the ground. The handler may command the dog to sit, pause, then give the command and/or signal to stay, and immediately proceed to walk around the inside perimeter of the ring as indicated on the map.

Upon completing a full perimeter walk around the ring, the handler will approach the dog from the front, and proceed to walk around behind the dog to return to heel position. After an obvious pause, the exercise is finished, and the handler may release, pet and/or praise the dog, and move efficiently to begin the Recall exercise.

Section 13. Sit Stay – Handler Walk Around the Ring, Scoring. A non-qualifying (NQ) score is required for any additional command and/or signal once the handler has left heel position, and for the dog moving a substantial distance away from the place where it was left any time during the exercise, not remaining in the sit position until the handler has returned to heel position, and repeatedly barking or whining.

A substantial deduction will be made for a dog that moves even a short distance from where it was left, barks or whines only once or twice, or changes position after the handler has returned to the heel position but before the exercise is finished.

Section 14. Recall Description. The principal features of this exercise are that the dog stay where left until called by the handler, and that the dog responds promptly to the handler's command or signal to come.

The leash is removed for this exercise and is kept by the handler. The handler may hold the leash in either hand, put the leash in a pocket, or drape it around their neck.

The handler and dog will move to the place indicated on the map for this exercise. The handler will stand with the dog sitting in heel position. The handler may command the dog to sit, pause, then give the command and/or signal to stay and walk forward to the second recall ring marker, turn to face the dog, and pause. The handler will command or signal the dog to come. Thereafter, the handler's arms and hands should hang naturally at the sides until the dog has sat in front.

The dog must come directly at a brisk trot or gallop and sit straight, centered in front of the handler. While the dog is coming to the handler, a one-time single phrase of praise or encouragement is allowed without penalty. The dog must come close enough to its handler so that the handler could touch its head without excessive bending, stretching, or moving either foot. After an obvious pause, the exercise is finished, and the handler may release, pet and/or praise the dog. The handler will clip the leash to the dog's collar and exit the ring with the dog under control and without jumping, pulling or tugging on the leash.

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Section 15. Recall, Scoring. A dog must receive a non-qualifying (NQ) score if it is given an additional command and/or signal to stay, if more than two commands or signals are required for the dog to come, if it fails to come, if it moves from the place it was left before being called or signaled to come, or if it does not come close enough to its handler so that the handler could touch its head without excessive bending, stretching, or moving either foot.

Substantial deductions will be made for a handler's extra command or signal to come or to sit.

Minor or substantial deductions will be made if the dog fails to come directly at a brisk trot or gallop or fails to sit.

Minor deductions will be made for slow or poor sits.

CHAPTER 3 **VIRTUAL NOVICE OBEDIENCE**

Section 1. Virtual Novice Class. The Novice Virtual class is a titling class for all dogs who are eligible according to Chapter 1 of these Virtual Obedience Regulations.

Section 2. Virtual Novice Class Exercises and Scores. The exercises and maximum scores:

<u>1. Heel on Leash & Figure</u>	<u>40 points</u>
<u>Eight</u>	
<u>2. Down Stay</u>	<u>30 points</u>
<u>3. Stand for Examination</u>	<u>30 points</u>
<u>4. Heel Free</u>	<u>40 points</u>
<u>5. Recall</u>	<u>30 points</u>
<u>6. Sit Stay – Get Your Leash</u>	<u>30 points</u>
<u>Maximum Score</u>	<u>200 points</u>

Section 3. Virtual Companion Dog Title and Requirements. The letters CD-V will be added after the name of each dog that has been certified to have received three qualifying scores in the Virtual Novice class. That dog will receive a Virtual Companion Dog title certificate from the AKC.

The letters CD-V will be followed by a numeric designation indicating the number of times a dog has met the requirements of the CD-V title as defined in the regulations. (CD-V2 for six qualifying scores, CD-V3 for nine qualifying scores, CD-V4 for twelve qualifying scores, etc.)

Section 4. Virtual Novice Ring Set Up. There are two different ring layouts to choose from <add links>.

Set the exercises up according to the layout on the map. The grids are 10' x 10'.

Section 5. Introducing the Team. Prior to beginning the performance, the handler will be near the camera to state the dog's call name and breed, verbally confirm they won't have any food or toys with them in the ring, and show the dog's collar and leash to the camera.

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Section 6. Before and After Each Exercise. There must be an obvious pause at the start of each exercise. Handlers may choose to cue the dog prior to the start (e.g., "ready") but must then pause before beginning. There also must be an obvious pause at the end of each exercise before the handler releases, pets, or praises the dog.

Praise and petting are allowed between and after exercises. The dog must remain under control between exercises to avoid deductions.

Section 7. Heel on Leash and Figure Eight Description. The principal feature of this exercise is the ability of the dog and handler to work as a team.

The signs/markers used for this exercise are "Start," "Right Turn," "Left Turn," "About Turn," "Slow," "Normal," "Fast," and "Halt/Sit." Slow means to slow down noticeably and fast means the handler and dog must move forward at a noticeably accelerated speed. Turns will be used only when the handler is moving at a normal speed.

The handler will enter the ring with the dog on a loose leash and stand at the Start marker with the dog sitting in heel position. After pausing, the handler may give a command or signal to heel and will walk briskly and naturally with the dog on a loose leash. The dog should walk close to the handler's left side without moving wide away from, lagging behind, forging ahead of, or crowding the handler. The dog should not interfere with the handler's freedom of motion at any time. At each Halt/Sit marker the handler will stop and the dog should sit promptly and straight in heel position without a command or signal. After the last Halt/Sit and obvious pause, the exercise is finished, and the handler may release, pet and/or praise the dog, and move efficiently to begin the Figure Eight exercise.

The Figure Eight posts will be spaced 8 feet apart. The handler and dog will move to the place indicated on the map for this exercise. The handler will stand with the dog sitting in heel position, slightly back and centered between the two posts, facing forward. The Figure Eight will be performed in the direction of the arrow. The team will complete one Figure Eight and halt/sit in the middle, pause, and then continue to complete the second Figure Eight with a halt/sit in the middle, and pause. After the second obvious pause, the exercise is finished, and the handler may release, pet and/or praise the dog, and move efficiently to begin the Down Stay exercise.

Section 8. Heel on Leash and Figure Eight, Scoring. If the leash is consistently tight, i.e. not loose, or if the handler is constantly controlling the dog by tugging on the leash, constantly talking to the dog or is adapting to the dog's pace, that dog must receive a non-qualifying (NQ) score for this exercise.

Depending on the circumstances, minor or substantial deductions, will be made for a handler who does not pause at the start prior to moving forward, and after each halt/sit, for additional commands or signals to heel or for failure of dog or handler to speed up noticeably for the fast or slow down noticeably for the slow.

Minor or substantial deductions will be made for lagging, heeling wide, forging, crowding, poor sits, failure to sit at a halt and other heeling imperfections. Similar deductions will be made for any tightening or jerking of the leash, for a handler guiding the dog with the leash, or not walking at a brisk normal pace.

Section 9. Down Stay – Place Leash, Handler Walk Around the Ring Description. The principal feature of this exercise is that the dog remains in the down position once the handler has left the dog and until the handler has returned to heel position.

The handler and dog will move to the place indicated on the map for this exercise. The handler will stand with the dog either sitting or standing in heel position. The handler will remove the leash, pause, and command and/or signal the dog to down. The handler may bend their body and

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knees while giving a signal, but then must immediately stand up and pause. If a signal is used, it must be given with the hand that is not holding the leash. The handler will give a command and/or signal to stay, then immediately leave the dog and proceed to place the leash on the leash holder, and then walk around the inside perimeter of the ring as indicated on the map.

Upon completing a full perimeter walk around the ring, the handler will approach the dog from the front, and proceed to walk around behind the dog to return to heel position. After an obvious pause, the exercise is finished, and the handler may release, pet and/or praise the dog, and move efficiently to begin the Stand for Examination exercise.

Section 10. Down Stay – Handler Walk Around the Ring, Scoring. A non-qualifying (NQ) score is required for any additional command and/or signal once the handler has left heel position, and for the dog moving a substantial distance away from the place where it was left any time during the exercise, not remaining in the down position until the handler has returned to heel position, and repeatedly barking or whining.

A substantial deduction will be made for a dog that moves even a short distance from where it was left, barks or whines only once or twice, or changes position after the handler has returned to the heel position but before the exercise is finished.

Section 11. Stand for Examination Description. The principal feature of this exercise is that the dog stand in position before and during the examination.

The handler and dog will move to the place indicated on the map for this exercise. The dog does not need to be in a sit to begin this exercise. The handler may stand/pose the dog by the method of the handler's choice, without being rough, taking reasonable time to pose the dog. The handler will then stand up in heel position, give the command and/or signal to stay, walk straight forward about 6 feet, turn, face the dog, and pause. The handler will then move forward to approach the dog from the front. Using the fingers and palm of either hand, the handler will briefly touch the dog's head, body, and hind quarters, and then walk around behind the dog to return to heel position. After an obvious pause, the exercise is finished, and the handler may release, pet, and/or praise the dog, and move efficiently to begin the Heel Free exercise.

Section 12. Stand for Examination, Scoring. A non-qualifying (NQ) score is required for the following: The dog sits, lies down, or moves away from the place where it was left either before or during the examination; the dog growls, snaps or displays fear or resentment; the handler gives an additional command and/or signal after leaving heel position.

Substantial deductions will be made for rough treatment by the handler or active resistance by the dog to stand.

Minor or substantial deductions will be made for a dog that shows shyness, moves its feet at any time or sits and/or moves away after the examination has been completed.

Section 13. Heel Free, Performance and Scoring. This exercise will be performed the same as the Heel on Leash, using the same heeling pattern, but without either the leash or the Figure Eight. The scoring will be the same. Once the exercise is finished, after an obvious pause, the handler may release, pet, and/or praise the dog, and move efficiently to begin the Recall exercise.

Section 14. Recall Description. The principal features of this exercise are that the dog stay where left until called by the handler, and that the dog responds promptly to the handler's first command or signal to come.

APPENDIX A

The handler and dog will move to the place indicated on the map for this exercise. The handler will stand with the dog sitting in the heel position. The handler may command the dog to sit, pause, then give the command and/or signal to stay and walk forward to the second recall ring marker, turn to face the dog, and pause. The handler will command or signal the dog to come. Thereafter, the handler's arms and hands should hang naturally at the sides until the dog has sat in front.

The dog must come directly at a brisk trot or gallop and sit straight, centered in front of the handler. The dog must be close enough to its handler so that the handler could touch its head without excessive bending, stretching, or moving either foot. After an obvious pause, the handler will give a command or signal for the dog to finish, i.e. to move from the front position to heel position. The dog must go smartly to heel position and sit. The direction and manner in which the dog performs the finish is optional, provided it is prompt and that the dog sits straight at heel. After an obvious pause, the exercise is finished, and the handler may release, pet and/or praise the dog and move efficiently to begin the Sit Stay exercise.

Section 15. Recall, Scoring. A dog must receive a non-qualifying (NQ) score if it is given an additional command and/or signal to stay, if it fails to come on the first command or signal, if it moves from the place it was left before being called or signaled to come, or if it does not sit close enough to its handler so that the handler could touch its head without excessive bending, stretching or moving either foot.

Substantial deductions will be made for a handler's extra command or signal to sit or finish and for a dog that fails to remain sitting and either stands or lies down, fails to come at a brisk trot or gallop, fails to sit in front, or fails to finish or sit at heel.

Minor or substantial deductions will be made for slow or poor sits, for finishes that are not prompt or smart, for touching the handler on coming in or while finishing, and for sitting between the handler's feet.

Section 16. Sit Stay – Get Your Leash Description. The principal feature of this exercise is that the dog remains in the sit position.

The handler and dog will move to the place indicated on the map for this exercise. The handler will stand with the dog sitting in heel position. The handler may command and/or signal the dog to sit without touching either the dog or the dog's collar. The handler will give a command and/or signal to stay and will walk forward immediately to the leash holder, pick up the leash, turn, face the dog and pause. After an obvious pause, the handler will return directly, walking around and behind the dog to heel position and pause. The dog must not move from the sitting position until released after an obvious pause. The handler will clip leash to the dog's collar and exit the ring with the dog under control and without jumping, pulling or tugging on the leash.

Section 17. Sit Stay – Get Your Leash, Scoring. A non-qualifying score (NQ) is required for the following: The dog moving a substantial distance away from the place where it was left any time during the exercise, not remaining in the sit position until the handler has returned to heel position, and repeatedly barking or whining.

Substantial deductions will be made for a dog that moves even a short distance from where it was left, that barks or whines only once or twice, or that changes from the sit position after the handler has returned to the heel position but before an obvious pause by the handler. A substantial deduction, under Miscellaneous Penalties, must be made for a dog that does not remain under control while exiting the ring.

APPENDIX A

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

AKC Canine Partners – an American Kennel Club program that is available to spayed/neutered dogs that are not currently eligible for AKC registration, AKC Foundation Stock Service (FSS) enrollment, or an AKC Purebred Alternative Listing (PAL) number.

Brisk, briskly – keenly alive, alert, energetic.

Command – verbal order from handler to dog.

Crowding – a dog so close to the handler as to interfere with the handler's freedom of motion.

Directly – immediately, without deviation or hesitation.

Down – the dog's body is on the ground; the dog's weight is off the feet and legs.

Finish – the dog goes from a position in front of the handler to the heel position.

Gently – with kindness, without harshness or roughness.

Guiding gently by the collar – control of the dog by holding any part of the collar with minimal pressure on the dog's neck.

Leash Holder – an item identified as a place to put the leash during the class.

Minor deduction – 1/2 point to 2 1/2 points.

Natural – not artificial; free of affectation; what is customarily expected in the home or public places.

Prompt response – without hesitation, immediate, quick.

Resentment – resistance, unwillingness.

Ring – performance area, resembles a rectangle, four corners must be marked, void of obstacles that obstruct the judge's view.

Signal – nonverbal direction from the handler to dog, as described in Chapter 1, Section 16.

Sit – the dog has its rear and/or hocks on the ground.

Smartly – quickly, vigorously.

Substantial deduction – 3 points or more.

Training session – as related to where a student-handler/teacher-judge relationship is established, with or without compensation.