

MISSION STATEMENT The American Kennel Club is dedicated to upholding the integrity of its registry, promoting the sport of purebred dogs and breeding for type and function.

Founded in 1884, the AKC and its affiliated organizations advocate for the purebred dog as a family companion, advance canine health and well-being, work to protect the rights of all dog owners and promote responsible dog ownership.

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ATTENTION DELEGATES NOTICE OF MEETINGS

The next meeting of the Delegates will be held at the Doubletree Newark Airport Hotel on Tuesday, June 9, 2026, beginning no earlier than 10:30 a.m. It will follow the Delegate Forum which will begin at 9:30 a.m.

DELEGATE CREDENTIALS

Dr. Lisa A. Connor, Saint Helena Island, SC, Great Pyrenees Club of America

Spencer Guynup, Puyallup, WA, Puyallup Valley Dog Fanciers

Colleen E. Kimble, Saratoga Springs, NY, Glens Falls Kennel Club

Ashley Maas, Ankeny, IA, Central Iowa Kennel Club

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Sebastian Steele, Des Moines, IA, Des Moines Kennel Club

Susan Swords, Scott Depot, WV, Magic Valley Kennel Club

Lauren Westover, Cameron, NC, Fayetteville Kennel Club

Katherine A. Wright, New York, NY, Montgomery County Kennel Club



gazette

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June 2026 issue!



SECRETARY'S PAGES

NOTICE

REPRIMANDS AND FINES

Notification of fine imposed on Superintendent for acceptance of entries not in accordance with AKC recognized class, *Rules Applying to Dog Shows*, Chapter 3, Section 5.

Executive Dog Shows, Ltd.\$500

Notification of fine imposed on a club for late submission of Event Records, *Rules Applying to Dog Shows*, Chapter 17, Section 2.

German Shepherd Dog Club of Orlando\$25

Treasure Coast German Shepherd Dog Club\$50

Notification of fines imposed on Performance Clubs for late submission of results, *Coursing Ability Test (CAT) and Fast CAT Regulations*, Chapter 2.

Lawrenceville Kennel Club.....\$50

Notification of fines imposed on Performance Clubs for late submission of results, *Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedure for Pointing Breeds*, Chapter 13, Section 3.

Weimaraner Club of Washington DC Area\$50

Heart of America GSP Club.....\$100

Notification of fines imposed on Performance Clubs for late submission of results, *Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedure for Retrievers*, Chapter 13.

American Amateur Retriever Club\$100

Notification of fines imposed on Performance Clubs for late submission of results, *Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedure for Spaniels*, Chapter 14, Section 3.

Loup River Valley Sporting Spaniel Club ...\$50

As a result of an Event Committee determination the following individual stands suspended of AKC privileges. It should be noted that this determination may still be appealed and may be reversed. Upon expiration of the appeal process, an appropriate notice describing the status of the individual's suspension, if any, will appear in this column:

Mr. George Chandler (Clovis, CA)
Ms. Rebecca Cross (Gettysburg, PA)
Mr. William Salazer (Boulder City, NV)
Mr. Mike Thomas (Reno, NV)

NOTICE

Ms. Jacqueline Caruso (Ridgefield, CT). Action was taken by the Collie Club of Maine for conduct at its March 1, 2026 event. Ms. Caruso was charged with inappropriate, abusive, or foul language. The

Staff Event Committee reviewed the Event Committee's report and set the penalty as a one-month event suspension and imposed a \$500 fine, effective April 21, 2026. (Collies)

NOTICE

Ms. Stefanie Perrine (Bristow, OK). Action was taken by the Labrador Retriever Club of the Potomac for conduct at its April 7, 2026 event. Ms. Perrine was charged with improper treatment in connection with an event. The Staff Event Committee reviewed the Event Committee's report and set the penalty as a reprimand and imposed a \$100 fine. (Labrador Retrievers)

NOTICE

Mr. Matthew Perry (Berkeley, IL). Action was taken by the Lakeland Winter Haven Kennel Club for conduct at its February 14, 2026 event. Mr. Perry was charged with disregard of published club regulations. The Staff Event Committee reviewed the Event Committee's report and set the penalty as a two-month event suspension and imposed a \$500 fine, effective March 8, 2026. (Multiple Breeds)

NOTICE

Ms. Aslynn Rose (Cedar Creek, TX). Action was taken by the Fort Bend Kennel Association for conduct at its April

5, 2026 event. Ms. Rose was charged with disorderly conduct. The Staff Event Committee reviewed the Event Committee's report and set the penalty as a reprimand and imposed a \$100 fine. (Doberman Pinschers, Great Danes)

NOTICE

On March 23, 2026, the Trial Board (Robert Newman, Esq., Chair, Kathi Brown, James Phinizy) of The American Kennel Club heard charges against Mr. Adam McCabe, (Plymouth, WI) for violating AKC's Personal Conduct Policy. The Trial Board sustained the charges and suspended Mr. McCabe from all AKC privileges for six months, and imposed a \$500 fine, effective March 30, 2026. (Dachshunds)

NOTICE

On April 1, 2026, the Trial Board (Samuel Kovitz, Esq., Chair, Laurie Maulucci, Dr. John Ioia) of The American Kennel Club heard charges against Mr. Jay Van Zandt, (Hearne, TX) for inappropriate treatment in connection with an event. The Trial Board sustained the charges and suspended Mr. Van Zandt from all AKC privileges for three months and imposed a \$300 fine, effective April 12, 2026. (Multiple Breeds)

CONFORMATION JUDGES

Letters concerning judges and provisional judges should be addressed to the Judging Operations Department at PO Box 900062, Raleigh, NC 27675-9062. Letters concerning Agility, Obedience, Rally, Tracking, and VST applicants should be addressed to the Companion Events Department in North Carolina.

The American Kennel Club will, at the request of a judge or judge applicant, provide that individual with copies of letters received regarding their judging qualifications. As a result, it should be understood that any such correspondence will be made available, upon request, to the judge or judge applicant.

It is the responsibility of all Conformation and Junior Showmanship judges to notify the Judging Operations Department of any changes or corrections to their address, phone, fax or emails. These changes are very important because they affect your judges' record, the web site and the Judges Directory. Please notify Judging Operations by email at judgingops@akc.org.

APPLICANTS

The following persons' applications have been submitted for the breed(s) specified ***but they are NOT eligible to accept assignments.***

NEW BREED JUDGING APPLICANTS

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French Bulldogs

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Australian Shepherds, Berger Picards,
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Balance of Herding Group (Australian

Cattle Dogs, Cardigan Welsh Corgis, Collies, Entlebucher Mountain Dogs, Finnish Lapphunds, German Shepherd Dogs, Icelandic Sheepdogs, Miniature American Shepherds, Mudik, Norwegian Buhunds, Shetland Sheepdogs, Swedish Vallhunds)

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PERMIT JUDGES

The following persons have been approved on a Permit basis for the designated breeds in accordance with the current judging approval process. ***They may now accept assignments*** and the fancy may still offer comments to Judging Operations.

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Bernese Mountain Dogs

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Scotia Duck Tolling Retrievers, American
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Water Spaniels, Sussex Spaniels, Welsh
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CA**

(619) 448-3098

suetskennel@cox.net

BEST IN SHOW

The following person, has success-
fully **completed** the required Group
Assignments in the first Variety Group
for which they were **approved**, and has
been added to the list of judges eligible for
approval to judge Best In Show.

Ms. Nancy Talbott (5898) PA

(661) 547-9985

belgoldnt@gmail.com

RESIGNED CONFORMATION JUDGES

Mrs. Helen K. Szostak

Alice M. Watkins

EMERITUS CONFORMATION JUDGE

Diana Engeszer

REGULAR STATUS APPROVED OBEDIENCE/RALLY/TRACKING JUDGES

The following persons have completed their Provisional Judging assignments, and their names have been added to the list of *regular approved* judges for the class indicated.

Cheryl Goldman (110843) IN

812-951-9512

luvdogshows@yahoo.com

Regular Tracking TD/TDU

Annette Lynch (115135) IL

708-927-6051

agaklynch@sbcglobal.net

Regular Tracking TD/TDU

Brenda Riemer (104082) MI

734-474-8900

thyminator@yahoo.com

Regular Obedience Utility

DECEASED OBEDIENCE/RALLY/ TRACKING JUDGES

Ken Kincaid – Obedience and Rally

APPLICATION FOR BREED-SPECIFIC REGISTERED NAME PREFIX

The following applications for a breed-specific Registered Name Prefix have been submitted to The American Kennel Club. Letters in regard to these applications should be addressed to Sheila Goffe, Executive Secretary:

ALTA-TOLLHAUS – German Shepherd Dogs – Julie E Richards

BRIGHTNORTHSTAR – Old English Sheepdogs – Sherry K. Schreiner Beckwith & Mary McIntosh

CREDO – Portuguese Water Dogs – Landon Stafford

CREDO – Chinese Cresteds – Landon Stafford

DAISYLANE – Cavalier King Charles Spaniels – Kristine M. Schmidt

EVERLOVE – Pembroke Welsh Corgis – Shylah L. Love

LA CORSA – Italian Greyhounds – Terri Jones & John R. Jones

MAGSHIRE – Cairn Terriers – Amanda Edwards

MALEWOOD MTN– Dachshunds – Kelly L. Pollizzi & Stephen M. Polizzi

NORWINDS – Norwegian Elkhounds – Deanna K. Seitner & Danielle N. Seitner

OAKRIDGE – German Shorthaired Pointers – Sarijana Reynolds

ROYAL AN'WIZARD-West Highland
White Terriers – Anna A. Jucova Krex

SADDLERIDGE – Australian Shepherds
– Sally A. Pacheco

SIERRA – Saint Bernards – Pam Leighton

SUMBERN-Bernese Mountain Dogs –
Summer D. Ory

REGISTERED NAME PREFIXES GRANTED

The following applications for a
breed-specific Registered Name Prefix
have been granted

4 CLOVERS – Miniature American
Shepherds – Erica R. Beattie

AMSCOT – French Bulldogs – Amy E
Traufler

BIRCHVIEW – Miniature American
Shepherds – Sharon L. Hulke & Amy J.
Pirkl

COPPERRIDGE – Rhodesian Ridgebacks
-Lin Hainlen & Bob Hainlen

CU SEILGE – Scottish Deerhounds –
Terri L.B. Crawford

ENCHANTED MESA – Miniature
American Shepherds – Kristin Hill

GLEANNFAE – Cavalier King Charles
Spaniels – Lorraine C. Wood & Evelyn
Wood

JBj – Portuguese Water Dogs – Nina A.
Britton

LAVISH – Bernese Mountain Dogs –
Layal L. Bouaoun & Christopher D.
Petersen

LEBORIA – Border Collies – Zihui
(Hebr) Lin & Yuan (Olivia) Wang

LONGMILE – Miniature American
Shepherds – Stacy L. Miller

PONDSIDE – Cardigan Welsh Corgis –
Robert J. Smead

ROCKIN-B FARMS – Golden Retrievers
– Elizah Brandstuds & Brian Brandstadt



**AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB, INC.
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
AKC OFFICES AT 8051 ARCO
CORPORATE DR.
RALEIGH, NC
MAY 11-12, 2026**

The Board convened on Monday, May 11, 2026, at 8:33 a.m. Eastern Time.

Present in the Raleigh Office: Dr. Thomas Davies (Chairman), Dr. Michael Knight (Vice Chairman), Ms. Gina DiNardo (President & CEO), Dr. Carmen Battaglia, Mr. Dominic Carota, Ms. Sally Fineburg, Mr. Eduardo Fugiwara, Dr. Charles Garvin, Mr. Steven Hamblin, Mr. Jason Hoke, Mr. Dan Smyth, and Mr. Robin Stansell. Ms. Sylvia Thomas and Ms. Sue Goldberg joined via video conference.

The Executive Secretary and the Chief Financial Officer were also present.

April Minutes

Copies of the April 13-14, 2026 Board Meeting minutes had previously been provided to all Directors for review.

Upon a motion by Dr. Davies, and seconded by Dr. Garvin, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to approve the April 2026 Board Meeting minutes.

President's Update

Ms. DiNardo reported that AKC is continuing to receive interest from numerous foreign national registries and kennel clubs about expanding recognition of pedigrees and opportunities for cooperation with AKC.

AKC has recently signed mutual cooperation agreements with the New Zealand Kennel Club and with the Korea Kennel Federation. Meanwhile preparations are continuing for AKC's first internationally sanctioned dog show, in Mexico City this November.

Closer to home, AKC is making preparations for AKC's own USA 250 celebration in Philadelphia, on June 5-7. *AKC Celebrates USA 250* will offer three days of canine sports in a family-friendly educational environment at the Marine Parade Grounds at the Philadelphia Navy Yard. The festival is free to the public and offers interactive canine educational activities, and a mini AKC Meet the Breeds® event alongside the AKC Diving Dogs Team Challenge, the AKC Agility Premier Cup, and the AKC Team Agility Challenge – all of which will be broadcast on ESPN as part of their USA 250 festivities.

Legal Update

Heather McManus, VP & General Counsel, and Patricia Hines, Corporate Counsel

– Litigation, participated in this portion of the meeting.

The Board reviewed the Legal Status update as of May 2026.

Quarterly Update on Communications, Social Media & Digital

Brandi Hunter Munden, VP of Public Relations and Communications, joined this portion of the meeting via video conference. She presented an update highlighting the collective achievements of the Communications, Social Media, and Digital Content teams in Q1.

Unique Clips Evaluated in Q1: 15,387 (+19% from 12,921 in 2025)

Q1 Totals Comparison

Year	Clips Evaluated
2023	9,162
2024	11,263
2025	12,921
2026	15,387

* Numbers and values provided by media monitoring platform Notified.

Media Coverage Highlights Resulting from Proactive Pitches:

Date	Media Outlet	Subject
1/2	<i>Yahoo! Life</i>	New Breeds
2/7	<i>CBS</i>	AKC Meet the Breeds®
3/18	<i>TODAY Show</i>	Most Popular Breeds
3/18	<i>Associated Press</i>	Most Popular Breeds
3/18	<i>WRAL</i>	Raleigh's Most Popular Breeds

- Ongoing media pitching executed to key audiences with stories that speak

to positive qualities of AKC purebreds and breeders. Distributed 12 press releases to appropriate media outlets.

- Promoted all major AKC events and broadcasts on ESPN with press releases and media alerts.
- Continued positioning the American Kennel Club and its spokespeople as the expert on all things dog.

Q1 Performance Highlights

- 7.19% increase in media relations and press coverage in Mandarin language and Spanish language publications.
- 9.1% increase in the media visibility of our Chief Veterinary Officer (+2.5% from Q4 2025)
- Maintained a 97% positivity rating.
- Media coverage of AKC Affiliates (AKC Reunite, AKC MoD, AKC Humane Fund and AKC CHF) on par with Q1 2025.

AKC Education Q1 Review

Ashley Jacot, VP, Education, participated in this portion of the meeting. She presented Q1 highlights for the Education Department.

AKC Canine College (AKC CC)

In Q1 2026, the AKC CC developed and published 6 new courses. The Learning Management System (LMS) now hosts 521 courses, totaling 1,621 modules.

AKC CC Breed-Specific Courses

In Q1, six new breed-specific courses were released, two breed-specific courses were updated, four breed courses are under Parent Club review, and seven new breed courses are in development or queued. In Q1 2026, 694+ course enrollments were recorded, with 18 days remaining in the quarter, representing approximately a 4.7% increase over Q1 2025.

Required Judge's Exams

As of March 13, 2026, in Q1, 2,100 exam enrollments were purchased, which included 812 breed exams, 422 judge recertification exams, 225 performance exams, and 649 CGC Evaluator exams.

Expanding Reach Through Courses, Campaigns, and Cross-Promotions

AKC CC is looking to deepen cross-promotion across AKC's platforms and services, creating a more connected ecosystem to drive learner engagement while unlocking new revenue opportunities for other areas of the business. AKC CC currently features targeted placements linking learners to relevant AKC products and services, including the AKC Shop, AKC Pet Insurance, AKC DNA, AKC Good-Dog Helpline, and more.

Breeder Development Support

In Q1 2026, three webinar sessions were hosted and three more are currently planned for Q2.

- OFA Testing and the Breeder's Commitment to Canine Health
- A Breeder's Blueprint, the Breed Standard
- Breeding Quality, Healthy Dogs – Selection that Epitomizes the Breed
- Troubleshooting Canine Infertility in Females (*scheduled*)
- Neonates: The Critical Period (*scheduled*)
- [June 2026 session – TITLE TBD (*scheduled*)]

AKC Meet the Breeds® (MTB) 2026

The Public Education team received over 300 art contest entries from around 32 different schools this year. The artwork of 100 finalists and four winners was displayed at MTB. The four winning pieces are being displayed at the AKC Museum of the Dog for the next few months.

The Education team also ran the popular AKC Patch Program at the event, with over 500 families participating.

Other highlights include:

Bailey's Birthday Surprise: This children's picture book, written by the AKC Public Education team and illustrated by Kathleen Stack, is scheduled for completion at the end of June, with printing planned for Q3.

Pee Wee Patch Program: This program is being expanded for ages 3-6.

RDO Coloring Book Update: The Education team has developed a plan to update the book's language and content to provide clearer, more comprehensive information about responsible dog ownership, along with refreshed illustrations that promote inclusivity.

Breed Posters: The Public Education collection of dog breed posters has grown to approximately 130 and continues to expand.

AKC Library and Archives: Work this quarter focused on improving access to collections, strengthening internal workflows, and more effectively supporting researchers. L&A is moving toward more sustainable, accessible, and user-centered services.

Webinars: In Quarter 1 of 2026, AKC Education hosted ten webinars for 1,262 participants, bringing the total number of participants to 84,798 since March 2020.

AKC Groomer Program: In Q1, the AKC Dog Grooming Program continued to implement process improvements designed to streamline the user experience, reduce administrative burden, and strengthen margin performance across existing offerings.

National Dog Groomers Association of America: NDGAA membership certificates have been transitioned to a fully digi-

tal format aligned with updated branding. Campaigns are underway for improving member retention and expanding new membership.

National Certified Master Groomer Program: Many of the program updates initiated in Q3 focused on the National Certified Master Groomer (NCMG) program, which includes both in-person and virtual evaluations. Given the number of customer and evaluator touchpoints, efforts have centered on simplifying the experience while maintaining the program's position as a leading industry certification.

IT Transformation Plan – Update

Since the October 2025 update, AKC's IT Transformation program has moved from planning into formal execution. Following a competitive evaluation process, AKC selected BDO as its transformation partner. The contract has been fully executed, the program kickoff has been completed, and structured interviews and discovery activities with leadership and key stakeholders are now underway.

These steps mark a significant transition from analysis and roadmap development to active delivery of a multiyear business and technology transformation. The program is now focused on establishing a shared understanding of current-state challenges, aligning leadership on future-state objectives, and defining a

sequenced, executable roadmap that addresses business alignment, cost, risk, and delivery effectiveness. BDO's timeline for the first phase of the effort is expected to take seven months.

FINANCE

Preliminary Financial Statements (Unaudited) March 31, 2026

Ted Phillips, Chief Financial Officer, reported on preliminary financial statements for the first quarter ending March 31, 2026. This period reported a Net Operating Loss of \$796K, primarily due to registration revenue trailing Q1-2025 by 11%. Q1-2026 NOL excludes an investment spend rate allocation of \$710K. Q1- 2026 NOL represents 4% of operating revenues, the same as Q1 2025, indicating financial stabilization across the two comparative periods. The 2026 Q1 vs 2025 Q1 results reported lower operating revenues of \$1.5MM, or 6%, and lower operating expenses of \$1.7MM, or 7%. Donations to AKC affiliates are on budget and are funded by the matching use of investment funds.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

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

Foundation Stock Service® (FSS®) Guidelines – AKC Citizen Science Task Force Recommendations

The Citizen Science Task Force has sub-

mitted recommendations to modify the Foundation Stock Service® Guidelines as follows:

- FSS® breed Parent Clubs will annually submit a report about their progress and status: For FSS® breed Parent Clubs, if there is a lapse of three years in communication between the Sports Services Department and the designated Parent Club, the club will no longer be considered representing the breed.
- One of the criteria for a breed to be considered for full recognition is that there must be minimum of ten unique Parent Club households owning dogs that have earned AKC titles.
- The AKC Communications Department will develop a 12-month media and social media plan for clubs of newly recognized breeds. This plan will serve as a practical roadmap to help clubs build visibility, generate interest, and raise public awareness for the breed, with AKC offering guidance and support to assist clubs.

Upon a motion by Mr. Hoke and seconded by Ms. Fineburg, the Board VOTED (In favor: Dr. Davies, Dr. Knight, Mr. Carota, Ms. Fineburg, Mr. Fugiwara, Dr. Garvin, Ms. Goldberg, Mr. Hamblin, Mr. Hoke, Mr. Smyth, Mr. Stansell, Ms. Thomas. Abstained: Dr. Battaglia) to approve the recommended modifications.

These modifications to the Foundation Stock Service® Guidelines are effective June 1, 2026.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was an EXECUTIVE SESSION to discuss business matters.

Russian-Bred Dogs

It was reported out that the Board VOTED to repeal the ban on registering Russian-born dogs.

Trial Board Administration

It was reported out that the Board VOTED to establish a Board committee to review Trial Board member applications and adherence to the *Trial Board Member Requirements & Guidelines*. The Board appointed three Board members to the committee: Mr. Dan Smyth, Mr. Dominic Carota, and Ms. Sue Goldberg.

Government Relations Update First Quarter 2026

Sheila Goffe, Executive Secretary and VP, Government Relations, updated the Board on quarterly and year-to-date Government Relations and advocacy highlights. Updates included key issues, coalition building, legislative and regulatory trends, advocacy and educational outreach at the state and federal levels, successes and challenges, and recent alerts, publications and new resources for dog owners, lawmakers and advocates.

AKC Community/Economic Impact

In March, GR introduced newly researched studies of AKC economic and community impact figures for all 50 states. This newly revised resource utilizes survey data of expenditures in local communities by exhibitors in 2025 at AKC Conformation, Companion and Performance events. On average, AKC exhibitors spend approximately \$982 in a local community during a dog show weekend.

AKC Impact by State reports provide data on the positive impact that AKC affiliates, clubs, and events have in each state. This is valuable information to share with lawmakers, local media, chambers of commerce and other community entities to educate the public about the positive impact that AKC has in every community we touch.

Each state summary includes a broad range of information including:

- Economic impact of AKC dog shows.
- The number of AKC dog clubs and events by state.
- AKC Reunite Disaster Relief Trailer and K-9 Officer donations by state.
- AKC Canine Health Foundation (AKC CHF) Research grants and dollars by state.

The full report is available in the AKC Government Relations online toolbox.

Legislative/Regulatory Tracking

As of April 24, 2026, Congress and legislatures in 33 states and the District of Columbia are in session.

The AKC GR team is currently monitoring more than 2,500 active bills and regulations at the local, state and federal level that could impact responsible dog ownership, the health and well-being of dogs, the rights of dog owners, and/or the interests of the sport and the American Kennel Club.

To date in 2026, GR has prepared and published more than 100 legislative alerts and provided direct advocacy to lawmakers or written and/or oral testimony on more than 85 measures.

By volume, the most common types of bills monitored in Q1 2026 related to:

Cruelty/ Breeder Restrictions	268	22%
Working Dogs	241	20%
Veterinary	203	17%
Hunting/Land Use	186	15%
Animal Control/Dangerous Dogs	174	14%

The remainder of bills fell into other, smaller categories, including performance events, rescue/shelters, enforcement actions, service dogs, retail and other bills. This illustrates the broad range of canine legislation introduced and tracked by the GR team.

Administrative/Implementing Regulations

AKC GR also tracks administrative (im-

plementing) regulations and rule changes impacting dogs. In Q1, GR monitored 688 active regulatory proposals: 15 federal; 673 at the state level.

By far, the most common regulatory category continues to be *Hunting/Land Use* (383 total; 54% of measures tracked). Regulations regarding *Veterinary Medicine* (130; 18%) are also common. *Veterinary Professions* are third with (85; 12%), *Dogs in Public* are fourth with (50; 7%). The last two categories are *Other Canine Policy Issues* (43; 6%) and *Public Health* with (24; 3%) round out the top six specific categories.

New Breed for Foundation Stock Service® – Lucas Terrier

The Foundation Stock Service® (FSS®) Committee recently approved a petition for the Lucas Terrier to be accepted into the FSS® Program.

Companion & Performance

Doug Ljungren, EVP, Sports and Events; Mari-Beth O'Neill, VP, Sport Services; Lisa Liggins, Administrative Director, Obedience, Rally, and Tracking; Caroline Murphy, Director of Performance Events; and Douglas Hurley, Director of Agility, joined this portion of the meeting.

Parent Club Request for Three-Quarter Jump Height in Obedience – Norfolk Terrier

The Norfolk Terrier Club has submitted

a request to have the regular jump height requirement in Obedience lowered to three-quarters the height of the dog at the withers.

This change requires an amendment to the *Obedience Regulations* and may be approved by a vote of the Board.

Upon a motion by Ms. Fineburg and seconded by Dr. Battaglia, the Board VOTED (In favor: Dr. Davies, Dr. Knight, Dr. Battaglia, Mr. Carota, Ms. Fineburg, Mr. Fugiwara, Dr. Garvin, Mr. Hamblin, Mr. Hoke, Mr. Smyth, Mr. Stansell, Ms. Thomas. Absent: Ms. Goldberg) to approve lowering the regular jump height requirement for Norfolk Terriers to three-quarters the height of the dog at the withers.

This change is effective June 1, 2026.

Agility – Allowing the Wall Jump in all Classes

Staff presented a recommendation to modify the *Agility Regulations* to allow all AKC licensed Agility clubs to use the wall jump as an optional piece of equipment in all AKC Standard and Jumpers with Weave classes (but not allowed in FAST or T2B). The wall jump may replace the panel jump or be substituted for a spread jump (triple, double, ascending or the broad jump). The wall jump may only be taken one time in Standard and Jumpers with Weaves classes.

Upon a motion by Dr. Garvin, seconded by Ms. Fineburg, the Board VOTED (In favor: Dr. Davies, Dr. Knight, Dr. Battaglia, Mr. Carota, Ms. Fineburg, Mr. Fugiwara, Dr. Garvin, Mr. Hamblin, Mr. Hoke, Mr. Smyth, Mr. Stansell, Ms. Thomas. Absent: Ms. Goldberg) to waive standard procedure to vote on the recommendation immediately.

Upon a motion by Dr. Garvin, seconded by Ms. Fineburg, the Board VOTED (In favor: Dr. Davies, Dr. Knight, Dr. Battaglia, Mr. Carota, Ms. Fineburg, Mr. Fugiwara, Dr. Garvin, Ms. Goldberg, Mr. Hoke, Mr. Smyth, Mr. Stansell, Ms. Thomas. Abstain: Mr. Hamblin) to modify the *Agility Regulations* to allow use of the wall jump as an optional piece of equipment.

This change is effective August 1, 2026.

Pointing Breed Field Trials – Retrieving Test

The Board considered a recommendation to allow clubs the option to host a retrieving test at Pointing Breed Field Trials. This is a pass-fail test where dogs that pass earn one retrieving credit which counts toward earning a Field Championship (FC) or Amateur Field Champion (AFC) title.

This is a change to the *Standard Procedures for Pointing Breeds* and may be approved by a vote of the Board. If ap-

proved, the change will become effective November 1, 2026.

This will be discussed further at the July Board meeting.

CAT and Fast CAT® – Clarifications & Updates

The Board considered a series of nine technical clarifications/updates to the *CAT and Fast CAT® Regulations* designed to offer clearer guidance to exhibitors and host clubs. Changes made to the *CAT and Fast CAT® Regulations* and may be made by a vote of the Board. If approved, the changes would be effective November 1, 2026.

This will be discussed further at the July Board meeting.

Lure Coursing – Allowing FSS® Breeds to Earn Prefix Titles

The Board considered a recommendation to allow Foundation Stock Service® (FSS®) breeds to earn prefix titles in Lure Coursing. FSS® breeds have been eligible to earn prefix titles in Companion events.

This is a change to the *Lure Coursing Regulations* and may be made by a vote of the Board. If approved, the recommendation would become effective upon the completion of programming.

This will be discussed further at the July Board meeting.

CONFORMATION

Doug Ljungren, EVP, Sports & Events;

Tim Thomas, VP of Conformation; Mark Desrosiers, Director Event Programs; and Guy Fisher, Director of Club Development, participated in this portion of the meeting.

At the January 2026 Board meeting, the staff was directed to study ways to improve scheduling of Conformation dog shows. Following its review of the memorandum presented by staff concerning the scheduling of Conformation dog shows at the April 2026 meeting, the Board directed staff to further pursue potential rule and policy changes discussed within the memorandum and/or emanating from its discussion.

Required Number of Rings for Conformation Dog Shows

The Board reviewed a proposal to adopt a *Minimum Number of Rings Policy* to establish the requirement for All-Breed and Limited-Breed dog shows to provide a minimum of one ring per 150 entries, inclusive of all Conformation classes/competitions offered by the club. Staff was directed to forward the proposal to the Delegate All-Breed Clubs Committee for discussion at its June meeting and to provide feedback for the Board's consideration.

This will be discussed further at the July Board meeting. If the recommended changes are approved at that time, the effective date would be January 1, 2027.

Group and Best in Show Judges

The Board reviewed a proposal to amend current Board policy to prohibit judges assigned to the regular Group or Best in Show competitions from being assigned to judge the Four-to-Six Month Beginner Puppy Competition or FSS® Open Show on the same day. Staff was directed to forward the proposal to the Delegate All-Breed Clubs Committee for discussion at its June meeting and to provide feedback for the Board's consideration.

This will be discussed further at the July Board meeting. If the recommended changes are approved at that time, the effective date would be January 1, 2027.

Conformation Judges Daily Limit

The Board reviewed proposals concerning the daily limit for Conformation Judges to either: (1) lower the daily limit for all Conformation Judges from 175 to 150 entries, or (2) maintain the 175 entry daily limit for Conformation Judges, with the caveat that judges assigned to a regular Group or Best in Show are limited to 150 entries per day inclusive of All-Breed, Junior Showmanship, Sweepstakes, Futurity, Four-to-Six Month Beginner Puppy Competition and FSS® Open Show assignments.

Staff was directed to forward the proposals to adopt the *Judges Daily Limit for Group and Best in Show Judges Policy* to establish the maximum number of entries that may

be assigned to judges assigned to a regular Group or Best in Show at Conformation dog shows may not exceed 150 on the day, inclusive of All-Breed, Junior Showmanship, Sweepstakes, Futurity, Four-to-Six Month Beginner Puppy Competition and FSS® Open Show assignments to the Delegate All-Breed Clubs and Dog Show Rules Committees for discussion at its June meeting and to provide feedback for the Board's consideration.

This will be discussed further at the July Board meeting. If the recommended changes are approved at that time, the effective date would be January 1, 2027.

Santa Ana Valley Kennel Club 3rd Show Request

Santa Ana Valley Kennel Club has requested approval to hold a 3rd show at the Industry Hills Exposition Center in the City of Industry, CA on week 39. From the Industry Hills Exposition Center, it is 368 straight-line miles and 446 driving miles (7+ hrs. driving time) from the closest shows in Carson City, NV. The distances do not meet the Limited Number of Events isolated criteria.

This memo provides the Board with information related to the club's request for an exception.

The recommendation is to approve the Santa Ana Valley Kennel Club's request for an exception to the Limited Number

of Events Isolated Criteria to hold a 3rd show.

This recommendation is an exception to Board Policy and may be made by a vote of the Board.

Upon a motion by Mr. Smyth, seconded by Ms. Fineburg, the Board VOTED (In favor: Dr. Davies, Dr. Knight, Ms. Fineburg, Mr. Fugiwara, Ms. Goldberg, Mr. Hamblin, Mr. Hoke, Mr. Smyth, Mr. Stansell, Ms. Thomas. Opposed: Dr. Battaglia, Mr. Carota, Dr. Garvin) to waive standard procedure to vote on the recommendation immediately.

Upon a motion Mr. Hamblin, seconded by Mr. Smyth the Board VOTED (In favor: Dr. Davies, Dr. Knight, Mr. Carota, Ms. Fineburg, Mr. Fugiwara, Ms. Goldberg, Mr. Hamblin, Mr. Hoke, Mr. Smyth, Mr. Stansell, Ms. Thomas. Opposed: Dr. Battaglia, Dr. Garvin) to approve Santa Ana Valley Kennel Club's request for approval hold a third show until such time as circumstances may change.

Fines & Reprimands

Staff updated the Board on recent fines and reprimands.

Events & Entries

Staff updated the Board on event and entry numbers.

JUDGING OPERATIONS

Doug Ljungren, EVP, Sports & Events,

and Tim Thomas, VP of Conformation, participated in this portion of the meeting.

Rules, Policies, and Guidelines for Conformation Dog Show Judges – Individual Examination of Dogs

The Board reviewed a proposal to amend the *Rules, Policies and Guidelines for Conformation Dog Show Judges* to remove the requirement for Group and Best in Show Judges to re-examine dogs judged earlier at the same event for standard disqualifications and check for two normally descended testicles in males.

This will be discussed further at the July Board meeting. If the recommended changes are approved at that time, the effective date would be July 19, 2026.

REGISTRATION

Doug Ljungren, EVP, Sports & Events; Mari-Beth O'Neill, VP of Sport Services; Keva Allen, Director of DNA Operations; and Jill Zapadinsky, Sr. Director of Customer Service, participated in this portion of the meeting.

Cloned Dogs Listed as PAL Dogs

The Board considered a recommendation to clarify Board Policy regarding cloned dogs, specifically the phrase "under certain circumstances a cloned dog may obtain a PAL enrollment." to better define what circumstances would qualify a cloned dog for PAL (Purebred Alternate Listing) enrollment.

The Board VOTED (In favor: Dr. Davies, Dr. Knight, Dr. Battaglia, Mr. Carota, Ms. Fineburg, Mr. Fugiwara, Dr. Garvin, Ms. Goldberg, Mr. Hoke, Mr. Smyth, Mr. Stansell. Opposed: Mr. Hamblin. Abstained: Ms. Thomas.) to approve the recommendation to modify AKC Board policy as follows: The AKC will not provide full registration to a cloned dog. A cloned dog may enroll in the PAL (Purebred Alternate Listing) program provided they meet all PAL requirements, including spaying/neutering. Further, cloned dogs that are enrolled in the PAL program are eligible to participate in any event that a dog with a PAL listing can participate.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

CLUBS

Doug Ljungren, EVP, Sports & Events participated in this portion of the meeting. Lisa Cecin, Director of Club Relations, joined this portion of the meeting via video conference.

Report on Member Club Bylaws Approved in March and April

All Breed Training Club of Akron, Akron, OH (1954)

American Sealyham Terrier Club (1913)

Ann Arbor Kennel Club, Ann Arbor, MI (2008)

Blackhawk Retriever Club, La Crosse, WI (2005)

Detroit Kennel Club, Detroit, MI (1916)

Five Valley Kennel Club, Missoula County, MT (2002)

Manitowoc County Kennel Club, Manitowoc County, WI (1949)

Newnan Kennel Club, Coweta County, GA (2005)

Sioux Empire Kennel Club, Minnehaha County, SD (1968)

Report On Newly Licensed Clubs Approved in March and April

East Tennessee Working Dog Association, greater Knoxville, TN (including communities north to Kentucky state line, south to Walland, east to Johnson City, and west to Crossville), 27 total households, 14 local.

Northwest Rat Terrier Association, greater Seattle, WA (including communities north to Mount Vernon, south to Centralia, in proximity to Interstate 5), 22 total households, 14 local.

COMPLIANCE

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

Code of Sportsmanship & Civility Enforcement Policy Changes

The Board of Directors considered a recommendation to incorporate clarifying language into the *Code of Sportsmanship & Civility Enforcement Policy* and continuing to utilize the *AKC Discipline Guidelines* to bring charges for more serious violations. It also considered recommendations to re-order parts of the policy for greater clarity.

This will be discussed further at the July Board meeting. If the recommended changes are approved at that time, the effective date would be July 15, 2026.

Staff Event Committee Report of Actions Taken

The Board received a report of actions taken.

Summary of Finalized Disciplinary Actions as of April 20, 2026

The Board received a report of finalized disciplinary actions as of April 20, 2026.

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

Compliance Status Report – First Quarter 2026

The Board received a report of Compliance quarterly statistics for the first quarter of 2026.

Inspections Status Report – First Quarter 2026

The Board received a report on inspections statistics for the first quarter of 2026.

CONSENT

Retriever Hunting Tests – New National Retriever Gun Dog Championship

The Board considered a recommendation to amend the *Regulations & Guideline for AKC Hunting Tests for Retrievers*, to allow the newly-formed, AKC-licensed, National Retriever Gun Dog Championship Club, Inc. to host an annual national event within the AKC Retriever Hunting Test program called the National Retriever Gun Dog Championship.

Upon a motion by Dr. Garvin, seconded by Mr. Carota, the Board VOTED (In favor: Dr. Davies, Dr. Knight, Dr. Battaglia, Mr. Carota, Ms. Fineburg, Mr. Fugiwara, Dr. Garvin, Mr. Hamblin, Mr. Hoke, Mr. Smyth, Mr. Stansell, Ms. Thomas. Absent: Ms. Goldberg) to consider this measure separately from other items on the consent agenda.

Following further discussion, and upon a motion by Mr. Hoke, seconded by Ms. Fineburg, the Board VOTED (In favor: Dr. Davies, Dr. Knight, Dr. Battaglia, Mr. Carota, Ms. Fineburg, Mr. Fugiwara, Dr. Garvin, Ms. Goldberg, Mr. Hamblin, Mr. Hoke, Mr. Smyth, Mr.

Stansell. Abstain: Ms. Thomas.) to approve that the newly-formed, AKC-licensed, National Retriever Gun Dog Championship Club, Inc. host, as a pilot program, an annual national event within the AKC Retriever Hunting Test program called the National Retriever Gun Dog Championship.

([See Appendix A.](#))

These changes are effective June 1, 2026.

Following a motion by Dr. Garvin, seconded by Mr. Carota, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to approve the Consent agenda items to follow.

Redefine the meaning of “Fast” in the Obedience Regulations

The Board VOTED to approve a request of the Delegate Companion Events Committee to amend the *Obedience Regulations*, removing the words “must run” from the current statement and replacing them with “Fast,” meaning that the handler and dog must move forward at a noticeably accelerated speed.

([See Appendix B.](#))

This change is effective June 1, 2026.

Judging Applications and Pending Discipline Policy

The Board VOTED to approve a staff recommendation to amend the *Judging Applications and Pending Discipline Policy* to specify the handling of applications

for judging approval previously placed on hold pending the resolution of a pending disciplinary matter.

Judging Applications and Pending Discipline

When a judging applicant is under investigation and has been informed or has been charged for alleged misconduct under AKC’s *Judging Misconduct Policy* or under the disciplinary provisions of AKC’s *Bylaws*, any pending or newly submitted judging application for breeds or classes will be held in abeyance until the resolution of the disciplinary matter. If final resolution results in no suspension to affect judging privileges, the hold on the application will be lifted, and processing of the application will resume. If final resolution results in a suspension to affect judging privileges, the application will be returned to the applicant and will require resubmission if and when privileges are restored to good standing.

This change is effective May 20, 2026.

Approval of Newly Recognized Breeds

The Board VOTED to approve the staff recommendation to modify the *Adjunct Application Process* to extend the period in which an Adjunct breed is added to an application for the balance of the group to one year after the date of full recognition.

Adjunct Application Process

Additional breed applicants that have applied for a balance of a group in which an Adjunct breed would automatically be added upon final approval of the balance of that group will be required to submit a non-refundable \$35 application fee per applicable adjunct breed(s) prior to being scheduled by staff for their interview on all applied breeds with an AKC Executive Field Representative. The applicant must be interviewed satisfactorily by an AKC Executive Field Representative on the adjunct breed. Credit will be applied on future application(s) of any breed(s) not approved. This applies to applications for the balance of a group in which an Adjunct breed is entering received within one year after the Adjunct breed's date of full recognition.

This is effective immediately.

Parent Club Request to Retire Cutwater (Portuguese Water Dog)

The Board VOTED to approve the request of the Portuguese Water Dog Club of America to retire the kennel name "Cutwater" on behalf of the owners.

Parent Club Request to Retire Damasyn (Doberman Pinscher)

The Board VOTED to approve the request of the Doberman Pinscher Club of America to retire the kennel name "Damasyn" on behalf of the owners.

Delegate and Club Approvals

Terry R. Bridges

To represent Illinois Capitol Kennel Club
Published in *AKC Gazette*: March, April 2026

Dennis N. Corash

To represent Terry-All Kennel Club
Published in *AKC Gazette*: March, April 2026

Sharon A. LeVan

To represent Clermont County Kennel Club
Published in *AKC Gazette*: March, April 2026

Joao Machado

To represent Oakland Dog Training Club
Published in *AKC Gazette*: March, April 2026

Christian A. Morales Reyes

To represent Greater Miami Dog Club
Published in *AKC Gazette*: April, May 2026

Lori Sage

To represent Sherwood Dog Training Club
Published in *AKC Gazette*: March, April 2026

Sharon Tracy

To represent Pocatello Kennel Club
Published in *AKC Gazette*: March, April 2026



SECRETARY'S PAGES

Linda C. Wozniak

To represent Durham Kennel Club

Published in *AKC Gazette*: March, April
2026

Approved for AKC Membership

Rat Terrier Club of America

Households: 96 households

1st Licensed Show: July 31, 2015

Bylaws: Acceptable

Published in *AKC Gazette*: March, April
2026

Investment Committee

CFO Ted Phillips provided the Board
with an update from the Investment
Committee.

Adjourned: Tuesday, May 12, 2026 at
12:54 p.m. Eastern.

Attest: _____

Sheila H. Goffe, Executive Secretary