

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
March 10-11, 2015

The Board convened on Tuesday, March 10, 2015 at 1:09 a.m. All Directors were present, except Dr. Battaglia, who was present for the election of Chairman and Vice Chair and left due to illness after the post-Delegate meeting session referred to below. Also present were Executive Secretary, and the Assistant Executive Secretary. The February 2015 Board minutes, copies of which were made available to all Directors, were discussed.

It was agreed that it should be made clear that the discussion in February, permitting a specialty club to hold two days of shows instead of two shows was applicable to local specialty clubs. There was also Board agreement that the use of the term "Companion Dog Clubs" was misleading in terms of addressing this public outreach initiative to various social groups, which should be explained further. This was accomplished in the memorandum attached to these minutes. The later discussion was the result of Board and Staff listening to the feedback provided by the Companion Events Committee and others involved in companion events.

Upon a motion by Mr. Arnold, seconded by Dr. Garvin, the February 2015 minutes as amended were adopted.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was an EXECUTIVE SESSION during the meeting to discuss personnel matters.

It was reported that the following Executive Officers were re-elected:

Dennis B. Sprung, President/CEO
James P. Crowley, Executive Secretary
Joseph V. Baffuto, Jr., Chief Financial Officer

At a meeting of the Board held earlier at the conclusion of the Delegates meeting, the following Board officers were elected:

Ronald H. Menaker, Chair
Carl C. Ashby, III, Vice Chairman

CANINE HEALTH FOUNDATION

It was reported that AKC and the AKC Canine Health Foundation are in the process of working on a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the two organizations. Once a final document defining the relationship between the two organizations is completed, it will be subject to ratification by the Boards of both organizations. Thereafter, the agreement could be made public. The new MOU would replace one which was previously in place, but which has now expired.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Board Action Items

Mr. Sprung gave a status report on previous Action Items assigned to Staff.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Mari-Beth O'Neill, AKC Staff, participated in this portion of the meeting via video conference.

New Breed for Foundation Stock Service (FSS) - Drever

The Drever Association of America requested that the breed be admitted into the FSS. The request was approved.

The Drever was developed in Sweden in the early 20th century. It is recognized by FCI countries as well as the Canadian Kennel Club. In the United States it is recognized by the United Kennel Club. There are approximately thirty dogs of this breed in the United States that are eligible for enrolment in the FSS. The breed is classified as a small scent hound. The club does carefully monitor the results of health testing although there are no mandatory health tests for the breed in its country of origin.

Club Disputes

Heather McManus, AKC Senior Counsel, was present for the discussion of Club Disputes.

There was a discussion on AKC's involvement in club disputes. While these disputes are contentious and AKC advice is never accepted graciously by all parties in a dispute, the Board is of the opinion that AKC must continue to assist Clubs when disputes arise and AKC is asked to assist in finding a resolution when these disputes arise.

Staff was directed to develop a new optional binding arbitration procedure for offering resolution in club disputes. This new procedure would require all parties to be bound by such arbitration.

The FCI Restriction on AKC Judges

There was a discussion on the position taken by the ASIA PACIFIC SECTION of FCI, which first rescinded judging approval for AKC judges and then indicated that AKC judges ran the risk of not being approved to judge FCI shows if they judged at non-FCI shows in FCI countries. As a result of this position taken, AKC rescinded the judging approval of all FCI judges residing in countries which are members of the SECTION and indicated that if FCI did not remove the threat to rescind approval to AKC judges was not removed, AKC would remove its approval of all FCI judges effective May 19, 2015 (90 days from the date of the AKC notice to FCI).

FCI has indicated that the matter will be reviewed at its March 18-19, 2015, meeting and that its decision will be relayed to AKC immediately after the meeting. The Board agreed that no further AKC action was warranted as that communication from FCI is imminent.

Legal Status Reporting

Ms. McManus presented a status report on pending litigation and other legal activities for the month of February 2015.

FINANCE

Joseph Baffuto, Chief Financial Officer, participated in this portion of the meeting.

Mr. Baffuto briefly reported on YTD financials for the two months ending February 28, 2015.

Total revenues of \$9.6 million during the period were slightly below the \$9.8 million in 2014.

Total expenses remained flat at \$8.5 million for both 2015 and 2014. This resulted in YTD operating income of \$1.1 million which was just below the \$1.3 million of the prior year.

COMPLIANCE

Heather McManus participated in this portion of the meeting while Jack Norton participated via video conference.

Reinstatement Request

The Board considered a request for reinstatement submitted by David Ramsey. Mr. Gladstone recused himself from the discussion and vote as he previously represented Mr. Ramsey.

On June 9, 1997, Mr. Ramsey was suspended from all AKC privileges for ten years and fined \$500 for conduct considered prejudicial to the best interest of purebred dogs as a result of his guilty plea in the State of Rhode Island District court for charges related to animal cruelty.

Additionally, on June 17, 1997, the Northeastern Trial Board sustained charges against Mr. Ramsey for submitting or causing to be submitted a registration application he knew, or should have known, contained a false or improper certification, and failing to keep and maintain adequate records of ownership, breeding, and transfer or litters produced, as required by

Chapter 4, Section 2 of the *Rules Applying to Registration and Discipline*. The Trial Board recommended that a ten-year suspension and a \$500 fine be imposed.

At its October 1997 meeting, the Board of Directors considered the Report and Findings of the Northeastern Trial Board and voted to adopt the Trial Board's recommendation, with the suspension to run consecutively to and to commence upon the completion of Mr. Ramsey's suspension imposed as a result of his plea in the State of Rhode Island District Court.

On February 18, 2015, Mr. Ramsey paid both fines (totaling \$1,000) that were imposed and submitted a request for reinstatement in accordance with the provision contained in Article XV of the *Charter and Bylaws*.

Following a motion by Mr. Powers, seconded by Mr. Dok, it was VOTED (unanimously; recused Mr. Gladstone; absent Dr. Battaglia) to reinstate Mr. Ramsey's AKC privileges, effective immediately.

The following AKC Management actions were reported:

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

CONFORMATION

Doug Ljungren, Alan Slay and Bri Tesarz, AKC Staff, participated in this portion of the meeting via video conference.

Allowing Local Specialty Clubs to Hold Two Days of Shows Per Year

The Board reviewed a proposal from Staff that looked into modifying the Limited Number of Events Policy for specialty clubs to allow local specialty clubs to hold two days of shows (clubs limited to two shows in a day) per calendar year rather than two shows per calendar year. There was also discussion about allowing clubs to hold one additional show per year in conjunction with their National Specialty. Following a motion by Dr. Garvin, seconded by Dr. Davies, it was VOTED (unanimously; absent Dr. Battaglia) to modify the Limited Number of Events Policy to allow local specialty clubs to hold two days of competition per year instead of two shows per year. Dogs will continue to be limited to two chances to earn points per day so the maximum number of shows that could be held by an individual local specialty club in two days would be four (two shows per day on two days) and to allow local specialty clubs that hold shows on two days per year to hold one additional show held in conjunction with their national specialty. The changes are in italics:

Limited Number of Events Policy (April 2009 Board meeting. *Amended March 2015 Board meeting*).

A local all-breed or limited-breed club has the option to hold two shows in a calendar year. Local specialty clubs have the option to hold shows on two days per year. Local specialty clubs holding two days of shows per year have the option to hold one additional show in conjunction with their breed's national specialty. There is no limit on national clubs. All-breed clubs in Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and geographically isolated areas (i.e., no AKC club within 75 miles) have the option to hold up to four shows. Show or obedience clubs have the option to hold any number of obedience trials.

This policy has an effective date of January 1, 2016.

Unique BOB Entries and Impact of GCH

The Board asked Staff to research the number of unique dogs entering Best of Breed and to determine what impact the Grand Championship program has had on entries. The loss of unique entries at all-breed shows has had the greatest impact on the decline of overall unique entries. Research results found that the introduction of the Grand Champion program boosted the unique entries in BOB at its initiation and is continuing to have a modest impact.

ONLINE COMPETITION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (OCMS)

Connie Percy, Vice President and Chief Information Officer Connie Percy, provided an update on the Online Competition Management System (OCMS) project. The new online system offers online Event Management tools for clubs, event and trial secretaries, superintendents, and AKC staff. The new system allows club representatives to submit to AKC event plans and judges panels and to pay event fees, and submit event results to AKC using new on-line tools.

In addition, the system provides real-time feedback to alert clubs of missing information, judging conflicts, and other issues that require attention. The project started in 2010 with a focus on providing more services for clubs, improving the efficiency of AKC staff, consolidating event management tools. The latest release includes event plans, judge panels, and results functionality for Specialty, Parent Specialty, Limited Breed, All-Breed, Obedience, Junior Showmanship, Rally, Agility, FSS Open Show, 4-6 Month Beginner Puppy, and Coursing Ability Tests.

AKC Staff is testing the new system now and are conducting demos for event secretaries. Ms. Percy anticipates phasing in the new system starting in April 2015. The roll-out plan includes opportunities for clubs to provide feedback and experiment with the new system while the existing online tools remain available. By mid-summer, 2015, the new system will be available for use by all AKC clubs and will include features to validate dog information provided by exhibitors as well as the ability to generate exhibitor information for event catalogs.

The Board Adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Meeting reconvened on Wednesday, March 11, 2015 at 8:00 am. All Directors, except Dr. Battaglia, the Executive Secretary and the Assistant Executive Secretary were present.

MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS

Chris Walker, AKC Staff, participated in this portion of the meeting. Also present were Hillary Prim, AKC Director, Public Relations; Stephen Smith, AKC Director of Digital Content; Steve Pessah, Marketing and Communications Project Manager; and Michael Basone, Vice President of Technology.

Mr. Walker reported on a number of business initiatives in development.

A number of subjects were covered, with the focus on:

Web Searches

AKC has made a concerted effort to assure that AKC is at or very near the top of the search results when an individual is searching for information on dogs or seeking to buy a puppy. The goal is to assist our breeders in placing puppies and to make AKC the "go to" website for "all things dog." The website team will continue to work with Parent Clubs to enhance the presentation of their breed and assure that accurate information is contained on the specific pages for their breed.

There was an EXECUTIVE SESSION to discuss sensitive business initiatives and opportunities.

WOOFtale

The Board unanimously agreed to an additional investment round in the AKC's new proprietary product, WOOFtale. WOOFtale is an on-collar device that allows owners to track their dog's activity, i.e. walks, calories burned, playtime activities, etc., learn new training techniques and allows the sharing of this information with friends, family and other dog owners. WOOFtale also has a security component that enables the owner to locate his dog with automatic notifications when a dog leaves a pre-determined safety perimeter. It is expected that the first version of WOOFtale will be released later this year. Interested people can sign up for WOOFtale information at www.wooftale.com.

COMPANION & PERFORMANCE

Chesapeake Bay Retrievers Eligible to Participate in the Spaniel Hunting Tests

Doug Ljungren participated in this portion of the meeting.

The American Chesapeake Club (Parent Club) has requested to participate in the Spaniel Hunting Test program. Chesapeake Bay Retrievers currently participate in the Retriever Hunting Test. This will be discussed further in May.

CONSENT

Following discussion, there was a motion by Dr. Garvin, seconded by Dr. Davies, it was VOTED (unanimously; absent Dr. Battaglia) to approve the following Consent Items:

- Approval of Delegates
- Reserve Best Owner-Handled in Show
- Allowing All-Breed and FSS Parent Clubs to Host FSS Open Shows
- Danish-Swedish Farmdogs Eligible to Participate in AKC Herding Events
- Qualifications for American Brittany Club National Championship Field Trials
- Amendments to the Obedience Regulations
- Retriever Hunting Tests – Changes to Entry Process and Allowing the Use of Shotgun Simulators

Delegates Approved

Sally L. Fineburg, Titusville, NJ
To represent Hatboro Dog Club

Keith D. Hanson, Burnsville, MN
To represent Bichon Frise Club of America

Dr. Michael Knight, Sunnyvale, TX
To represent Texas Kennel Club

Elizabeth O'Meara, Portsmouth, RI
To represent Rhode Island Kennel Club

Kay Richardson, Bloomington, IL
To represent Corn Belt Kennel Club

Deborah Wade, Evansville, IN
To represent Evansville Kennel Club

Reserve Best Owner-Handled in Show

The Board VOTED to approve a recommendation to allow for the awarding of Reserve Best Owner-Handled in Show at National Owner-Handled Series events effective October 8, 2015. This was recommended by Staff to accommodate requests from our core constituency.

Allowing All-Breed and FSS Parent Clubs to Host FSS Open Shows

The Board VOTED to approve changes to *FSS Open Show Regulations* Chapter 1, Section 3 to allow all-breeds clubs (at their own discretion) to host FSS Open Shows; and to approve the change to *FSS Open Show Regulations* Chapter 2, Section 1 to allow any FSS breed club approved as the parent club to host FSS Open Shows for all FSS (including Miscellaneous

Class). These changes will be effective July 1, 2015. This request by Staff will assist All-Breed and FSS Parent Clubs to expand opportunities to FSS competitors.

Danish-Swedish Farmdogs Eligible to Participate in AKC Herding Events

The Board VOTED to approve the Danish-Swedish Farmdog breed to participate in the AKC Herding program effective July 1, 2015. This request was brought forward by the Performance Events department to provide additional exhibiting opportunities to this breed.

Qualifications for American Brittany Club National Championship Field Trials

The Board VOTED to approve a modification to the qualifications for entering into the American Brittany Club (ABC) National All-Age Championship and Gun Dog Championship trial to allow dogs to qualify through placements awarded during the past two years. In addition, dogs meeting the qualifications may enter both the All-Age and Gun Dog Championship trials. These qualifications will apply for the ABC 2015 National Championship trials.

AMERICAN BRITTANY CLUB QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE NATIONAL ALL AGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

The National Amateur (All Age) Championship

(Effective at close of entries for the 2014 National Amateur All Age Championship)

1. Open to any Brittany six (6) months of age or over which in any preceding year placed first in the National Amateur All Age Championship for Brittanys or
2. which in the preceding year placed second, third or fourth in the National Amateur All Age Championship for Brittanys, or
3. which during the period from the previous years close of entries to the current year's closing of entries has placed in an All Age or Limited All Age Stake of 30 minutes in an AKC Licensed trial held by a Brittany Club, when handled by an Amateur, in which the following (or more) dogs started: 1st place with 13 starters, 2nd place with 20 starters, 3rd place with 30 starters, or 4th place with 35 starters, or
4. has placed in any hour All Age or Limited All Age Stake in an AKC Licensed trial held by a Brittany Club and handled by an Amateur in which the following dogs started: 1st place with 13 starters, or 2nd place with 15 starters, or 3rd place with 17 starters, or 4th place with 20 starters, or
5. has qualified for the current year National Open All Age Championship for Brittanys when handled by an Amateur, or
6. A dog winning first place in the National Open All Age Championship when handled by an Amateur will also be qualified for life in the National Amateur All Age Championship.
7. Has qualified in a preceding year and during the period from the previous years close of entries to the current year closing of entries has a placement in an has placed in an All Age or Limited All Age Stake when handled by an Amateur in a 13 or more dog stake in an AKC licensed trial held by a Brittany Club.

Any dog trained on the grounds chosen for the National Amateur All Age Championship within 30 days of the start of the National Amateur All Age Championship will be ineligible to compete.

Only persons who, in the judgment of the Field Trial Committee, are qualified as amateurs as defined in Chapter 17, Section 2, of the AKC Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedures for Pointing Breeds, may serve as scouts in the National Amateur All Age Championship Stake.

THE NATIONAL (OPEN ALL AGE) CHAMPIONSHIP

(Effective at close of entries for the 2014 National Open All Age Championship)

1. Open to any Brittany six (six) months of age or over which in any preceding year, placed first in the National Open All Age Championship for Brittanys or
2. which in the preceding year placed second, third or fourth in the National Open All Age Championship for Brittanys, or
3. which during the period from the previous years close of entries to the current year closing of entries has two placements in an Open or Open Limited All Age Stake in a 13 to 19 dog stake in an AKC licensed trial held by a Brittany Club, one of which must be a 1st place, or
4. which during the period from the previous years close of entries to the current year closing of entries has two placements, one of which is a 2nd in an Open All Age or Open Limited All Age Stake in a 20 to 24 dog stake in an AKC Licensed trial held by a Brittany Club and has an additional Open or Open Limited All Age placement in which 13 or more dogs started in an AKC Licensed trial held by a Brittany Club, or
5. has placed in an Open All Age or Open Limited All Age Stake of 30 minutes in an AKC Licensed trial held by a Brittany Club in which the following (or more) dogs started: 1st place with 20 starters, 2nd place with 25 starters, 3rd place with 30 starters, or 4th place with 35 starters, or
6. has placed in an Open All Age or Open Limited All Age Stake of one hour or more in an AKC Licensed trial held by a Brittany Club in which the following dogs started: 1st place with 13 starters, 2nd place with 15 starters, 3rd place with 17 starters, or 4th place with 20 starters.
7. or has qualified in a preceding year and during the period from the previous years close of entries to the current year closing of entries has a placement in an Open or Open Limited All Age Stake in a 13 or more dog stake in an AKC licensed trial held by a Brittany Club.

Any dog trained on the grounds chosen for the National Amateur All Age Championship within 30 days of the start of the National Amateur All Age Championship will be ineligible to compete.

Effective January 1, 2013: All dogs entered in any of the American Brittany Club National Championship field events must have a DNA profile on record with the AKC. The AKC DNA number must be included on all entry forms. **Dogs whelped prior to January 1, 2011, may provide American Field DNA.**

Obedience Advisory Committee Recommendations

The Board VOTED to approve 75 changes/additions to the Obedience Regulations, effective December 1, 2015. These recommendations originated from an Obedience Advisory Committee (OAC), and were reviewed with the Companion Events Delegate Committee.

A summary of the amendments follows:

JUDGES GUIDELINES, GENERAL, PERFORMANCE AND JUDGING

JUDGES GUIDELINES

1. Move relevant judges guidelines to the sections of the Regulations in which they apply.
2. Revise Exhibiting to: Judges (including provisional) may not handle dogs that are not owned or co-owned by themselves or a family member at obedience and or rally trials.

CLASS BRIEFINGS & START TIMES

3. For classes with briefings, the briefing times will be listed and the class time will be stated "class to follow".
4. Shorten briefing/walkthrough time to "up to 10 minutes" (instead of 15 minutes).
5. List classes starting after noon as "After Noon" rather than "to follow."
6. If the judge and ring are available to start earlier than the stated time and all exhibitors have checked-in and agree, allow the judging to start earlier. (*May not start a 2nd trial on the same day before the published start time.*)

CLUBS

7. Clarify transfer verbiage to make it clear that clubs have the flexibility of accepting transfers prior to the day of a trial (but must be completed at least 30 minutes prior to the start of each trial as it is currently worded).
8. Require clubs to publish, in the premium list, if two trials in one day will be held concurrently or consecutively.
9. Modify the emergency judge policy to allow clubs greater flexibility in finding a replacement judge when a previously approved judge cancels within 72 hours or less; allowing a judge with an event conflict to accept the emergency judge assignment without impacting future assignments.
10. No judge will be assigned to judge for more than eight hours in one day.
11. **EVENT SCEDULING:** It is strongly recommended that classes with like ring set-ups are grouped together. Put in book which classes are classes with "like set-ups."

EXHIBITING

12. Allow exhibitors to steward, other than table stewarding, in the same ring under the same judge they will be showing under.
13. Clearly state that a dog may be brought into and taken out of the ring on a leash that slips through the dogs collar in classes in which all the exercise are off leash.
14. Clearly state that leashes must be snapped to the collar when dogs are brought in for classes requiring on leash exercises, group exercises and awards.
15. The judge will call the qualifying handlers back into the ring without requiring the dogs to be brought back in for awards.
16. State exhibitors may leave the ring at any time by politely informing the judge they are doing so. Judges book to be marked "Handler left ring" and carry down an "NQ."
17. Remove "The judge must report to the AKC any dog that is not brought back for the group exercises."

NOVICE

18. Dogs which have qualified during the individual exercise will have the option of returning for the group exercise.
19. Require exhibitors to check in for group exercises immediately after completion of the individual exercises.
20. Require leashes to be left on the dogs during the group exercise.
21. Allow judges the option of deciding if the group exercise will be conducted after "X" number of dogs in the class **or** if all the group exercises will be conducted after the last individual team is judged.

OPEN

22. Dogs which have qualified during the individual exercise will have the option of returning for the group exercise.
23. Require exhibitors to check in for group exercises immediately after completion of the individual exercises.
24. Allow judges the option of deciding if the group exercise will be conducted after "X" number of dogs in the class **or** if there are more dogs than can be judged in one group, all of the group exercises will be conducted after the last individual team is judged.

UTILITY

25. Scent Discrimination - Allow handlers the option of supplying two different types of sets of articles from three different allowable types of articles: leather, metal or wood.
26. Scent Discrimination - State that it is the handler's decision if they have the dog watch the articles being put out; it is not required.
27. Scent Discrimination - State when the handler may take an article to scent it.
28. Scent Discrimination – State that the dog will be sitting to begin this exercise.
29. Scent Discrimination - The scoring of this exercise will not begin until the judge gives the order "Choose an article."
30. Directed Retrieve - Substantial penalty (currently NQ) for the direction not given simultaneously or immediately following.
31. Directed Retrieve – Substantial penalty for lack of directness.
32. Directed Retrieve – Non-qualifying if the dog brings back an incorrect glove.
33. Moving Stand for Exam – Provide specific examination language to judges on how to perform the exam.
34. Post the Glove # 30-45 minutes prior to the start of the class.

REGULAR CLASSES – OTCH

35. A dog that leaves the place where it was left during the first group exercise must be released from the remaining group exercise and should count as a dog defeated.

BEGINNER NOVICE

36. Revise - Dogs with a CD, PCD or less will be eligible for this class.
37. Reduce walk through time from "15 minutes" to "up to 10 minutes."
38. Sit Stay – State one command to stay, additional command to stay substantial penalty.
39. Revise Recall scoring to clearly state how many commands/signals are they allowed and when.
40. Revise the wording about hands on the recall - not to be used as an aid.
41. State what exhibitors should do with the leash for the recall.
42. Run-Off Procedure – In case of a tie in the Beginner Novice class, the dog and handler will perform the Heel on Leash the same as it is performed in the Beginner Novice Heel on Leash exercise.
43. A dog without any AKC obedience title which was mistakenly entered in a Novice obedience class may have the entry transferred to the Beginner Novice class provided the host club allows transfers and the class and judge are available.

GRADUATE NOVICE

44. Add scoring section for each exercise (instead of referring them to other chapters).
45. Add the dumbbell to the Recall over High Jump exercise. This exercise will be performed in the same manner as the Dumbbell Recall except that the dog must clear the high jump.
46. Change the heeling exercise "Heel on Leash" to "Heel off Leash"
47. Group Stay – Sit or Down, Judge's option, posted before starting the class, 3 minutes.

GRADUATE OPEN

48. Add scoring section for each exercise.
49. Signal Exercise – Revise to state minimum distance of 10', which will allow handlers to go further away from the dog.
50. Scent Discrimination – State the handler may choose which **type** of article is retrieved.
51. Go Out - State the handler must stand no closer than the center of the ring.
52. Change the order of the exercises to:
 1. Signal Exercise
 2. Scent Discrimination
 3. Go Out
 4. Directed Jumping
 5. Moving Stand and Exam
 6. Directed Retrieve

PRE-CLASSES

53. Change the name for all "Pre" classes to "Preferred" classes.
Pre-Novice → Preferred Novice
Pre-Open → Preferred Open
Pre-Utility → Preferred Utility

PREFERRED OPEN & PREFERRED UTILITY

54. Preferred Open - Add scoring section for each exercise.
55. Preferred Open - Clarify the Broad Jump is to be set to cover a distance to twice the height of the Pre-Open High Jump.
56. A dog must have a PCD, CD title or higher title from the Regular classes to enter Preferred Open and Preferred Utility.
57. Add a High in Trial (HIT) and High Combined (HC) award at the club's option for the Preferred title track.
58. Preferred Open – Use the same 6 orders of exercises that are used in the Regular Class without a group exercise.
59. Preferred Utility – Use the same six orders of exercises that are used in the Regular Class.
60. Preferred Utility Signal Exercise – REMOVE exception that allows the handler to use a verbal command during the signal portion.
61. Preferred Utility – Directed Retrieve. Post the Glove # 30-45 minutes prior to the start of the class.
62. Preferred Utility - Add scoring section for each exercise.
63. Preferred Utility - Scent Discrimination: Revise to 10 articles (not 8).

- 64. Preferred Utility - Directed Retrieve: State it is the same exercise as in Utility.
- 65. Change the Preferred Open and Preferred Utility classes to include the same 6 mixed order of exercises allowed in Regular Classes with the same exercises, except no group exercises; and jumps are set to ½ the height of the dog at the withers.

PREFERRED UTILITY: NEW PUDX TITLE

- 66. PUDX – PUDX scores will be recorded only for dogs that have earned the PUTD title. The dog must receive qualifying scores in both Preferred Open and Preferred Utility at 10 separate licensed or member obedience trials. The AKC will issue a Preferred Utility Dog Excellent certificate and will permit the use of the letters PUDX following the name of each dog that meets these requirements.
- 67. If the PUDX title is approved revise the Signal Exercise to all signals without the permitted verbal command.
- 68. Previously earned scores and points for the PUDX and POC titles will be grandfathered to 07/01/13.

NEW PREFERRED OBEDIENCE CHAMPION (POC)

- 69. Non-competitive champion title; points earned based on scores of 190 or better. To earn the Preferred Obedience Champion title, dogs must earn qualifying scores in both Preferred Open and Preferred Utility at 20 separate licensed or member obedience trials & 750 points (see Point Schedule table below).
- 70. POC Point Schedule (see table)

<u>Dog's</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Dog's</u>	<u>Points</u>
190	6	195.5	12
190.5	6	196	12
191	6	196.5	12
191.5	6	197	15
192	9	197.5	15
192.5	9	198	15
193	9	198.5	15
193.5	9	199	15
194	9	199.5	15
194.5	9	200	15
195	12		

- 71. POC – Recognized Achievement – POC multiples (POC, POC2, POC3, etc.)

NON-REGULAR CLASSES – Removal of these classes does not preclude a club from offering non-regular classes not described in the regulations. These may be approved by AKC by submitting a description of the class with the event application.

- 72. Remove the Sub-Novice class.
- 73. Remove the International class.
- 74. Remove the Advanced Teamwork class.

75. Allow Rally Judges to judge Non-Regular Classes – Wild Card, Brace, Team, Veterans.

Retriever Hunting Tests - Changes to Entry Process and Allowing the Use of Shotgun Simulators

The Board VOTED to approve four changes to the Retriever Hunting Test Regulations. Three changes, effective no later than July 1, 2015, regard the entry process. Clubs that limit the number of entries they will accept in their Master level test: (1) must advertise a date and time when entries will start to be accepted, (2) must establish a “first in – first out” waiting list, and (3) may choose to set aside up to 15% of the Master level test entries for event workers. A fourth change, effective April 1, 2015, will allow the use of shotgun simulators in Retriever Hunting Tests. These changes come from the RHT Advisory Committee with the objective of enhancing this sport.

REGULATIONS & GUIDELINES FOR AKC HUNTING TESTS FOR RETRIEVERS

CHAPTER ONE - General Regulations

Section 3. Making Application

New Paragraph

Clubs that limit the number of entries in the Master Hunter Test must advertise an opening date for its Hunting Test. In order for there to be transparency for all participants, the opening date shall be the Wednesday closest to three weeks prior to the first day of the event. The opening time shall be 8:00 pm Central Time.

New Paragraph

Clubs that limit the number of entries in the Master Hunter Test must establish a waiting list in order that entries that scratch prior to the closing date and time can be replaced. The waiting list shall utilize a “first in – first out” approach.

Section 4. No Special Inducements

A hunt test-giving club shall not accept an entry fee other than that published in its premium list or entry form, or in any way discriminates between entrants. Except a club with a limited entry Master test may set aside up to 15% of the Master entries for event workers. No club or member of any club shall give or offer to give any owner or handler any special inducements, such as reduced entry fees, allowances for board or transportation or other incentive of value for certain number of entries or shall give or offer to give in consideration of entering a certain number of dogs, any prizes or prize money, which prize money shall be for a stated sum or a portion of the entry fees. Except a club, at its discretion, may allow for a reduced entry fee for dogs handled by juniors. A junior handler is someone less than 18 years of age on the first day of the test.

Section 8. Gunning

Either shotguns or shotgun simulators may be used. If a shotgun is used, it must be a 20, 16 or 12 gauge shotgun. Gunners firing live ammunition must be 21 years of age or older. Gunners firing popper loads or shotgun simulators must be a minimum of 16 years of age and if less than 21, must have successfully completed a Hunter/Gun Safety course.

Appointment of William Marlow to AKC PAC Board

The Board VOTED to appoint Mr. William Marlow to the AKC PAC Board of Directors.

Protection for Pets under State Domestic Violence Acts

The Board discussed a proposal submitted by the Legal Outreach Committee (David H. Hopkins, Esq., Chair, William J. Feeney, Esq., Martha Feltenstein, Esq., Barbara A. Penny, Esq., Sheila Goffe, and Alan Kalter, AKC Board Liaison.)

The proposal recommended the adoption of the following Position Statement:

CANINE LEGISLATION POSITION STATEMENT

Protection for Pets **Under State Domestic Violence Acts**

The American Kennel Club supports additions to states' domestic violence statutes that allow for the issuance of protective orders that seek to guard pets from harm, risk of harm, or alienation. Such protections should include prohibiting alleged abusers from contact with pets and permitting grants of temporary exclusive care or control of a pet to a petitioning alleged victim. Statutes may also provide appropriate financial remedies for the petitioner to provide for the care of the animals subject to a protective order. These provisions should not impact the legal status of animals as property.

This will be considered further at the April 2015 Board meeting.

The September 2015 Delegates Meeting

It was brought to the AKC's attention that the dates of the September 2015 meeting coincide with Rosh Hashanah, a high Jewish holiday. The meeting had been scheduled a week later than usual to avoid Labor Day, but the fact that the new dates fall on an important religious holiday had been overlooked. Following a motion by Mr. Ashby, seconded by Dr. Davies, it was VOTED (unanimously, absent Dr. Battaglia) to move the September 2015 Delegate Meeting to Thursday, September 10, 2015, with Delegate Committees schedule for Wednesday September 9. This would avoid meeting or travel day on Labor Day.

(After the above dates were announced, it was apparent that they were less than satisfactory to a large number of Delegates. After consultation with the Delegate Coordinating Committee, the Board agreed to change the dates to Friday, September 11 for the Delegate Committee Meetings and Saturday, September 12 for the Delegate Meeting.)

Renting a Pet

Mr. Kalter raised the issue of the practice of renting household pets, e.g. dogs or cats, as a completely different way to acquire a pet. He suggested that AKC consider supporting legislation against this practice which is the antithesis of responsible pet ownership. There was a Board consensus that Staff should bring forward a proposal regarding this.

Grand Championship

Mr. Kalter raised the issue of having levels of Grand Championship indicated as part of the dog's name on AKC records. This was discussed and staff was directed to explore whether this would require a rule change and how much programming would be necessary.

The Formation of Dog Breeds

Dr. Jerold S. Bell, DVM, gave a presentation on Genetics and the formation of dog breeds to assist the AKC Board to formulate policies governing the acceptance of new breeds. Dr. Bell is on the faculty of the Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University. He also has a private veterinary practice and is on the OFA Board.

Dr. Bell covered ways in which breeds form, including:

- inbreeding on a kindred of individuals possessing a particular trait, or,
- breeding unrelated animals possessing a particular train, behavior, or working ability.

Dr. Bell estimates that breeds lose an average of 35% of their breed diversity through breed formation. He compared the effects of artificial and planned selection. He believes that breeding for moderation and away from extremes that cause disease should be a guiding principle in breeding and judging. He pointed out that most breed standards do not call for expression of extreme phenotypes. He also believes that healthy gene pools require expanding, or large stable populations.

Dr. Bell indicated that AKC is on the right track in adopting the criteria for admission onto FSS including:

- Number of years in existence
- Number of documented generations with a closed stud book "breeding true"
- Number of dogs in registry
- Acceptable breed standard
- A breed Health Survey
- A Breed Health improvement plan

Dr. Bell's discussion of healthy breeding principles led to discussion about how they related to AKC's breeder recognition program, Bred with Heart. The Board suggested and Dr. Bell agreed in principle to the use of his name in tying these principles to the Bred by Heart program.

It was VOTED to adjourn Wednesday, March 11, 2015 at 2:20 pm.

Adjourned

Attest:

James P. Crowley, Executive Secretary

ATTACHMENT

AKC Outreach Effort

AKC's dedicated breeders, exhibitors, and club members are and have always been the heart and soul of the Sport. However, these active participants in formal AKC clubs and events make up a very small fraction of the dog-owning public in the US. At the February 2015 Board meeting, the staff presented a recommendation that AKC recognize new types of social groups, which has sprung up all over the country, where people get together to simply enjoy informal activities centered around their dogs. For lack of a better term, these groups were referred to as Companion Dog clubs. When published in the Board minutes, this idea caught the attention of the delegates, many of whom have posted comments on the idea. As there may be questions of the Board candidates and at Delegate Committee meetings, this e-mail is meant to provide background information.

The recommendation is that AKC provide the means for informal groups of dog owners that are interested in purely social activities centered on their dogs to associate with the AKC. In general, these owners are not interested in AKC's traditional sports, breeding their dogs, or having the formal structure of the traditional dog club. They are not familiar with what the AKC has to offer. We of course do not know how successful the outreach to these informal groups of dog owners would be, however, if we do not make the effort, we know that there is no chance at all.

The benefits of the recommendation are:

1. Provide a means for the AKC to associate with a new segment of the dog owning public, thereby broadening AKC's base. Many of these informal dog groups already exist.
2. Association with these dog owners will provide an opportunity for targeted communications to familiarize these dog owners with the AKC and demonstrate the good things the AKC does for all dogs.
3. The positive relationship built through this association will create awareness, goodwill and relevancy for the AKC with the general dog owning public.
4. These informal groups of dog owners should be viewed as potential AKC advocates and future participants in AKC clubs and activities, and not as competitors to the dedicated AKC clubs that form our core constituency.

The concern from the delegates appears to be the impression that these new "clubs" will harm AKC clubs by offering AKC events which would compete with existing events and/or compete for potential members that might join existing AKC clubs. There also appears to be some concern/confusion over the name "Companion Dog" club.

Note: The name was strictly an internal handle. These groups may call themselves whatever they wish. If these efforts are productive, we will select an appropriate name to cover this informal association with AKC, which will not cause confusion with current club and event terminology.

Next Step: Given the amount of feedback that has been generated, the staff has decided to pull the memo from the March Board agenda. This will provide time to evaluate the feedback and more clearly address the concerns of the delegates.

Should you have questions, please feel free to contact either Jim Crowley at JXC@akc.org, Mike Liosis at MAL@akc.org or Doug Ljungren at DVL@akc.org.