

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
April 20 - 21, 2015

The Board convened on Monday, April 20, 2015 at 8:03 a.m. All Directors were present; also present were the Executive Secretary, and the Assistant Executive Secretary. The March 2015 Board minutes, copies of which were made available to all Directors, were discussed. Upon a motion by Mr. Arnold, seconded by Dr. Davies, the March 2015 minutes were approved and adopted.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

One aspect of attracting and retaining the people that AKC must have in order to sustain and move the organization forward is a rewards system that is consistent with other comparable organizations who are seeking the same talent. AKC uses Kelly Crean of Mercer Consulting to help guide us in these matters. Mr. Crean gave the Board an update on how our current reward system compares to other comparable groups. He also discussed how our reward system might be modified to better reflect the individual performance of key leaders in terms of goal accomplishment and teamwork.

There was an EXECUTIVE SESSION during the meeting to discuss the compensation of individual employees and the approval of the overall compensation plan.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Board Action Items

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

There was an EXECUTIVE SESSION to discuss a potential business initiative. Details will be made public if and when AKC does go ahead with this initiative.

IT CONVERSION

Michael Basone, AKC Vice President of Technology, gave a brief overview of his work to date in examining the way AKC develops, delivers, and supports its Information Technology resources. This included how we provide data processing services (owned data center as we do today or through the use of "cloud" processing services) as well as how we maintain our legacy systems. His ultimate goal is to reduce the overall cost of our information technology operations while providing the level of services that AKC requires both today and in the future. He will make a full set of recommendations, budget, and timeline for implementation at the June 2015 Board Meeting.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Doug Ljungren, Heather McManus, Michael Liosis, Mari-Beth O'Neill, Sheila Goffe and Chris Walker, AKC Staff, participated in this portion of the meeting.

Border Collie Proposed Breed Standard Revision Results

The Board reviewed the results of a ballot conducted by the Border Collie Society of America, Inc. (BCSA) on proposed revisions to the breed standard. The BCSA was granted permission to ballot the club membership at the October 2013 Meeting of the AKC Board. The results of the ballot are as follows:

RESULTS

The BCSA mailed 564 ballots to the membership in December of 2014. A total of 229 ballots were returned by the January 22, 2015 deadline. The proposed revision received the required number of ballots.

- In favor of the proposed breed standard revisions: 197 86%
- Opposed to the proposed breed standard revisions: 30 13%
- Incomplete returned ballots 2

There was a motion by Dr. Garvin, seconded by Mr. Kalter, and it was VOTED (unanimously) to approve the proposed revisions, below, with a July 1, 2015 effective date.

Sections, with changes underlined follow :

Border Collie Standard

Preamble

The Border Collie originated in the Border country between Scotland and England where the shepherds' breeding selection was based on biddable stock sense and the ability to work long days on rugged terrain. As a result of this selective breeding, the Border Collie developed the unique working style of gathering and fetching the stock with wide sweeping outruns. The stock is then controlled with an intense gaze known as "eye", coupled with a stalking style of movement. This selective breeding over time developed the Border Collie's intensity, energy and trainability which are features so important that they are equal to physical size and appearance. The Border Collie has extraordinary instinct and an uncanny ability to reason. One of its greatest assets is the ability to work out of sight of its master without commands. Breeding based on this working ability has made this breed the world's premier sheep herding dog, a job the Border Collie is still used for worldwide.

General Appearance

The Border Collie is a well balanced, medium-sized dog of athletic appearance, displaying gracefulness, power and agility in equal measure. Its hard, muscular body conveys the impression of effortless movement and endless endurance. The Border Collie is extremely intelligent, with its keen, alert expression being a very important characteristic of the breed. Those aspects of structure, movement or temperament that enhance the dog's ability to function as a herding dog are virtues that should be strongly rewarded. The Border Collie is, and should remain, a natural and unspoiled true working sheep dog whose conformation is described herein. Honorable scars and broken teeth incurred in the line of duty are acceptable.

Size, Proportion, Substance

The height at the withers varies from 19 to 22 inches for males, 18 to 21 inches for females. When viewed from the side, the body from the point of shoulder to point of buttocks is slightly longer than the height of the withers. The length to height ratio is approximately 10:9. Correct bone must be moderate, strong and oval. Overall balance between height, length, weight and bone is crucial and is more important than any absolute measurement. Dogs must be presented in hard working condition. Excess body weight is not to be mistaken for muscle or substance.

Head

Expression is intelligent, alert, eager, and full of interest. *Eyes* are set well apart, of moderate size, oval in shape. Any eye color is acceptable, but blue eyes in dogs other than merle are not

preferred. Eye rims should be fully pigmented. *Ears* are of medium size, set well apart, one or both carried erect and/or semi-erect (varying from one-quarter to three-quarters of the ear erect). When semi-erect, the tips may fall forward or outward to the side. Ears are sensitive and mobile. *Skull* is relatively flat and moderate in width. The skull and muzzle are approximately equal in length. In profile the top of the skull is parallel with the top of the muzzle. Stop moderate, but distinct. The *muzzle* is strong, tapering slightly to the nose. The sides of the head should taper smoothly into the muzzle. The underjaw is strong and well developed. Nose should be fully pigmented. Nostrils are well developed. A full complement of strong healthy teeth should meet in a scissors bite.

Neck, Topline, Body

Neck is of proportional length to the body, strong and muscular, slightly arched and blending smoothly into the shoulders. *Topline* - Back is level with a slight muscular rise over the loin, falling to a gently sloping croup. *Body* is athletic in appearance with a deep, moderately broad chest reaching no further than the point of the elbow. The rib cage is moderately long with well sprung ribs. Loin is moderately deep and short. Underline should have a slight but distinct tuck up. The tail is set on low and is moderately long with the bone reaching at least to the hock. The ideal tail carriage is low when the dog is concentrating on a given task and may have a slight upward swirl at the end like a shepherd's crook. In excitement, it may be raised, but the base of the tail should not curve forward over the back.

Forequarters

Forelegs should be parallel when viewed from front, pasterns slightly sloping when viewed from side. Because sufficient length of leg is crucial for the type of work the breed is required to do, the distance from the wither to the elbow is slightly less than from the elbow to the ground. The shoulder blades are long and well laid back. Shoulder blades and upper arms are equal in length and meet in a right angle as nearly as possible. The prosternum is easily felt but not pronounced. There is sufficient width between the tops of the shoulder blades to allow for the characteristic crouch when approaching and moving stock. The elbows are neither in nor out. Feet are compact, oval in shape; pads deep and strong, toes moderately arched and close together with strong nails of moderate length. Dewclaws may be removed.

Hindquarters

Broad and muscular, in profile sloping gracefully to the low set tail. The thighs are long, broad, deep and muscular. Stifles are well turned with strong well let down hocks. Proper length of hock is approximately one-quarter to one-third the height of the dog. When standing with the hocks perpendicular to the ground the toes of the rear feet should be in line with the point of buttock. Rear feet should be parallel, but may toe out slightly when freestanding. Feet are compact, oval in shape; pads deep and strong, toes moderately arched and close together with strong nails of moderate length. Dewclaws should be removed.

Coat

Two varieties are permissible, both having close-fitting, dense, weather resistant double coats with the top coat either straight or slightly wavy and coarser in texture than the undercoat which

is soft, short and dense. The rough variety coat may vary in length without being excessive. Proper texture is more important than length. Forelegs, haunches, chest and underside are feathered and the coat on face, ears, feet, fronts of legs is short and smooth. The smooth variety is short over entire body, is usually coarser in texture than the rough variety and may have slight feathering on forelegs, haunches, chest and ruff. Neither coat type is preferred over the other. Seasonal shedding is normal and must not be penalized. Excess hair on the feet, hock and pastern areas may be neatened for the show ring. Whiskers are untrimmed. Dogs should be presented naturally, without excessive trimming or sculpting.

Color

The Border Collie appears in all colors or combination of colors and/or markings. All colors are to be judged equally with no one color or pattern preferred over another. White markings may be clear white or ticked to any degree. Random white patches on the body are permissible but should not predominate. The predominant ear color should match the primary body color. Color and markings are always secondary to physical evaluation and gait.

Gait

The Border Collie is an agile dog, able to suddenly change speed and direction while maintaining balance and grace. Endurance is its trademark. The head is carried level with or slightly below the withers. When shown, Border Collies should move on a loose lead and at moderate speed, never raced around the ring with the head held high. When viewed from the side the trot covers the ground effortlessly with minimum lift of feet. The topline is firm with no roll or bounce. Front reach and rear drive are symmetrical, with the front foot meeting the ground directly under the nose and the rear foot pushing back without kicking up. When the rear foot is coming forward, it should reach to the spot just vacated by the front foot. Viewed from the front, action is forward and true without wasted motion. Viewed from the rear, hindquarters drive with thrust and flexibility with hocks turning neither in nor out, moving close together but never touching. The legs, both front and rear, tend to converge toward the center line as speed increases. Exaggerated movement is not efficient, and therefore is not useful to the Border Collie.

Temperament

The Border Collie is energetic, intelligent, keen, alert, and responsive. An intense worker of great tractability, it is affectionate towards friends but may be sensibly reserved towards strangers. When approached, the Border Collie should stand its ground. It should be alert and interested, never showing shyness, fear, dullness or resentment.

Faults

Any deviation from the foregoing should be considered a fault, the seriousness of the fault depending upon the extent of the deviation, and the degree to which working ability would be impacted.

Delinquent Member Club Dues

The Board was advised that pursuant to Article V of the Charter and Bylaws of The American Kennel Club, the officers of all clubs, including the Delegate, were sent three standard email

notifications concerning the payment of its 2015 Member club dues. The Wisconsin Kennel Club has not paid its dues to date. Staff recommends that this club be advised to make its dues payment by May 1, 2015 or face immediate revocation of membership.

There was a motion by Dr. Garvin, seconded by Dr. Davies, it was VOTED (unanimously) to approve the staff recommendation.

Canine Legislation Position Statement - Protection for Pets Under State Domestic Violence Acts

Sheila Goffe, AKC Staff, participated via video conference for the discussion on the Position Statement.

At the request of the Board-appointed Legal Outreach Committee (LOC), the AKC Government Relations Department ("GR") presented recommendations for a new Canine Legislation Position Statement on Protecting Pets Under Domestic Violence Acts.

Members of the Legal Outreach Committee are David Hopkins (AKC Delegate), William J. Feeney (AKC Board), Alan Kalter (AKC Board Liaison), Martha J. Feltenstein (AKC Delegate), Barbara Penny (AKC Delegate), and Sheila Goffe (AKC staff).

There was a motion by Dr. Battaglia, seconded by Dr. Davies, it was VOTED to approve 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.

Employee Participation in AKC Sports

The Sports and Events and Human Resources Departments presented proposed changes to the current policy on AKC employee participation in the sport. The proposal would enable more employees to participate in the Sport in cases where it is clear there is no conflict of interest.

The intent of this proposed change is to give our staff the opportunity to participate in AKC's many event types, providing them a broader understanding of our events and their role in fulfilling our mission.

The changes would enable Vice Presidents and Assistant Vice Presidents to compete in events for which they have no administrative responsibilities. The same would apply to field staff.

Employees would be able to compete for a Grand Championship title, but not for the Gold, Silver, or Platinum levels. Employees would be able to judge any AKC non-titling event.

This will be considered further at the June 2015 meeting.

Delegate Eligibility - "Professional" Judge

The Board reviewed a proposal that was submitted on behalf of the Delegate Bylaws Committee. The Delegate Bylaws Committee is proposing that Delegate Judges be permitted to charge a nominal fee of up to \$150 per assignment over and above actual expenses. This will be discussed further at the June 2015 meeting.

FSS Breed Recognition Criteria and Growth

The Board requested a review of the criteria AKC uses to determine if a new breed will be eligible for inclusion in the AKC Foundation Stock Service®. Staff believes that the inclusion of new breeds has been an integral component to maintaining AKC registration numbers and successfully brings new people into all AKC events. The Board was provided with all current procedures for an FSS breed to obtain full recognition as follows:

- The number of dogs enrolled in the AKC Foundation Stock Service has increased to a 300-400 dogs with three generation pedigrees in the case of breeds that entered the Miscellaneous Class with a minimum of 150 dogs.
- The participation in AKC Events is geographically distributed throughout the country with a minimum of 5 different dogs owned by Parent Club Members earning a Certificate of Merit.
- The Club has conducted a minimum of two Open Shows for Miscellaneous Class and FSS breeds. The Club may request to hold additional events geographically distributed throughout the country.
- A minimum of one year has elapsed since entering the Miscellaneous Class unless the breed has over 1,000 three generation dogs when entering the Miscellaneous Class, then the club may request full recognition after six months.
- A health survey and breed testing data.

Legal Status Reporting

Ms. McManus, Senior Attorney, presented a status report on pending litigation and other legal activities for the month of March 2015.

Board Meeting Dates

There was a discussion on the dates for Board meetings going forward. Traditionally the eight Board meetings were scheduled based on the second Tuesday for the months in which there were no Delegate Meetings. For the past couple of years, four meetings were held with the Delegate meetings, four were stand alone and there were four months in which there were neither Delegate nor Board meetings.

Following a motion by Dr. Davies, seconded by Dr. Battaglia, it was VOTED (affirmative: Dr. Davies, Dr. Battaglia, Mr. Dok, Mr. Arnold, Mr. Gladstone, Mr. Menaker, Mr. Ashby, Mr. Powers; opposed: Mr. Feeney, Mr. Kalter, Ms. Cruz, Mr. Wooding; abstaining Dr. Garvin) to return to the eight stand-alone Board meetings, based upon the second Tuesday.

Following a motion by Ms. Cruz, seconded by Dr. Battaglia, it was VOTED (unanimously) to implement the new schedule as of January 2016. The Executive Secretary was directed to prepare and distribute the new Meeting Calendar.

FINANCE

Joseph Baffuto, CFO, presented unaudited first quarter financial results. He indicated total revenues for the quarter of \$15.1 million was slightly below budget but above the prior year. Total expenses of \$13.2 million was reasonably below budget and somewhat above the amount from the previous year. Operating income was \$1.9 million for the period ended March 31, 2015.

MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS

Chris Walker, Vice President of Marketing and Communications, participated in this portion of the meeting. Also present was Stephen Smith, AKC Director of Digital Content. Two representatives from the Public Relations firm, Edelman, were also in attendance.

Mr. Walker reported on business initiatives in development. This included the new AKC Marketplace (formerly AKC's Online Breeders Classified) and digital advertising. Mr. Walker also reported on "Summer Streets 2015" where companies occupy a full block on Park Avenue in New York City for three Saturdays in August. This takes place on dozens of blocks along Park Avenue and draws hundreds of thousands of spectators. AKC will have a designated block, where AKC will have the opportunity to stage any type of dog-related display or activity itself, or to bring in other dog-related organizations.

There was an EXECUTIVE SESSION to discuss a soon to be announced business initiative.

Edelman, AKC's public relations firm of record, outlined the firm's public relations activities over the past two years, its efforts to promote the AKC brand, to respond to attacks, and to put pressure on those unfairly attacking AKC. These efforts were enhanced by the establishment of strategic alliances with veterinarians, veterinary schools and by identifying canine ambassadors in specific breeds with the assistance of AKC Parent Clubs.

COMPLIANCE

Heather McManus and Michael Liosis participated in this portion of the meeting.

Event Committee Guidelines

There was discussion on the guidelines and check list in the *Dealing With Misconduct* publication. Some Board members felt that they should be clearer and more detailed to help clubs avoid procedural errors. Staff was directed to report back to the Board with a plan to address this.

The following AKC Management actions were reported:

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

AKC Inspections

There was a discussion on AKC's Inspections Program focusing on its two purposes: compliance with care and conditions as well as identification and record keeping requirements and education. There was a consensus that the AKC Inspections Program is an essential part of our support of responsible breeders. Furthermore, there had to be a balance between enforcement of our care and conditions policy and record keeping requirements and both were essential to our mission. Staff was directed to review current policies and procedures and to present a plan to the Board to modify them.

International Partnership for Dogs

It was reported that Dr. Mary Smith, who serves on the AKC Canine Health Foundation Board and as a Chair of its Grants Committee, attended the recent International Partnership for Dogs conference in Germany, jointly representing AKC and the AKC Canine Health Foundation. As agreed, the two organizations shared her expenses and would be receiving her report on the conference.

The issues of AKC becoming a member of the partnership were discussed. The Board authorized Mr. Kalter to communicate with the President of the International Partnership for Dogs to discuss possible AKC participation.

AKC Canine Health Foundation

Mr. Ashby reported on a new draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between AKC and the AKC Canine Health Foundation. The prior MOU has expired. The document would define the relationship between the two organizations, including AKC's financial and logistical support of the foundation.

Following a motion by Mr. Gladstone, seconded by Mr. Feeney, it was VOTED (unanimously) to authorize the AKC President to execute the new MOU as long as there were no substantive changes to the draft.

There was discussion on AKC's 2015 donation to the AKC Canine Health Foundation.

Following a motion by Mr. Kalter, it was VOTED (unanimously), contingent on the execution of a new MOU, to provide up to \$500,000 in matching funds for new donors under the same conditions as the 2014 matching grant, i.e.:

AKC will provide a 1 to 1 dollar-amount match for any cash contribution collected from a new donor in 2015 up to \$500,000. AKC matching dollars will be only used for grants, regardless of the type of donation made by the new donor. A new donor is defined as a donor who has not contributed to the AKC CHF in the past 2 calendar years (2013 and 2014) including their immediate family members or corporations or foundations for which they control or are on the Board. AKC will only match cash contributions or amounts that are readily convertible to cash within 30 days.

Position Statement on the Banning of Retail Pet Stores

There was discussion on the development of a statement regarding AKC's position on statutes prohibiting the sale of dogs at retail in pet stores. There was a concern that any such position had to differentiate between pet stores that were subject to AKC inspection and those that were not. AKC could support reasonable regulations governing the sale of dogs in pet stores, but not a ban for those subject to AKC inspection to help ensure that AKC's care and conditions requirements were met. Mr. Gladstone, Dr. Garvin, and Mr. Ashby will work with Ms. Goffe to prepare a policy statement for Board consideration.

September 2015 Board Meeting

To avoid conflict with a religious holiday, the September 2015 Delegate Meeting was moved to Saturday, September 12, 2015. Following a motion by Ms. Cruz, seconded by Mr. Menaker, it was VOTED (unanimously) to schedule the September Board Meeting at Newark, New Jersey on Thursday, September 10, 2015.

PENSION COMMITTEE

There was an Executive Session to discuss sensitive business matters. It concerned an amendment to the pension plan, which will be considered for a vote at the June 2015 Board Meeting and which will be made public in July 2015 if the amendment is adopted.

It was reported out of the Executive Session that the Board had unanimously adopted the change to the Pension Plan as recommended by the Pension Committee, pending adoption of the actual amendment.

The Board Adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

Meeting reconvened on Tuesday, April 21, 2015 at 7:55 am. All Directors were present as were the Executive Secretary and the Assistant Executive Secretary.

COMPANION & PERFORMANCE

Doug Ljungren and Carrie DeYoung, AKC Staff, participated in this portion of the meeting via video conference.

Agility Premier Class Regulations

The Board reviewed the recommended regulations for a new higher level class in agility called the Premier class (the proposed regulations for this class are below). The class provides more difficult challenges than is currently offered in the AKC agility program. This will be considered for a vote at the June, 2015 Board meeting.

If the regulations are adopted in June, Clubs may start applying to hold the Premier Class after July 1, 2015. Clubs may actually start running the Premier class at their agility trials effective October 1, 2015.

AGILITY REGULATIONS NEW Chapter 11 Premier Championship Classes

Section 1. Purpose. These optional titling classes are designed to challenge dogs and handlers at an increased speed and skill level above those set for the Master level classes. Handlers/dogs will need to negotiate courses that require varied approach angles, spacing, and obstacle discriminations to be successful in these classes. These classes are offered as separate titling tracks and are not part of the MACH/PACH Championships.

The classes may be offered once per day as an additional class or classes. Clubs may, but are not required to offer Premier Standard and Premier Jumpers with Weaves on the same day.

Section 2. Eligibility. Dogs with an AX title are eligible to enter Premier Standard Regular. Dogs with an AX or AXP title are eligible to enter Premier Standard Preferred. Dogs with an AXJ title are eligible to enter Premier Jumpers with Weaves Regular. Dogs with an AXJ or AJP title are eligible to enter Premier Jumpers with Weaves Preferred. Dogs with Regular titles may crossover to the Premier Preferred level as noted above.

Section 3. Performance Standards

- Minimum allowable score required to qualify = 100.
- The course must be completed before the dog reaches the Maximum Course Time (MCT).
- Additional Non-Qualifying faults (beyond those listed in Chapter 5, Sections 5 and 6).
 - Any Course Fault

Maximum Course Times (MCT)

Premier Standard

Regular:

- 55 seconds for the 20 and 26 inch Regular jump heights.
- 60 seconds for the 16 and 24 inch Regular jump heights.
- 65 seconds for the 8 and 12 inch Regular jump heights.

Preferred:

- 60 seconds for 16 inch Preferred jump height.

- 65 seconds for 12 and 20 inch Preferred jump heights.
- 70 seconds for 4 and 8 inch Preferred jump heights.

Note: For timing purposes all Premier Standard classes may have timer set for MCT of 70 seconds.

Premier Jumpers With Weaves

Regular:

- 40 seconds for 20 and 26 inch Regular jump heights.
- 45 seconds for the 16 and 24 inch Regular jump heights.
- 48 seconds for the 8 and 12 inch Regular jump heights.

Preferred:

- 45 seconds for 16 inch Preferred jump height.
- 50 seconds for 12 and 20 inch Preferred jump heights.
- 53 seconds for 4 and 8 inch Preferred jump heights.

Note: For timing purposes all Premier Jumpers With Weaves classes may have timer set for MCT of 53 seconds.

Minimum Obstacle Requirements:

- Quantity = 19-21
- Obstacles required, allowed, and not allowed will be the same as the Master level courses as noted in Chapter 6, Section 5 for Standard; and Chapter 7, Section 5 for Jumpers With Weaves, except that both classes will have a maximum of three tunnel passes and Standard will not have a table.
- In both classes the viaduct jumps, as described in Chapter 13, Section 9, can be substituted for the panel jump or a spread jump, as long as the viaduct jump can be set for all heights.

Section 4. Obstacle and Jump Positions. Shall generally follow the requirements set forth in Chapter 4, Section 4, with the following exceptions:

- A Distance of 25 – 30 feet between two obstacles may be approved up to two times on a course.
- Distances of greater than 30 feet between obstacles may be approved to allow for turns between obstacles as necessary.
- There may be one bi-directional tunnel or bar/single bar jump on the course.

Section 5. Approach Angles. Shall generally follow what is stated in Chapter 4, Section 5, except as detailed in the AKC Agility Judges Guidelines for the Premier Class.

Section 6. Titles. To earn the Premier Agility Dog (PAD), Premier Agility Dog Preferred (PADP), Premier Jumpers Dog (PJD) or Premier Jumpers Dog Preferred (PJDP) titles, a dog must earn 25 qualifying scores with five qualifying scores earned for placing in the top 25% of the dogs that competed in their jump height.

Dogs that are absent or withdrawn will not count toward the number of dogs competing in the jump height. The 25% calculation will be rounded down to determine the number of 25% placements in each jump height. In the case of a tie for the last 25% placement, a run-off will be held per Chapter 5, Section 2. If a class has two or three dogs competing, the 1st place dog will be awarded a top 25% placement qualifying score. If only one dog competes in the jump height, there will be no top 25% placement earned in that jump height.

Lifetime Achievement titles (bronze, silver, gold and century) will be awarded for each additional 25 qualifying scores earned in the Premier class.

Eligibility to Judge Coursing Ability Test (CAT)

The Board reviewed recommended changes to Section 7 and 8 of the Coursing Ability Test (CAT) Regulations

Staff recommends a modification to the eligibility requirements regarding who may judge Coursing Ability Tests. The sport is currently constrained by the shortage of eligible judges. The Staff recommend that anyone with three or more years of experience in the sport of Lure Coursing may judge a Coursing Ability Test (CAT). Currently only lure coursing judges can judge a CAT event.

Section 7 proposed change: People who are not Lure Coursing judges may be approved to judge a Coursing Ability Test provided they meet the following minimum requirements: (1) Must be in good standing with the AKC and are at least 21 years of age, and (2) Have a minimum of three years of experience in the sport of Lure Coursing. It is the responsibility of the hosting club to assure these requirements are met.

Staff also suggests an addition to Section 8 to shift the responsibility for a safe course design from the judge to the event committee.

Section 8. Course Design.

The course shall be designed with safety for non-sighthound breeds as a primary consideration. There shall be no turns more acute than 90 degrees. The total length of the course shall be no less than 600 yards and should be as close to 600 yards as possible. The lure will consist of plastic strips. Depending on the size and type of dog, the dog will run either the full course or a 300 yard course. The 300 yard distance shall be clearly marked. Safety is of utmost importance. Many of the dogs running the Coursing Ability Test will not possess the agility of a sighthound and this must be a consideration in the design of the course.

The event committee is responsible for the safety of the course by ensuring they have experienced, knowledgeable individuals in course design at the event. The judge is responsible for walking the course prior to the start of the event in order to look for hazards.

This will be discussed further at the June 2015 meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

State of Washington Tax Law

There was a video conference with Dirk Giseburt, an attorney with the Seattle law firm of Davis Wright Tremaine LLP, regarding AKC's possible tax consequences as a result of doing business in the state of Washington whose tax laws are somewhat different than other states. The content of the discussion would fall under attorney client privilege and was held in Executive Session with AKC attorneys Heather McManus and Cynthia Beagles, and Joseph Baffuto, AKC CFO.

JUDGING OPERATIONS

Doug Ljungren and Tim Thomas, AKC Staff, participated in this portion of the meeting via video conference.

Judging Approval Procedure

There was a discussion on proposed revisions to the Judging Approval Process. The draft reviewed included input received during the October 2014 comment period as well as staff and Board comment. Additional suggestions were made both by staff and the Board during the meeting and those are being included in the final draft. This draft will be circulated to the same October 2014 distribution list for information and comment within ten days of the Board meeting. Recipients will be given 21 days to comment. The comments will be analyzed by Dr. Battaglia. The proposal will also be posted on the AKC website.

At its June 2015 meeting, the Board will discuss the final version of the proposed Judging Approval Process. This version will incorporate any changes resulting from the April 2015 comment period. This final version will be voted upon at the June 2015 Board meeting.

Mandatory Ramp Examination

In October 2014, the Board directed staff to contact the Parent Clubs for breeds which could be judged on the ramp to determine if the club wanted the breed to be judged on the ramp at all levels of competition (breed, group, BIS, Junior Showmanship 4-6 month competition and NOHS). Clubs were also asked to decide if it preferred that the ramp remain optional and at the discretion of the judge or that the ramp be expected for the breed. Once this decision is made it may not be changed for five years. As a result of this communication, Sussex Spaniel and Chinese Shar-Pei have been added to the list of breeds that must be judged on the ramp in all levels of conformation competition where AKC conformation titles may be earned, effective July 1, 2015. The list of table and ramp breeds is posted on the AKC website. All affected judges have been contacted as well as superintendents.

Conformation Judges Quarterly Statistics

There was a report on Conformation judging applicants for the first quarter of 2015.

New Breed Applicants

There were 18 new breed applicants, who applied for 24 breeds, with all 24 being approved.

Additional Breed Applicants

There were 53 additional breed applicants who applied for 405 breeds, with approval being granted for 328 with 35 applicants receiving breeds applied for; 14 received partial approval; and 4 applicants were denied approval.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was an Executive Session to consider the implementation of marketing initiatives. Representatives from the law firm of Lowenstein Sandler participated by telephone conference.

Registration Development

Mark Dunn, AKC staff, participated in this portion of the meeting by video conference.

There was a report on the status of the roll out of the new Bred With H.E.A.R.T (BWH) program. The AKC goal is to encourage breeders to work in tandem with AKC's commitment to dog health, breeder education and dog welfare through health testing of breeding stock and our care and conditions policy resulting in a responsible breeding community. The Breeder of Merit (BOM) and the BWH programs are an important part of our breeder outreach and complement one another. These programs constitute the only programs in the United States which are aimed at the responsible breeding of purebred dogs and provide the tools to do so. BOM and BWH both recognize and support breeders who certify that applicable health screens are performed on their breeding stock as recommended by the Parent Club.

The BOM program is distinct in that the participation requires a breeder to have bred at least four titled dogs during the preceding five years of involvement with AKC sports and be a

member of at least one AKC club. Further, BOM participants must commit to ensuring that 100 percent of the puppies they produce become AKC registered.

Both of these significant programs, when fully implemented, will support AKC's continued commitment to canine health as well as help the general public identify the most responsible breeders from which to buy a family pet.

Full details of the Bred With H.E.A.R.T. program will be disseminated and posted on the AKC website as more information becomes available. Staff was directed to establish a plan to increase participation in the BOM program and to roll out the BWH program as soon as possible, with an update given to the Board at its June meeting.

CONFORMATION

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

Certificate of Merit Title Expansion

The Board reviewed a staff proposal to extend the awarding of Certificate of Merit (CM) points to the regular puppy classes. Staff also recommends the modification of the Dog Show Rules to award one point toward a dog's Champion (CH) title to a dog that earns a CM title for a puppy class. For fully recognized breeds, CM points are currently only awarded in the 4-6 month Beginner Puppy competition. This initiative will provide the needed incentive, both for new participants as well as seasoned exhibitors, to show their young dogs in the puppy classes. For the new exhibitor it provides the opportunity to learn, meet fellow exhibitors, and receive mentoring during their time in the puppy classes. The Board felt it has the potential to boost show entries as well as attract new participants to the sport of conformation. This is considered a significant initiative to benefit Clubs, current and future exhibitors as well as the conformation sport. As a result staff was directed to expedite its implementation contingent on Delegate approval of any required rule changes.

Following a motion by Mr. Gladstone, seconded by Dr. Battaglia, it was VOTED (unanimously) to propose a new section for Chapter 16 of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows*, as follows:

SECTION 1. Dogs placing first in each of the individual Puppy Classes (as defined in Chapter 3, Section 4) in each of the individual breed/varieties and sexes will be awarded points towards the Certificate of Merit (CM) title based on the total number of dogs of their sex that competed in the individual class according to the Schedule of Points established by the Board of Directors. Upon completion of the CM title a dog may continue to compete in the regular classes so long as they are eligible. The CM suffix title is an introductory title to AKC conformation events and will be superseded by the CH title when it is earned. The Certificate of Merit title requires 15 points awarded in accordance with the following point structure. Points earned in the Puppy Classes, Miscellaneous Class competition, Four-to-Six Month Competition, and FSS Open Shows will also count towards the CM title.

CM Schedule of Points, effective January 1, 2016

<u>Dogs Competing</u>	<u>Points</u>
<u>1-2</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>3-4</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>5-8</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>9-12</u>	<u>4</u>

13 or more

5

The CM title initials will be followed by a numerical designation indicating the quantity of times the dog has met the requirements of the CM title as defined above, e.g., 30 CM points = CM2.

Any dog earning a CM title will also be awarded one (1) Championship point. Only one Championship point will be awarded to a dog for earning the CM title.

The proposed amendment will be read at the June 2015 Delegate Meeting for a VOTE in September 2015. If adopted, the current Sections 1 through 7 will be renumbered as 2 through 8. Amendments will also be made to the *Four-to-Six Month Competition Regulations*, the *FSS Open Show Regulations* and italicizing portions of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* as follows:

Four-to-Six Month Competition Regulations

Section 3 – Titles The Certificate of Merit (CM) title is an introductory title to AKC conformation events. Entrants in each breed shall compete for Best of Breed and Best of Opposite Sex to Best of Breed. Winners of the Best of Breed in each of the individual breeds or varieties will be awarded points toward the CM title based on the number of dogs defeated in their breed or variety. Winners of Best of Opposite Sex to Best of Breed in each of the individual breeds or varieties will be awarded points toward the CM title based on the number of dogs defeated in their sex. Group winners will be eligible for the highest number of points earned by any breed within that Group. Best Four-to-Six Puppy in Show will be eligible for the highest number of points earned by any breed entered. The Certificate of Merit requires 15 points awarded in accordance with the following points structure.

Dogs Competing	Points
• <u>1-2</u>	1
• <u>3-4</u>	2
• <u>5-8</u>	3
• <u>9-12</u>	4
• <u>13 or more</u>	5

FSS Open Show Regulations

Chapter 3

Section 2, Certificate of Merit The Certificate of Merit (CM) title is an introductory title to AKC conformation events. Entrants in each breed shall compete for Best of Breed and Best of Opposite Sex to Best of Breed. Winners of the Best of Breed in each of the individual breeds will be awarded points toward the CM title based on the number of dogs competing in their breed. Best of Opposite Sex to Best of Breed in each of the individual breeds will be awarded points towards the Certificate of Merit (CM) title based on the total number of dogs competing in their sex. Group winners will be eligible for the points based

on the total entry in the Group. Best in Show will be eligible for the points based on the total number of dogs that competed in the show.

The Certificate of Merit requires 15 points awarded in accordance with the following points structure.

Dogs Competing	Points
• <u>1-2</u>	1
• <u>3-4</u>	2
• <u>5-8</u>	3
• <u>9-12</u>	4
• <u>13 or more</u>	5

Certificate of Merit points may also be earned in the Puppy class, FSS class, Miscellaneous Class or the 4-to-6 Month class held in conjunction with Championship dog shows.

Rules Applying to Dog Shows

CHAPTER 3

SECTION 22. The Miscellaneous Class shall be for purebred dogs of such breed as may be designated by the AKC® Board of Directors. No dog shall be eligible for entry in the Miscellaneous Class unless the owner has been granted an AKC identification number, and unless the AKC identification number is given on the entry form. Application for an AKC identification number shall be made on a form provided by the AKC and when submitted must be accompanied by a fee set by the Board of Directors.

The regular Miscellaneous Classes for each breed shall be Puppy, Bred-by Exhibitor and Open, with the same eligibility requirements in Sections 4, 8 and 10 of the Chapter respectively. These classes shall be divided by sex. All class winners within a breed shall compete for Best of Breed and Best of Opposite Sex to Best of Breed.

Each of the Miscellaneous Class Best of Breed winners shall be eligible to compete for Best in Miscellaneous Class. All entries for Best in Miscellaneous Class shall be made after judging of the individual Miscellaneous breed classes and no entry fee shall be charged. In the event that the owner of a dog designated Best of Breed shall not exhibit the dog in the Best of Miscellaneous Class Competition, no other dog of the same breed shall be allowed to compete. There shall be no further competition for dogs entered in the Miscellaneous Class.

Winners of the Best of Breed in each of the individual Miscellaneous breeds will be awarded points towards the Certificate of Merit (CM) title based on the total number of dogs competing. Best of Opposite Sex to Best of Breed in each of the individual Miscellaneous breeds will be awarded points towards the Certificate of Merit (CM) title based on the total number of dogs of its sex in competition. The winner of the Best in Miscellaneous Class will be awarded points towards a Certificate of Merit based upon the total number of dogs that competed in all of the Miscellaneous Class breeds.

Upon completion of the CM title a dog may continue to compete in the Miscellaneous Class so long as they are of an eligible breed.

The CM suffix title is an introductory title to AKC conformation events and will be superseded by the CH title when earned. The Certificate of Merit requires 15 points awarded in accordance with the following point structure

<i>Dogs Competing</i>	<i>Points</i>
<i>1-2</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>3-4</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>5-8</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>9-12</i>	<i>4</i>
<i><u>13 or more</u></i>	<i>5</i>

The remainder of this section is unchanged.

Concurrent Group and All-Breed Events

Based on a request from the Board, AKC Staff presented a policy to allow group and all-breed clubs to host events concurrently.

The following policy was presented for the Board's consideration and will be discussed further and be considered for a vote at the June Board meeting:

Concurrent Group & All-Breed Events

Group & All-Breed events may be held concurrently with the following limitations:

1. Permission must be obtained from the all-breed club in order to apply.
2. The events must be held on the same grounds (i.e., the same physical address).
3. Ownership of the corresponding date must be agreed upon in writing and submitted with the event applications prior to event approval.
4. The breed judging in the all-breed event must be held prior to the breed judging in the group event in order to avoid delays in group judging in the all-breed event. Likewise, the group judging for the all-breed event must be held prior to the group judging in the group event.
5. Any judge who is shared by the two clubs involved is limited to 100 breed entries (for the two events combined) for the day plus any group or Best in Show assignments.
6. Evening or concurrent specialties are permitted for breeds that are not part of the group that is holding an event concurrently with the all-breed event.
7. All-breed events must offer group and Best in Show competition. Group events must offer group competition.
8. The use of multiple group rings is encouraged.
9. Junior Showmanship competition is allowed.
10. Obedience and Rally competitions are allowed, and encouraged, but must have their own ring(s) for competition.

Requests for multiple group events on the same day and site of an all-breed event will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

AKC National Owner-Handled Series Program Enhancements

The Board reviewed a staff proposal recommending the following enhancements to the AKC National Owner-Handled Series (NOHS) NOHS:

1. Add Miscellaneous Class as an 8th Group which will compete for NOHS BIS.
2. Establish set ribbon colors for all NOHS awards.

3. Incorporate the current NOHS best practices, frequently asked questions, and judging procedures into one comprehensive document called NOHS Polices & Best Practices.
4. Indicate NOHS eligible dogs in the judges' book.
5. Offer NOHS Reserve Best in Show (approved by the Board at March 2015 meeting).

Staff was directed to conduct a survey of NOHS participants using the same question regarding identification in the judge's book as was used in the previous survey. Staff will also continue to consider the identifying of NOHS participants in the ring and to discuss it with any outside sources it wishes.

This will be discussed further at the July 2015 meeting.

Recognizing GCH Levels as Titles

The Board reviewed a proposal to modify the Grand Champion program so that the additional achievement levels are recognized as titles. The designations will be GCHB (Bronze), GCHS (Silver), GCHG (Gold), and GCHP (Platinum). This will require an amendment to Chapter 16, Section 7, of the Rules Applying to Dog Shows (new wording underlined below) and must be approved by the Delegate body. The Board will discuss this further at the June 2015 meeting. If approved by the Board, it will be read at the September Delegates' meeting and voted at the December Delegates meeting. If approved by the Delegates, it will become effective on January 1, 2016.

SECTION 7. Any champion which shall have won twenty-five points shall become a Grand Champion of Record, if nine or more of said points shall have been won at three shows with a rating of three or more Grand Championship points each and under three different judges, and some one or more of the balance of said points shall have been won under some other judge or judges than the three judges referred to above and at least one Champion was defeated at three shows. A dog becomes a Grand Champion when it is so officially recorded by The American Kennel Club and shall be entitled to a Grand Championship certificate.

Any Grand Champion which shall have won 100 Grand Championship points shall become a Grand Champion Bronze (GCHB). Any Grand Champion which shall have won 200 Grand Championship points shall become a Grand Champion Silver (GCHS). Any Grand Champion which shall have won 400 Grand Championship points shall become a Grand Champion Gold (GCHG). Any Grand Champion which shall have won 800 Grand Championship points shall become a Grand Champion Platinum (GCHP). After earning Grand Champion Platinum title, for each additional 800 Grand Championship points earned the Grand Champion Platinum title initials will be followed by a numeric designation indicating the quantity of times the dog has met the requirements of the Grand Champion Platinum title as defined above, e.g., 1.600 Grand Championship points = GCHP2. The AKC will identify dogs qualifying for these titles by the appropriate designations preceding their AKC name in all official AKC records. In each case, the higher title will supersede the preceding title in all official AKC records such that the highest title will be listed.

Staff also recommends enabling dogs to earn additional levels of Grand Champion Platinum titles for every 800 Grand Champion points earned. This would be recognized by adding a multiplier to the Grand Champion Platinum title (e.g., GCHP2).

The change will be retroactive to the beginning of the Grand Champion program and the dog's titled name will be modified to reflect the highest GCH title they have earned. These dogs have already been awarded an achievement certificate and a medallion for each level previously earned, therefore, a title certificate will not be issued as part of the implementation. Dogs that earn a Grand Championship title after the implementation will receive a standard title certificate. Medallions will continue to be issued for winning the Grand Champion title as well as the advanced Grand Champion titles.

Source of Drop of Unique Entries in Conformation

The Board asked Event Operations staff to provide a review of the number of events and entries in Conformation competition over the past ten years. The Board was to receive the questionnaire and results from a 2013 survey on the subject.

Best of Winners Points Calculation for Low-Entry Breeds

Staff presented a memo on the idea of a modification to the calculation of championship points for dogs awarded Best of Winners from low-entry breeds. The proposed modification was to use the total number of regular class competitors from both sexes when calculating championship points for Best of Winners. The alternative calculation would only be applied if the Best of Winners had not earned a major. The maximum number of points that could be earned by the alternative calculation method would be three.

While there is support for this modification, there are also some significant concerns. There is concern that breeds not identified as low-entry would not also have an opportunity for additional championship points, that the modification would make it too easy for dogs to earn a championship, and the modification was not supported by the Dog Show Rules Delegate Committee. After reviewing the input on this modification, Staff recommends that the idea not be pursued. The Board accepted this recommendation.

Best Practices for Multiple All-Breed or Group Shows in One Day

The Board had directed staff to prepare recommended procedure for clubs holding multiple shows in one day. The memorandum to be sent to any club considering the current pilot program is below:

At their December 2013 Board Meeting the AKC Board of Directors approved a pilot program to allow multiple all-breed and/or group shows to be held on a single day at the same site. The pilot program extends the benefits and enhanced exhibiting experience that have been realized by specialty clubs holding two specialties in one day and the feedback has been very positive. Based on our review of the pilot program we have developed a set of best practices.

PILOT PROGRAM BEST PRACTICES

- The administration of the shows are less complicated if the first show is completed prior to beginning the second show.
- Limiting judges to no more than about eighty-five entries at an individual show will position the club for a timely completion of the shows.
- If two different clubs are holding the two shows, the clubs should work very closely together to coordinate their scheduling.
- Commit to having a larger ring available early for group judging.

- Commence group judging as soon as possible.
- If multiple clubs are holding multiple shows on multiple days, it is recommended that one club holds both of the shows on a single day.
- Take steps to differentiate the judging between the two shows. Examples would be different colored armband numbers, armband number series (100s for the first show and 200s for the second show), and different colored tablecloths at the ring. This is especially important for shows that have overlapping judging.

These best practices will be reviewed throughout the pilot program and may be adjusted, with Board approval, as necessary.

Defibrillators at Shows

The Board asked Event Operations staff to look into the practicality of having defibrillators at every show. After conducting its due diligence, staff believes that the costs, maintenance, training and compliance with state regulations together create an additional burden on clubs and adds a layer of AKC bureaucracy. Staff recommended that a more reasonable approach is to suggest, at the clubs' option, they require their EMT have a defibrillator on site. The Board asked the staff to consider other factors that were identified during the discussion and bring information regarding those back to the Board at a future meeting.

CONSENT

Following discussion, there was a motion by Mr. Arnold, seconded by Mr. Powers, it was VOTED to approve the following Consent Items:

- Approval of Delegates
- Chesapeake Bay Retrievers eligible to participate in Spaniel Hunting Tests
- Resolution for Robert A. Amen

Delegates Approved

Michelle Barlak, Morristown, NJ
to represent Ibizan Hound Club of the United States

Patricia Putnam, East Wenatchee, WA
to represent Icelandic Sheepdog Association of America

Dianne Tyree, Brookline, NH
to represent Tibetan Spaniel Club of America

Bruce D. Wartlieb, Milford, CT
to represent Antelope Valley Kennel Club

Chesapeake Bay Retrievers Eligible to Participate in Spaniel Hunting Tests

The Board VOTED to permit the Chesapeake Bay Retriever to be eligible to enter the Spaniel Hunting Test program. Titles earned in Spaniel Hunting Tests will be designated with a "U" to differentiate the title from those earned in Retriever Hunting Tests (example: JHU). Retriever clubs can apply to become licensed to hold Spaniel Hunting Tests one year following eligibility to participate.

These changes are effective July 1, 2015.

Resolution for Robert A. Amen

AT A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB held on April twentieth, two thousand and fifteen, the following Resolution was unanimously adopted

WHEREAS, **Robert A. Amen**

First became the Delegate for the Port Chester Obedience Training Club on July tenth, two thousand and six; and,

Whereas, he was elected to the Board of Directors of The American Kennel Club on March eighth, two thousand and eleven, serving until March tenth, two thousand and fifteen; and,

Whereas, during his tenure on the Board, he served on the Pension Committee in two thousand and eleven and as Chair of the Audit Committee from two thousand and twelve until two thousand and fifteen; and,

Whereas, he served as Board Liaison to the Delegate Bylaws Committee in two thousand and eleven, and to the Delegate Companion Events Committee from two thousand eleven until two thousand and fifteen; and,

Whereas, his background in public relations and his knowledge of and experience in Companion Events, proved to be invaluable to the Board of Directors and the AKC staff, as it addressed changes and issues in these areas; and,

Whereas, we will ever cherish our association with this distinguished businessman, sportsman, gentlemen, and most of all friend; and,

NOW THEREFORE, be it RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of The American Kennel Club extend to him their most sincere best wishes for the future and their deep appreciation for everything he has done for The American Kennel Club and the Sport of Purebred Dogs.

NEW BUSINESS

Judging Reconsideration

In March 2014, the Board rescinded a prior approval of sixteen additional breeds for Mr. Bo Bengtson. Mr. Bengtson asked that the Board reconsider that decision. There was a motion by Mr. Gladstone, seconded by Dr. Battaglia, to reconsider the March 2014 decision. This motion failed with the VOTE (affirmative: Mr. Gladstone, Dr. Battaglia, Mr. Ashby, Mr. Powers, Mr. Arnold, Mr. Dok; opposed: Mr. Kalter, Mr. Feeney, Mr. Wooding, Ms. Cruz, Dr. Davies, Dr. Garvin; abstaining: Mr. Menaker).

Complaint Filed by the Norwich Terrier Club

In 2013, a large number of Norwich Terriers registrations were cancelled. The Norwich Terrier Club of America has filed a complaint alleging that the owners of two of the dogs involved deliberately registered dogs with The American Kennel Club as Norwich Terriers when they knew or should have known that the dogs were not, in fact, purebred Norwich Terriers. The Board voted to entertain charges and to refer the matter to a Trial Board.

It was VOTED to adjourn Tuesday, April 21, 2015 at 4:05 pm.
Adjourned
Attest:

James P. Crowley, Executive Secretary