



**MINUTES OF THE KENNEL CLUB BREEDS LIAISON COUNCIL MEETING HELD
ON TUESDAY 6 JUNE 2023 AT 11.00AM VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS**

PRESENT:

Mr A Bicknell	Mr E Paterson
Miss C Boggia	Mrs J Piper
Mrs D Britten	Mr K Pursglove
Mr S Collier	Mr D Roberts
Mr J Horswell	Mrs J Sparrow
Mrs T Jackson	Miss S Taylor
Miss SA Leslie	Mrs A Teasdale
Mrs K Moores	Mrs B Thornley
Mrs C Morgan	Mr M Walshaw
Miss E Newton	Mrs S Walton

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mrs H Kerfoot	Interim Chief Operations Officer (Canine Activities & Events)
Miss D Deuchar	Head of Canine Activities
Mr J Winnington	Breed Shows Team Manager
Miss T Newson	Senior Breed Shows Team Officer
Mrs A Bastick	Working Dog Activities Committee Secretary

IN THE CHAIR: MRS JACKSON

ITEM 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1. Apologies were received from Mr J Cuddy, Mr G Davies, Mrs D Ellrich, Mr T Hutchings, Mr R Kinsey, Mrs J Morgan, Miss A Summers. Mr L Anness and Mrs M Swash were not present.
2. All members of the Council introduced themselves.

**ITEM 2. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD
ON WEDNESDAY 25 MAY 2022**

3. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as an accurate record.

ITEM 3. RESULTS OF RECOMMENDATIONS/MATTERS ARISING

4. The Council noted the following updates on outcomes arising from matters discussed at its previous meeting:
 - a. Communication campaign
5. At its meeting held on 4 November 2020, the Council supported a proposal to make the dog owning community more aware of its role and remit, in order to encourage engagement. The Show Executive Committee considered the proposal and whilst in support, it was noted that such an article would need to cover all six Liaison Councils and not just the Breeds Liaison Council. The Council was in favour of an article being published in the Kennel Club Journal. The marketing and communications department had advised that the Kennel Gazette would be a more appropriate channel for such an article than The Kennel Club Journal, however it would be necessary for suitable content to be formulated. One suggestion had been the inclusion of profiles of one or more Council members with an emphasis on their work and achievements via the Council, which would provide an appropriate 'news' element. It was agreed that this should be progressed as soon as possible by the office.
6. The Council noted that Mrs Jackson as chair of the Council had been requested to draft an article, however due to a range of competing priorities, the matter had not progressed any further. Mrs Jackson confirmed that she was still in discussion with the office. It was further noted that delegates must engage with representatives and breeds within their group to ensure that views could be heard.
7. A query was raised as to whether an article or a more regular feature could be placed within Our Dogs. It was confirmed that this was not currently possible however, anyone approached by the press, including Our Dogs should refer this to the office which could consider the request and work with the individual. It was reiterated that delegates and representatives must also work to publicise the Council and the positive work which it was doing. It was noted that there was a process for Council items which could often be lengthy, however there had been a number of 'small wins' included within the recent minutes and the Council must not lose sight of that.
 - b. List of breed clubs on The Kennel Club website
8. At its meeting held on 26 May 2021 the Council considered a proposal from the Irish Water Spaniel Association requesting that The Kennel Club supported breed clubs on its website by providing a list of such clubs and their contact information on the breed information pages with an explanation of their purpose. The Council noted that locating information about breed clubs via The Kennel Club's website was not a simple process and the Association considered that, as many people were not aware of the existence of breed clubs, they would be highly unlikely to look for them unless their attention was

drawn to them. For this reason, it would be helpful for suitable signposting towards breed clubs to be provided for prospective puppy buyers, in order to provide an additional source of guidance and information for them. The Association suggested that The Kennel Club's support in this matter would go some way to provide resources to potential owners.

9. Some concern had been expressed as to the potential difficulties in ensuring that contact information for breed clubs included in breed information pages was kept up to date, and that considerable resources would be required for maintenance. As an alternative it was suggested that owners could be directed to the Find a Club facility via signposting.
10. The Council noted that the Find a Club facility was now live and a link to this had been placed in the breeds a-z section of the website to direct people looking to purchase a dog to relevant breed clubs.

c. Colour Watch

11. The Council was reminded that it had raised concerns with the number of non-breed standard colour registrations. As such, the Council was invited to note a summary regarding the introduction of a 'colour watch' system, which had now received Board approval.
12. Mr Horswell advised that he had been involved in some of the work towards the system, due to his involvement with Dachshunds, he raised the following queries:
 - Whether there would be further education to puppy buyers regarding the colour of puppies
 - Noting that there had been photos of dogs for sale which were of a concerning and highly likely non breed standard colours, on The Kennel Club's Find a Puppy service it was queried what action The Kennel Club was taking to mitigate this issue
 - If/when the Breed Standards and Stud Book Committee would be told that the ownership of 'Colour Watch' would sit within its remit
13. Mr Horswell expressed disappointment that the Breeds Liaison Council was not consulted prior to the development of the Colour Watch scheme, and that no one from the team working on the scheme was present at the current meeting to take questions. The office confirmed that it would undertake to feedback to the Council once discussions with the relevant teams had taken place.
14. The Council expressed the view that non breed standard colour puppies should not be able to be sold via Find a Puppy.

d. Partnership shows

15. The Council was reminded that its views had been requested on the matter of partnership shows. It was noted that views had been sought from Council

members via email. The office confirmed that the matter was progressing through the relevant channels and that an update would be published and provided to the Council in due course.

16. A query was raised as to whether the Council could be advised of what was progressing. The office confirmed that the views received although varied, indicated that change may be wanted.

e. Vulnerable breed stands at Crufts

17. The Council was invited to note that a suggestion was raised that all vulnerable breeds and non-CC breeds receive a 50% discount on the cost of a breed club stand at Crufts. This request was sent directly to the Crufts Committee to ensure it was considered in a timely manner.
18. The Council noted that the suggestion had now been considered by the Crufts Committee, which recommended that only the vulnerable native breeds should receive a discount of £75 noting that the full price was currently £175 which just covered the cost to supply the stand unit. The Council further noted that this had now been approved by the Board and was in force.
19. Mrs Morgan noted that the Welsh Springer Spaniel Club had received its refund of £75 for the stand which was appreciated.

ITEM 4. PROPOSALS

Amend critique regulation to include Kennel Club critique website

Proposed by: Mrs S Pounds-Longhurst – Retriever (Golden) Representative

Presented by: Mrs Walton – Gundog Delegate

20. Mrs Jackson presented the proposal as Mrs Walton was experiencing technical difficulties.

‘That the current regulation regarding the submission of critiques be amended as follows to include The Kennel Club judges critique website as an appropriate place for submissions. It was appreciated that not every judge, exhibitor, etc. would have access to the internet and some exhibitors, breeders etc. still like to read critiques in a weekly journal. Therefore, the requirement for the critique to be published in the dog press should stand.’

F(1)20.d

“All judges at championship shows and open shows must produce a written critique for the first two placings in each Breed class and will dispatch these to ~~at least one of the weekly United Kingdom canine journals~~ **journal and wherever possible upload them onto The Kennel Club’s Judges Critique Website.**”

(Additions in bold, deletions struck through)

(Effective TBC)

21. The proposal was seconded by Mrs Morgan.
22. An amendment was proposed that the words 'wherever possible' be removed from the proposal. It was thought that everybody should be able to submit to both The Kennel Club website and Our Dogs as the weekly canine journal and that the inclusion of the words 'wherever possible' allowed for inconsistencies and would be difficult to monitor.
23. The amended proposal was seconded by Mrs Morgan.
24. The Council commented that The Kennel Club critique website was an excellent free resource for all and that The Kennel Club could do more to promote it.
25. A concern was raised that some judges may not be technically able to submit to The Kennel Club critique website, however the Council was of the view that we were an aging population and the number of judges who may struggle with this would be very small. The need for people to work together and help/support friends who may struggle with technology was noted.
26. A concern was raised regarding judges who submit handwritten critiques, and it was queried whether The Kennel Club would be there to offer support in typing up these critiques. It was clarified by the office that at present there was no facility or resource for this however, should the proposal be recommended, this would be considered internally. It was further clarified that Our Dogs did provide this service and therefore there would be a route that these judges would be able to take, judges would then be able to request a typed copy from Our Dogs.
27. In conclusion, upon a majority vote, the Council **recommended** the proposal for approval by the Show Executive Committee.

ITEM 5. DISCUSSION ITEMS

Expand critique regulation to include all classes, groups and best in show competitions

28. Mrs S Pounds-Longhurst (Retriever (Golden) representative) submitted and Mrs Walton presented the following item for discussion:

'That the current regulation regarding the submission of critiques be amended to include the requirement for judges to produce critiques for the first two placings in all classes plus all group and best in show placings. Given the many changes to the dog show scene in recent years; the need to encourage entries and exhibitors it was proposed that the regulation be expanded. It was noted that many judges already did so.'

F(1)20.d

“All judges at championship shows and open shows must produce a written critique for the first two placings in **all classes and all group and best in show competition placings** ~~each Breed class~~ and will dispatch these to at least one of the weekly United Kingdom canine journals.”

(Additions in bold, deletions struck through)

(Effective TBC)

29. On discussion, the Council agreed that this was a good suggestion, and needed to be read in line with the proposal discussed earlier in the meeting, paragraphs 20-27 refer.
30. It was believed by the Council that exhibitors wanted to see critiques from judges in the public domain and a move to include more critiques was anticipated to be received positively by exhibitors. A view was expressed that most judges produced critiques for Any Variety (AV) classes and groups despite this not being currently covered within the regulations.
31. Disappointment was expressed that the matter could not be recommended to the SEC from this meeting, noting that the matter recommended within item 4 was related to the same regulation. The Council was reminded that only proposals could be recommended however the SEC would be presented with the full Council minutes.
32. The Council was unanimous in its support for the item and expressed a vote of thanks to Mrs Pounds-Longhurst and Mrs Walton. Mrs Walton undertook to speak with Mrs Pounds-Longhurst and bring the matter back to the next meeting as a proposal including any necessary regulation amendments.

Health results on registration documents

Proposed by: Poodle Breed Council

Presented by: Mrs Jackson

33. The Poodle Breed Council submitted, and Mrs Jackson presented the following item for discussion:

‘That The Kennel Club reviews its decision to cease including health test results on Kennel Club registration documents. The Poodle Breed Council proposed that The Kennel Club registration document contains all test results that The Kennel Club requires of breeders in the Assured Breeder Scheme.

As a compromise if this was not possible, that the registration certifications include a message, along the lines of “before considering breeding please check the recommended health tests for <this breed> at

<https://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/dog-breeding/the-kennel-club-assured-breeders/breed-specific-requirements-and-recommendations-including-health-screening/>”

34. The Council queried a previous discussion which it had had regarding the possibility of printing the health results of parents from The Kennel Club website. It was believed that it had previously been confirmed that the functionality would be coming to the website. It was noted that although a separate issue, if results were printable this would mitigate the inclusion of results upon registration documents. The office, alongside the Chair undertook to review previous discussions and feedback on this, noting that the matter of printing results from the website was a wider issue.
35. A view was expressed that the results should not have been removed from the registration documents. It was noted that the rationale for the removal was that the website would have more up to date information. The Kennel Club's strategic aims were raised, and a further view was expressed that the inclusion of health results on registration papers would meet these aims.
36. It was noted that the ownership of health results and registration documents did not sit with the Canine Activities Team however discussion could be fed back to the relevant departments. To conclude, the Council was in support of the item and was of the view that the Poodle Breed Council should bring the item back as a proposal for the next meeting to support the matter.

ITEM 6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Breed Education Coordinators (BECs)

37. Mrs Jackson requested that delegates engage with relevant BECs and breed clubs to ensure that they were up to date with requirements. It was further noted that both the traditional judging route and the Judge Education Programme (Breed Shows) were both options currently available to judges who wished to progress.

Awards

38. The Council noted that Mr Cuddy had pre-submitted a request for an award for breeds that were not allocated championship status and breeds included on the Imported Breed Register. It was noted that this matter had been considered by the Shows Liaison Council at its recent meeting and a proposal was currently progressing, the minutes would be published in due course.

Breeds Liaison Council representatives on The Kennel Club website

39. Mr Collier commented that there appeared to be a few errors on the website for the gundog group representatives. The office confirmed that following some staff changes it was in the process of reviewing the details on the website. Mr Collier, and any other delegated who may be aware of an inaccuracy undertook to advise the office of such which would then be investigated and updated as required. It was noted that all representatives must be approved by the Board.

Breeds Liaison Council – IT processes

40. Miss Leslie issued a vote of thanks to Mrs Jackson for all of the work that she had been doing for the Council. Mrs Jackson thanked Miss Leslie and confirmed that the office had a priority list of items to be worked through and confirmed that progress was being made.
41. Mrs Morgan queried whether there was a timeframe to expect the minutes of the meeting. The office confirmed that the minutes would be available as soon as possible. It was further confirmed that minutes would need to be considered by the relevant Committees and the Committee recommendations would be referred to the Board prior to the Council receiving any outcome. The office confirmed that items from the meeting were planned to be referred to the SEC meeting on 25 July 2023 and Judges Committee (JC) meeting on 26 July, however, should this not be possible items would be referred to the relevant meetings in September/October 2023.

ITEM 7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

42. The Council noted the date of the next meeting was 8 November 2023, proposals for inclusion on the agenda should reach the Breeds Liaison Council Secretary by 10 August 2023.

The meeting closed at 12.25 pm with a vote of thanks to the Chair and the office.

**MRS T JACKSON
CHAIRMAN**