

**American Kennel Club, Inc.**  
**MEETING of the BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**AKC Offices at 101 Park Avenue, New York, NY and via Video Conference**  
**February 9, 2021**

The Board convened via Zoom video conference on Tuesday February 9, 2021 at 11:00 a.m. Eastern Time.

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 January 12, 2021 Board Meeting minutes, copies of which had been provide to all Directors, were reviewed.

Upon a motion by Dr. Battaglia, seconded by Ms. McAteer, the January 12, 2021 Board Meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

### **PRESIDENTS REPORT**

Mr. Sprung provided a summary of 2020 Sports & Events results as well as Registration successes and general updates.

#### **Sports & Events**

2020 was obviously a difficult year for AKC Sports & Events. Events are down by 10,000 and Entries down by 1.4 million. Rally and Obedience lagged at 60% and 54%, respectively. Standing out positively were Fast CAT, Scent and Herding. Others with very respectable numbers are Hunting Tests, Lure Coursing, Agility, Field Trials and CAT. Mr. Sprung stated that he has stressed to the Sports and Events Department that it is important to continuously assess how AKC can be of additional assistance to clubs to hold more events; as this year was very challenging with multiple postponements by clubs.

The Sports & Events Department is working with the Business Intelligence group to enhance event processing using similar sophisticated monitoring tools that AKC currently use in Registration. At a meeting last week, their research and dashboards were impressive, and enhancements have been identified.

A theme we are hearing from several conformation clubs is the concern about the age of their membership combined with the COVID-19 environment.

#### **Registration**

Individual registration ended 2020 at 26% better than budget and Litters 19%. Our metrics reveal that queues are short. There is difficulty with the processing of foreign dog registrations due to other countries internal delays. Staff has reached out in order to assist our core constituency.

2021 started out strong for us with January Dogs up 38% and Litters up 42% year-over-year.

**March 2021 AKC Board of Directors Election**

Gina DiNardo and Mr. Sprung met with Staff and KPMG to review the voting tabulation process that will be used for the March Board election. There is confidence in the process being utilized.

**Other**

Mr. Sprung reported on more good news. Mr. Sprung has informed the Board that last month, a new gas generator was being installed in the Raleigh office. The day following the January 2021 Board Meeting the work was completed. Due to weather issues on Saturday, January 30<sup>th</sup>, the electricity in North Carolina went out and the generator kicked in resulting in no disruption to work for AKC Reunite, AKC Canine Health Foundation and AKC.

**AKC Museum of the Dog**

Mr. Sprung reminded the Board of the February 12, 2021 virtual event – Night with the Museum honoring Ron Menaker from 8:00-9:00 p.m. Eastern Time.

**Legal Update**

Heather McManus, Deputy General Counsel, participated in this portion of the meeting. The Board reviewed a Legal Department update as of January 2021.

**IT Security**

Tim Pursell, Director, Information Technology and Torraine William, Director, Engineering, participated in this portion of the meeting. Staff presented an overview of AKC's Cybersecurity and Enterprise Risk Management Programs and the steps AKC has taken to educate staff to prevent phishing and malware scams.

**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 an interim financial report for the twelve months ending December 31, 2020.

Despite the ongoing COVID-19 restrictions, AKC's operations reported positive net operating results at year end.

December 31, 2020, Net Operating Income is estimated at \$13.5 million primarily due to registration revenues and organization-wide cost containment, offset by lower recording, staffing and service fees.

Registration Statistics presented against budget and prior year are as follows: 2020 YTD Litter Registration was 10% ahead of budget, 12% better than 2019 YTD. 2020 YTD Dog Registration was 18% ahead of budget, 20% better than 2019 YTD.

Registration Fees exceed the prior year by 20%, or \$6.6 million. Increased Dog registrations led this category over 2019 results by 25%, or \$5.6 million.

Pedigree & Other Litter fees exceed budget by 27% or \$1.8 million primarily due to 3-Generation Pedigree Sales.

Events & Entries continue to reflect the impact of COVID-19 restrictions. Compared to the same period in 2019, Events & Entries were down by 46% & 44%, respectively.

Events & Other Fees trail budget and 2019 Actual by 39% and 35%, respectively. This change is primarily due to Recording & Service Fees, which trail the prior year by 43% or \$5.3 million.

Product & Service Sales exceed budget by 8% or \$872,000 led by e-commerce merchandise sales, which exceeded 2019 results by 55% or \$697,000.

Advertising, Sponsor/Royalties trailed the 2020 budget by 12% or \$1.6 million due to a combination of lower-income across all lines because of COVID-19 restrictions.

### **EXECUTIVE SECRETARY**

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

### **Belgian Malinois Proposed Breed Standard Revision**

The Board reviewed the proposed revisions to the breed standard for the Belgian Malinois as submitted by the American Belgian Malinois Club, Inc. (ABMC). The current standard was approved July 10, 1990.

Following a motion by Dr. Garvin, seconded by Mrs. Wallin, the Board VOTED (unanimously) approval for the ABMC to proceed to ballot its membership on the standard changes in accordance with the club's Constitution and Bylaws.

### **Manchester Terrier Proposed Breed Standard Revision**

The Board reviewed the proposed revisions to the breed standard for the Manchester Terrier as submitted by the American Manchester Terrier Club, (AMTC). The current standard was approved June 10, 1991.

Following a motion by Mr. Tatro, seconded by Mr. Sweetwood, the Board VOTED (unanimously) approval for the proposed revisions to the Manchester Terrier breed standard to be published for comment in the Secretary's Page of the *AKC Gazette*.

### **Sloughi Stud Book**

The Board reviewed a request from the American Sloughi Association to keep the Stud Book Open for the Breed. The Sloughi Book is scheduled to close January 1, 2021. Currently AKC will accept dogs registered with America Sloughi Association and United Kennel Club. Staff recommends the Sloughi Stud Book remain open until January 1, 2026. Following a motion by Mr. Tatro, seconded by Mr. Sweetwood, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to permit the Sloughi Stud Book to remain open until January 1, 2026.

**Bylaw Amendment**

The Board reviewed an amendment proposed from the Delegate Bylaws Committee to move Article VIII, Section 5 to Article VII, new Section 2 and renumber the remaining sections of Article VII and Article VIII.

This amendment moves an issue concerning the election of Board members from Article VIII which addresses the nominating committee and nominations for the Board to Article VII which addresses the election of Board members.

**Proposed  
(Line In)****ARTICLE VII**

**SECTION 2.** The names of all candidates for election as directors shall be published in alphabetical order on the Secretary's Page of the March AKC Gazette of the year in which they come before the annual meeting to be voted upon.

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

Following a motion by Dr. Battaglia, seconded by Dr. Davies, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to approve the recommended amendment. This will be read at the March Delegate Meeting for a VOTE at the June Delegate Meeting.

**New Breeds Stud Book Policy**

Based on a Board request, Staff presented a proposed Board Policy to be implemented when a new breed requests to extend the time period that the stud book would be open to other domestic registries.

AKC has from time to time received requests from Parent Clubs of recently recognized breeds to extend the time period of the stud book being open to other domestic registries or registries not currently recognized by AKC. In the past ten years, new breeds requesting to keep the studbook open are doing so to encourage owners to register dogs with the AKC.

This will be discussed further at the April Board Meeting.

**New Breed for Foundation Stock Service® - Volpino Italiano**

The Board was advised that the Foundation Stock Service (FSS) Committee recently approved a petition for the Volpino Italiano to be accepted into the FSS program with a Toy Group designation.

The Vopino Italiano is one of the descendants of the European Spitz which existed in the central

region of Europe since the Bronze Age. The Volpino goes back to the same ancestors as the German Spitz of which it is not a descendant, but a relative.

### **AKC Communications 2020 Q4 Report**

The Board reviewed the fourth quarter report from the Communications Department which highlighted the Communications Department's accomplishments on behalf of the AKC and the Sport of Purebred Dogs.

#### **TOTALS:**

**Clips Evaluated in Q4: 4,534**

**Q4 Potential Audience Reached: 6,050,130,256**

**Publicity Value for Q4: \$8,364,409.89**

\*Numbers and values provided by media monitoring platform Cision

#### **ACTIVITIES:**

- Aggressive PR campaign for the AKC National Championship presented by Royal Canin culminated with the event mid-December.
  - Placements include Orlando Sentinel, multiple segments from the event on Good Day Orlando, National Geographic and more.
  - Winner interview secured on Good Morning America after show airing in January 2021.
  - Booked a Satellite Media Tour to promote the broadcast in January 2021.
- Conducted outreach to promote AKC's deal with ESPN, which included a piece with the Associated Press among others.
- Continued to receive incoming media requests for AKC expertise.
- Distributed 20 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.
- Worked with AKC Reunite to create press materials to promote unveiling of trailers through their Pet Disaster Relief program.
- Chose winners for the 2020 AKC Humane Fund Award for Canine Excellence (ACE).
- Promoted AKC.tv's newest special around the ACE Awards – AKC Heroes: Awards for Canine Excellence.
- "AKC Communicates" newsletter distributed weekly with pertinent information and updates from the AKC and affiliates – drives traffic to akc.org
- Worked closely with the AKC Museum of the Dog to increase its visibility.

#### **AKC Education Annual Report: 2020**

The Board reviewed a memo which provided an update of Education department activities and accomplishments for the year 2020. The memo is part of a series of regular informational updates on the work of the Education Department.

**Canine College**

The Canine College now has over 35,000 learners. 15,000 learners were added in 2020, which is a 100% increase from the number added in 2019. We offer over 600 courses and exams available for Conformation and Performance Judges, Breeders, Groomers, and the general public. Learners spent more than 24,000 hours in Canine College in 2020. Over 80 current courses and exams were revised throughout 2020.

**Breed and Breeder Courses**

A total of 50 breeds are now available on Caine College. 3,625 breed courses were purchased in 2020. This is up from 694 in 2019 (an increase of 422%), 396 in 2018 and 103 in 2017.

Breed courses launched in 2020 are as follows:

- Bernese Mountain Dog
- Cavalier King Charles Spaniel
- Lagotto Romagnolo
- Norwegian Buhund
- Pekingese
- Whippet

Canine College is actively collaborating with 16 Parent Clubs on the development of future breed courses for 2021/2022.

AKC Education continues to put great effort into offering quality education for breeders. In collaboration with Sports Services, in 2020 breeder education resources were collected, reorganized, and made available on akc.org. These resources include articles, webinars, courses, newsletters, and more. AKC Canine College now offers 11 breeder education courses and exams.

**Public Education**

In January 2020, AKC Public Education hosted the AKC Patch Program at AKC Meet the Breeds® in New York City. More than 1,100 children and their families participated in the program over two days.

AKC Kids' News was launched in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter. AKC Kids' News is a quarterly newsletter with fun, educational content for parents and teachers. Teachers are encouraged to subscribe for free to receive the online resources.

The AKC PupPals Program has had tremendous success since its launch in August 2019. The COVID-19 pandemic left many feeling isolated, so Public Education worked collaboratively with Marketing and Communications to expand the AKC PupPals Program to reach both children and adults with video PupPal messages. By making the change from cards to videos, requests have increased by 159%. Nominees included healthcare workers, individuals in the hospital, and those in quarantine seeking a positive message.

To assist parents and teachers during COVID, Public Education created online activities for children to do at home with their dogs. These activities included, “do it yourself agility,” creating art with your dog, and making your own dog treats.

Building on the success of the AKC Patch Program, Public Education created the AKC Virtual Patch Program so that this important program could carry on during a time in which dog shows were not readily available. Children participated in a virtual scavenger hunt by viewing resources and videos to learn about purebred dogs and AKC sports, before receiving a virtual patch.

In the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter, Public Education created lessons that are geared towards exceptional learners. Public Education now offers lessons and activities geared towards these learners, as well as modified versions of our most popular offerings that suit their specific needs. We were honored when our resources for exceptional learners were featured on the cover of the June 2020 issue of *Exceptional Parents Magazine*, reaching a worldwide readership of over 100,000.

Public Education launched the AKC Canine and Me Program which was created to get teens and young adults interested in learning and trying a new skill with their dog. Each month, a brief introduction of and skill from an AKC sport is provided. Participants take turns trying the skill and recording themselves practicing that skill with their dog. Participants are entered to win a \$50.00 Amazon gift card for participating each month. Since its launch in August, the program has received over 45 video submissions from teens trying the highlighted sports. Quotes from those who have participated include: “Agility has helped me bond with my dog. It has helped teach me to be a better person.”

### **AKC Education Webinar Series**

AKC Education collaborated with many departments in 2020 in an effort to reach and serve AKC’s constituency through webinars. AKC Education worked closely with Judging Operations to host breed webinars for judges. Breed webinars were held daily from March 30 - July 23, 2020. Beginning, August 4<sup>th</sup> through the end of 2020, breed webinars were held every Tuesday evening. Breed webinars continue to air on Tuesday evenings. In 2020, a total of 89 breed webinars were held for 24,311 participants.

### **Government Relations Q4 2020 Update and Year End Review**

The Board reviewed a memo which provided a status update on current Government Relations department activity and major projects, a general overview and analysis of 2020 activities, and an overview of significant legislative issues and accomplishments.

As of January 14, 2021, the AKC Government Relations team (AKC GR) is reviewing bills being proposed and introduced for new legislative sessions at the federal, state and local level. In addition, the GR team is tracking more than 800 state and federal regulatory proposals carried over from 2020. This is nearly twice the number of proposals as a year ago. A significant portion of this increase is due to implementing regulations related to the COVID-19 pandemic policy changes.

In 2020, the GR team tracked 4,211 bills that 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 an 83% increase over the 2,300 bills tracked in 2019. The largest category of new bills tracked (716 total) were COVID-19 related bills with the potential to impact dog owners and ownership, access to dog-related services (such as pet food retailers, veterinary care or groomers) AKC Corporate and AKC Sports/Events. Proposed legislation not directly related to COVID-19 on major canine policy issues such as animal cruelty, breeder regulation, pet sales, working dogs, animal control also increased by record levels to 3,495 bills – an increase of 51% over 2019.

#### **4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Government Relations Projects & Outreach**

The GR team also worked on major projects and provides individualized outreach and assistance. *Highlights from the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter include:*

**Legislative Testimony/Advocacy:** In the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter alone, AKC GR regional staff and legislative analysts provided alerts, and written and/or in-person testimony for hearings on more than 35 bills on a broad range of topics ranging from breed-specific bans and mandatory spay neuter, to breeder licensing and regulation, use of police K9s, pet choice and other issues. For a list of all alerts visit [www.akcgr.org](http://www.akcgr.org).

**Legislative Seminars and Training Events:** Staff presented a number of webinars or seminars on legislative advocacy in the fourth quarter. Most of the presentations were conducted electronically and covered a broad range of audiences and topics including GR Resources, Effective Grassroots Advocacy, State-level Strategy, Drafting Legislation and Working Dogs.

**Major Policy and Advocacy Resources Development & Overhaul:** A year-long modernization and update of policy and advocacy resources was conducted and will continue into 2021 to provide more sophisticated and user-friendly tools for dog owners to engage in advocacy that protects their rights. The expert resources are also designed as a resource for the general public and lawmakers to understand common myths and fictions about breeding and canine policy issues and to aid in developing new reasonable and non-discriminatory canine policy. The materials reflect new types of policy challenges, more sophisticated attacks by animal rights groups (and more sophisticated responses) and the development of new model legislation and policy solutions.

AKC GR developed more than 7 new one-stop policy-based key issues webpages in the AKC Legislative Action Center on the following topics:

- COVID-19 Resources
- COVID-19 Civil Liability Limit Legislation
- Service Dogs, Pet Imports: Protecting Pet & Public Health
- Detection Dogs
- Dogs in Vehicles: Avoiding Unintended Consequences
- Pet Choice/Pet Store Restrictions



Detection Dog Task Force: GR developed and began implementing new “Phase 2” strategic programming and outreach for the Patriotic Puppy Program (PPP). In lieu of a conference, DDTF established an ongoing series of webinars to raise interest and awareness about DDTF and the need for domestically bred and raised detection dogs. Three webinars have been conducted. DDTF has signed up a new class of Patriotic Puppy Program (PPP) participants for hands-on learning, created a new webpage and social media presence, and attended local North Carolina AKC field events to raise targeted awareness among field trial/hunt test enthusiasts about participating in the program.

Service Dogs: AKC GR continues to work with colleagues in the service dog, airline, technology and pet industries (American Service Dog Access Coalition – ASDAC) to lead development of a high quality, verifiable opt-in credentialing system for service dogs acceptable to airlines/access providers, government and the service dog industry.

GR Blogs: AKC GR published 25 Blogs in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter and a total of 78 for the year. GR Blogs go beyond legislative issues to inform constituents and the public about community and advocacy items of interest, new resources, and policy analysis. The blogs are also published in the Monthly GR newsletter *Taking Command*.

### **COMPANION and PERFORMANCE**

Doug Ljungren, Executive Vice President, Sports & Events and Pamela Manaton, Director, Obedience, Rally, Tracking participated in this portion of the meeting via video conference.

### **AKC Virtual Rally® Program – Adding the Advanced and Excellent Classes**

The AKC Virtual Rally® Pilot Program was launched at the beginning of May 2020. In July 2020, the program was expanded to include the Rally Intermediate class. The Board reviewed a recommendation to expand the program to include the Rally Advanced and Excellent classes. Like in the Novice and Intermediate classes, there is no change to the exercises required to pass the Advanced and Excellent classes. The Board extended the pilot period for the Virtual Rally program to year-end 2021. The Advanced and Excellent classes will also terminate at year-end unless extended or made permanent.

Following a motion by Mr. Powers, seconded by Mr. Sweetwood, the board VOTED (In favor: Biddle, Davies, Hamblin, McAteer, Powers, Sweetwood, Wallin; Opposed: Battaglia, Carota, Garvin, Knight, Smyth, Tatro) to expand the Virtual Rally Program by adding the Advanced and Excellent classes. This will be done in a phased in approach with the Advanced class being launched first. The course maps for the new classes along with a new and improved Rally Virtual Guidebook will be released on Monday, February 22, 2021; and AKC will begin accepting entries for the new classes on March 8, 2021.

Dogs passing these classes will earn the RA and RE titles. The virtual classes cannot be used to earn the RAE title where double Qs at the same event are required.

This memo has not previously been provided to the Board, however, because it is an addition to

an existing program, and because the demand for additional classes is strong, the Companion Events Department requested the Board approve the recommendation at this meeting. The Staff is prepared to handle the expected additional activity.

**Assisting the Sports – Judging Programs for Obedience, Rally and Agility**

The Board reviewed a recommendation to allow clubs to send out the judging program for obedience, rally and agility trials no later than five days prior to the trial. This recommendation is consistent with the recent change to allow clubs to close no later than seven days prior to the trial. Currently the requirement for sending the judging program is seven days.

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

Following a motion by Mr. Sweetwood, seconded by Mr. Carota, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to amend the regulations for Obedience, Rally and Agility to allow clubs to send out the judging program for obedience, rally and agility trials no later than five days prior to the trial.

**Proposed  
(Line In)**

**CHAPTER 1 OBEDIENCE REGULATIONS – GENERAL REGULATIONS**

**Section 26. Judging Assignments, Scheduling and Judging Program. (Paragraph 11)**

A copy of the judging program and armband number for each entered dog, will be sent to the owner no later than five (5) days before the date of the event. Printed correspondence may be utilized at the exhibitor's request.

A copy of the judging program will be sent to each judge; and two copies of the program shall be sent to the Event Plans Department at the same time they are published or made available to exhibitors.

A copy of the judging program will be published in the catalog.

Contact information, e.g. cell telephone number for at least one committee member that will be present at the trial on the day of the event must be listed in the judging program.

*The remainder of this section is unchanged.*

**Proposed  
(Line In)**

**CHAPTER 1 AKC RALLY® REGULATIONS – GENERAL REGULATIONS**

**Section 23. Judging Assignments, Scheduling and Judging Program. (Paragraph 8)**

A copy of the judging program and armband number for each entered dog, will be sent to the owner no later than five (5) days before the date of the event. Printed correspondence may be utilized at the exhibitor's request.

A copy of the judging program will be sent to each judge; and two copies of the program shall be sent to the Event Plans Department at the same time they are published or made available to exhibitors.

A copy of the judging program will be published in the catalog.

Contact information, e.g. cell telephone number for at least one committee member, must be listed in the judging program. The information must provide a means of readily available communication with a member of the committee on the day of the event.

*The remainder of this section is unchanged.*

**Proposed  
(Line In)**

**CHAPTER 1 – REGULATIONS FOR AGILITY TRIALS AND AGILITY COURSE TEST (ACT)  
Section 19. Running Order. (Paragraph 3)**

The judging schedule will be sent to entrants as soon as possible after entries have closed but at least five (5) days minimum, prior to the first day of the event. Trial Secretaries may also publish a full running order that includes catalog number, the dog's call name, breed of dog, along with handler and/or owner. This may be done using email as described above. Trial Secretaries shall include the following sentence on the required judging schedule and on the running order if one is published prior to the trial: "This is a preliminary judging schedule which is contingent upon the move-up entries that may not have been received yet."

*The remainder of this section is unchanged.*

**CONFORMATION**

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

**Rules Applying to Dog Shows – Chapter 16, Section 6 – Grand Championship Points**

The Board reviewed a recommendation from the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee (DSRC) to modify Chapter 16, Section 6 of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows*, which addresses the requirements for a dog to achieve the Grand Championship title at AKC Conformation dog shows.

At the DSRC's November 19, 2020 meeting, the DSRC voted, unanimously, to recommend the removal of "and concurrent specialty shows" from the last paragraph of **Chapter 16, Section 6** of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows*. This wording had been added via by the Delegate body in September 2020. Their reasoning includes:

1. Concurrent specialties are by definition independent specialties. Stand-alone, concurrent, and evening are all types of independent specialties.
2. The amendment to the proposal, which was eventually approved, resulted in inconsistent language within the section.

Removal of the specific reference of one type of independent specialty provides consistency in language within the section, generalizes the language by removing the reference to one type of independent specialty and eliminates the question of whether other types not identified would be excluded. With the removal of this phrase, concurrent specialty shows would still qualify under

the definition of “independently held specialty shows”.

Following a motion by Dr. Battaglia, seconded by Mr. Hamblin, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to approve changes to Chapter 16, Section 6 as suggested.

These proposed changes will be read at the March 2021 Delegate Meeting for a VOTE at the June 2021 Delegate Meeting. If approved by the Delegates, the effective date would be immediate.

**Proposed  
(Line In)**

**CHAPTER 16  
SECTION 6.**

*Previous portions of the sections are unchanged.*

At independently held specialty shows for breeds divided into recognized varieties, if a dog designated Best of Variety is also awarded Best of Breed in inter-variety competition, it shall receive Grand Championship points figured at the highest point rating of any variety entered at that specialty show. If a dog designated Best of Variety or Best of Opposite Sex in its variety is also awarded Best of Opposite Sex to Best of Breed in inter-variety competition, it shall receive Grand Championship points figured at the highest point rating of its sex in any variety entered at that specialty show. Such points shall not be in addition to, but inclusive of, any Grand Championship points previously awarded the dog in its variety competition.

**New Club Role – Junior Coordinator**

This Board reviewed a recommendation from Staff and the Delegate Junior Sub-Committee. The committee suggested adding a role within a club, entitled “Junior Coordinator”. The Committee’s opinion is that having a “Junior Coordinator” as a role within a club will bring awareness to Juniors and development of Junior membership. Having a role identified will provide contact information for AKC to communicate with those who serve in this role. There was no objection to this from the Board.

**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.

**COVID-19 – Conformation Judging Approval Process**

The Board reviewed a recommendation from the Chairman’s Committee and Staff on the Judging Approval Process.

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

Following a motion by Mr. Carota, seconded by Mr. Sweetwood, the Board VOTED

(unanimously) to extend through June 30, 2021 the following actions related to the *Conformation Judging Approval Process* previously approved at its May 2020 meeting:

1. Increase the maximum cumulative number of permit breeds a judge may be approved by six (6).
2. Increase the maximum number of CEU that may be attained in the categories of Attend Parent Club National Specialty; Attend Approved Seminar/Workshop; Mentors, Tutors and Kennel Visits; Sweepstakes or Futurity assignment; and Assignment to Judge the Breed by one (1) CEU.

**Conformation Dog Show Judges Annual Report**

Judging Operations provided to the Board matrixes for evaluation collected annually as well as data related to judges and judging applications from 2020.

**Application Data**

The number of New Breed Applications (first time applicants) in 2020 did drop in number greater than would be attributed to the variance traditionally seen from year to year, likely a direct result of COVID-19 and the difficulty for potential applicants to complete pre-requisite requirements such as stewarding and judging experiences. The number of Additional Breed applications and breeds submitted in 2020 decreased from the previous year, but not significant given the challenges associated with COVID-19. 2020 was consistent to the previous two years, showing a substantial decrease in the volume in the years preceding the January 1, 2018 implementation of the revised Judging Approval Process (9/15-11/17). Even with the challenges of 2020, the number of applications and breed submitted was higher than those received in 2018. These metrics continue the expected and intended result of specific modifications made to the rate at which judges could apply and the maximum number of permit breeds judges could have at one time included in the revised *Judging Approval Process* approved by the Board at its November 2017 meeting.

***The number of applications received 2020 vs. previous years:***

|                 | ADDITIONAL BREED |                  | NEW BREED    |                  |
|-----------------|------------------|------------------|--------------|------------------|
|                 | Aps Received     | Breeds Submitted | Aps Received | Breeds Submitted |
| 1/20 thru 12/20 | 377              | 2282             | 61           | 72               |
| 1/19 thru 12/19 | 401              | 2497             | 91           | 125              |
| 1/18 thru 12/18 | 351              | 1808             | 101          | 154              |
| 9/16 thru 8/17  | 933              | 5537             | 84           | 119              |
| 9/15 thru 8/16  | 843              | 6009             | 93           | 146              |
| 9/14 thru 8/15  | 246              | 1938             | 74           | 102              |

**Application final review statistics in 2020 vs. previous years:**

|          | ADDITIONAL BREED |                    |                   |            | NEW BREED     |                    |                   |            |
|----------|------------------|--------------------|-------------------|------------|---------------|--------------------|-------------------|------------|
|          | # Aps Reviewed   | # Breeds Requested | # Breeds Approved | % Approved | #Aps Reviewed | # Breeds Requested | # Breeds Approved | % Approved |
| 2020     | 323              | 2032               | 1914              | 94.2%      | 53            | 66                 | 64                | 97.0%      |
| 2019     | 366              | 2099               | 2039              | 97.1%      | 65            | 107                | 107               | 100.0%     |
| 2018*    | 293              | 1421               | 1366              | 96.1%      | 66            | 89                 | 86                | 96.6%      |
| 2017     | 875              | 4928               | 4775              | 96.9%      | 73            | 88                 | 86                | 97.7%      |
| 2016     | 749              | 5036               | 5004              | 99.4%      | 86            | 145                | 144               | 99.3%      |
| Previous | 237              | 1875               | 1491              | 79.5%      | 80            | 115                | 113               | 98.3%      |
| 2011     | 300              | 1945               | 1782              | 91.6%      | 99            | 155                | 153               | 98.7%      |

**The number of complete groups approved to judge:**

|                               | NUMBER OF COMPLETE GROUPS APPROVED TO JUDGE |     |     |     |    |    |    |    |             | TOTALS      |  |
|-------------------------------|---|-----|-----|-----|----|----|----|----|-------------|-------------|--|
|                               | < 1   | 1   | 2   | 3   | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | Judges      | Groups      |  |
| <b>12/31/2020</b>             | 2288  | 296 | 174 | 112 | 67 | 36 | 10 | 16 | <b>2999</b> | <b>1600</b> |  |
| <b>12/31/2019</b>             | 2289  | 303 | 182 | 112 | 66 | 34 | 8  | 17 | <b>3011</b> | <b>1604</b> |  |
| <b>12/31/2018</b>             | 2262  | 309 | 190 | 116 | 64 | 33 | 7  | 19 | <b>3000</b> | <b>1633</b> |  |
| <b>12/31/2017<sup>1</sup></b> | 2242  | 324 | 184 | 123 | 61 | 30 | 7  | 20 | <b>2991</b> | <b>1637</b> |  |
| <b>8/31/2017<sup>1</sup></b>  | 2293  | 321 | 185 | 125 | 52 | 30 | 7  | 21 | <b>3034</b> | <b>1613</b> |  |
| <b>8/31/2016</b>              | 2512  | 334 | 182 | 124 | 42 | 26 | 5  | 20 | <b>3245</b> | <b>1538</b> |  |
| <b>7/31/2015</b>              | 2527  | 351 | 172 | 108 | 43 | 20 | 6  | 17 | <b>3244</b> | <b>1446</b> |  |

**Judge assignment distribution:**

|  | 7/14-<br>6/15 | 9/15-<br>8/16 | 9/16-<br>8/17 | 1/18-<br>12/18 | 1/19-<br>12/19 | 1/20-<br>12/20 |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| <i>Total events (AB, LB, PS &amp; S)</i>                 | 4092          | 4178          | 4,349         | 4428           | 4464           | 2043           |
| <i>Total # of individual breed assignments</i>           | 303,029       | 301,049       | 312,263       | 317,210        | 321,309        | 123,163        |
| <i>Total # of dogs in competition (D.I.C.)</i>           | 1,222,474     | 1,204,798     | 1,171,690     | 1,184,640      | 1,188,067      | 606,246        |
| <i>Total # Judges w/assignment (AKC + Foreign)</i>       | 2188          | 2218          | 2178          | 2143           | 2129           | 1346           |
| <i># AKC Judges w/assignment</i>                         | 1872          | 1873          | 1856          | 1801           | 1793           | 1252           |
| <i># Visiting Judges w/assignment</i>                    | 316           | 345           | 322           | 342            | 336            | 94             |
| <i>% of AKC Judges w/o assignment</i>                    | 42.3%         | 42.3%         | 43.2%         | 40.0%          | 40.5%          | 58.3%          |
| <i>% D.I.C. Judged by AKC judges</i>                     | 89.1%         | 90.1%         | 89.9%         | 89.9%          | 90.7%          | 95.9%          |
| <i>% D.I.C. judged by 20% of all judges w/assignment</i> | 77.1%         | 78.6%         | 77.3 %        | 76.2%          | 76.9%          | 74.9%          |
| <i>% D.I.C. judged by 20% of total # of AKC Judges</i>   | 80.3%         | 81.1%         | 80.3%         | 80.4%          | 78.8%          | 90.0%          |
| <i>% D.I.C. judged by 20% of AKC Judges w/assignment</i> | 71.2%         | 72.1%         | 72.3%         | 71.2%          | 72.1%          | 72.5%          |

**Perception of Judges Survey**

Historically, the Conformation Dog Show Judges Annual Report included results from the Perception of Judging survey, conducted yearly since 2015. The survey, sent to customers who had entered a conformation dog show in the preceding 12 months, was to be utilized as a metric to gauge the effect, if any, the Conformation Judging Approval Process may have on the fancy's perception of judges. It was decided the Perception of Judges survey would not be conducted based on the conclusion any results from the survey would be skewed by COVID-19's impact on conformation dog shows and could not be examined in context.

**Conformation Judging Statistics**

The Board reviewed statistics related to conformation judging applications considered by the Judges Review Committee in the previous three months of October - December 2020. Following is the list of New Breed (NB) and the year-end summary statistics for 2020.

**FINAL REVIEW ACTION SUMMARY****2020 YEAR-END**

|              | APPLICATIONS |             |           |          |          |          | BREEDS      |             |          |
|--------------|--------------|-------------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|-------------|-------------|----------|
|              | Total        | Fully Appr. | Limited   | Denied   | Wthdrn   | Held     | Req.        | Appr.       | Pend.    |
| <b>NB</b>    | 53           | 52          | 1         | 0        | 0        | 2        | 66          | 64          | 0        |
| <b>AB</b>    | 323          | 275         | 45        | 3        | 0        | 2        | 2032        | 1915        | 3        |
| <b>TOTAL</b> | <b>376</b>   | <b>327</b>  | <b>46</b> | <b>3</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>4</b> | <b>2098</b> | <b>1979</b> | <b>3</b> |

**FINAL REVIEW ACTION SUMMARY****2020 NEW BREED JUDGING APPLICANTS**

|                  | APPLICATIONS |             |          |          |          |          | BREEDS    |           |          |
|------------------|--------------|-------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|----------|
|                  | Total        | Fully Appr. | Limited  | Denied   | Wthdrn   | Held     | Req.      | Appr.     | Pend.    |
| <b>January</b>   | 4            | 4           | 0        | 0        | 0        | 1        | 6         | 6         | 0        |
| <b>February</b>  | 7            | 7           | 0        | 0        | 0        | 1        | 7         | 7         | 0        |
| <b>March</b>     | 7            | 6           | 1        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 11        | 9         | 0        |
| <b>April</b>     | 5            | 5           | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 7         | 7         | 0        |
| <b>May</b>       | 4            | 4           | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 4         | 4         | 0        |
| <b>June</b>      | 1            | 1           | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 2         | 2         | 0        |
| <b>July</b>      | 1            | 1           | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 1         | 1         | 0        |
| <b>August</b>    | 3            | 3           | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 5         | 5         | 0        |
| <b>September</b> | 6            | 6           | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 6         | 6         | 0        |
| <b>October</b>   | 6            | 6           | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 6         | 6         | 0        |
| <b>November</b>  | 6            | 6           | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 7         | 7         | 0        |
| <b>December</b>  | 3            | 3           | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 4         | 4         | 0        |
| <b>NB TOTAL</b>  | <b>53</b>    | <b>52</b>   | <b>1</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>2</b> | <b>66</b> | <b>64</b> | <b>0</b> |



**FINAL REVIEW ACTION SUMMARY**

**2020 ADDITIONAL BREED JUDGING APPLICANTS**

|                  | APPLICATIONS |             |           |          |          |          | BREEDS      |             |          |
|------------------|--------------|-------------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|-------------|-------------|----------|
|                  | Total        | Fully Appr. | Limited   | Denied   | Wthdrn   | Held     | Req.        | Appr.       | Pend.    |
| <b>January</b>   | 33           | 30          | 2         | 1        | 0        | 0        | 207         | 195         | 0        |
| <b>February</b>  | 18           | 15          | 3         | 0        | 0        | 0        | 98          | 94          | 0        |
| <b>March</b>     | 30           | 28          | 2         | 0        | 0        | 1        | 215         | 213         | 0        |
| <b>April</b>     | 27           | 23          | 3         | 1        | 0        | 1        | 140         | 131         | 0        |
| <b>May</b>       | 24           | 20          | 4         | 0        | 0        | 0        | 133         | 127         | 0        |
| <b>June</b>      | 16           | 13          | 3         | 0        | 0        | 0        | 106         | 102         | 0        |
| <b>July</b>      | 14           | 11          | 3         | 0        | 0        | 0        | 62          | 58          | 0        |
| <b>August</b>    | 30           | 26          | 4         | 0        | 0        | 0        | 219         | 211         | 0        |
| <b>September</b> | 40           | 33          | 7         | 0        | 0        | 0        | 292         | 267         | 1        |
| <b>October</b>   | 35           | 26          | 9         | 0        | 0        | 0        | 213         | 187         | 0        |
| <b>November</b>  | 30           | 25          | 4         | 1        | 0        | 0        | 188         | 172         | 0        |
| <b>December</b>  | 26           | 25          | 1         | 0        | 0        | 0        | 159         | 157         | 1        |
| <b>AB TOTAL</b>  | <b>323</b>   | <b>275</b>  | <b>45</b> | <b>3</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>2</b> | <b>2032</b> | <b>1914</b> | <b>2</b> |

**2021 Low Entry Breed List**

A Low Entry Breed is defined to be one whose total number of dogs in competition from the previous year were fewer than 3,500. Under current policy, the Low Entry Breed List impacts educational requirements for those seeking judging approval of the breeds that appear on it, as well as the requirements for permit status judges to advance to regular status in a breed.

Annually, Judging Operations publishes the Low Entry Breed List on the AKC website by February with an effective date of March 1, 2021 for reference by current and prospective conformation judges.

Due to the impact of COVID-19 and the mass cancellation of events in 2020 that resulted, no changes will be made to the designation of Low Entry Breeds and all breeds classified as Low Entry in 2020 will remain on the list in 2021 excluding the addition of the Biewer Terrier, which became eligible to compete in the Toy Group effective January 1, 2021.

**CLUBS**

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

**Sample Bylaws Study Committee Report**

In April 2020, Dr. Thomas Davies appointed the Sample Bylaws Study Committee: Lisa Cecin, AKC Director of Club Relations, Chair; Rita Biddle, Delegate and AKC Board Member; Gretchen Bernardi, AKC Delegate; Carl Holder, AKC Delegate and Heather McManus, AKC Vice- President and Deputy General Counsel.

The committee was appointed to examine and modernize the AKC Sample Constitution and Bylaws for Local Clubs and Parent Clubs. The goal was to generate a product which is more suitable and flexible for handling situations faced by our clubs and fanciers in today's times, and to examine the process and timelines for making changes to a club's existing constitution and bylaws as well as how quickly issues were resolved along the way. It was noted that some clubs find the process confusing, and a clearer, more timely process going forward was desired.

The Board reviewed the Committee Report and the suggested policy changes:

Following a motion by Ms. Biddle, seconded by Mrs. Wallin, 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. Hamblin, the Board VOTED (In favor: Battaglia, Biddle, Carota, Davies, Hamblin, Knight, McAteer, Powers, Smyth, Sweetwood, Tatro, Wallin; Opposed: Garvin) to adopt the following policy:

- 1) The AKC has developed a Checklist of the required provisions for a club's bylaws. Club bylaws or amendments to a club's bylaws that comply with the requirements set forth in the Checklist are "acceptable" in form to the AKC. Member clubs must also include references to Delegates (as indicated in Article III of the sample for Local Clubs and Article V in the sample for Parent Clubs); and "[No amendment to the Constitution Bylaws that is adopted by the club shall become effective until it has been approved by the Board of Directors of The American Kennel Club.]" must be included (as indicated in VII, Section 2 of the Local Club sample and Article IX, Section 2 of the Parent Club sample). All revised club bylaws must be accompanied by a completed, officer or club attorney signed Affirmation of Bylaw Review form, date of the amendment vote, and breakdown of the vote.
- 2) The AKC makes available to clubs (depending on type) sample bylaws that a club may use to writing the club's bylaws. These sample bylaws are a guide and allow a club to customize its bylaws to the club's needs.
- 3) The AKC also provides other documents that may assist clubs in writing its bylaws such as the Tips and Best Practices for Effective Club Bylaws.

4) AKC's Club Relations Department is available to offer bylaw commentary to clubs upon written request.

5) The committee's recommendation is to move this memo to BLUE so it can be approved as soon as possible.

### **Newly Approved Local Specialty Clubs and Dissolved Local Specialty Clubs – 2017 through 2020**

The Board reviewed a memo that provided a listing of the newly approved Local Specialty Clubs, as well as Local Specialty Clubs that dissolved in calendar years 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020.

### **Analysis on Dissolved and Newly Accredited Clubs**

The following information is from the four years 2017 – 2020.

- 25 Specialty clubs dissolved, and 55 new Specialty clubs formed.
- The 25 clubs that dissolved represented 23 breeds and were spread across 18 states.
- Four (16%) of the dissolving clubs represented low entry breeds.
- The 55 clubs that formed represented 42 breeds and were spread across 30 states.
- The breed with the largest number of clubs forming was the French Bulldog (4 clubs).
- Nine (16%) of the new clubs represented low entry breeds.

### **Cheshire Kennel Club – Member Club Dissolved**

The Board was advised that The Cheshire Kennel Club, a member club of The American Kennel Club approved in June 1957 voted to dissolve on October 15, 2020. Staff reached out to be of assistance, however the Cheshire Kennel Club is now an inactive club on AKC records.

### **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 November and December 2020**

Bell Vernon Kennel Association, Skagit County, WA (2015)  
 Clermont County Kennel Club, Clermont County, OH (1983)  
 Lehigh Valley Kennel Club, Bethlehem, PA (1935)  
 Winston-Salem Dog Training Club, Winston-Salem, NC (1982)

### **Report on Newly Licensed Clubs approved in November and December 2020**

Alaska Sporting Dog Association, Anchorage, AK (including Fairbanks and North Pole), 24 total households, 24 local.

Castile Creek Retriever Club, Gower, MO (including MO communities east to Utica along Rt 36 and north to Union Star), 40 total households, 12 local.

Cedar Ridge Beagle Club, Henryetta, OK (including communities north to Tulsa, south to Wetumka east to Rte. 75 and west to Rtes. 377/99), 19 total households, 8 local.

Lost Pines Retriever Club, Paige, TX (including communities west to Interstate 35; south to Luling, north to Taylor, east to Giddings), 25 total households, 12 local.

Plott Hound Association of America, 40 total households (5 households in 4 states west of the Mississippi River; 34 households in 11 states east of the Mississippi River).

### **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; participated in this portion of the meeting via video conference.

#### **Registration Update – January 2021**

2020 was the 7<sup>th</sup> consecutive year of increases in Dog Registration, the 6<sup>th</sup> consecutive year of increases in Litter Registration, and the 6<sup>th</sup> consecutive year of increases in Unique Breeders.

Litter Registration in 2020 was 10% better than budget and 12% better than 2019. Dog Registration in 2020 was 18% better than budget and 20% better than 2019. The total number of puppies produced by AKC breeders in 2020 saw a 12% increase from 2019. There was a 9% increase in active breeders from 2019. 2020 saw an acceleration of dog registration activity, with more dogs being registered sooner.

In 2020, 80% of Unique Active Breeders were Casual Breeders, compared to 78% in 2019; while the Fancy share declined by 2 percentage points.

#### **Survey Results First-Time Litter Registrants**

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

At the request of the Board, the staff conducted a survey of first-time litter registrants. The Staff presented the survey results and action items emanating out of the survey results.

### **MARKETING**

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

#### **Marketing Updates and Highlights**

The Board reviewed highlights of the 2020 Marketing Department's achievements. AKC.org users peaked in December at higher levels than during the COVID peak and closed the year +50% versus 2019. AKC.org organic traffic, the largest piece of traffic, grew 53% in 2020 versus 2019. AKC Marketplace also saw significant user growth, closing the year +28% versus 2019. The number of litters listed on Marketplace continues to rise.

AKC sent a record level of emails/newsletters in December and overall in 2020, led by Shop, Nibble General and Pupdate.

### **2020 Year in Review – Marketing Social Media**

The Board reviewed the AKC Marketing department’s social media coverage totals and activity highlights for 2020. Highlights of our social media strategy in 2020 included our COVID-19 “Woof From Home” content series, launch on TikTok, and AKC Dog Stars influencer program.

#### **2020 TOTALS:**

Facebook: 4,008,021 followers

Instagram: 339,767 followers

Twitter: 99,109 followers

TikTok: 79,957 followers

Pinterest: 42,240 followers

Total\*: 4,569,094 followers

### **AKC SPONSORSHIP, DIGITAL ADVERTISING, AND BROADCAST**

Ron Furman, Director, Digital Media and Daphna Straus, Vice President, Business Development participated in this portion of the meeting.

#### **2020 UPDATE**

##### **AKC.org**

- Regardless of the pandemic, the AKC Ad Sales team delivered exceptional results achieving budget @ \$3.8 mil an increase of +18% from 2019.
- Website total traffic was the highest ever in 2020, which resulted in a total of over 1 Billion Impressions for the first time ever. AKC.org had a 90% sell through rate of those impressions, which increased from 70% in 2019.

##### **AKC Digital Advertising Sales**

- 32 total direct sold advertiser/ brands – a new high-level mark – with the largest amount of sold direct impressions @200 million/20% of the inventory.
- AKC.org ad inventory was utilized by each of the top 10 AKC corporate sponsors an increase of 28%.

##### **AKC.tv**

- AKC.tv experienced selective increases in traffic in 2020 with over 20 million impressions served, +124% YOY due to dynamic content matching.
- 1,200+ minutes of content produced broadcast weekly in DogCenter and Ask the Expert.
- “AKC Heroes” – Five-episode series featuring a different category of ACE Awards. Each episode announced an ACE honoree for 2020.
- Exceeded 100k app downloads (40% mobile)= over 1mm app plays in 2020 COVID devastated “regular season” live event schedule, but during AKC
- National Championship week, 180+ hours of video were produced including all breed rings, and 10.5k+ apps installed.

**CONSENT**

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

- Siberian Husky Proposed Breed Standard Revision
- Obedience Fix 'n Go Pilot Program
- Random Draw Method for Accepting Entries in Obedience & Rally Trials
- Managing Waitlists on Limited Entry Obedience and Rally Trials
- Delegate and Club Approvals

**Siberian Husky Proposed Breed Standard Revision**

The Board VOTED to approve the proposed standard revisions to the Nose, Color, Patterns and Markings and Disqualification sections of the Siberian Husky breed standard with an effective date of May 12, 2021.

**Nose:** Black in black, gray, sable, or agouti dogs; liver in red dogs, black, liver or flesh-colored in white dogs. The lighter-streaked “snow nose is equally acceptable in white dogs. The lighter-streaked “snow nose is equally acceptable.

**Color, Patterns and Markings: Color, Patterns and Markings.** All ranges of the allowable colors which are black, gray, agouti, sable, red, and white. May be solid colored. May have multiple shades. May have white markings. A variety of symmetrical or asymmetrical markings and patterns are common, including piebald. No preference should be given to any allowable color, marking or pattern. Merle or Brindle patterns are not allowable and are to be disqualified. Merle is defined as a marbling effect of dark patches against a lighter background of the same color and is not to be confused with a color patch of banded guard hairs amid white, as is seen in dogs with allowable piebald. Brindle is defined as darker and lighter single-colored guard hairs producing a vertical tiger striping, not to be confused with banded guard hairs and a different color undercoat, which may produce some apparent horizontal striping.

**Disqualification:** *Dogs over 23½ inches and bitches over 22 inches, merle, and brindle.*

**Obedience Fix ‘n Go Concept**

The Board VOTED to amend Chapter 2, Section 27 of the *Obedience Regulations* to allow obedience handlers to use the “Fix ‘n Go” option while performing in the ring at obedience trials when a dog’s performance does not meet their expectation. The “Fix ‘n Go” concept allows the team to reattempt one individual exercise, and then leave the ring. Using the “Fix n’ Go” option will result in a non-qualifying score (NQ). “Fix ‘n Go” will be offered on a one-year pilot basis in order to give the staff time to evaluate its impact. This change will be effective April 1, 2021.

**Proposed  
(Line In)**

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

**Section 27. Training and Handling in the Ring.** When a handler is using excessive verbal commands, this could indicate the dog is not under control and is not working with the handler willingly. The judge must determine if this dog should be released for a lack of control. The handler is not allowed to correct or discipline a dog and will be released from the ring.

When the dog's performance does not meet the handler's expectation, the handler may choose to use a "Fix n' Go" option once, which allows the exhibitor to immediately reattempt a single individual exercise. This allows the team to reattempt that one exercise, and then leave the ring. In a two-part exercise, the handler may choose only one part to reattempt. It is the handler's responsibility to tell the judge they are choosing to "Fix n' Go." Using the Fix n' Go option will result in a non-qualifying score (NQ). The handler may begin the reattempt from the start or at any point during the exercise. The judge will call the orders for the reattempted exercise as normal. If a jump needs to be reset, it will be set to the original height.

The handler may choose to help the dog through the Fix n' Go exercise. Helping the dog may be accomplished using verbal encouragement, including additional commands and praise, and/or approaching the dog in a friendly/positive manner without touching the dog.

Harsh verbal and /or physical corrections will not be tolerated. If there is any determination of harshness by the judge, the handler will be immediately released from the ring.

Spectators form their opinion of the sport through seeing the action of the handler and the dog. Care must be taken to avoid any action that might reflect poorly on the sport.

### **Random Draw Method for Accepting Entries in Obedience & Rally Trials**

The Board VOTED to amend the Obedience and Rally regulations to establish a Random Draw method of entries, to be used at a club's option, for limited entry obedience and rally trials that have their own standalone event number. The Random Draw method will provide the club with a fair way to accept entries for trials if the club anticipates the entries will overload beyond their limits, and to create equity between all exhibitors.

This change will be effective for events applied for on or after May 1, 2021.

**Proposed  
(Line In)**

## **CHAPTER 1 OBEDIENCE REGULATIONS GENERAL REGULATIONS**

**Section 3. Premium Lists, Entries, Closing of Entries.** *(Paragraph 5)* The premium list shall specify the name and address of the Superintendent or Trial Secretary who is to receive the entries. Only one mailing address may be used for receipt of paper of entries. Paper entries delivered to any other address are invalid and must be returned to the sender.

**Section 27. Limitation of Entries and Methods of Entry.** If a club anticipates an entry to exceed the capacity of its facilities for a licensed or member trial, it may limit entries, not to exceed up to eight hours of judging time per day, per judge.

Prominent announcement of such limits will appear on the title or cover page of the premium list for an obedience trial or immediately under the obedience heading in the premium list for a

dog show. This announcement must state that entries in one or more specified classes will automatically close when certain limits have been reached, even if this occurs before the official closing date. Non-regular classes, however, may be included, if so desired.

However, a club, at its discretion, may choose to establish a wait list in order to fill openings created by entries that are withdrawn prior to the event closing day. If a club is maintaining a wait list, this shall be stated in the premium. The full entry fee shall be refunded to an entrant whose entry is replaced by a wait-listed entry.

At obedience trials that have their own standalone event number, a club may use either the **First Received or Random Draw** method of acceptance of entries to a limited entry trial. The premium list must state an opening date/time for when entries will be accepted. These trials may be held in conjunction with rally or agility trials.

When entries are limited in the regular Open B and/or Utility B classes, a club must designate a regular UDX class in the premium list. Dogs entered in this UDX class would be entered in both Open B and Utility B, and the combined entry fee for these two classes must be paid. Once the limit has been reached in either the regular Open B or the Utility B class, the regular UDX class will be considered closed and any subsequent entries for this class will be unacceptable in their entirety.

If Preferred Open and Preferred Utility are offered and entries are limited in these classes, a club must designate a Preferred UDX class in the premium list. Dogs entered in this Preferred UDX class would be entered in both Preferred Open and Preferred Utility and the combined entry fee for these two classes must be paid. Once the limit has been reached in either Preferred Open or the Preferred Utility class, the Preferred UDX class will be considered closed and any subsequent entries for this class will be unacceptable in their entirety.

**First Received.** Entries are accepted in the order of receipt. If stated in the premium list, a club may further restrict the delivery options (i.e. No FedEx, No hand-deliveries at any time.) However, USPS delivery must be allowed.

**Random Draw.** When using the Random Draw method, entries are treated equally without regard to date/time received or any other criteria during the Draw Period. The AKC strongly recommends using the Random Draw method for trials which are likely to exceed the “total entry limit” within the first 24 hours after the opening date and time.

An envelope containing entries for more than ten (10) dogs maximum will be considered invalid and must be returned to the sender.

**Random Draw Time Period.** Clubs determine a “Draw Period” during which time entries are accepted for the Random Draw. Acceptance of entries begins on the opening date/time established for the trial as stated in the premium list. This time period must be at least seven (7) days in length (14 days is recommended). The Random Draw Time Period closing date and time must be stated in the premium list.

**Reserved Spots for Trial Workers.** When using the Random Draw method, the club may reserve a specific number of spots for exhibitors who have been selected to work at the trial. A spot is defined as a person who has entered the trial and has been selected to work. The



number of reserved spots allowed is based on the number of rings used. A club may reserve up to three (3) spots for each ring that is used (i.e. one ring equals three reserved spots, two rings equals six spots, and so on). Once the spots reserved for workers are filled, the remaining entries then become part of the Random Draw.

**Conducting the Random Draw.** If the entry limit for the trial is exceeded during the Random Draw Time Period, the club must conduct a Random Draw of all entries received, otherwise the Random Draw is not necessary. One draw may be conducted for all trials (concurrent or consecutive) held at the same site. One secretary or a group of cooperating secretaries are responsible for conducting the draw.

The Random Draw must be held within 48 hours of the “Draw Period” closing date and time and held in a place accessible to the public. The location, date and time of the draw must be stated in the premium list.

In conducting the draw, the Trial Secretary must avoid any method that raises any questions as to its randomness and impartiality.

The drawing may be conducted by manually selecting entry envelopes or by using a computerized random drawing program. In either case, all entries submitted in one envelope must be included and counted. If the last envelope selected in the Random Draw contains entries that would exceed the stated total entry limit, a manual or computerized random draw of those individual entries must be conducted.

After the advertised limit of entries has been randomly drawn, clubs maintaining a wait list will randomly draw all remaining entries for a position on the wait list.

**Accepting Entries After the Random Draw Time Period.** If the trial did not exceed the limit during the Random Draw Time Period, all the entries received during this time period will be accepted into the trial. Clubs may continue to accept entries after the Random Draw Time Period according to the procedures for the First Received method of entry, though all entries must be received prior to the closing date and time for the trial.

## **Proposed (Line In)**

### **CHAPTER 1 AKC RALLY REGULATIONS GENERAL REGULATIONS**

**Section 2. Premium Lists, Closing of Entries and Catalog.** A premium list must be provided for sanctioned “A”, licensed or member trials. They may be separate documents, or they may be included with the obedience, all-breed or specialty trial premium list. The premium list shall be published and shall measure not less than 5½ x 8½ inches or more than 8½ x 11 inches. It shall be stated in the premium list what jump height will begin the class and if the order will be ascending or descending.

Every premium list shall specify the date and time at which entries for a trial shall close. The premium list shall also specify the name and address of the Superintendent or Trial Secretary who is to receive the entries. Only one mailing address may be used for receipt paper of entries. Paper entries delivered to any other address are invalid and must be returned to the sender.

**Section 24. Limitation of Entries and Methods of Entry.** If a club anticipates an entry to exceed the capacity of its facilities for a licensed or member trial, it may limit entries, not to exceed up to eight hours of judging time per day, per judge. Entry limits may be based on ring availability or as specified by the club offering the event. Non-regular classes, however, may be included, if so desired.

Prominent announcement of such limits will appear on the title or cover page of the premium list for a rally trial or immediately under the rally heading in the premium list for an obedience trial or dog show.

This announcement must state that the entries in one or more specified classes will automatically close when certain limits have been reached, even if this occurs before the official closing date.

However, a club at its discretion may choose to establish a wait list in order to fill openings created by entries that are withdrawn prior to the event closing date. If a club is maintaining a wait list, this shall be stated in the premium list. The full entry fee shall be refunded to an entrant whose entry is replaced by a wait-listed entry.

At standalone rally trials, or trials held in conjunction with obedience or agility trials, a club may use either the **First Received** or **Random Draw** method of acceptance of entries to a limited entry trial. The premium list must state an opening date/time for when entries will be accepted.

When entries are limited, a club must designate a RAE and a Rally Champion (RACH) class in the premium list. Dogs entered in the RAE class would be entered in both Advanced B and Excellent B, and the combined entry fee for these two classes must be paid. If due to entry limits an exhibitor cannot be entered in both the Advanced B and Excellent B classes, the RAE class will be considered closed and any subsequent entries for this class will be unacceptable in their entirety.

Dogs entered in the RACH class would be entered in Advanced B, Excellent B and the Master class. The combined entry fee for these three classes must be paid. If due to entry limits an exhibitor cannot be entered in the Advanced B, Excellent B and Master classes the RACH class will be considered closed and any subsequent entries for this class will be unacceptable in their entirety.

**First Received.** Entries are accepted in the order of receipt. If stated in the premium list, a club may further restrict the delivery options (i.e. No FedEx, No hand-deliveries at any time.) However, USPS delivery must be allowed.

**Random Draw.** When using the Random Draw method, entries are treated equally without regard to date/time received or any other criteria during the Draw Period. The AKC strongly recommends using the Random Draw method for trials which are likely to exceed the "total entry limit" within the first 24 hours after the opening date and time.

An envelope containing entries for more than ten (10) dogs maximum will be considered invalid and must be returned to the sender.

**Random Draw Time Period.** Clubs determine a “Draw Period” during which time entries are accepted for the Random Draw. Acceptance of entries begins on the opening date/time established for the trial as stated in the premium list. This time period must be at least seven (7) days in length (14 days is recommended). The Random Draw Time Period closing date and time must be stated in the premium list.

**Reserved Spots for Trial Workers.** When using the Random Draw method, the club may reserve a specific number of spots for exhibitors who have been selected to work at the trial. A spot is defined as a person who has entered the trial and has been selected to work. The number of reserved spots allowed is based on the number of rings used. A club may reserve up to three (3) spots for each ring that is used (i.e. one ring equals three reserved spots, two rings equals six spots, and so on). Once the spots reserved for workers are filled, the remaining entries then become part of the Random Draw.

**Conducting the Random Draw.** If the entry limit for the trial is exceeded during the Random Draw Time Period, the club must conduct a Random Draw of all entries received, otherwise the Random Draw is not necessary. One draw may be conducted for all trials (concurrent or consecutive) held at the same site. One secretary or a group of cooperating secretaries are responsible for conducting the draw.

**The Random Draw must be held within 48 hours of the “Draw Period” closing date and time and held in a place accessible to the public. The location, date and time of the draw must be stated in the premium list.**

**In conducting the draw, the Trial Secretary must avoid any method that raises any questions as to its randomness and impartiality.**

**The drawing may be conducted by manually selecting entry envelopes or by using a computerized random drawing program. In either case, all entries submitted in one envelope must be included and counted. If the last envelope selected in the Random Draw contains entries that would exceed the stated total entry limit, a manual or computerized random draw of those individual entries must be conducted.**

**After the advertised limit of entries has been randomly drawn, clubs maintaining a wait list will randomly draw all remaining entries for a position on the wait list.**

**Accepting Entries After the Random Draw Time Period.** If the trial did not exceed the limit during the Random Draw Time Period, all the entries received during this time period will be accepted into the trial. Clubs may continue to accept entries after the Random Draw Time Period according to the procedures for the First Received method of entry, though all entries must be received prior to the closing date and time for the trial.

### **Managing Waitlists on Limited Entry Obedience and Rally Trials**

With increased COVID restrictions, clubs are experiencing a reduction in the number of people they may have in a facility for their events. This means that more clubs are hosting limited entry obedience and rally trials and with so few events being offered, it has resulted in more entries being received than can be accommodated. The Board VOTED to approve a recommendation on how to manage waitlists at limited events to allow the most participation in events by modifying the existing waitlist requirements.

The recommendation allows a club to set a waitlist closing date beyond the event closing date; however, it must be a minimum of three days prior to the first trial date in a set of trials. This change will be effective for all events immediately if published in the premium list.

**Proposed  
(Line In)**

**CHAPTER 1  
OBEDIENCE REGULATIONS  
GENERAL REGULATIONS**

**Section 27. Limitation of Entries.** If a club anticipates an entry to exceed the capacity of its facilities for a licensed or member trial, it may limit entries, not to exceed up to eight hours of judging time per day, per judge. Non-regular classes, however, may be included, if so desired.

Prominent announcement of such limits will appear on the title or cover page of the premium list for an obedience trial or immediately under the obedience heading in the premium list for a dog show. This announcement must state that entries in one or more specified classes will automatically close when certain limits have been reached, even if this occurs before the official closing date.

However, a club, at its discretion, may choose to establish a wait list in order to fill openings created by entries that are withdrawn prior to a date and time established by the club. Such date may be beyond the event closing date; however, it must be a minimum of three (3) days prior to the first trial date of the set of trials. All entries must be received prior to the closing date and time. If a club is maintaining a wait list, this shall be stated in the premium. The full entry fee shall be refunded to an entrant whose entry is replaced by a wait-listed entry.

When entries are limited in the regular Open B and/or Utility B classes, a club must designate a regular UDX class in the premium list. Dogs entered in this UDX class would be entered in both Open B and Utility B, and the combined entry fee for these two classes must be paid. Once the limit has been reached in either the regular Open B or the Utility B class, the regular UDX class will be considered closed and any subsequent entries for this class will be unacceptable in their entirety.

If Preferred Open and Preferred Utility are offered and entries are limited in these classes, a club must designate a Preferred UDX class in the premium list. Dogs entered in this Preferred UDX class would be entered in both Preferred Open and Preferred Utility and the combined entry fee for these two classes must be paid. Once the limit has been reached in either Preferred Open or the Preferred Utility class, the Preferred UDX class will be considered closed and any subsequent entries for this class will be unacceptable in their entirety.

**Proposed  
(Line In)**

**CHAPTER 1  
AKC RALLY REGULATIONS  
GENERAL REGULATIONS**

**Section 24. Limitation of Entries.** If a club anticipates an entry to exceed the capacity of its facilities for a licensed or member trial, it may limit entries, not to exceed up to eight hours of judging time per day, per judge. Entry limits may be based on ring availability or as specified by the club offering the event. Non-regular classes, however, may be included, if so desired.

Prominent announcement of such limits will appear on the title or cover page of the premium list for a rally trial or immediately under the rally heading in the premium list for an obedience trial or dog show. This announcement must state that the entries in one or more specified classes will automatically close when certain limits have been reached, even if this occurs before the official closing date.

When entries are limited, a club must designate a RAE and a Rally Champion (RACH) class in the premium list. Dogs entered in the RAE class would be entered in both Advanced B and Excellent B, and the combined entry fee for these two classes must be paid. If due to entry limits an exhibitor cannot be entered in both the Advanced B and Excellent B classes, the RAE class will be considered closed and any subsequent entries for this class will be unacceptable in their entirety. Dogs entered in the RACH class would be entered in Advanced B, Excellent B and the Master class. The combined entry fee for these three classes must be paid. If due to entry limits an exhibitor cannot be entered in the Advanced B, Excellent B and Master classes the RACH class will be considered closed and any subsequent entries for this class will be unacceptable in their entirety.

However, a club at its discretion may choose to establish a wait list in order to fill openings created by entries that are withdrawn prior to a date and time established by the club. Such date may be beyond the event closing date; however, it must be a minimum of three (3) days prior to the first trial date of the set of trials. All entries must be received prior to the closing date and time. If a club is maintaining a wait list, this shall be stated in the premium list. The full entry fee shall be refunded to an entrant whose entry is replaced by a wait-listed entry.

### **Delegate and Club Approvals**

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

Bonnie Bieber, Middletown, DE

To represent Wilmington Kennel Club

Mayno Blanding, Ridgefield, WA

To represent Bichon Frise Club of America

Kathi Elliot, Scottsdale, AZ

To represent Lewiston-Auburn Kennel Club

Diana Komarek, Topeka, KS

To represent Topeka Kennel Club

Thea F. Lahti, New London, NH

To represent Irish Terrier Club of America

Richard L. Reynolds, Tenafly, NJ

To represent Garden State All Terrier Club

**The Board VOTED to approve the following Clubs for Membership:**

Carroll Kennel Club

Morris Hills Dog Training Club

**NEW BUSINESS****Northeastern Maryland Kennel Club**

Following a motion by Mr. Powers, seconded by Ms. McAteer, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to permit the Northeastern Maryland Kennel Club to have a third show in 2021.

**Juniors Competing with Canine Partners**

The Board discussed the recently approved policy to permit Junior handlers to compete in Conformation Junior Handling with AKC enrolled Canine Partners. Following a motion by Ms. Biddle, seconded by Dr. Battaglia, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to allow clubs to opt-out of accepting entries from Junior Handlers with Canine Partners if they choose. The start date of this pilot program was pushed back until January 1, 2022 to allow for AKC to complete the programming that is required to enable for the opt-out on event applications.

It was VOTED to adjourn Tuesday, February 9, 2021 at 5:34 p.m. Eastern Time.

Adjourned

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_

Gina M. DiNardo, Executive Secretary