

American Kennel Club, Inc.
MEETING of the BOARD OF DIRECTORS
AKC Offices at 101 Park Avenue, New York, NY and via Video Conference
May 11, 2020

The Board convened via Video Conference on Monday, May 11, 2020 at 11:00 a.m.

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

The April 23, 2020 Special 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 April 23, 2020 Board meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

PRESIDENTS REPORT

COVID-19 Update

Mr. Sprung reported that while postponements, rescheduling and cancellations of AKC events are growing, AKC continues to assist clubs. The total annual number of postponed or cancelled events is 8,589 almost 38% of all AKC events for 2020. We are sharing with Superintendents these statistics and the Staff created documents on best practices for clubs planning to hold events going forward. As previously reported by Mr. Sprung, Performance events are continuing throughout the pandemic on a lesser scale; on the weekend of May 9-10, a Retriever Hunting Test in Tulsa, OK had approximately 450 entries and a Retriever Field Trial in Georgia had 110 entries. Virtual Rally submissions are approaching 500.

With the increases in virtual AKC Trick Dog titles, we made personnel available from three other departments and trained them to add the titles to the dogs' records in CMS, thereby working collaboratively to prevent a backlog while providing ongoing services for customers.

April litter registrations are 13% more than planned and individual dog registrations are up 21%. This is the highest April total since 2009, a much needed but anticipated temporary boost.

In the large picture, each department is holding steady as a result of creativity, communications and exploring every financial angle. Aside from Events, AKC's businesses are doing adequately in terms of cash flow and payables during our nation's economic downturn, placing us currently in a decent position thanks to the Board and staff.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

The Board reviewed a brief update and recommendation regarding the American Kennel Club's plan to host an International Conference of Kennel Clubs in 2021.

In early 2019, AKC Board Chairman William Feeney suggested staff explore the prospect of AKC's hosting an International Conference. Mr. Feeney had identified three major topics as agenda items:

- The state of the purebred dog worldwide and how to further promote it, including health.
- Government regulation of breeding and owning dogs, and strategies to influence legislation.
- The state of the sport(s) of purebred dogs and recommendations to enhance participation.

The Staff recommended that due to the current World conditions caused by the global pandemic COVID-19, the AKC should indefinitely postpone AKC's plan to host an International Conference of Kennel Clubs, considerations include the fact that no kennel club is in a position to confirm if they would be able to attend due to international travel bans or quarantines; and the uncertain financial conditions of kennel clubs around the world.

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

Following a motion by Mr. Sweetwood, seconded by Mr. Carota, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to indefinitely postpone AKC's hosting an International Conference of Kennel Clubs.

AKC/ AKC CHF Memorandum of Understanding Renewal

The AKC and AKC Canine Health Foundation's five-year Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the two organizations expires June 1, 2020. The Board reviewed the proposed MOU which contained minor housecleaning edits from the 2015 version.

Following a motion by Ms. McAteer, seconded by Mrs. Wallin, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to approve the new AKC/AKC CHF Memorandum of Understanding which will be sent to the AKC/CHF for their Board's approval.

FINANCE

The financial report was presented at the April 23, 2020 Special Board meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Sheila Goffe, Vice President, Government Relations, and Brandi Hunter, Vice President, Communications and Public Relations, participated in this portion of the meeting via videoconference.

AKC Communications Q1 2020 Report

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

TOTALS:

Clips Evaluated in Q1: 7,119

Q1 Audience Reached: 7,173,437,997

Publicity Value for Q1: \$11,773,761.60

*Numbers and values provided by media monitoring platform Cision

Highlights of Communications/PR Activities

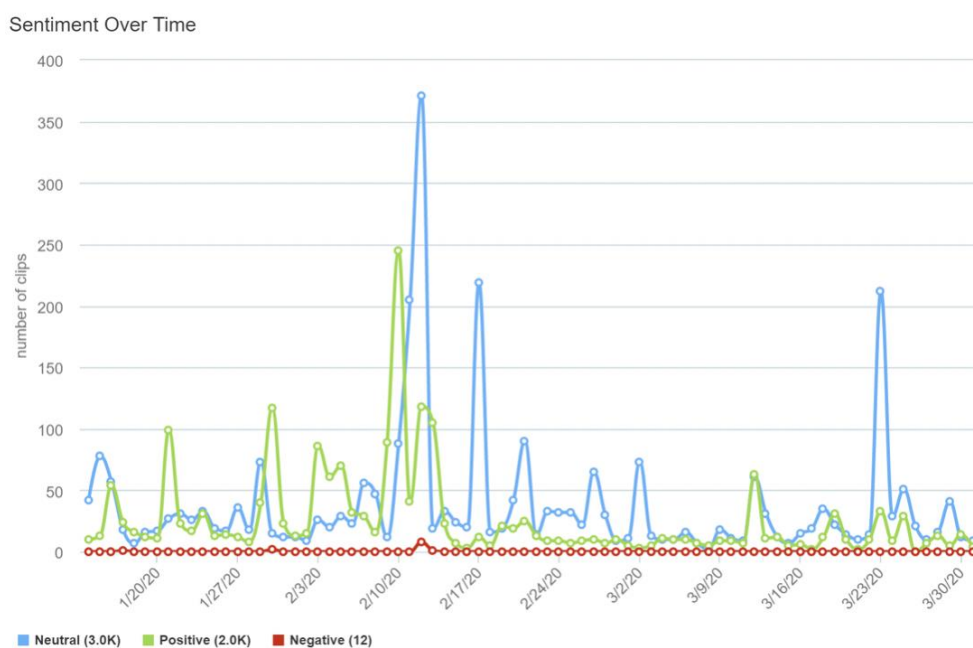
- AKC National Championship winner interview aired on Good Morning America after show airing in January 2020.

- Aggressive PR campaign for AKC Meet the Breeds resulted in nearly 300 clips, including The New York Times, PEOPLE.com, PIX 11 Morning News, among others. A media partnership with WNYW-TV (local FOX affiliate in New York) resulted in multiple Good Day NY segments, additional news segments, and a special that aired the Friday before Meet the Breeds.

- Ongoing media pitching executed to key audiences with stories that speak to positive qualities of purebreds/breeders. Distributed 10 press releases to appropriate media outlets.
- Weekly “AKC Tips” articles written for McClatchy-Tribune reaching 600 newspapers, including the Chattanooga Times Free Press, Dayton Daily News, Duluth News-Tribune, Fresno Bee, Idaho Statesman, Kingsport Times-News and Rochester Democrat and Chronicle, among others.
- Assisted clubs hosting matches, clusters, RDO days and other events with email and media outreach. Distributed 10 press releases and media alerts on behalf of clubs.
- AKC Responsible Dog Ownership Days continued successfully with events held by AKC clubs and dog related organizations nationwide.
- Worked with AKC Reunite to create press materials to promote unveiling of trailers through their Pet Disaster Relief program.

Sentiment Over Time

Sentiment Over Time



AKC Education Q1 2020 Report

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

Canine College
Breed Courses

The Norwegian Buhund and Lagotto Romagnolo courses launched in Quarter 1, with 100% of learners reporting that they would recommend the course to others.

The Siberian Husky and Ibizan Hound courses were updated in Quarter 1.

The following courses have been developed and are under review. They are scheduled for launch in quarter 2: Pekingese, Bernese Mountain Dog and Cavalier King Charles Spaniel.

The Whippet and English Cocker Spaniel courses are currently under development and will launch in quarter 3.

The following breeds are ready for development and all assets have been approved by the Parent Club: Greyhound, Alaskan Malamute, Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever, Affenpinscher, Silky Terrier, Italian Greyhound, Borzoi, and Chihuahua.

Breeder Education

The Pedigree course was completely redesigned and relaunched, featuring the most up to date information, as well as state of the art interactivities.

The Genetics and Breeding Systems courses are currently under development and will launch in quarter 2.

Special Projects

The Conformation for Beginners course launched in Quarter 1. 2,977 learners are currently enrolled in the course.

Canine College is currently collaborating with various departments on three special projects: Safe Handling, Disease and Sanitation, and Raising a Confident Puppy.

Public Education

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

In January 2020, AKC Public Education hosted the AKC Art Contest for the AKC Meet the Breeds in New York City. More than 800 schools were contacted in the Tri-State area. Over 100 pieces of art were displayed at the MTB event, with nearly 1,000 students and their family members attending to see their art displayed in person. All finalists and winners received a ribbon, recognizing their achievement.

Received over 90 new Canine Ambassador submissions

Launched AKC Kids' News: A quarterly newsletter with fun, educational content for parents and teachers. Teachers are encouraged to subscribe for free to receive the online resource.

In response to the COVID-19 crisis, AKC Public Education introduced several new initiatives for the public, including activities for children and weekly tips to be used by teachers and parents and a daily schedule to keep people and their dogs busy during quarantine.

In Quarter 1, more than 800 dog owners submitted their dogs to the AKC PupPals Program. In addition, 30 child nominees were submitted to be matched with a PupPal.

In response to the COVID-19 crisis, the AKC PupPals Program was expanded to include both children and adults. In less than 30 days, 576 people were nominated for an AKC PupPal. This expansion was featured in People, Better Homes and Gardens, and by dog trainer Cesar Millan, among others. The program expansion was also shared with more than 30 hospitals in the hard-

hit cities of New York City, Seattle, Detroit, Miami, New Orleans and Chicago. Many hospitals indicated that they would be sharing this program at their hospital, including Elmhurst Hospital in Queens. Those nominated for an AKC PupPal are struggling with a variety of issues including feeling isolated during quarantine, fighting COVID-19 in the ICU, or battling the virus on the frontlines as a medical professional.

AKC Education Webinar Series

In collaboration with Judging Operations, the AKC Education Webinar Series was expanded to feature daily educational webinars for judges. Judging Operations and the Education department collaborated with Parent Clubs to allow them to host their Judges Education Seminars via webinar.

Since launching on March 30, 2020, these webinars have been attended more than 4,000 times. The following breeds have been featured: Welsh Springer Spaniel, Belgian Laekenois, Ibizan Hound, Puli, Airedale Terrier, Sloughi, Affenpinscher, Lagotto Romagnolo, Rottweiler, Finnish Spitz, Welsh Terrier, German Pinscher, Manchester Terrier, Lowchen, Canaan Dog, Barbet, Pharaoh Hound, Pekingese, and Xoloitzcuintli.

Government Relations Update First Quarter 2020

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

The AKC GR team is currently monitoring more than 2,000 legislative bills that could impact responsible dog ownership, the health and wellbeing of dogs, the rights of dog owners, and/or the interests of the American Kennel Club. (GR was tracking approximately 2,500 bills prior to the early adjournment of some states.)

To date, AKC GR has published 110 legislative alerts online and via geo-targeted emails to impacted constituents and social media. This number represents nearly a 100% increase over the 60 alerts published in the same period of 2019. The significant increase in outreach is due to increased legislative activity caused by the pandemic as well as front-loading of legislative activity in the first quarter that commonly takes place in election years.

AKC GR is also monitoring approximately 667 active proposed regulation changes at the state and federal level, with some 592 actively pending.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on legislative action and AKC GR legislative activity. Statewide executive orders requiring social distancing, closure of non-essential businesses and activities that cannot operate under social distancing orders were executed during the last weeks of the first quarter and remain largely in place.

GR continues its engagement in legislative and regulatory proposals impacting dog ownership, the wellbeing of dogs, protecting dog sports, and the AKC in general. In addition, AKC GR is monitoring, analyzing and responding to continually changing state executive orders in all 50 states, legislation and relief packages such as federal CARES relief, business closure requirements, and other government actions related to the COVID-19 pandemic that specifically impact the wellbeing of the AKC, AKC clubs and dog owners.

COVID-19 Impacts: Since mid-March, the GR team has been active in public policy areas related to the COVID-19 pandemic and response. In the first quarter, this included numerous letters and other outreach to state governors, administrators and lawmakers across the country to ensure that pet food and crucial supplies, along with care/kenneling facilities be deemed

essential to ensure the health and safety of pets, their owners, and essential workers needing alternate pet care options during the pandemic. AKC GR conducted outreach to key constituencies to urge their engagement on this issue as well.

GR established a COVID-19 resources page on the AKC Legislative Action Center (akcgr.org) that includes daily updates on the status of state legislatures, and rules impacting access to pet supplies and services. It also includes information and tips on what club members and dog owners can do from home to continue being effective advocates and potentially access federal relief as small businesses or private not-for-profit organizations.

Service Dog Pass/American Service Dog Access Coalition: AKC GR worked with colleagues at the American Service Dog Access Coalition to continue to develop all aspects of a new authoritative, voluntary and verifiable credential for service dogs that have met specific standards.

Economic Impact of Dog Shows: AKC GR released updated information on the 2019 economic impact of dog shows for all 50 states. One-page flyers providing specialized information for each state are available in the GR toolbox.

COMPANION and PERFORMANCE

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

Allow Special Event Obedience & Rally Trials

The Board reviewed a recommendation to allow clubs licensed for obedience and/or rally to hold two Special Event Obedience Trials and two Special Event Rally Trials per year. A Special Event Trial is defined as one where the club proposes a unique mix of AKC classes and/or a unique eligibility criterion. The purpose of a Special Event Trial is to keep the sports fresh and fun. A club may not change the other Regulations pertaining to the class requirements or exercises. A club holding a Special Event Trial 1) may not change the other Regulations pertaining to a titling class, 2) the event must be open to all breeds including Canine Partners, and 3) the classes held at a Special Event Trials will count toward titles, except for non-regular classes, 4) a Special Event Trial must be approved by the Companion Events Department.

Following a motion by Dr. Battaglia, seconded by Mr. Sweetwood, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to amend Chapter 1 of the Obedience Regulations and Chapter 1 of the AKC Rally Regulations to allow clubs licensed for obedience and/or rally to hold two Special Event Obedience Trials and two Special Event Rally Trials per year.

These Regulation changes are effective November 1, 2020.

Pointing Breed Hunting Tests – Providing for Special Events

The Board reviewed a recommendation to allow clubs licensed to hold Pointing Breed Hunting Tests the ability to apply for Special Event hunting tests that are unique in order to celebrate special occasions. A Special Event test is where the host club proposes a unique mix of classes or unique eligibility requirements. The AKC Performance Events Department may grant permission to modify the regulations provided it is consistent with the purpose of the Special Event. Permission to hold a Special Event hunting test is granted on a one-time basis. The Special Event shall count as one of the club's annual events.

Following a motion by Dr. Garvin, seconded by Mr. Sweetwood, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to amend the *Regulations for AKC Hunting Tests for Pointing Breeds*, Chapter 1 Section 3A – General Regulations - Test Levels to be Offered, by adding a new paragraph #3.

New paragraph #3.

Special Events. Clubs may apply for “Special Event” hunting tests in order to celebrate/ honor special occasions or for unique purposes. A Special Event test is where the host club proposes a unique mix of regular AKC classes or a unique eligibility requirement. The AKC Performance Events Department may grant permission to modify the hunting test regulations provided it is consistent with the purpose of the Special Event. Examples - a licensed club or regional association of clubs may want to offer a Regional Master Hunter Invitational test limited to dogs that have earned the MH title. Special Event may be used as a fund-raising activity for a cause unique to the area. Special events are licensed events which are recorded and count toward titles.

The application for a special event test can be done online using the fillable PDF form called the Pointing Breed Hunt Test Special Event Application. This application must be submitted to the Performance Events Department with sufficient lead time for it to be properly reviewed. Permission to hold a Special Event hunting test is granted on a one-time basis. Clubs need to request permission for every special event. The Special Event shall count as one of the club’s annual events.

This addition to the Pointing Breed Hunting Test Regulations will become effective on July 1, 2020.

Brittanys - Eliminate the Requirement for a Major Win at a Brittany Trial

The Board reviewed a request from the American Brittany Club (ABC). The ABC is requesting that AKC eliminate the requirement that a Brittany must win a major broke dog stake at a trial held by a Brittany Club in order to earn the Field Champion or Amateur Field Championship title.

Currently the AKC Pointing Breed Field Trial Rules require that in order for a Brittany to earn a Field Champion or Amateur Field Champion title, it must win a three point or greater broke dog stake at a trial held by a Brittany club. This requirement first appeared in the AKC Pointing Breed Field Trial Rules in 1973. This requirement is unique to Brittanys; no other Parent Club has requested this restriction for their breed.

Eliminating this requirement will encourage Brittany owners to attend trials held by other breed clubs and it eliminates an incentive for Brittany clubs to close their trials to Brittanys only.

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

Following a motion by Mr. Carota, seconded by Mr. Sweetwood, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to amend the *Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedures for Pointing Breeds* Chapter 14, Section 7 to eliminate the requirement that a Brittany must win a major broke dog stake at a trial held by a Brittany Club in order to earn the Field Champion or Amateur Field Championship title. This will become effective August 1, 2020.

CONFORMATION

Doug Ljungren, Executive Vice President, Sports & Events; Mari-Beth O’Neill, Vice President, Sport Services; Tim Thomas, Vice President of Dog Show Judges; Glenn Lycan, Director, Event

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

Entry Limitation for Two AB Shows in One Day Policy

The current policy regarding Two Shows in One Day was implemented in January 2019. At the January 2020 Board meeting, it was requested that the staff examine the 500-entry per show limitation considering clubs actual 2019 experience.

Based on the actual experience of clubs that held two shows in one day in 2019, the recommendation is to modify the limit on the number of entries to 600 entries per show. The two shows in one day policy is meant to assist clubs holding small shows.

Following a motion by Dr. Battaglia, seconded by Dr. Davies, the Board VOTED (In favor: Biddle, Battaglia, Carota, Davies, Garvin, Hamblin, Knight, McAteer, Powers, Smyth, Sweetwood, Wallin; Opposed: Tatro) to modify the limit on the number of entries to 600 entries per show.

This change is effective immediately and will be effective through July 1, 2022. The Board will review the policy prior to the July 1, 2022 date to assess its impact and determine if further refinement is warranted.

The other provisions to this policy will remain unchanged. These are:

- All-breed shows must offer group and best in show competition. Group shows must offer group competition.
- The use of multiple group rings at all-breed shows is encouraged.
- No concurrent or evening specialties may be held in conjunction with the shows.
- Junior Showmanship competition is allowed.
- Obedience, Rally, and Agility competitions are allowed, and encouraged, but must have their own ring(s) for competition. Obedience/Rally/Agility entries do not count against the 600 limit.
- Ownership of the corresponding date must be agreed upon in writing and submitted to AKC prior to event approval if two clubs are holding the same type of events on the same date and site.
- No more than one special attraction with group competition may be offered between the two all-breed shows.
- Judges are limited to 100 entries per event not to exceed 175 entries per day according to the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* Chapter 7, Section 13.
- The club must provide a minimum of one ring for every 100 conformation entries.

Isolated Small Clubs – Allow Four Shows in Two or Three Days

The Board reviewed a recommendation to allow clubs that qualify for three shows (isolated clubs) that also qualify to hold two shows in one day (small shows) the option of holding four shows over a maximum of three days.

Following a motion by Mrs. Wallin, seconded by Ms. McAteer, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to amend the Limited Number of Events Policy to permit Clubs approved to hold more than two All-breed or Limited-breed events may hold four shows in three days provided their shows qualify for the two in one day option.

This change is effective immediately and will be effective through July 1, 2022. The Board will review the policy prior to the July 1, 2022 date to assess its impact and determine if further refinement is warranted.

Reinstatement for Dogs Disqualified for Attack by a Judge

The requirements associated for the potential reinstatement of a dog disqualified from competing due to aggression are approved by the Board and outlined in the *DISQUALIFICATION AND REINSTATEMENT* booklet.

The Board reviewed a recommendation to modify the procedures associated with the reinstatement of a dog disqualified for aggression to include an appeal option in situations where the judge has denied a dog the opportunity to apply for reinstatement.

Following a motion by Mr. Smyth, seconded by Dr. Battaglia, the Board VOTED (In favor: Biddle, Battaglia, Carota, Garvin, Hamblin, McAteer, Powers, Smyth, Sweetwood, Tatro, Wallin; Abstained: Dr. Knight and Dr. Davies) to modify the procedures associated with reinstatement of a dog disqualified for aggression to include an appeal option in situations where the judge has denied a dog the opportunity to apply for reinstatement.

Owners of dogs disqualified for attack by a judge may appeal the disqualifying judge's decision to deny the opportunity for reinstatement a minimum of one year after the date of the incident. Appeals should include documentation of significant post-incident stability training, post-incident CGC and/or participation in other non-AKC venues without incident. The disqualifying judge will be asked to provide a detailed explanation of why the dog should be denied the opportunity to pursue reinstatement. The special committee will review all information and determine if the appeal should be granted to allow the reinstatement request to progress to hands-on examination.

The Board also approved the proposed construct of the AKC Disqualification Review Committee as follows:

The AKC Disqualification Review Committee will review any requests for reinstatement that reach the appeal option. The committee is defined as a committee of five members to be comprised of: three AKC Conformation Judges appointed by the Board Chair and two AKC Staff members with extensive sport experience appointed by the CEO; all members of the committee to be approved by the AKC Board of Directors.

Westminster Kennel Club Request for Three Day Event

The Board reviewed a recommendation to allow the Westminster Kennel Club to indefinitely hold their annual show over three days provided they remain at the same location, on the same corresponding dates as defined by the AKC corresponding date table, and structured in a similar manner as it was in 2020.

In July 2019, the AKC Board approved a request from the Westminster Kennel Club (WKC) to hold their 2020 show over three days (Sunday – Tuesday) at Pier 94. This was a one-time approval in order to assess how the new format worked. The event was limited to 2,500 entries and structured to not conflict with local Specialty shows.

The consensus was that this format worked very well.

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

Following a motion by Mr. Powers, seconded by Dr. Battaglia, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to allow Westminster Kennel Club to indefinitely hold their annual show over three days provided they remain at the same location, on the same corresponding dates as defined by the

AKC corresponding date table, and structured so as to not conflict with local Specialty/Group shows.

Best Practices Documents

AKC Sports & Events, in conjunction with other departments, has developed a Suggested Best Practices document for each AKC sport. The Board reviewed and approved Staff's "COVID-19 Suggested Best Practices" document which was created for Conformation Clubs.

There will be 19 different documents in total, based on AKC event type. They will be distributed via email to the clubs holding all AKC sports. The documents will be posted on the sport specific pages of the AKC website. A link to the sport specific documents will also be shown on the COVID-19 Updates website on the AKC home page.

These Best Practices are being provided for clubs as they plan their future events. The AKC urges clubs to follow state, local and facility guidelines that apply to the area and site where the event is held. Events need to be held in a manner that emphasizes safety over efficiency.

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.

Oral Exam Key in Judges Books

The Board reviewed a memorandum which presented a request from the American Dog Show Judges to add information to the judge's book to indicate the appropriate oral exam for the respective breed based on AKC's Oral Exam Chart.

Following a motion by Mr. Smyth, seconded by Mr. Powers, the Board VOTED (In favor: Biddle, Battaglia, Carota, Davies, Hamblin, Knight, McAteer, Powers, Smyth, Sweetwood, Tatro, Wallin; Opposed: Garvin) to require superintendents to include in the judge's books, symbols to indicate the appropriate oral exam for that breed based on AKC's Oral Exam Chart no later than July 1, 2021.

Mandatory Ramp Examination – Keeshond

The Board reviewed a request from the Keeshond Club of America to add the Keeshond to the list of breeds expected to be judged on the ramp through all levels of conformation competition.

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

Following a motion by Mr. Carota, seconded by Mr. Tatro, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to approve the Keeshond Club of America's request for the Keeshond to be added to the list of breeds expected to be judged on the ramp through all levels of conformation competition.

COVID -19 - Conformation Judging Approval Process

The Board reviewed a memorandum with recommendations from the Chairman's Committee on the Judging Approval Process suggesting measures to be taken by the American Kennel Club (AKC®) regarding the approval of conformation judges in the wake of the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the sport and the judging community.

The recommendations contained both permanent modifications to the Board approved Judging Approval Process as well as suggested measures to be taken temporarily until dog shows return and are being held at a frequency approaching pre-COVID-19 impact.

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

Following a motion by Ms. Biddle, seconded by Mr. Tatro, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to approve the following proposals related to the Conformation Judging Approval Process to be effective immediately:

1. Increase the maximum number of permit breeds a judge may be approved by six (6) through 12/31/2020.
2. Increase the maximum number of CEU that may be attained in the categories of Attend Parent Club National Specialty; Attend Approved Seminar/Workshop; Mentors, Tutors and Kennel Visits; Sweepstakes or Futurity assignment; and Assignment to Judge the Breed by one (1) CEU through 12/31/2020
3. Modify the Judging Approval Process by revising the current allowance for Telephone Tutoring in Low Entry breeds to permit a Virtual Tutoring experience in all breeds with a parent club approved mentor or established breed expert (1 CEU), allowing for an additional Virtual Tutoring with unique mentor if the department determines that insufficient educational opportunities exist in the breed.
4. Modify the Judging Approval Process by inserting "Webinar on Breed utilizing Parent Club materials" (1 CEU) as a Qualifying Component under "Attend Approved Seminar/Workshop".

CLUBS

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

Expanding the Reduced Sanctioned Match Program for Clubs in Alaska, Hawaii and Puerto Rico

The Board reviewed a recommendation to expand existing policy to reduce the number of sanctioned matches required before being considered for approval to hold a licensed show and to remove the significant member experience required for new local specialty clubs in Alaska, Hawaii and Puerto Rico.

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

Following a motion by Mr. Carota, seconded by Dr. Garvin, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to reduce the sanctioned match program for new local Specialty Clubs in Alaska, Hawaii and Puerto Rico to one sanctioned Plan B match and one "qualifying" sanctioned Plan A match held at least six months apart, without the usual requirement of having the minimum 25% significant member experience before submitting a license presentation, provided the club meets all other AKC requirements for accreditation as an AKC local Specialty club.

Delegates and Member Clubs

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

Report on Member Clubs Bylaws Approved in March and April 2020

Kennel Club of Riverside, Riverside, CA (1937)

Report on Newly Licensed Clubs approved in March and April 2020

Carolina Scent Work Association, Winston-Salem, NC (including communities north to Mount Airy, south to Advance east to Greensboro), 21 total households, 14 local.

Red Canyons Kennel Club, Iron and Washington Counties, UT, 42 total households, 35 local.

Red Hills Retriever Club of Mississippi, Louisville, MS, 21 total households, 13 local.

Williamson County Agility Club, Liberty Hill, TX (including communities of Leander, Georgetown, Rounds Rock, Cedar Park and Florence), 33 total households, 20 local.

COMPLIANCE

The following AKC Management actions were reported:

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

AKC MEDIA SALES, SPONSORSHIP, LICENSING and BROADCASTING

Ron Furman, AKC MEDIA, Daphna Straus, Vice President, Business Development and William Ellis, Manager, AKCTV participated in this portion of the meeting.

Digital AD Sales

Despite the early challenges with the Covid19 Pandemic in March, AKC Digital's Ad Impressions have been steadily increasing. Impressions are steadily rising month over month from Q1 into Q2. Q1 saw the highest amount of total sold ad impressions in AKC's digital history while April continues to grow higher, almost double 2019. Q1 2020 Direct Digital Sales were up 39% compared to Q1 2019, with new advertiser spend, incremental revenue, and expanded brand dollars for digital surrounding Meet the Breeds.

Sponsorship

AKC welcomes Tractor Supply as Official Rural Lifestyle Partner and exclusive pet products retail partner.

AKC on ESPN

National Puppy Day on March 23rd included the AKC Agility Premier Cup and the Championship Pup, which featured AKC sports. The shows featured on National Puppy Day were encore performances which originally aired in August 2019, during ESPN Dog Day. AKC is currently in production creating a new show.

AKC.TV

Q1 2020 AKC.TV Ad Sales finished 76.3% against plans due to shift of revenue from the cancellation of the Agility Championship on 3/26 on AKC.tv and ESPN due to Covid19.

Traffic to AKC.TV and App installs continue to increase.

MARKETING

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

Overview of Q1 2020 Results

AKC.org Q12020 traffic reached historic levels:

Users: 26M (+31% YoY)

Sessions: 34.8M (+30.6%)

Organic traffic for AKC.org drove record traffic levels in March as Covid-19 turns into a pandemic. The content and communications departments responded swiftly to the emerging story by creating Covid19 specific articles (e.g. <https://www.akc.org/expert-advice/news/can-dogs-get-coronavirus/>) and dedicated pages for updates and event cancellations.

Q1 Breeder listings in Marketplace were above 2019. The percent of breeders opting into listing their litter on MP (a.k.a. opt-in) is also above last year.

Q1 was a strong month for AKC Shop with open rates climbing to record levels. Major social channels each posted follower growth and significant engagement growth in Q1 driven in part by Covid-content. In April AKC launched an exciting new commerce content platform named retrievist.akc.org.

Social Media

AKC Facebook finished Q12020 with a total of 4,010,934 followers

AKC Instagram finished Q12020 with a total of 317,918 followers

AKC Twitter finished Q12020 with a total of 100,378 followers

CONSENT

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

- Group Clubs – Expediting the Sanctioning Process
- Chow Chow Proposed Breed Standard Revision
- Approval of Annual Fees
- Parent Club Request to Retire Torchlight (Poodle)
- Delegate Approvals
- Emergency Contact Number in Judging Schedules - CH 7 Sect. 2
- Mandatory Ramp Examination – Clumber Spaniel
- AKC Title Recognition of French Herding Titles Earned at Parent Club Events
- Match Regulations – Option to Hold Fun Matches Open to the Public
- Pointing Breed Field Trials – “Walked to the Line” Does Not Count as a Starter
- Pointing Breed Field Trials – 45 Minute Derby Stake
- Application for Futurity or Sweepstakes – Chapter 2 Section 10
- Grand Champion Points – *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* – Chapter 16, Section 2

Group Clubs – Expediting the Sanctioning Process

The Board VOTED to approve several changes to the current Board policy regarding membership requirements and the sanctioning process for Group clubs. These changes are

meant to reduce the administrative burden of forming a Group club and to shorten the time required for a club to become licensed to hold a show.

The specific changes are: 1. Reduce membership requirements to 20 households / 12 local. (Currently 30 households / 25 local) 2. Reduce breed representation to 25% of the breeds in the group (Currently 50%) 3. Reduce the sanctioning process to be dependent upon the amount of membership experience (25%) in the club to hold only 1 Plan B and 1 Plan A match at least 6 months apart before submitting a license presentation (Currently two B-matches and two A-matches are required).

These changes are effective immediately.

Chow Chow Proposed Breed Standard Revision

The Board VOTED to approve the proposed revision to the Nose section of the Chow Chow standard with an effective date of July 29, 2020.

Chow Chow Standard

General Appearance: *Characteristics* - An ancient breed of northern Chinese origin, this all-purpose dog of China was used for hunting, herding, pulling and protection of the home. While primarily a companion today, his working origin must always be remembered when assessing true Chow type. A powerful, sturdy, squarely built, upstanding dog of Arctic type, medium in size with strong muscular development and heavy bone. The body is compact, short coupled, broad and deep, the tail set high and carried closely to the back, the whole supported by four straight, strong, sound legs. Viewed from the side, the hind legs have little apparent angulation and the hock joint and metatarsals are directly beneath the hip joint. It is this structure which produces the characteristic shorter, stilted gait unique to the breed. The large head with broad, flat skull and short, broad and deep muzzle is proudly carried and accentuated by a ruff. Elegance and substance must be combined into a well-balanced whole, never so massive as to outweigh his ability to be active, alert and agile. Clothed in a smooth or an offstanding rough double coat, the Chow is a masterpiece of beauty, dignity and naturalness. Essential to true Chow type are his unique blue-black tongue, scowling expression and stilted gait.

Size, Proportions, Substance: *Size* - The average height of adult specimens is 17 to 20 inches at the withers but in every case consideration of overall proportions and type should take precedence over size. ***Proportions*** - Square in profile and close coupled. Distance from forechest to point of buttocks equals height at the highest points of the withers. Serious Fault - Profile other than square. Distance from tip of elbow to ground is half the height at the withers. Floor of chest level with tips of elbows. Width viewed from the front and rear is the same and must be broad. It is these proportions that are essential to true Chow type. In judging puppies, no allowance should be made for their failure to conform to these proportions. ***Substance*** - Medium in size with strong muscular development and heavy bone. Equally objectionable are snipy, fine boned specimens and overdone, ponderous, cloddy specimens. In comparing specimens of different sex, due allowance must be made in favor of the bitches who may not have as much head or substance as do the males. There is an impression of femininity in bitches as compared to an impression of masculinity in dogs.

Head: Proudly carried, large in proportion to the size of the dog but never so exaggerated as to make the dog seem top-heavy or to result in a low carriage. **Expression** - essentially scowling, dignified, lordly, discerning, sober and snobbish, one of independence. The scowl is achieved by a marked brow with a padded button of skin just above the inner, upper corner of each eye; by sufficient play of skin to form frowning brows and a distinct furrow between the eyes beginning at the base of the muzzle and extending up the forehead; by the correct eye shape and placement and by the correct ear shape, carriage and placement. Excessive loose skin is not desirable. Wrinkles on the muzzle do not contribute to expression and are not required.

Eyes - dark brown, deep set and placed wide apart and obliquely, of moderate size, almond in shape. The correct placement and shape should create an Oriental appearance. The eye rims black with lids which neither turn in nor droop and the pupils of the eyes clearly visible. Serious Faults Entropion or ectropion, or pupils wholly or partially obscured by loose skin. **Ears** - small, moderately thick, triangular in shape with a slight rounding at the tip, carried stiffly erect but with a slight forward tilt. Placed wide apart with the inner corner on top of the skull. An ear which flops as the dog moves is very undesirable. Disqualifying Fault - Drop ear or ears. A drop ear is one which breaks at any point from its base to its tip or which is not carried stiffly erect but lies parallel to the top of the skull. **Skull** - The top skull is broad and flat from side to side and front to back. Coat and loose skin cannot substitute for the correct bone structure. Viewed in profile, the toplines of the muzzle and skull are approximately parallel, joined by a moderate stop. The padding of the brows may make the stop appear steeper than it is. **Muzzle** - is short in comparison to the length of the top skull but never less than one-third of the head length. The muzzle is broad and well filled out under the eyes, its width and depth are equal and both dimensions should appear to be the same from its base to its tip. This square appearance is achieved by correct bone structure plus padding of the muzzle and full cushioned lips. The muzzle should never be so padded or cushioned as to make it appear other than square in shape. The upper lips completely cover the lower lips when the mouth is closed but should not be pendulous. **Nose** - Reds, Blacks and Cinnamons must have a solid black nose. Blue chows may have a solid blue or slate nose. Cream chows may have a range of nose color, from dark black/brown solid pigment, fading to pinkish pigment, with or without darker nose rim pigment at the outer edge, as puppies or adults; all of which are equally correct. **Mouth and Tongue** - Edges of the lips black, tissues of the mouth mostly black, gums preferably black. A solid black mouth is ideal. The top surface and edges of the tongue a solid blue-black, the darker the better. Disqualifying Fault - The top surface or edges of the tongue red or pink or with one or more spots of red or pink. Teeth strong and even with a scissors **bite**.

Neck, Topline, Body: Neck strong, full, well muscled, nicely arched and of sufficient length to carry the head proudly above the topline when standing at attention. **Topline** - straight, strong and level from the withers to the root of the tail. **Body** - short, compact, close coupled, strongly muscled, broad, deep and well let down in the flank. The body, back, coupling and croup must all be short to give the required square build. Chest broad, deep and muscular, never narrow or slab-sided. The ribs close together and well sprung, not barrel. The spring of the front ribs is somewhat narrowed at their lower ends to permit the shoulder and upper arm to fit smoothly against the chest wall. The floor of the chest is broad and deep extending down to the tips of the elbows. The point of sternum slightly in front of the shoulder points. Serious Faults - Labored or abdominal breathing (not to include normal panting), narrow or slab-sided chest. Loin well muscled, strong, short, broad and deep. Croup short and broad with powerful rump and thigh

muscles giving a level croup. **Tail** - set high and carried closely to the back at all times, following the line of the spine at the start.

Forequarters: Shoulders strong, well-muscled, the tips of the shoulder blades moderately close together; the spine of the shoulder forms an angle approximately 55 degrees with the horizontal and forms an angle with the upper arm approximately 110 degrees. Length of upper arm never less than length of shoulder blade. Elbow joints set well back alongside the chest wall, elbows turning neither in nor out. Forelegs perfectly straight from elbow to foot with heavy bone which must be in proportion to the rest of the dog. Viewed from the front, the forelegs are parallel and widely spaced commensurate with the broad chest. Pasterns short and upright. Wrists shall not knuckle over. The dewclaws may be removed. Feet round, compact, catlike, standing well upon the thick toe pads.

Hindquarters: The rear assembly broad, powerful, and well muscled in the hips and thighs, heavy in bone with rear and front bone approximately equal. Viewed from the rear, the legs are straight, parallel and widely spaced commensurate with the broad pelvis. Stifle Joint shows little angulation, is well knit and stable, points straight forward and the bones of the joint should be clean and sharp. Hock Joint well let down and appears almost straight. The hock joint must be strong, well knit and firm, never bowing or breaking forward or to either side. The hock joint and metatarsals lie in a straight line below the hip joint. Serious Faults Unsound stifle or hock joints. Metatarsals short and perpendicular to the ground. The dewclaws may be removed. Feet same as front.

Coat: There are two types of coat; rough and smooth. Both are double coated. Rough - In the rough coat, the outer coat is abundant, dense, straight and offstanding, rather coarse in texture; the undercoat soft, thick and wooly. Puppy coat soft, thick and wooly overall. The coat forms a profuse ruff around the head and neck, framing the head. The coat and ruff generally longer in dogs than in bitches. Tail well feathered. The coat length varies markedly on different Chows and thickness, texture and condition should be given greater emphasis than length. Obvious trimming or shaping is undesirable. Trimming of the whiskers, feet and metatarsals optional. Smooth - The smooth coated Chow is judged by the same standard as the rough coated Chow except that references to the quantity and distribution of the outer coat are not applicable to the smooth coated Chow, which has a hard, dense, smooth outer coat with a definite undercoat. There should be no obvious ruff or feathering on the legs or tail.

Color: Clear colored, solid or solid with lighter shadings in the ruff, tail and featherings. There are five colors in the Chow: red (light golden to deep mahogany), black, blue, cinnamon (light fawn to deep cinnamon) and cream. Acceptable colors to be judged on an equal basis.

Gait: Proper movement is the crucial test of proper conformation and soundness. It must be sound, straight moving, agile, brief, quick, and powerful, never lumbering. The rear gait shorter and stilted because of the straighter rear assembly. It is from the side that the unique stilted action is most easily assessed. The rear leg moves up and forward from the hip in a straight, stilted pendulum-like line with a slight bounce in the rump, the legs extend neither far forward nor far backward. The hind foot has a strong thrust which transfers power to the body in an almost straight line due to the minimal rear leg angulation. To transmit this power efficiently to

the front assembly, the coupling must be short and there should be no roll through the midsection. Viewed from the rear, the line of bone from hip joint to pad remains straight as the dog moves. As the speed increases the hind legs incline slightly inward. The stifle joints must point in the line of travel, not outward resulting in a bowlegged appearance nor hitching in under the dog. Viewed from the front, the line of bone from shoulder joint to pad remains straight as the dog moves. As the speed increases, the forelegs do not move in exact parallel planes, rather, incline slightly inward. The front legs must not swing out in semicircles nor mince or show any evidence of hackney action. The front and rear assemblies must be in dynamic equilibrium. Somewhat lacking in speed, the Chow has excellent endurance because the sound, straight rear leg provides direct, usable power efficiently.

Temperament: Keen intelligence, an independent spirit and innate dignity give the Chow an aura of aloofness. It is a Chow's nature to be reserved and discerning with strangers. Displays of aggression or timidity are unacceptable. Because of its deep set eyes the Chow has limited peripheral vision and is best approached from the front.

Summary: Faults shall be penalized in proportion to their deviation from the standard. In judging the Chow, the overall picture is of primary consideration. Exaggeration of any characteristic at the expense of balance or soundness shall be severely penalized. Type should include general appearance, temperament, the harmony of all parts, and soundness especially as seen when the dog is in motion. There should be proper emphasis on movement which is the final test of the Chow's conformation, balance and soundness. **Disqualifications:** Drop ear or ears. A drop ear is one which breaks at any point from its base to its tip or which is not carried stiffly erect but lies parallel to the top of the skull. The top surface or edges of the tongue red or pink or with one or more spots of red or pink.

Approval of Annual Fees

The Charter and Bylaws of the American Kennel Club, Inc. "Charter and Bylaws" require that the Board of Directors set deposits annually for the submission of complaints pursuant to Article XII, Section 1; as well as deposits for appeals to an Appeal Trial Board pursuant to Article XIII, Section 7. The Board VOTED to approve the annual fee to submit a complaint pursuant to Article XII, Section 1 of the Charter and Bylaws to remain the same at \$500 for 2020; and approved the annual fee to submit an appeal pursuant to Article XIII, Section 7 of the Charter and Bylaws to remain the same at \$200 for 2020.

Parent Club Request to Retire Torchlight (Poodle)

The Board VOTED to grant the request from the Poodle Club of America, Inc., to retire the kennel name "Torchlight" for Poodles.

Delegate Approvals

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

Jane E. Bates, Montgomery, TX
To represent Conroe Kennel Club

Michael Capozzi, Manorville, NY
To represent Riverhead Kennel Club

Luanne K. Dunham, Newnan, GA
To represent Newnan Kennel Club

Chereen M. Nawrocki, East Bangor, PA
To represent English Cocker Spaniel Club of America

Susan Soviero, Little Silver, NJ
To represent Bayshore Companion Dog Club

Grace Wilkinson, Barrington, RI
To represent Rhode Island Kennel Club

Emergency Contact Number in Judging Schedules – Chapter 7 Section 2

The Board VOTED to adopt the following policy requiring clubs to include in judging programs an emergency contact number of a club official at the show effective January 1, 2021.

Wording will be added in italics to *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* Chapter 7, Section 12 beneath the first paragraph.

In case of emergency, the contact phone number of a club official at the show, with or without that official's name, is to be listed in the Judging Program.

Mandatory Ramp Examination – Clumber Spaniel

The Board VOTED to approve the request from the Clumber Spaniel Club of America to add the Clumber Spaniel to the list of breeds expected to be judged on the ramp through all levels of conformation competition.

AKC Title Recognition of French Herding Titles Earned at Parent Club Events

The Board VOTED to recognize titles earned in French Herding events administered by the American Belgian Tervuren Club (ABTC) and the Belgian Sheepdog Club of America (BSCA).

These titles will be recognized as part of the Parent Club Performance Events Title Recognition Program. Belgian Tervuren, Belgian Sheepdog and Belgian Laekenois owners will be able to start applying for French Herding titles on August 1, 2020.

Match Regulations – Option to Hold Fun Matches Open to the Public

The Board VOTED to modify the Match Regulations to allow and encourage AKC clubs to hold fun matches to introduce the public to the sports.

This Regulation applies to clubs licensed for conformation, obedience, rally, tracking and agility. The change is effective as of June 1, 2020.

Pointing Breed Field Trials – “Walked to the Line” Does Not Count as a Starter

The Board VOTED to approve a clarification in Chapter 8, Section 11 of the *Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedures for Pointing Breeds*. A dog that is walked to the line without being released or that is released and then quickly picked up in a Pointing Breed field trial does not count as a starter. Handlers that do this plus judges and event committees that allow this to occur may be disciplined

Pointing Breed Field Trials – 45 Minute Derby Stake

The Board VOTED to allow licensed derby stakes to be run up to 45-minutes at AKC Pointing Breed Field Trials. This change to the *Standard Procedures for Pointing Breeds* Procedure 1-B Derby Stakes, will become effective June 1, 2020.

Procedure 1-B Derby Stakes, starting with paragraph #2

Derbies must show reasonable obedience to their handlers' commands. Each dog is to be judged on its actual performance as indicating its future promise as a high-class bird dog for Gun Dog or All-Age stakes. Preference should not be given to one potential over another. Application is more important than range in a Derby. At least 20 minutes and not more than 45 minutes shall be allowed for each heat. The length of a derby stake shall be stated in the event premium list.

Application for Futurity or Sweepstakes – Chapter 2 Section 10

The Board VOTED approve a recommendation from the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee (DSRC) to modify Chapter 2 Section 10 of *The Rules Applying to Dog Shows*, which addresses the requirements for a specialty club who wishes to hold a futurity or sweepstakes.

The proposal will be noticed in the AKC Secretary's Pages. The proposal will be read at the June 2020 Delegate Zoom Webinar Session and voted on at the September 2020 Delegate Meeting.

Proposed wording:

SECTION 10. A specialty club that wishes to hold a futurity or sweepstakes, either in conjunction with a show or as a separate event, must apply to The American Kennel Club for permission to hold the event.

Grand Champion Points – Rules Applying to Dog Shows – Chapter 16, Section 2

The Board VOTED to approve the proposal to modify Chapter 16 Section 6 of *The Rules Applying to Dog Shows* regarding Grand Champion Points.

At independently held specialties, for breeds divided into varieties, the highest number of Grand Champion points awarded in any variety at that specialty, will be awarded to the Best of Breed in the inter-variety competition and the highest number of Grand Champion points awarded in its sex in any variety at that specialty to the entry awarded Best of Opposite Sex to Best of Breed in the inter-variety competition.

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

The proposal will be noticed in the AKC Secretary's Pages. The proposal will be read at the June 2020 Delegate Zoom Webinar Session and voted on at the September 2020 Delegate Meeting. If approved by the delegate body, the effective date will be January 1, 2021.

NEW BUSINESS

Video Conference Meeting for Delegates

Dr. Davies asked the Staff to present technology solutions that could allow AKC to hold a virtual meeting sometime in June to update Delegates on the state of our sports and business. The national response to the ongoing COVID pandemic has rendered it impossible to hold physical meetings for the foreseeable future. The AKC Board has expressed interest in leveraging virtual meeting technology to provide methods for Delegates to remain engaged while regular in-person Delegates meetings are cancelled. Staff will also contact the Delegate Committees and offer them the opportunity to hold their June meetings via electronic conferencing using the same identified platforms.

Dr. Davies expressed his appreciation for the excellent work and resulting successes Staff has produced daily during the pandemic. Each member of the Board joined the Chairman in this praise. Mr. Sprung thanked the Board on behalf of Staff and expressed that each employee is proud of AKC and considers it their individual and collective responsibility to serve the fancy and public in this time of crisis.

It was VOTED to adjourn Monday, May 11 at 4:17 p.m.

Adjourned

Attest: _____

Gina M. DiNardo, Executive Secretary