

**American Kennel Club, Inc.**  
**MEETING of the BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**AKC Offices at 101 Park Avenue, New York, NY**  
**August 9-10, 2021**

The Board convened on Monday, August 9, 2021 at 8:30 a.m. Eastern Time.

All Directors were present; also present was the Executive Secretary.

The July 13, 2021 Board Meeting minutes, copies of which had been provided to all Directors, were reviewed.

Upon a motion by Dr. Battaglia, seconded by Mr. Sweetwood, the July 13, 2021 Board Meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

**PRESIDENTS REPORT**

Mr. Sprung reviewed with the Board the status of the action items emanating from the July Board meeting.

Mr. Sprung also reported the following updates:

- Due to aging and ongoing maintenance of our printers, as well as service contract issues Staff will replace both printers which are used by every department; but primarily Registration and Sports & Events. This is an unbudgeted but necessary expense of approximately but not more than \$350k to be capitalized over 5 years based upon the bidding process; this is similar to the action staff took last year by replacing the generator.
- Mr. Sprung is planning to resume the Marketing and Educational meetings with The Kennel Club (UK) to exchange ideas, explore new opportunities and share successes.
- We approved another 3 positions for the Sports & Events Department, since last month's report. For a total of 27 unbudgeted positions hired based upon business needs as outlined in his 2021 budget letter. This includes twelve (12) in Sports & Events, twelve (12) Part-time Customer Service representatives, 1 position each in Government Relations, the Library and Finance department.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

**Expanded Training for Field Staff**

Mr. Sprung explained his plan to expand the training Staff receives beginning in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter. Current required annual training includes 14 courses. This year we added a 15<sup>th</sup> required course, "Safe Sport" training for the entire company, both at a comprehensive level for those attending events and an abbreviated version for every other employee in a dedicated effort to protect youngsters in the AKC Universe. We make available approximately 300 other optional trainings, as well as presentations at our in-house Business Roundtables.

Additionally, an enhanced training program will be provided to Field Representatives, Inspectors, Directors, and key Managers. This program will provide training in numerous areas of communication, soft skills, and dispute resolution. Some classes will be required and there will be many additional elective courses offered.

### **AKC Board Policy “Event Committee Legal Expenses”**

Heather McManus, Vice President and Deputy General Counsel; Glenn Lycan, Director, Event Operations Support; and Lisa Cecin, Director, Club Relations participated in this portion of the meeting.

Based on a Board request, Staff presented suggested revisions to the Board Policy, “Event Committee Legal Expenses” which was approved in 1985.

Following a motion by Dr. Garvin, seconded by Mr. Powers, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to approve the proposed revisions to the Board Policy, “Event Committee Legal Expenses”.

### **Event Committee Legal Expenses Board Policy (August 9, 2021)**

*Clubs are encouraged to obtain insurance coverage that covers all of the club’s activities including the holding of AKC event committee disciplinary hearings. Given the American Kennel Club’s interest in protecting the integrity of its disciplinary process, a club who receives a claim against it, its event committee or its event committee members with respect to the club’s or event committee’s handling of an AKC disciplinary matter (“Claim”), whose insurance carrier has denied coverage for the Claim or a club that does not have insurance coverage for the Claim can submit a written request to the AKC requesting the AKC to pay the defense costs associated with the Claim. The written request should include the following information: 1) the Claim; 2) all applicable insurance policies; 3) proof that the Claim was submitted to the club’s insurance carriers; 4) all responses from each insurance company to whom the Claim was submitted; 5) a statement as to the club’s finances and 6) proof of the subsequent acquisition of insurance coverage for event committee actions. A club that receives a Claim against it while acting as a service provider to another club does not qualify for AKC’s financial assistance under this policy.*

### **Club Insurance Recommendation**

Heather McManus, Vice President and Deputy General Counsel; Danielle Weitzman, Attorney, Doug Ljungren, Executive Vice President, Sports & Events; Glenn Lycan, Director, Event Operations Support; and Guy Fisher, Manager, Club Development participated in this portion of the meeting.

Based on a Board request, Staff provided information on insurance coverage and recommended levels and types of insurance coverage for clubs to have. Staff thinks that the AKC should strongly encourage clubs to have the following insurance coverage and limits:

- 1) General Commercial Liability Coverage not less than \$1,000,000 per occurrence and \$2,000,000 in the aggregate.
- 2) Workers Compensation Coverage in statutory amounts and for volunteers if volunteers are not covered under another policy with \$500,000 Employers Liability coverage.
- 3) Automobile Liability Coverage for owned, non-owned and hired vehicles not less than \$1,000,000.

4) Crime Policy in an amount to cover the assets of the club. This will be discussed further at the October Board meeting.

### **Legal Update**

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

### **FINANCE**

Ted Phillips, Chief Financial Officer, presented interim financial statements (unaudited) through June 30, 2021. Ed Michelson, Founding Partner, Atlanta Consulting Group, participated in this portion of the meeting and gave a detailed review of AKC's Investment Portfolio.

#### **Financial Results:**

Net Operating Income is \$17.4 million primarily due to higher registration and event service revenues, along with lower operating expenses.

Total Revenues of \$52 million exceed budget by 36% led by Registration Fees of \$23.7 million, Pedigree and Registration Related Fees of \$7.5 million.

Recording & Event Service fees, Title Recognition and Event Applications fees total \$6.3 million and exceed budget and prior year by 40% and 67% respectively.

Product & Service Sales total \$6.1 million and exceed budget by 31%.

Advertising, Sponsorship and Royalties total \$7.8 million and exceed budget by 31%.

Controllable Expenses are lower than budget by 5% or \$1.4 million due to careful management of operating expenses. Non-Controllable expenses were lower than budget by \$739k due to timing of software development projects.

Compared to YTD 2020 we see the continued positive trend of Registration Fees and cost containment.

#### **Non-Financial Results:**

Registration Statistics: 2021 YTD Litter Registration was 23.4% ahead of budget, 19.6% better than 2020 YTD. 2021 YTD Dog Registration was 31.9% ahead of budget, 21.6% better than 2020 YTD. Events and Entries reflect the impact of COVID-19 cancellations. Compared to the same period in 2020, Events were up by 110%.

### **EXECUTIVE SECRETARY**

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

### **Rhodesian Ridgeback Breed Standard Revision**

The Board reviewed the proposed revisions to the Rhodesian Ridgeback breed standard, specifically head and color, submitted by the Rhodesian Ridgeback Club of the United States. (RRCUS). The current standard was approved August 9, 1988.

Following a motion by Mr. Carota, seconded by Dr. Battaglia, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to approve the proposed revisions for publication in the Secretary's Page of the September *AKC Gazette* for comment.

**Treeing Walker Coonhound Breed Standard Revision**

The Board reviewed the proposed revisions to the Treeing Walker Coonhound Breed Standard submitted by the National Treeing Walker Coonhound Association, (NTWCA). The current standard was approved July 8, 2008.

Following a motion by Dr. Garvin, seconded by Mr. Sweetwood, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to approve the proposed revisions for publication in the Secretary's Page of the September *AKC Gazette* for comment.

**Kai Ken – Recommendation to Advance to Miscellaneous**

The Board reviewed a request for the Kai Ken to advance to the Miscellaneous Class. The request was submitted by the Kai Ken Society of America. The Board of Directors approved the Kai Ken to be eligible for recording in the Foundation Stock Service® (FSS®) program with a Working designation in 1997. The Kai Ken Society of America has met the requirements of the Recognition of New Breeds Board Policy approved in February 2017. Requirements include an active parent club, with serious and expanding breeding activity over a wide geographic area, and documented club activity. This will be discussed further at the October Board meeting.

**Proposed Bylaw Amendments from Delegate Bylaws Committee**

The Board reviewed three (3) proposed Bylaw Amendments from the Delegate Bylaws Committee.

The amendments for consideration are:

- 1) Move Article VIII, Section 6 to Article VII, New Section 3
- 2) Delete unnecessary language from Article VII Section 8
- 3) Delete unnecessary language from Article X, Section 7

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

Following a motion by Mr. Powers, seconded by Mrs. Wallin, the Board VOTED (In favor: Battaglia, Biddle, Carota, Davies, Garvin, Hamblin, Knight, McAteer, Sweetwood, Tatro, Wallin, Opposed: Powers, Smyth) to approve the recommended changes.

These amendments will be read at the September Delegates meeting for a Vote at the December Delegates meeting.

**ARTICLE VIII**

~~SECTION 6. All elections shall be by ballot; except, if no valid additional nominations are received by the Executive Secretary by November 15; the Nominating Committee's slate shall be declared elected at the annual meeting and no balloting will be required. If no valid additional nomination(s) are received by the Executive Secretary by November 15; for any partial term up for election, the partial term candidate shall be declared elected at the annual meeting and no balloting will be required.~~

**ARTICLE VII**

**New SECTION 3.** All elections shall be by ballot; except, if no valid additional nominations are received by the Executive Secretary by November 15; the Nominating Committee's slate shall be declared elected at the annual meeting and no balloting will be required. If no valid additional

nomination(s) are received by the Executive Secretary by November 15; for any partial term up for election, the partial term candidate shall be declared elected at the annual meeting and no balloting will be required.

## **ARTICLE VII**

**SECTION 8.** The unexplained and ~~by the Directors~~ unexcused absence of a Director from three (3) consecutive regular meetings of the Board shall operate as the accepted resignation of that Director from the Board.

## **ARTICLE X**

**SECTION 7.** The Board shall have supervision and control of ~~the official kennel gazette now called~~ the *AKC GAZETTE* and shall determine the manner and form in which it shall be published.

### **AKC Communications Q2 2021 Report**

Brandi Hunter Munden, Vice President, Communications and Public Relations participated in this portion of the meeting.

The Board reviewed the AKC Communications department's media coverage totals and activity highlights for the second quarter of 2021.

- TOTALS: Clips Evaluated in Q2: 8,449 (+ 95% from 4,329 in 2020)
- Q2 Estimated Audience Reached: 9,862,945,081 (+89% from 5,211,042,070 in 2020)
- Publicity Value for Q2: \$13,610,273.11 (+18% from \$11,510,343.29 in 2020)

Select Media Coverage:

4/16/21 - Money.com Puppy scams

5/18/21 - Newsday Sheila Goffe's op-ed on pet store ban

6/2/21 - Newsweek.com Smartest small dog breeds

6/9/21 - BeChewy.com Dr. Klein expertise/pet safe paints

6/17/21 - DailyPaws.com Unique-looking dog breeds

6/21/21 - TheHealthy.com Dr. Klein expertise/can dogs eat strawberries

Mrs. Munden gave a presentation on the successes and new outreach initiatives that began in Q2. The Board was advised that press releases will now be distributed in Spanish and Chinese in addition to English to reach more dog lovers.

### **AKC Education Q2 2021 Report**

Ashley Jacot, Director, Education gave a presentation on new Public Education resources for teachers and young learners.

Canine College develops and manages over 600 courses and exams available for Conformation and Performance Judges, Breeders, Groomers, the fancy, and the general public.

Breed and Breeder Courses: A total of 54 breeds are now available on Canine College.

Public Education New Resources: In an effort to continue to provide new and exciting resources for teachers, Public Education created three "Compare the Breeds" passages that are targeted for students in grades 3-6 and could also be used as an enrichment resource for 2nd grade students. In addition to teaching students about different dog breeds, students are learning to compare/contrast, identify author's purpose and main idea, use text features, and identify text

structure. Each activity also includes a follow up activity with an answer key for the teacher.

To further educate the general public about breed specific history and culture, Public Education created a resource series that features breeds from different regions of the world. This series is meant to promote more diversity and education for both children and adults, while educating about these breeds. It can be used both digitally and in printed form.

The Public Education team launched a new program intended for high school students seeking service hours for college applications. The AKC Leader of the Pack program is designed to get high school students involved in their communities through dogs. The mission of AKC Public Education is to foster and continue to find ways to ever strengthen the human-canine bond. By participating in this program, students will have an opportunity to give back to their own dog communities by volunteering in a series of activities of their choosing. Activity options include cleaning up your local dog park, completing several of the free courses on AKC's Canine College, participating in the AKC Canine and Me program, and becoming involved with your local dog club, among others. Students will be required to submit to Public Education a project proposal and complete 20 hours of volunteer service. Upon completion, students will receive a written letter of recommendation to use in their college application process.

AKC Education hosted several webinars during Q2, including:

- "Virtual Canine Breeder Excellence Track" hosted by The Theriogenology Foundation for 44 participants.
- "Canine Medical Problem or an Emergency? When to call the vet" hosted by Dr. Jerry Klein for 17 participants.
- "Marketing Tips for Clubs" hosted by Aurora Greenberg and Cody Barr for 111 participants.
- "Whelping and Post-Whelping Care for Mothers and Pups" hosted by Dr. Marty Greer for 389 participants.
- "AKC DDTF Webinar Series: Getting Puppies Started Right for Detection: Experts Compare and Contrast Successful Approaches-Part 2" hosted by Tim Baird and Bart Rogers, in conjunction with Government Relations, for 51 participants.
- "Puppy Training During COVID-19: Advice and Best Practices" hosted by Penny Leigh for 761 participants. Since March 2020, AKC reached more than 41,243 constituents using these educational webinars.

Information was provided on AKC Canine Corner, a new newsletter from Public Education which provides teachers with resources and activities for use in their classroom. In the first month of launch, AKC Canine Corner went to more than 1,000 subscribers. In Q3, AKC Public Education will begin offering classes for children via Outschoool. Outschoool provides children a place to learn about topics of interest. AKC Public Education will offer lessons on responsible dog ownership, dog breeds and groups, and dog sports.

### **Government Relations Legislation Monthly Update**

The Board was provided with Staff's monthly highlight report of active, priority legislative issues that AKC Government Relations (GR) is currently and actively working on as of June 19, 2021. To date, AKC GR is monitoring more than 2,100 pieces of legislation at the state, local and federal level that could impact dog ownership, the wellbeing of dogs or AKC events and operations. This includes

positive as well as negative legislation. The most up-to-date information on legislative issues are available via AKC GR's Legislative Action Center, [www.akcgr.org](http://www.akcgr.org).

The most common legislative issues monitored year to date and in Q2 were:

1. Animal Cruelty 2. Working Dogs 3. Animal Control 4. Rescues/Shelters 5. Veterinary.

#### Legislative Alerts, & Testimony

In the Q2, GR published 103 legislative alerts and provided written comment and/or oral testimony and legislator outreach on nearly as many measures.

#### Federal Legislation HR 4239

The bipartisan Healthy Dog Importation Act of 2021 in the U.S. House of Representatives by Congressmen Kurt Schrader and Dusty Johnson. AKC is working with NAIA and AVMA, and other likeminded groups to advance this measure, which was developed by NAIA and AKC. HR 4239 requires owners/importers of all dogs imported into the United States to submit a valid health certificate from a veterinary agency accredited by the USDA. Certificates would demonstrate that dogs being imported are microchipped and fully vaccinated/protected against diseases (and parasites) of concern, including rabies. Dogs and records would also be subject to inspection/verification upon entry. Unlike the current CDC temporary rule, HDIA focuses specifically on individual health status rather than by country of origin

#### **AKC Detection Dog Task Force and Patriotic Puppy Program Update**

The Board reviewed a memo presented by Sheila Goffe that provided a brief update on the AKC Detection Dog Task Force (DDTF), with an additional focus on the progress of the DDTF's Patriotic Puppy Pilot Program.

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

A large portion of the DDTF's focus over the last six months has been on the Patriotic Puppy Program (PPP). The purpose of this pilot program is to study whether AKC breeders can provide a suitable and reliable source of future "green" dogs that could then be purchased by law enforcement or government agencies for advanced training and successful deployment, primarily as explosives detection dogs (EDDs). If it is determined that the concept of AKC breeders providing high quality dogs detection dogs is viable, the program should also establish a path for breeders to achieve this goal that is scalable and efficient so that they can continue successfully in this endeavor after AKC tutelage is no longer necessary.

In September 2020, Phase 2 of the PPP commenced. The primary goal of PPP Phase 2 is to establish training protocols, assist breeders and puppy raisers/trainers and place graduate puppies with local, state and federal law enforcement. The restructured program emphasizes the following:

- Increase the number of breeders/trainers participating in the PPP
- Increase the number of puppies enrolled in the PPP
- Increase awareness of the PPP among all stakeholders

- Develop a replicable and scalable training program that prepares pups for testing and placement with a variety of law enforcement agencies or related work.

For the remainder of 2021 and 2022, the DDTF will focus on the following deliverables:

- 2022 AKC National Detection Dog Conference, August 2022, Durham, NC
- Ongoing outreach with elected and administrative policymakers to improve contracting policies, increase transparency and increase funding and attention provided to U.S-bred explosives detection dogs
- Providing additional input for the Department of Defense US-bred detection dog pilot project outlined in the proposed FY 2022 National Defense Authorization Act
- Expand Patriotic Puppy Program to increase active participation, bring on new mentors, and increase canine placement by 250% or more
- Completion of AKC Canine College Confident Puppy Courses 1 & 2.

### **COMPANION and PERFORMANCE**

Doug Ljungren, Executive Vice President, Sports & Events; Mary Burch, Director, Family Dog Program; and Caroline Murphy, Director, Performance Events participated in this portion of the meeting via video conference.

### **Fast CAT®: Limiting Participation for Timers, Lure Operators and Paid Event Secretaries**

The Board reviewed a recommendation to add eligibility restrictions on dogs owned or co-owned by individuals performing key activities at Fast CAT® events. Specifically, 1. Individuals involved with timing - Currently an individual cannot operate a timer or record the time for their own dog or a dog owned by a family or household member. This is being extended to include that an individual cannot operate a timer or record the time for the same breed they, or any member of their immediate family or household, own or co-own, if their dog is entered in the event. 2. Lure Operators - Currently an individual cannot operate the lure for their own dog or a dog owned by family or household member. This is being extended to include that an individual cannot operate the lure for the same breed they, or any member of their immediate family or household, own or co-own, if their dog is entered in the event. 3. Paid Event Secretaries - Dogs owned or co-owned by a paid event secretary, or any member of their immediate family or household, are not eligible to enter an event where the individual is the event secretary. Paid means the person is compensated in any manner, whether directly from the host club or as part of a service provider team.

These changes are being made to ensure participants remain confident that everyone is being treated equally and fairly. These are changes to the Fast CAT® Regulations.

Following a motion by Mr. Tatro, seconded by Mr. Carota, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to approve changes to Chapter 16 of the *Regulations for Fast CAT®*. These changes are effective September 1, 2021.

Chapter 16. Section 10. Course/Equipment.

D. Timing Devices: New second paragraph.

An individual shall not operate a timing device or record the time for any run in which they or a member of their immediate family or household own or co-own the running dog. In addition, an individual may not be involved in timing or recording the time for the same breed they, or any

member of their immediate family or household, owns or co-owns, if their dog is entered in the event. For the purposes of this restriction, All-American dogs are considered one breed.

E. Lure Equipment: New second paragraph.

An individual shall not operate the lure for a dog they, or any member of their immediate family or household, owns or co-owns. In addition, an individual cannot operate the lure for the same breed they, or any member of their immediate family or household, owns or co-owns, if their dog is entered in the event. For the purpose of this restriction, All-American dogs are considered one breed.

Chapter 16. Section 3. Eligibility to Enter.

New second paragraph.

Dogs owned or co-owned by a paid event secretary, or any member of their immediate family or household, are not eligible to enter an event where the individual is the event secretary. Paid means the person is compensated in any manner, whether directly from the host club or as part of a service provider team.

### **Novice Earthdog Class**

The Board reviewed a recommendation from the Delegate HEC Committee to add a beginning level Novice class to the Earthdog program.

The Earthdog program offers 4 classes – Intro to Quarry (non-titling), Junior (JE title), Senior (SE title), Master (ME title). The recommendation is to add a new Novice class that is positioned between the Intro to Quarry and Junior classes. This new class would offer a NE title after having earned two passes. The Novice class is an instinct test requiring very little previous exposure to earthwork. It is very similar to the Introduction to Quarry class except the handler and judge may not provide encouragement once the dog is released. This will be discussed at the October Board meeting.

### **Earthdog Excellent Title**

The Board reviewed a recommendation from the Delegate HEC Committee to create an Earthdog Excellent title for dogs that pass the Junior, Senior or Master level test on six occasions after earning the initial title at that level. The purpose is to encourage dogs and owners to continue to participate in the sport. Approximately 50% of the dogs that earn a title at a given level go on to participate at the next level. The purpose of the Excellent title is to encourage those dogs and owners who would otherwise dropout, to continue to participate in the sport. This will be discussed at the October Board meeting.

### **Non-AKC Events Policy – Add Three Racing Organizations**

The Board reviewed a recommendation to add three racing organizations to the list of acceptable events an AKC club may hold, provided the events are held separate and apart from an AKC event, as written in the current Board Policy under Club Policies for Non-AKC Events. The three racing organizations are the Continental Whippet Alliance (CWA), the Whippet Racing Association (WRA) and the National Oval Track Racing Association (NOTRA).

All three organizations hold racing events that are not offered by the AKC. These organizations are national, independent racing organizations that operate on a small scale. Each one offers a

program different from AKC's lure coursing program that focuses on racing not coursing. The CWA and WRA offer straight track racing at distances of 150 to 200 yards in heats of five to six. These events are open to whippets only. NOTRA specializes in oval track racing for sighthounds at distances of 270 to 440 yards on a rounded u-shaped or oval shaped track in heats of three to five. This will be discussed further at the October Board meeting.

### **Amendments to the Regulations for AKC Coonhound Nite Hunts**

The Board reviewed a recommendation to amend the Regulations for AKC Coonhound Nite Hunts.

The *Regulations for AKC Coonhound Nite Hunts* were revamped in 2005 with the last amendment approved in 2012. The regulations need maintenance to include various clarifications and additions. The recommended amendments are based on feedback received in the sport.

The following highlights those areas to be amended:

- Expansion of the hunt times to be at the choice of the host club of 60, 90, or 120 minutes.
- Specific details on how the drawing of the casts should take place.
- Clarifications of the role of the Hunt Director and Hunt Committee.
- Photo requirement of all casts.
- The use of electronic devices – what is allowed / not allowed and when.
- Scoring instructions when using a non-hunting judge, during time-outs.
- Additional scoring clarifications for awarding plus points or deleting points.
- More information on the system of informal and formal questions by cast members.
- Additional detail on conducting youth handled casts.
- Introduction of female only handled casts.

This will be discussed further at the October Board meeting.

### **New Level AKC Therapy Dog**

The Board reviewed a recommendation to expand the AKC Therapy Dog titling program by recognizing a new, higher level therapy dog title.

The American Kennel Club launched the AKC Therapy Dog program on June 27, 2011. The program currently consists of five titles which are:

- AKC Therapy Dog Novice (THDN). Must have completed 10 visits.
- AKC Therapy Dog (THD). Must have completed 50 visits.
- AKC Therapy Dog Advanced (THDA). Must have completed 100 visits.
- AKC Therapy Dog Excellent (THDX). Must have completed 200 visits.
- AKC Therapy Dog Distinguished (THDD). Must have completed 400 visits.

AKC has received requests from dog owners who have exceeded 400 visits for additional titles to recognize their long-time devotion to therapy work and the continuing, significant, contributions of their therapy dogs. Staff is recommending the title of Therapy Dog Supreme to acknowledge dogs that complete 600 visits.

Additionally, some police departments are beginning to own and utilize therapy dogs. The AKC Therapy Dog program has been contacted and will recognize these dogs. This will be discussed

further at the October Board meeting.

### **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; Glenn Lycan, Director, Event Operations Support, Pat Lejman, AKC Booth Program Manager and Guy Fisher, Manager, Club Development participated in this portion of the meeting via video conference.

### **AKC Banners and Signs**

The Board reviewed a memo on the AKC Board Policy regarding Banners and Signs and how it is currently administered by Sports and Events.

The Board Policy, Banners and Signs, directs superintendents to place AKC branded banners and signs at superintended dog shows. The policy also urges clubs to display AKC branded banners and signs at non-superintended events.

The Staff will propose recommended changes to the policy for discussion at the October Board meeting.

### **SPORTS & EVENTS COVID PROVISIONS**

Doug Ljungren, Executive Vice President, Sports & Events; Alan Slay, Director, Event Programs; Pamela Manaton, Director, Obedience, Rally & Tracking; Mary Burch, Director, AKC Family Dog Program; Caroline Murphy, Director, Performance Events; and Carrie DeYoung, Director, Agility participated in this portion of the meeting via video conference.

### **COVID Provisions - Event Application Process Across all Sports**

The Board reviewed a recommendation to allow two temporary exceptions to the standard event application process that were implemented due to COVID to expire at the end of 2021. Specifically (1) Event application fees for cancelled events will not be rolled forward to the next event of the same type, and (2) The standard lead time for event applications will be reinstated.

Unless extended, the pre-COVID event application process will apply to all events to be held after January 1, 2022. This will be discussed further at the October Board meeting.

### **AKC's Virtual Sports & Activities**

The Board reviewed a recommendation is to make the pilot programs for Virtual Rally and the Virtual Water Test for Pointing Breeds permanent additions to AKC's sport offerings. Evidence indicates the virtual offerings have been successful in attracting new dog owners to AKC sports. Many of these new exhibitors live in remote areas or have unique lifestyles or challenges at home. The other virtual activities have already been approved as permanent programs. Virtual activities will continue to reach new participants and be of lasting value to AKC sports. These two activities were approved by the Board as pilot programs and may be made permanent by a vote of the Board.

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

Following a motion by Dr. Battaglia, seconded by Mrs. Wallin, the Board VOTED (Unanimously) to make the Virtual Rally and the Virtual Water Test for Pointing Breeds permanent additions to AKC's sport offerings.

### **COVID Provision - Retriever Hunting Tests – Handing Off the Bird**

The Board reviewed a recommendation to allow handlers, at the direction of the judges, to place the retrieved bird in a bucket rather than hand it off to the judges.

The Retriever Hunting Test Regulations state that the handlers shall hand the retrieve birds directly to the judges. This is done so the judges may examine the bird to assure it was not damaged by the dog during the retrieve. This practice was modified during COVID to allow the handler to place the bird in a bucket, which provided greater physical separation between the handler and judge. This provision is set to expire at year-end. The sport desires to make this a permanent change. This will be discussed further at the October Board meeting.

### **COVID Provisions – Conformation Modifications Due to Expire**

Beginning in April 2020, the Board approved several recommended modifications to event policies to provide clubs greater flexibility to hold events. Most modifications will expire during the year or at year end. The Board reviewed recommendations for each of the conformation modifications made during the pandemic:

1. AKC Show Manual Indoor/Outdoor Ring Requirement
2. Additional Events - Allow up to three events offering Championship points at the same site on the same day. At least one of the three competitions must be held by a specialty club. (Expires December 31, 2021)
3. Distance an All-Breed or Group Club May Travel - Allow all-breed clubs to hold their events up to 200 miles from their territory and up to 300 miles when there are extenuating circumstances. (Expires December 31, 2021)
4. Distance a Specialty Club May Travel - Allow specialty clubs to join other specialty clubs of the same breed up to 300 miles from their territory. (Expires December 31, 2021)
5. Assignment Conflicts for Conformation Judges - Waive the 30 days and 200 miles judge's restriction policy. Applies only to conflicting weekends not events held on the same weekend, circuit or cluster. (Expires July 31, 2021)
6. Junior Qualifications - Allows for movement on the dates that juniors may qualify for AKC National Championship and Westminster. Flexibility based on event opportunities allows the AKC to adjust to meet special circumstances. (Expires December 31, 2021)
7. Premium List and 72 Hour Opening of Entries for Limited All-Breed Events -  
In order to provide fair opportunity for all exhibitors to enter All-Breed Conformation events with an entry limit, premium lists for these events are required to be published at least 72 hours prior to the acceptance of entries. All-Breed events with an entry limit must have a defined Date and Time for the opening of entries which is to be prominently displayed in the premium list.
8. Waive same day restriction for NOHS group and BIS judges allowing them to show on the day (not in NOHS). This will be discussed further at the October Board meeting.

### **COVID Provisions – Obedience, Rally, Tracking and Agility Modifications Due to Expire at Year-End**

The Companion Events department temporarily suspended or modified six regulations to offset the impact that COVID-19 caused with travel restrictions and social distancing requirements. The Board reviewed a memo outlining the Staff's recommendations regarding these modifications. The six modifications were – (1) Waiver of two judges required to earn a title, (2) Waiver of 30 days and 100 miles assignment restrictions on judges, (3) Allow judges to accept assignments to judge the same classes at two Obedience/Rally trials over the course of a cluster (4) Increase the distance between exhibitors in the Obedience Novice group exercises, (5) Increase the Tracking Test Certification expiration dates, and (6) Allow Agility exhibitors to carry their leashes during their Agility runs. This will be discussed further at the October Board meeting.

The Board adjourned at 5:24 p.m.

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The Board Meeting reconvened on Tuesday, August 10 at 9:30 a.m. All Directors were present. Also present was the Executive Secretary.

### **CLUBS**

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

### **Winter Garden Specialties**

The Board discussed a request for a one-time exception to the 200-mile Board Conflict Policy for the Winter Garden Specialties (153 miles). The cluster of specialties are requesting to coexist with an event that is in conflict based on the policy. The club is requesting this one-time exception to hold its event on the weekend before Westminster as it traditionally does.

Following a motion by Ms. McAteer, seconded by Dr. Battaglia, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to approve the request on a one-time basis.

### **Sample Bylaws Study Committee Follow-Up Report and Proposed Revisions to Documents**

The Board began discussion of the follow-up report and proposed revisions to four (4) documents: The Local Club Sample Constitution and Bylaws, Parent Club Sample Constitution and Bylaws, Tips and Best Practices for Effective Bylaws, and Sample Constitution and Bylaws Checklist.

In February 2021, the Board reviewed and accepted the Sample Bylaws Study Committee's report including Local Club Sample Constitution and Bylaws; Parent Club Sample Constitution and Bylaws; Sample Constitution and Bylaws Checklist; and Tips and Best Practices for Effective Bylaws. The Board voted affirmatively by majority vote to accept the Sample Bylaws Study Committee's Report at its February 2021 meeting, and the Sample Constitution and Bylaws Checklist was adopted as a new policy.

There were additional changes suggested by the Board.

Following a motion by Dr. Garvin, seconded by Dr. Battaglia, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to consider the matter at this meeting, waiving the normal notice procedures.

Following a motion by Dr. Garvin, seconded by Ms. Biddle, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to approve the Sample Constitution and Bylaws Checklist with the recommended changes.

### **Letters of Objection to Delegate appointment**

In accordance with Article IV, Section 6 of the AKC Bylaws which states that “Any person, Club or Association which may desire to object to the admission of a candidate for membership may do so by sending a letter to the Board of Directors of the AKC stating the reasons for such objection and such letter will be considered a privileged communication the contents of which must not be disclosed.” the Board reviewed a Staff memo outlining letters of objection that were received concerning the approval of a Delegates credentials. The objections were deemed insufficient to prevent approval which occurred in Consent later in the meeting.

### **Delegates and Member Clubs**

The Board reviewed a report on the prospective Delegate credentials to be published in two issues of the *AKC Gazette*, requests for AKC membership applications, and a report on MemberClub Bylaws approved and newly licensed clubs.

### **Report on Member Clubs Bylaws approved in June and July 2021**

Macon Kennel Club, Macon, GA (1994)

### **Report on Newly Licensed Clubs approved in June and July 2021**

Kennel Club of North Mississippi, greater Olive Branch, MS (including communities to TN/MS state line, south to Sardis, east to I-22 including towns of Holly Springs and Ashland), 39 households, 26 local.

Sarasota Kennel Club, greater Sarasota, FL, 46 total households, 32 local.

### **COMPLIANCE**

Bri Tesarz, Director, Compliance, and Heather McManus, Vice President and Deputy General Counsel participated in this portion of the meeting via video conference.

### **Adding New Penalty for the Offense of Knowingly bringing a dog on event grounds that displayed clinical symptoms or had been recently exposed to a communicable disease**

Following the amendment to Dog Show Rules passed in September 2020, dogs with communicable diseases are prohibited on show premises. However, the language prohibiting dogs that are a hazard because of being exposed to a communicable disease was deleted. The Delegate Canine Health Committee and Dog Show Rules Committees were consulted and recommended that the Board establish a penalty for knowingly bringing a dog onto event grounds that has been recently exposed to a communicable disease.

The Board directed Staff to suggest solutions to solve this conflict which will be discussed in October.

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

### **INTERNAL CONSULTING AND BUSINESS INTELLIGENCE**

Mark Dunn, Executive Vice President, participated in this portion of the meeting.

### **Further Insights into the Demographics of Subsets of AKC Breeders and Demographics for AKC Registrants**

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

In previous AKC studies, breeders of certain ethnicity were identified as an under-studied population. At the AKC Board's request, staff provided data to identify the geographic location of breeder subsets and well as to identify and compare dog breed preferences. Department also presented a demographic overview and some key insights into AKC dog registrants.

Insights from this analysis will be used to further personalize outreach, communications, and services to AKC breeders and registrants. Specific action items which may be taken from this analysis can provide services and communications in additional languages or prospecting areas where the AKC can obtain new customers.

### **Registration Update**

2021 will be the 8th consecutive year of increases in Dog Registration, the 7th consecutive year of increases in Litter Registration and the 7th consecutive year of increases in Unique Breeders.

Actual Registration return rates Return Rate analysis reveals that at 6 Months we are consistently seeing a 5 to 6 percentage point improvement over 2019; the best since 2004.

These successes are attributed to data collection and analysis and cross-functional collaboration across departments including Registration, Business Intelligence, IT, Education and Marketing.

### **Additional Accomplishments 2021 YTD**

- Launched Online Foreign Registration: it is now easier to submit and quicker turn-around; 33% online since launch; expect 50% of applications to be online before end of year
- Launched Electronic Litter Kits: 8.5% of online litter registrants use this service to receive litter kit immediately via digital file, avoiding US Mail delays
- Added Electronic Litter Kit Dupe printing to AKC Breeder Toolkit: any breeder can use AKC Breeder Toolkit to easily reprint (\$15 Fee) instead of calling Customer Service and paying for dupe papers to be mailed
- Updated AKC Puppy Folders
- Using CRM data, we enhanced the online certificate transfer process and clarified the messaging people get when they input incorrect PINs in online dog registration
- Greatly enhanced webpage on AKC.org describing Breeder of Merit and Bred with H.E.A.R.T. health testing requirements

### **MARKETING**

Kirsten Bahlke, Vice President, Consumer Demand participated in this portion of the meeting. Melissa Olund, Director, Digital Marketing participated in this portion of the meeting via videoconference.

Staff present Highlights of the second quarter for each digital platform.

- AKC.org
  - When compared vs. Q2 2019, users grew 61%, sessions grew 54%, and pageviews grew 30%.
    - Organic traffic remains by far the largest traffic acquisition source.
      - It grew 64% vs Q2 2019.
    - Key content areas for Q2 included:
      - Breed-specific content (e.g. Breed histories, breed-specific training, etc.)
      - Puppy content (Parvo 101, potty training, feeding schedules, etc.)
      - Health related articles (e.g. Separation anxiety, tick removal, fireworks safety, heat safety, water safety, etc.)
      - Westminster news/coverage
- Marketplace.akc.org
  - Organic remains the largest traffic acquisition source for Marketplace but was down (-57%) in Q2 versus Q2 of 2021
- Shop.akc.org
  - AKC Shop has not held all the “COVID traffic surge” but has grown since 2019
  - Importantly, conversion has been steadily climbing and AKC Shop Q2 revenue beat budget
- AKC Email/Newsletters
  - The Email marketing group sent 29% more emails in Q2 of 2021 vs Q2 of 2020 with a minor decrease in open and click-to-open rates.
  - AKC Pupdate subscribers increased dramatically due to registration performance and the launch of social and paid search promotions; list size is now up to 660,000.
  - Weekly email series launched for Retriever subscribers with good engagement (18% open/8% CTO)
  - Testing of the new Nibble newsletter templates began in June. Engagement metrics remain similar for both templates but will be monitored and reviewed month over month as the new designs are finalized.
  - AKC Shop email open rate and CTO remain healthy and in line with industry benchmarks, despite massive growth in the number of emails sent.

## **CONSENT**

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

- Fast CAT® – Electronic Timers and Hot Starts
- Bred by Exhibitor Class – *Rules Applying to Dog Shows*, Chapter 3, Section 8
- Calculation of Age – *Rules Applying to Dog Shows*, Chapter 3, Sections 2, 4 & 5
- Winners Class – *Rules Applying to Dog Shows*, Chapter 3, Section 11
- Bracco Italiano Eligibility to Compete in the Sporting Group
- Delegate and Club Approvals

### **Fast CAT® – Electronic Timers and Hot Starts**

The Board VOTED to approve a recommendation from the Delegate HEC Committee to make two changes to the Fast CAT® regulations. The first (1) recommendation will require clubs to use electronic timers with hand-timing to be used only in situations of equipment failure. The second (2) is to clarify that “hot starts” will not be allowed.

Both of these changes will improve consistency and accuracy of run times. With the growth of Fast CAT® and completion of the first AKC Fast CAT® Invitational, there is an increasing desire among

participants to measure each dog's run exactly the same way. This includes using the same timing devices and start methods.

Chapter 16. Section 10. Course/Equipment.

D. Timing Devices: The time to complete the 100-yard dash is recorded to the nearest 1/100th of a second (e.g. 9.11). Effective March 1, 2022, the time of the dog must be determined by the use of break-the-beam electronic timers. Two stopwatches must be available as a backup in case the electronic timers do not work. \*Through February 28, 2022, the club may use stopwatches or break-the-beam electronic timers to obtain the time. \*Clubs must specify in their premium which timing method is to be used. If stopwatches are used, there shall be two timers positioned at the finish line. An individual at the start line shall signal with an arm drop the moment the nose of the dog crosses the start line. The timers shall start their stopwatches at the start of the arm drop. The timers shall stop their watches when the nose of the dog crosses the finish line. The times from the two stopwatches shall be averaged to determine the recorded time.

Chapter 16. Section 10. Course/Equipment.

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

At the start, the lure must be resting in front of the dog. When the lure starts to move, the dog may be released. Hot starts where the dog is released as the lure passes the dog are not allowed.

### **Bred by Exhibitor Class – Rules Applying to Dog Shows – Chapter 3, Section 8**

The Board VOTED to approve a recommendation from the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee (DSRC) to modify Chapter 3, Section 8 of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows*, which if adopted, would allow clubs at their option to divide the Bred-by-Exhibitor class into two age groups; Puppy, for dogs that are six months of age but under twelve months, and Adult, for dogs that are twelve months of age and older. This will be read at the September Delegates meeting for a VOTE at the December Delegates meeting.

### **Calculation of Age – Rules Applying to Dog Shows – Chapter 3, Sections 2, 4 & 5**

The Board VOTED to approve a recommendation from the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee (DSRC) to modify Chapter 3, Sections 2, 4 and 5 of *The Rules Applying to Dog Shows*, which defines the minimum age of eligibility (six months) for dogs to compete in AKC sanctioned events, the Puppy class and 12-18 Month class respectively. The proposals remove language from Chapter 3, Sections 4 and 5 related to the calculation of the age of a dog and inserts similar verbiage into Chapter 3, Section 2 as how age is determined is relative to all classes. If approved by the Board, the proposal will be read at the September 2021 Delegate Meeting and voted at the December 2021 Delegate Meeting. If approved by the Delegate Body, the effective date would be March 31, 2022. This will be read at the September Delegate Meeting for a VOTE at the December Delegate Meeting.

### **Winners Class – Rules Applying to Dog Shows – Chapter 3, Section 11**

The Board VOTED to approve a recommendation from the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee (DSRC) to modify Chapter 3, Section 11 of *The Rules Applying to Dog Shows*, which defines the Winners Class and those entries eligible to compete in the Winners and Reserve Winners classes.

The DSRC's proposal to modify Chapter 3, Section 11 inserts language to specify dogs eligible for Winners include the first-place undefeated dogs from all divisions of the defined classes. In addition, it inserts language to clearly define that American-bred and Open are the only required classes, and all others are at the option of the club. This will be discussed further at the August Board meeting. This will be read at the September Delegate Meeting for a VOTE at the December Delegate Meeting.

### **Bracco Italiano Eligibility to Compete in the Sporting Group**

The Board Voted that the Bracco Italiano will be eligible to compete in the Sporting Group on June 29, 2022. Further, the Board approved the breed standard as submitted. See **Appendix A**. The breed will be moved from the Foundation Stock Service into the Stud Book of the American Kennel Club on June 29, 2022. The Stud Book will remain open until July 1, 2026.

### **Delegate Approvals**

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

Melissa Lembke, Le Sueur, MN  
To represent Key City Kennel Club

Brian P. Meindl, M. Ed, Hampton Bays, NY  
To represent American Cesky Terrier Fanciers Association

Jennifer Modica, Cape May Court House, NJ  
To represent Union County Kennel Club

Betty Winthers, Lynnwood, WA,  
To represent Pasanita Obedience Club

### **AKC Membership for Approval:**

**The Board VOTED to approve the following Club for membership:**

Jackson Tennessee Dog Fanciers Association  
Focal Point: Jackson, TN  
First License Trial: May 15, 2004  
33 Households/26 Local

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

It was VOTED to adjourn Tuesday, August 10, 2021 at 12:56 p.m. Eastern Time.

Adjourned

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ Gina M. DiNardo, Executive Secretary

## **Appendix A – Bracco Italiano Proposed Breed Standard**

### **STANDARD OF THE BRACCO ITALIANO**

#### **GENERAL APPEARANCE**

Of strong and harmonious construction, powerful appearance. The preferred subjects are smooth coated, with lean limbs, well-developed muscles, well defined lines, and a markedly sculpted head with very obvious chiseling under the eyes. These elements all contribute to give distinction to this breed. The Bracco is tough and adapted to all types of hunting, reliable, docile, and easy to train.

#### **SIZE PROPORTION, SUBSTANCE**

Height at the withers between 21 to 27 inches. Preferred size for males: 23 to 27 inches; preferred size for females: 21 to 25 inches. Weight between 55 to 90 pounds, depending on height. The Bracco is a solidly built dog with powerful bone, but without lumber, and without sacrificing balance and harmonious appearance. A dog in hard and lean field condition is not to be penalized. Important Proportions: The body is square or slightly longer than tall. Length of head is equal to two-fifths (40 percent) of the height at the withers; its width, measured at the level of the zygomatic arches, is less than half its length. Skull and muzzle are of equal length.

#### **HEAD**

Head - Angular and narrow at the level of the zygomatic arches, its length corresponds to two-fifths (40 percent) of the height at the withers; the middle of its length is at the level of a line that unites the inner angles of both eyes. The upper planes of the skull and muzzle are divergent, i.e.: if extended, the top line of the muzzle emerges in front of the occiput, ideally at mid-length of the skull (down-faced). Dish face (convergence of the planes of the skull and muzzle) is a disqualification. The head and neck are moderate in skin. The head should have a soft fold of skin from the outer corner of the eye, falling down the cheek. When the head is down and relaxed, there is a skin fold across the skull from ear to ear. Eyes - Semi-lateral position, neither deep set nor prominent. Eyes fairly large, eyelids oval-shaped and close-fitting (no entropion or ectropion). The iris is a dark amber to orange or brown color depending on the color of the coat. Wall eye is a disqualification. Expression is soft, gentle and intelligent. Ears - Well developed. In length they should, without being stretched, reach the tip of the nose. Their width is at least equal to half their length; raised only very slightly; base rather narrow, set at level of zygomatic arches. A supple ear with a front rim well-turned inwards to frame the face; the lower extremity of the ear ends in a slightly rounded tip. Skull Region: Seen in profile, the skull shape is a very open arch. Seen from the top, it forms lengthwise an elongated oval. The width of the skull measured at the level of the zygomatic arches should not exceed half the length of the head. Cheeks are lean, the bulge of the forehead and the supra-orbital ridges are perceptible. The stop is not pronounced. The frontal groove is visible and ends at mid-length of the skull. The interparietal crest is short and not very prominent. The occiput is pronounced. Muzzle - Fore-face is either straight or slightly arched. Its length is equal to half of the length of the head and its depth measures four-fifths (80 percent) of its length. Seen from the front, the lateral sides of the muzzle converge slightly, still presenting a fore-face of good width. The chin is not very apparent. Nose - Voluminous, with large well-opened nostrils, protrudes slightly over the lips with which it forms an angle. Color brown or from pale pink to more or less deep fleshy red depending on the color of the coat. A split nose is a disqualification. Lips - Upper lips well developed, thin and floppy without being flaccid, covering the jaw; seen in profile, they overlap the lower jaw slightly, seen from the front, they form an inverted "V" below the nose; the corner of the lips must be marked without being droopy. Teeth - Dental arches well adapted, with the teeth square to the jaw. Bite - scissor or level. Any deviation (overbite or underbite) should be faulted in accordance to its severity.

#### **NECK, TOPLINE, BODY**

*Neck* - Powerful, in truncated cone shape. Length of the neck is at least two-thirds but not greater than the length of the head. Well detached from the nape. The throat shows a soft double dewlap.

Excessive skin with exaggerated wrinkling or single dewlap is faulted. *Topline* - The upper profile of the back is made up of two lines: one, almost straight, slopes from the withers to the 11th dorsal vertebrae (mid-back); the other is slightly arched, joining with the line of the croup. *Body* - Chest is broad, deep and well down to level of the elbows, without forming a keel. Ribs well sprung, particularly in their lower part, and sloping. Wide lumbar region. Loin is well muscled, short and slightly convex. Croup is long (about one-third of the height at the withers), wide and well-muscled; the pelvic angulation (angle formed by the pelvic girdle with a horizontal line) is 30 degrees. *Underline* - Lower profile almost horizontal in its rib cage part, rising slightly in its abdominal part. *Tail* - Thick at the base, straight, with a slight tendency to taper, hair short. When the dog is in action and especially when questing, is carried horizontally or nearly. *Docked* - Should be docked 6 to 10 inches from the root. *Undocked* - Carried horizontally; length of the undocked tail is to the hock. May be slightly curved but never held high or carried bent over the back.

### **FOREQUARTERS**

Withers are well defined, with the points of the shoulder blades well separated. Shoulder strong, well-muscled, long, sloping, and well laid back, very free in its movement. The upper arm sloping, fitting to the rib cage. Forearm strong, straight, with well-marked sinews; the point of the elbows should be on a perpendicular line from the rear point of the shoulder blade to the ground. Metacarpus (pastern) well proportioned, lean, of good length and slightly sloping. Feet strong, slightly oval shaped, well arched and closed toes with strong nails well curved towards the ground. Color of nails is white, yellow or brown, of a more or less dark shade depending on the color of the coat. Foot pads elastic and lean.

### **HINDQUARTERS**

In balance with the forequarters. Thigh long, parallel, muscular, with the rear edge almost straight when viewed from the side. Strong limbs; hocks wide, metatarsals (rear pasterns) relatively short and lean. The feet, with all the characteristics of the front feet, have dewclaws, the absence of which is not a fault. Double dewclaws are tolerated.

### **COAT**

Skin - Ample skin, tough but elastic, well separated from the tissues underneath; fine on the head, the throat, inside the elbows, and on lower part of the body. The visible mucous membranes must be a corresponding color with the coat, but never show black spots. The mucous membranes of the mouth are pink; sometimes with light brown spotting. Coat - Short, dense and glossy, fine and shorter on the head, the ears, front part of the legs and feet.

### **COLOR**

The base color is white. The colors acceptable in this breed are: solid white, white with orange markings, or white with brown markings. The markings are of varied sizes (patches, ticking, or roan). A symmetrical face mask is preferred, but the absence of a mask is tolerated. The orange color can range from a dark amber to rich orange. It is not lemon or yellow. The brown color is a warm shade that recalls the color of a monk's frock (Crayola Brown); it is not liver. A metallic sheen is appreciated in brown and white dogs. Disqualifying colors - Tricolor, or with tan markings, fawn, hazel. Any trace of black on coat or mucous membranes. Any solid color other than white. Albinism.

### **GAIT**

Extended and fast trot, with powerful reach and drive. Head raised, nose held high in such a way that, when hunting, the nose is higher than the topline as if the dog is being "pulled along by the nose." The fluid, powerful, and extended trot is hallmark of this breed.

**TEMPERAMENT**

The Bracco is tough and adapted to all types of hunting, reliable, docile, and intelligent. Friendly, not shy, never aggressive, and readily makes eye contact. Extreme shyness is a fault. Aggressiveness is a disqualification.

**FAULTS**

Any departure from the foregoing constitutes a fault which when judging must be penalized according to its seriousness and its extension.

**DISQUALIFICATIONS**

Above or below the height in the standard

Dish face (convergence of the planes of the skull and muzzle)

Wall eye

Split nose

Tricolor, tan markings, fawn or hazel color

Any trace of black on coat or mucous membranes

Any solid color other than white

Albinism

Aggressiveness

***Approved October 2018***

*Effective July 3, 2019*

