

American Kennel Club, Inc.
MEETING of the BOARD OF DIRECTORS
AKC Offices at 101 Park Avenue, New York, NY and via Video Conference
April 13, 2021

The Board convened via Zoom video conference on Tuesday, April 13, 2021 at 11:13 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 February 9, 2021 Board Meeting minutes, copies of which had been provided to all Directors, were reviewed.

Upon a motion by Ms. Biddle, seconded by Mr. Sweetwood, the February 9, 2021 Board Meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was an EXECUTIVE SESSION to discuss sensitive business matters. It was reported that the Executive Officers were reelected to the following positions:

Dennis B. Sprung - President and Chief Executive Officer
Gina M. DiNardo - Executive Secretary
Theodore E. Phillips - Chief Financial Officer

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Mr. Sprung provided a summary of recent successes and general updates.

The North Carolina operations facility continues to function well under Keith Frazier's management and benefits from his ongoing communication with AKC Reunite, CHF and PPI. His staff being in throughout the pandemic. For the last year, our Sports & Events Department has had a few people coming into the office two days per week and recently another group has started coming in three days per week. That number was increased to 20. Registration and Customer Service Department continue to work remotely and successfully as they have since 2015; their management is in the office occasionally. Education and Government Relations are working remotely as is Compliance with Bri Tesarz coming in as needed. Our Human Resources manager is in daily while the balance of staff alternates. In NYC each area is working in the office bi-weekly since June 22, 2020.

We have finalized some reorganization in IT, moving three infrastructure-focused staff from Development to Shared Services (the operations sides of the house) and transferring two employees in Development to a different Manager. This helps to maximize our efforts. Except for the Service Desk, they are working remotely.

Also, we reorganized from a reporting perspective a number of management positions in Sports & Events, while expanding the roles of Caroline Murphy, Glenn Lycan and Tim Thomas with additional responsibility.

Mr. Sprung requested that the Sports & Events Department work with Business Intelligence to look into opportunities to identify former exhibitors and then reaching out to once again welcome them back to participating in events.

Future Meetings

Staff will present a Bylaw amendment which would clarify that the AKC may hold Board meetings electronically. New York State law allows for Board meetings to be held by teleconference or similar communications equipment or by electronic video screen communications.

SafeSport

Every Executive Field Rep has completed the SafeSport course in addition to, Tim Thomas, Gina DiNardo and Dennis Sprung. Human Resources arranged for the balance of AKC Staff to take one of two webinars – those involved in any of our sports will take the course beginning in April and those not involved directly with events will complete an abbreviated version. Each person in the Registered Handlers Program will do so by year-end in order to maintain their membership. Mr. Sprung has been arranging with Pam Bruce, a Canadian who judges here and of note she is one of the world's authorities in this area. Pam is in the process of amending her presentation that she gives to law enforcement and government personnel to one with dog vernacular and will initially give a seminar for Reps in every department and our Inspectors.

On another avenue to do with our Registered Handlers Program, Jan Gross who was the principal architect for the design and build-up of the Museum and the office as well as that at 260 Madison Avenue is retiring as a partner at Gensler. He inquired if there's any volunteer needs at AKC and Mr. Sprung offered the suggestion that his expertise could be helpful to members of our RHP program when they are either building or remodeling their kennel facility. He is very anxious to provide this pro bono service and is working closely with Tim Thomas.

Lastly, on the international front, Ashley Jacot, Gina DiNardo and Dennis Sprung had a two-hour conversation with Sue Sampson from The Kennel Club as well as two members of their Board and one person representing their Companion area. They do not have an Educational division but are very interested in setting up one, knowing it is a long-term project. AKC provided foundation advice and will continue to be a resource.

Gina DiNardo and Dennis Sprung had an introductory meeting with Jeff Cornett, the new Executive Director of the Canadian Kennel Club. His background is in IT and his intention is to work to reduce their registration delays.

Legal Update

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

Event Arbitration Review

The Board requested a review of the arbitration process as required by the AKC Official Entry Form. Arbitration was added to the Official AKC Entry form effective April 1, 2004. AKC clubs were given language to opt out of the arbitration process if they elected. The memo reviewed the number of clubs electing to opt out and the number of clubs that have used the arbitration process. The arbitration process is only available should a claim be filed against a club. The AKC does not have any information as to how many times claims are filed against a club unless AKC is a party to the claim. Most of the clubs responding to a recent survey do not opt out of the arbitration process. The clubs that responded in the survey that they did not opt out also indicated they have not used the process but all of them responded that they thought the process would benefit them if there was a need.

AKC Business Intelligence: Metrics and Visualization

Seth Fera-Schanes, Director, Planning, presented a consolidated update on projects and initiatives from the two departments he manages. Within the Business Intelligence (BI) group, he provided an overview of how we are working to automate reporting and visualize data across the entire AKC. Also, within BI, he provided an update on the implementation of our new Customer Relationship Management system (CRM). This newly released CRM significantly helps every fancier as well as the public when they call customer service. The Internal Consulting Group (ICG) continues to partner with other departments to support their business activities as we actively mentor and develop team members to take on leadership roles within AKC. Seth provided an update on AKC PuppyVisor which is overseen by ICG. A final update was provided on the AKC Company Roadmap and looking ahead for both departments.

FINANCE

Ted Phillips, Chief Financial Officer, presented interim financial statements (unaudited) through February 28, 2021.

Overview: Net Operating Income is \$6.2 million, primarily due to higher registration revenues and lower expenses.

Total Revenues exceed budget by 28%, or \$3.6 million. The drivers of this increase are Registration Fees, followed by Pedigree Certificate and related services fees for litters, and Merchandise Sales, Advertising, and Sponsorships.

Revenue Details: Registration Fees exceed the budget by 29%, or \$1.8 million. Dog Registration Fees primarily lead this increase. Pedigree Certificate fees and related service fees for litters continue strong results, exceeding budget by 52% or \$633k. Recording & Service fees exceed the 2021 budget by 61% or \$346k but trail YTD 2020 by 37% or \$534k. Product & Service Sales exceed budget by 24% or \$396k led by Merchandise Sales. Advertising & Sponsorship revenues led this report category over budget by 21% or \$433k due to increased advertising revenue and newly executed sponsorship agreements offset by lower Royalty income.

Total Expenses trail budget by 10.9% or \$1.2 million. Key factors are the cautious deployment of organization resources as certain mission-related business activity lags due to the pandemic. Controllable expenses, net, were lower than budget by \$1.0 million due to professional service

fees, promotion expenses, and travel offset by fulfillment expenses due to increased merchandise sales. Non-Controllable expenses were lower than budget by \$243k due to the amortization of software development costs.

Activity Statistics: Registrations: 2021 YTD Litter Registration was 20.5% ahead of budget and 20% better than 2020 YTD. 2021 YTD Dog Registration was 31.3% ahead of budget and 34.5% better than 2020 YTD. Events and Entries continue to reflect the negative impact of COVID-19 cancellations. Compared to the same period in 2020, Events & Entries were down by 43% & 52%, respectively.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

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

Ibizan Hound Proposed Breed Standard Revision

The Board reviewed the proposed revisions to the Ibizan Hound breed standard as submitted by the Ibizan Hound Club of the United State, Inc. (IHCUS). The current standard was approved September 11, 1989. Staff recommends the Board approve the proposed revisions to be published in the Secretary's Page of the *AKC Gazette*. This will be discussed further at the May Board Meeting.

AKC Communications 2020 Year-End Report

The Board reviewed the year-end report from the Communications department which highlighted their accomplishments on behalf of the AKC and the Sport of Purebred Dogs.

2020 YEAR-END MEDIA COVERAGE ANALYSIS

Total media placements (print, broadcast and internet) qualitatively evaluated in 2020:

Q1- 7,119

Q2- 4,329

Q3- 3,540

Q4- 4,534

Total number of clips evaluated for 2020 was 19,522

Total audience reached with all clips (including print, online, TV, and syndicated stories):

Q1- 7,173,437,997

Q2- 5,211,042,070

Q3- 6,722,492,060

Q4- 6,050,130,256

Total audience reached for 2020 was 25,157,102,383

Total publicity value achieved through media placements (print, broadcast and internet) qualitatively evaluated in 2020:

Q1- \$11,773,761.60

Q2- \$11,510,343.29

Q3- \$7,699,835.59

Q4- \$8,364,409.89

Total publicity value for 2020 was \$39,348,350.37

*Numbers and values provided by media monitoring platform Cision.

Government Relations

The Board reviewed a memo which provided a monthly general highlight of active, priority legislative issues, as of March 9, 2021 that AKC Government Relations (GR) is currently working on.

Service Dog Program

Paul Mundell, Executive Director, American Service Dog Access Coalition (ASDAC) participated in this portion of the meeting via video conference.

Sheila Goffe and Paul Mundell provided an update on the progress of the American Service Dog Access Coalition Service Dog Pass program.

AKC helped found the American Service Dog Access Coalition (ASDAC), a 501(c) 3 not-for-profit charitable foundation with the goal of improving access for service dog users and limiting fraud by impacting public policy and working with industry leaders in the service dog, airline, transportation and hospitality industries.

AKC GR continues to work with the coalition to lead development of Service Dog Pass, a high quality, verifiable, opt-in service dog credentialing system that streamlines access for service dog teams and is acceptable to transportation, hospitality and other venue providers, government and service dog industry.

Formation of Local Specialty Clubs

Lisa Cecin, Director, Club Relations and Glenn Lycan, Director, Event Operations Support, participated in this portion of the meeting. In an effort to enhance the collaboration between Parent Clubs and local Specialty Clubs, the Board VOTED affirmatively to adopt a policy for a recent procedural change to the formation of new local Specialty Clubs. The policy requires AKC's Club Relations Department to make Parent Clubs aware in writing upon receipt of an inquiry from a prospective new local Specialty Club.

COMPANION and PERFORMANCE

Doug Ljungren, Executive Vice President, Sports & Events; Mari-Beth O'Neill, Vice President, Sport Services; and Caroline Murphy, Director, Performance Events participated in this portion of the meeting via video conference.

Saluki Club of America and the Society for the Perpetuation of Desert Bred Salukis

The Board reviewed a request from the Saluki Club of America (SCOA) and the Society for the Perpetuation of the Desert Bred Salukis (SPDBS) to allow the dogs in the SPDBS registry to obtain a PAL number without having to be spayed or neutered.

Allowing owners of SPDBS dogs to obtain a PAL number will permit these dogs to compete in AKC Performance and Companion Events. This will be discussed further at the May Board Meeting.

Herding – Allowing Test Judges to Participate in Trial Classes

The Board reviewed a recommendation to allow herding judges to handle dogs at the event other than the testing level they are judging. Clubs can hold both herding tests and trials during the same event. There are three types of herding test levels a judge may be assigned. Only one test level allows for a judge to handle a dog in the trial portion of the event while the other two do not. This has contributed to clubs having difficulty in obtaining judges. This recommended change will make it easier for herding clubs to obtain judges and bring greater consistency to herding judging eligibility. The Herding, Earthdog and Coursing Events Delegate Committee discussed this recommendation in March and was in favor of the idea. This will be discussed further at the May Board Meeting.

Herding – Allowing Stock Dogs to Participate in an Event

The Board reviewed a recommendation to allow stock dogs to participate in the trial but not in the class for which they are setting stock. This change will make it easier for herding clubs to obtain good stock dogs. The Herding, Earthdog and Coursing Events Delegate Committee discussed this recommendation in March and was in favor of the idea. This will be discussed further at the May Board Meeting.

Allowing for Waiting Lists in Pointing Breed and Spaniel Hunting Tests

The Board reviewed a recommendation to allow clubs holding Pointing Breed and Spaniel Hunting Tests, at their option, to create a waiting list of entries received after the event has filled but prior to closing, from which they can fill in slots created by scratches on the day of the event. Currently this is not allowed. A similar recommendation for Retriever Hunting Tests is under review by the Retriever Hunting Test Advisory Committee.

In Hunting Tests, it is not uncommon for dogs that complete the requirement for their title on Saturday to not show up to participate on Sunday. This creates unused slots. In today's environment, with events being limited, demand is high, and clubs often turn away entries once the event limit is reached. This recommendation allows a club, at their option, to create a waiting list of entries that were received after the entry limit was reached but prior to the closing date. The owner/handler must agree to have their dog placed on the waiting list. Prior to the start of the event, if the club is aware there are dogs that will not participate, they can fill those slots with dogs from the waiting list. This allows the club to fully utilize the capacity of their event and will allow additional dogs to participate.

There is an extra burden on the event secretary to manage this process and some clubs may choose not to utilize a waiting list. The Field Trial and Hunting Test Events Delegate Committee discussed this recommendation in March and felt it was a good idea. This will be discussed further at the May Board Meeting.

Submission of Digital Results

Alan Slay, Director, Event Programs participated in this portion of the meeting via video conference.

In response to a Board inquiry about having all events types submit result electronically, the Staff provided a memo on the advantages of having clubs submit event results digitally. There are number of advantages to receiving results digitally. Results are received faster and are processed more quickly since the AKC staff does not need to manually enter the information. The AKC currently provides three methods for submitting event results digitally. These methods are tailored to the nature of the organizations submitting the results and the details of the sport. Currently digital results are submitted for Conformation results, Agility results, Rally results, Obedience results, and Scent Work results.

If AKC wants to expand the use of digital results submission, resources will need to be dedicated to the project.

Following a motion by Dr. Battaglia, seconded by Mr. Sweetwood, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to ask Staff to seek the information needed to replace the existing Competition Management System (CMS) with a system that is state of the art and forward looking and capable of responding to the needs of Sports Management and the future programs and needs of AKC. For the near term, acquiring additional IT programming resources, as described in the memo, is recommended.

The IT Group, in collaboration with multiple other departments, will define what needs to be done and present a recommendation for how the AKC could move forward properly defining the scope of a project to replace CMS and determine the proper implementation steps.

CONFORMATION

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

Limited Number of Events Policy

The Board reviewed a request from the Siberian Husky Club of Anchorage Alaska for the Board to consider allowing specialty clubs in Alaska to have up to four specialties on four separate days in a calendar year. Currently all specialty clubs can have two days of specialties or two specialties.

The Limited Number of Events Policy has allowed All-breed and Group clubs to hold four shows in Alaska, Hawaii and Puerto Rico since the policies creation in 2009. This allowance was not offered to specialty clubs in the same isolated areas.

This will be discussed further at the May Board Meeting.

Premium List Optional Verbiage

To reduce the size and cost of premium lists, AKC Staff reviewed the current Premium List content.

Many sections in the Premium Lists were not required by rule but offered additional details regarding events. Some verbiage has become standard over time which is not required by rule or policy.

During this gathering of information, the Dog Show Rules Committee inquired about the length of verbiage in the Premium Lists. AKC staff provided the Dog Show Rules Committee with the verbiage and the initial drafts of optional verbiage. Tim Thomas and the Dog Show Rules Committee refined the drafts and reached a consensus on the optional verbiage.

This information was presented to the Board. Staff noted that they could provide to clubs and superintendents the list of optional wording that can be used in Premium List to reduce the size of the document. There was no objection.

Scale Guidelines for Superintendents and Show Secretaries

A scale is required to be available at AKC Conformation dog shows at which breeds eligible to compete have weight as a standard disqualification or condition of class. Modifications to Chapter 14, Section 5 of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* approved by the Delegate Body necessitate modification to the guidelines for acceptable scales.

The revised guidelines for approved scales at AKC Conformation dog shows was provided to the Board for its review at its April 2020 meeting. While the Board at that time had no questions or objections with the guidelines, it was the consensus they should be placed on hold for the immediate future due to COVID-19's impact on superintendents and the consideration not to place any additional financial burden on them at that time.

The staff advised the Board of its intent to provide the updated guidelines to superintendents and show secretaries, with a compliance date of no later than January 1, 2022.

New and Low Entry Breed Paper

The Chairman of the AKC Board appointed an Ad Hoc Committee to discuss the paper submitted by Dr. Carmen Battaglia, "New and Low Entry Breeds. Why the Concern?". The appointed Committee were Chairman: Mari-Beth O'Neill, Committee Members: Mark Dunn, Tim Thomas, Dr. Carmen Battaglia and Chris Sweetwood. The Committee conducted two meetings via Ring Central, February 5 and February 19, 2021.

During the meeting of February 19th, it was discussed that the "Low Entry" breeds are a symptom of issues that pertain to all breeds. It was also discussed that the origination of the "Low Entry" designation was for the purpose of Conformation judging applications and regular status requirements and based solely on the number of dogs in competition at Conformation events the preceding year and its application generically on a broader spectrum may not always be in context. "Low Entry" breeds have and hopefully will always exist. The question relating to all breeds is what can be done to assist in maintaining each breed, not just "Low Entry" breeds.

The Board directed Staff to share the information with the Delegate Parent Clubs Committee for their discussion and thoughts.

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.

Rules, Policies and Guidelines for Conformation Dog Show Judges

The Board reviewed recommended changes to the *Rules, Policies and Guidelines for Conformation Dog Show Judges*. This document is for all judges and aspiring judges as it summarizes Rules, Policies and Guidelines as they relate to procedure and conduct.

This memorandum recommended revisions to specific sections of the *Rules, Policies and Guidelines for Conformation Dog Show Judges* to provide clarity to individuals who may be approved to judge AKC Conformation events.

This will be discussed further at the May Board Meeting.

Conformation Judging Statistics

Judging Operations provided to the Board statistics related to conformation judging applications considered by the Judges Review Committee in the previous three months.

Following is the list of New Breed (NB) and Additional Breed applicants presented for final approval the months of January - March 2021, and the year-to-date summary statistics for 2021.

**FINAL REVIEW ACTION SUMMARY
2021 NEW BREED JUDGING APPLICANTS**

	APPLICATIONS						BREEDS		
	Total	Fully Appr.	Limited	Denied	Wthdrn	Held	Req.	Appr.	Pend.
January	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
February	5	5	0	0	0	0	6	6	0
March	4	4	0	0	0	0	4	4	0
AB TOTAL	10	10	0	0	0	0	11	11	0

**FINAL REVIEW ACTION SUMMARY
2021 ADDITIONAL BREED JUDGING APPLICANTS**

	APPLICATIONS						BREEDS		
	Total	Fully Appr.	Limited	Denied	Wthdrn	Held	Req.	Appr.	Pend.
January	17	15	1	1	0	0	117	105	1
February	22	19	2	1	0	0	131	116	3
March	20	14	4	2	0	0	130	109	3
AB TOTAL	59	48	7	4	0	0	378	330	7

**FINAL REVIEW ACTION SUMMARY
2021 YEAR-TO-DATE**

	APPLICATIONS						BREEDS		
	Total	Fully Appr.	Limited	Denied	Wthdrn	Held	Req.	Appr.	Pend.
NB	10	10	0	0	0	0	11	11	0
AB	59	48	7	4	0	0	378	330	7
TOTAL	69	58	7	4	0	0	389	341	7

CLUBS

Glenn Lycan, Director, Event Operations Support; and Lisa Cecin, Director, Club Relations, participated in this portion of the meeting via video conference.

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 January and February 2021

Alaskan Malamute Club of America (1953)
 Del Sur Kennel Club, El Cajon, CA (1971)
 Illinois Capitol Kennel Club, Sangamon County, IL (1938)
 Louisville Kennel Club, Jefferson County, KY (1923)
 Santa Clara Valley Kennel Club, Santa Clara, CA (1950)
 Wilmington Kennel Club, Wilmington, DE (1938)

Report on Newly Licensed Clubs approved in January and February 2021

Biewer Terrier Club of America, 106 total households (40 households in 18 states west of the Mississippi River; 62 households in 22 states east of the Mississippi River)

Durango Agility Dog Club, greater Durango, CO (including communities east to Pagosa Springs, west to Cortez, in proximity to Route 160), 21 total households, 15 local.

Front Range Scent Work Club, greater Westminster, CO (including communities south to Parker, north to Firestone, along Interstate 25), 21 total households, 17 local.

Monterey Bay Area Scent Work Club, greater Aptos, CA (including communities north to San Jose, south to Monterey, east to Interstate 5), 31 total households, 27 local.

Southwestern Ohio Dog Training Club, greater Williamsburg, OH (including communities north to Goshen, south to the Ohio/Kentucky state-line, east to Interstate 275, west to Clermont County line), 22 total households, 14 local.

COMPLIANCE

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

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

REGISTRATION

Mark Dunn, Executive Vice President; participated in this portion of the meeting via video conference.

Demographic Analysis of AKC Breeders

Seth Fera-Schanes, Director, Strategic Planning; Kassandra McCombe, Business Intelligence Analyst; and Chuck Bettini, Senior Business Analyst, participated in this portion of the meeting via video conference.

Staff presented an analysis of the demographic profile of AKC breeders, as a whole and broken down by AKC customer segments. The purpose of this data project was to develop demographic profiles of 2019 and 2020 breeders, share summaries of those data with AKC management, and determine efficacy of future data augmentation projects. The analysis of AKC breeders serves to check current assumptions regarding breeder demographic traits and elucidate characteristics that may have been overlooked.

By identifying the age and demographic propensities of new breeders, casual breeders and growing groups the AKC can begin to better target messaging, offers, and programs.

Best Bred-by-Exhibitor in Show Award Update

Staff provided an update on the Best Bred-by-Exhibitor in Show Award Pilot Program that was initiated by the Board and implemented by AKC Registration staff in December 2019, initially for the calendar year 2020.

The American Kennel Club acknowledged the key pillar of our sport by declaring 2020 the "Year of the Breeder." One of the programs initiated under that banner recognized our breeders by offering a free litter registration to the winner of a Best Bred-By competition at designated All-Breed, Group or Parent Club shows.

This idea was for the calendar year 2020. Due to COVID-19, many clubs had to cancel their events and hence the program participation was impeded. In response, the AKC extended the BBE in Show Award Pilot Program through 2021.

CONSENT

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

- Dogue de Bordeaux Proposed Breed Standard Revision
- Lowchen Proposed Breed Standard Revision
- Standard Schnauzer Proposed Breed Standard Revision
- Re-Appointment of AKC PAC Board Members
- Delegate and Club Approvals

Dogue de Bordeaux Proposed Breed Standard Revision

The Board VOTED to approve the proposed standard changes to the Dogue de Bordeaux breed standard with an effective date of June 9, 2021.

Dogue de Bordeaux Standard

General Appearance - The Dogue de Bordeaux is one of the most ancient French breeds. He is a typical brachycephalic molossoid type. He is a very powerful dog, with a very muscular body yet retaining a harmonious general outline. Built rather close to the ground, the distance from the deepest point of the chest to the ground is slightly less than the depth of the chest. A massive head with proper proportions and features is an important characteristic of the breed. His serious expression, stocky and athletic build and self-assurance make him very imposing. Bitches have identical characteristics, but less prominent. Size, Proportion, Substance: The length of the body, measured from the point of the shoulder to the point of the buttock, is greater than the height at the withers, in the proportion of 11/10. The depth of the chest is more than half the height at the withers. Size - Dogs: 23½ to 27 inches at the withers. Bitches: 23 to 26 inches at the withers. Weight - Dogs at least 110 pounds. Bitches at least 99 pounds. **Head** - The **head** is large, angular, broad, and rather short. It is trapezium shaped when viewed from above and in front. **Eyes** - Oval and set wide apart. The space between the eyes is equal to about twice the length of the eye (eye opening). Frank expression. The haw should not be visible. Color - hazel to dark brown for a dog with a black mask, lighter color tolerated but not sought after in dogs with either a brown mask or without a mask. Fault Protruding eyes. **Ears** - The ear is small in proportion to the skull and of a slightly darker color than the coat. The front of the ears' base is slightly raised. They should fall back, but not hang limply. The front edge of the ear is close to the cheek when the dog is attentive. The tip is slightly rounded and should not reach beyond the eye. Set rather high, at the level of the upper line of the skull, thus emphasizing the skull width even more. **Skull** - Back Skull in the male: The perimeter of the skull measured at the point of its greatest width corresponds roughly to the height at the withers. In bitches it may be slightly less. Its volume and shape are the result of the spacing of the lower jaw bones, the very well-developed temporal area, upper-orbital area, and zygomatic arches. The cheeks are prominent due to the very strong development of the muscles. The skull is slightly rounded from one side to the other. The frontal groove is deep. The forehead, characterized by well-developed eyebrows, dominates the face but does not overhang it. However, the skull is still wider than high. The head is furrowed with symmetrical wrinkles on each side of the median groove. These deep ropes of wrinkle are mobile depending on whether the dog is attentive or not. The wrinkle which runs from the inner corner of the eye to the corner of the mouth is typical. If present, the wrinkle running from the outer corner of the eye to either corner of the mouth or dewlap should be discreet. Stop - The stop is very pronounced, almost forming a right angle with the muzzle (95 to 100 degrees). Fault - Extreme characteristics such as a very short muzzle, flat skull, a swollen fold behind the nose that protrudes over it and a prominent fold that extends across the head without a break or definition between the eyes. **Muzzle** - Powerful, broad, thick, and rather short. Should not be fleshy below the eyes. When viewed in profile, the foreface is very slightly concave with moderately obvious folds. Its width decreases only slightly from the root of the muzzle to the tip. When viewed from above it has the general shape of a square. When viewed from the side, the top lines of the skull and muzzle form an angle that converges at, or near the end of the muzzle. When the head is held

horizontally, the end of the muzzle, which is truncated, thick and broad at the base, is in front of a vertical tangent to the front of the nose (The nose is slightly set back from the front of the muzzle.). Its perimeter is almost two thirds of that of the head. Its length varies between one third and one quarter of the total length of the head, measured from the nose to the occipital crest. The ideal length of the muzzle is between these two extremes. Nose - Broad, with well opened nostrils. Self- colored according to the color of the mask. Slightly upturned permissible. **Upper lip** - Thick, moderately pendulous yet retractile. When viewed in profile it shows a rounded lower line and covers the lower jaw on the sides. When viewed from the front, the edge of the upper lip is in contact with the lower lip, and drops on either side thus forming an inverse, wide V. **Jaws** - Very powerful, and broad. Undershot so that there is no contact between the upper and lower incisors. The lower jaw curves upwards. The chin is very pronounced and should neither overlap the upper lip exaggeratedly nor be covered by it. Disqualification - Mouth not undershot; wry jaw. **Bite** - Undershot. Fault - Incisors constantly visible when the mouth is closed or very small incisors unevenly set. Severe Fault - Canines or tongue constantly visible when the mouth is closed. Teeth - Strong, particularly the canines. Lower, canines set wide apart and slightly curved. Incisors well aligned especially in the lower jaw where they form a straight line. Fault - Disproportioned head (too small or exaggeratedly voluminous). Severe Fault - Long narrow head with insufficiently pronounced stop, with a muzzle measuring more than a third of the total length of the head (lack of type in head). **Neck, Topline and Body** - Neck - Very strong and muscular, almost cylindrical. The skin is supple, ample and loose. The average circumference almost equals that of the head. There is a noticeable, slightly convex, furrow at the junction of the head and neck. The well-defined dewlap starts at the level of the throat forming folds down to the chest, without hanging exaggeratedly. The neck is very broad at its base, merging smoothly with the shoulders. **Topline** - The topline should be as level as possible with a slight dip behind the well-marked withers. The back is solid and broad when viewed from above. The loin is broad, rather short and solid. Fault-Arched back(convex). **Chest** - Powerful, long, deep, broad, and let down lower than the elbows. The forechest is broad and powerful with a lower line that is convex towards the bottom. The ribcage is deep and well sprung, but not barrel shaped. The circumference of the chest should be between 10 and 14 inches greater than the height at the withers. Underline - Curved, from the deep brisket to the firm abdomen. Slight to moderate tuck-up. Should be neither pendulous nor extreme. **Croup** - Moderately sloping down to the root of the tail. Tail - Very thick at the base. The tip preferably reaches the hock but not below. Carried low, it is neither broken nor kinked but supple. Hanging when the dog is at rest; generally carried level with the back or slightly above the level of the back when the dog is in action, without curving over the back or being curled. **Fault** - Fused vertebrae but not kinked. **Disqualification** - An atrophied tail or a tail that is knotted and laterally deviated or twisted. **Forequarters** - Strong bone structure, legs very muscular. **Shoulders** - Powerful, prominent muscles. Slant of shoulder - blade is medium (about 45 degrees to the horizontal), with the angle of the scapular-humeral articulation being a little more than 90 degrees. **Upper Arms** - Very muscular. **Elbows** - In line with the body. Should be neither too close to the chest nor turned out. **Forearms** - When viewed from the front, straight or inclining slightly inwards, especially in dogs with a very broad chest. When viewed in profile, vertical. **Pasterns** - Powerful. Slightly sloping when viewed in profile. When viewed from the front, may bend slightly outwards, thus compensating for the slight inclination of the forearm inwards. **Feet** - Strong. Toes should be tight, nails curved and strong, and pads are well developed and supple; the Dogue is well up on his toes despite his weight. **Hindquarters** -

Powerful legs with strong bone structure; well angulated. When viewed from behind, the hindquarters are parallel and vertical thus giving an impression of power. The hindquarters are not quite as broad as the forequarters. **Upper Thigh** - Well developed and thick with visible muscles. **Stifle** - In a parallel plane to the median plane or very slightly out. **Second Thigh** - Relatively short, well- muscled. **Hock Joint** - Short and sinewy, with the angle of the hock joint moderately open. **Hock** - Strong, no dewclaws. **Hind feet** - Slightly longer than the front feet, toes should be tight. **Coat** - Fine, short and soft to the touch. Skin - Thick and sufficiently loose fitting without excessive wrinkles. **Color** - Coat - Self-colored, in all shades of fawn, from a dark red fawn to a light fawn. A rich coat color is considered desirable. Individual patches of white on the forechest, a secondary patch of white on the throat is allowed but not preferred, white on the toes (not above the carpus or tarsus) and backs of pasterns is acceptable. Disqualification - White in any location other than what is listed above or any coat color other than shades of fawn on the head or body or any coat color other than shades of fawn. Black Mask - The mask is often only slightly spread out and should not invade the cranial region. There may be slight black shading on the skull, ears, neck and back. Pigmentation of the nose will be black. Brown Mask - Pigmentation of the nose, edge of lips and eye rims will also be brown. There may be noninvasive brown shading. No Mask - The coat is fawn: the skin appears red (also formerly called "red mask"). The nose is then reddish.

Gait - The gait is free and supple, for a molossoid. In open walking the movement is free, supple, close to the ground. Good drive from the hindquarters, good extension of the forelegs, especially at the trot, which is the preferred gait. As the trot quickens, the head tends to drop, the topline inclines towards the front, and the front feet get closer to the median plane while striding out with a long reaching movement. Vertical movement while in a short gallop is rather important. He is capable of great speed over short distances by bolting along close to the ground. **Temperament** - Dogue de Bordeaux is gifted for guarding, which he assumes with vigilance and great courage but without aggressiveness. He is a very good companion, being attached to and affectionate toward his master. He is calm and balanced with a high stimulus threshold. The male normally has a dominant character. The foregoing is a description of the ideal Dogue de Bordeaux. Any deviation should be penalized in direct proportion to the extent of that deviation. Extreme deviation in any part should be penalized to the extent that the dog is effectively eliminated from competition. **Disqualifications** - Mouth not undershot; wry jaw. An atrophied tail or a tail that is knotted and laterally deviated or twisted. White in any other location other than what is listed above or any coat color other than shades of fawn. On the head or body, or any coat color other than shades of fawn.

Löwchen Proposed Breed Standard Revision

The Board VOTED to approve the Löwchen Club of America to proceed to ballot the membership on proposed changes to the Löwchen Breed Standard in accordance with the Club's Constitution and Bylaws.

Standard Schnauzer Proposed Breed Standard Revision

The Board VOTED to permit the Standard Schnauzer Club of America, Inc. (SSCA), to ballot the membership on proposed revisions to the Tail Section of the breed standard in accordance with the club's Constitution and Bylaws.

Re-Appointment of AKC PAC Board Members

The Board VOTED to reappoint Ms. Gail LaBerge, Mr. William Marlow, Ms. Karolynne McAteer and Mr. Dan Smyth to the AKC PAC Board of Directors for new two-year terms.

Delegate Approvals

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

Brian Brubaker, Carlisle, PA

To represent Puli Club of America

Rebecca (Becky) Campbell, Dublin, OH

To represent Central Ohio Kennel Club

Anita O'Berg, Goleta, CA

To represent Channel City Kennel Club

Leslie Puppo Rogers, Salisbury, NC

To represent Salisbury Kennel Club

Bruce Schwartz, Los Angeles, CA

To represent Welsh Terrier Club of America

Timothy Ufkes, Seattle, WA

To represent Olympic Kennel Club

NEW BUSINESS**June Delegate Meeting**

The Board unanimously VOTED to hold the June 2021 Delegate Meeting virtually using the Zoom Webinar technology platform. The June 2021 AKC Delegate Meeting will take place on Tuesday, June 8, 2021 starting at 12:00 p.m. ET, following the Delegates Forum which will begin at 11:00 a.m. ET.

The Delegate Standing Committee Meetings will take place June 1-4 and June 7, 2021 also via Zoom Webinar as previously used in 2020 and 2021.

Donation to Take the Lead

The Board discussed the problems COVID-19 caused our constituents and in order to relieve some of this burden, following a motion by Mr. Smyth, seconded by Mr. Powers, the Board VOTED unanimously to authorize the donation of \$100,000 to Take the Lead specifically to be used for COVID relief.

It was VOTED to adjourn Tuesday, April 13, 2021 at 5:18 p.m. Eastern Time.

Adjourned

Attest: _____

Gina M. DiNardo, Executive Secretary