



**MEETING OF THE BREEDS LIAISON COUNCIL TO BE HELD ON 5 JUNE 2024
AT 11.00AM IN THE BOARDROOM, THE KENNEL CLUB, CLARGES STREET**

AGENDA

ITEM 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

**ITEM 2. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY 21 NOVEMBER 2023**

The Council is requested to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 21 November 2023.

(Annex A refers)

ITEM 3. RESULTS OF RECOMMENDATIONS/MATTERS ARISING

Have a Go Dog Show

The Council is requested to note that the Show Executive Committee discussed whether the Have a Go Dog Show initiative was meeting its aims. It was decided that the initiative needed a review and therefore, Have a Go in its current format at all-breed championships shows was put on pause for 2024 to allow time for the event and internal processes to be reworked ideally for 2025.

There had been a number of suggestions as to how to improve and rework the event such as holding events at agricultural shows, with local ringcraft groups being involved and having leaflets about dog shows to be distributed at agricultural and fun shows. It should be noted that it is of utmost importance that events are well run and friendly and it was suggested that holding events at all-breed championship shows may not be the best place.

Having events at agricultural shows would potentially capture a wider audience of people who may not be aware of what a championship dog show is, it may also capture a younger audience, which was thought would be beneficial to the show scene.

It was agreed that views would be sought from the Shows Liaison Council and Breed Liaison Council. It was noted that show societies did not appear to be utilising local ringcraft training groups or publicising the event in their local areas as intended.

The Council is requested to discuss ways in which Have a Go events could be improved to ensure it is meeting its original aims which had been laid out by the

Committee as being to attract new people into the hobby, and not act as a training exercise or ringcraft class for people who already exhibited other dogs or family members of current exhibitors.

The Committee noted that any initiative to encourage people into dog showing needed willing volunteers, to successfully run an event.

ITEM 4. JUDGES EDUCATION PROGRAM (BREED SHOWS) UPDATE

The Council is invited to note a verbal update from the office on the Judges Education Program (Breed Shows).

ITEM 5. SUBMISSION OF JUDGES

The Council is invited to note a reminder from the office of the correct way for breed clubs to submit their judges via the online form. Council delegates are requested to communicate this information to breed representatives, and breed clubs. It should be noted that the form can be found on the website here -

<https://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/forms/single-breeds-sub-group-championship-show-judges-nomination-form/>

ITEM 6. PROPOSALS

- a. **Proposed by: Mrs S Pounds-Longhurst**
Presented by: Mrs S Walton

Proposal:

That the current class definition for Undergraduate be amended as follows to bring it more in line with Graduate, Post Graduate, etc.

Regulation F(A) Definitions of Classes at Championship, Open and Limited Shows:

* applies to championship and open shows only

** applies to limited shows only

UNDERGRADUATE

* For dogs which have not won a Challenge Certificate/CACIB/CAC/Green Star or 3 or more first prizes at championship shows **in Undergraduate, Graduate, Post Graduate, Minor Limit, Mid Limit, Limit or Open Classes whether restricted or not** where Challenge Certificates were offered for the breed (~~Minor Puppy, Special Minor Puppy, Puppy and Special Puppy Classes excepted, whether restricted or not~~).

** For dogs which have not won 3 or more first prizes at open or championship shows **in Undergraduate, Graduate, Post Graduate, Minor Limit, Mid Limit, Limit or Open Classes whether restricted or not** (~~Minor Puppy, Special Minor Puppy, Puppy and Special Puppy Classes excepted, whether restricted or not~~).

(Additions in bold, deletions struck through)

Rationale:

- It would prevent confusion as some exhibitors believed they could still enter Undergraduate unless they have had 3 Undergraduate class wins
- It would help to improve entries in the Undergraduate class
- Where Undergraduate was scheduled, it would help dogs in slower maturing breeds which may not be ready to go from the age classes to Graduate.

- b. **Proposed by: Ms J Cranfield**
Presented by: Mr D Simpson (breed representative)

Proposal:

Breed Club open show Best of Breed should be awarded 1 point towards the Show Certificate of Excellence (ShCEX). A limit of 3 points in total from breed club Best of Breeds may be added.

Rationale:

Currently you can gain Junior Warrant points from both general open shows and breed club open shows. However, for the ShCEX, points from general open shows are allowed but not from breed club open shows.

Whilst it is important to encourage exhibitors to support general open shows, it is important that this does not in turn detract from breed club shows.

More often than not these club open shows will have substantially bigger entries than a breed class at a general open show, so to achieve a Best of Breed is more difficult and should be rewarded with the chance to gain points towards their ShCEX.

The suggested limit of 3 points from breed club open shows is to ensure a balance across shows is kept and it doesn't detract from general open shows.

- c. **Proposed by: Northern Boston Terrier Club**
Presented by: Mr E Paterson

Proposal:

To introduce the same term of office for all volunteer roles.

Rationale:

There is a three-year term of office in place for the role of Breed Health Co-Ordinator, Breed Liaison Council Representatives and Show Liaison Council Representatives. It is suggested that the same term should apply to all other Kennel Club affiliated volunteer roles, such as Breed Education Co-Ordinators. This would bring The Kennel Club in line with the principles and working practices of all major organisations that rely on volunteers to conduct their business, who have set terms for volunteer roles.

The proposal does not prevent current incumbents from re-standing but would enable others who may be interested in volunteering to put themselves forward. It may also encourage more volunteers to consider the roles if they perceive the role to be of a fixed term rather than a prolonged commitment.

- d. **Proposed by: Ms J Cutler**
Presented by: Ms T Jackson

Proposal:

That The Kennel Club allow owners to add the word 'neutered' to their dog's name on show entries if they have notified The Kennel Club of their intention to show a neutered dog or bitch if they have elected to have them neutered

Rationale:

Some judges and stewards are not aware that they should not request sight of a letter from The Kennel Club when a neutered dog is being shown, and some judges still consider it a fault to be penalised or refuse to place the dog.

If the steward can see from the catalogue that the dog is neutered, then the judge can be notified before the class. They would then accept that the dog should be judged the same as the others in the class, with the proviso in the breed standard that 'any departure from the foregoing points should be considered a fault and the seriousness with which the fault should be regarded should in exact proportion to its degree and its effect up on the health and welfare of the dog and dog's ability to perform its traditional work.'

This would require no change to any rules, nor to the registration of the dog. It would merely allow the owner to add the word after the dog's name on show entries. However, if it was felt that it needed to be added to the dog's registration then this could be added to the dog's record when The Kennel Club is notified of the operation. This would then provide evidence of when Permission to Show was granted or notification made.

This may encourage more owners to show their neutered dogs and would in turn help show societies which may be struggling with entries and make it more 'normal' to see neutered dogs being listed in the catalogue. The Kennel Club website advises that a neutered dog can still compete in dog showing and other canine activities and to do so you will need to inform The Kennel Club that the dog has been neutered. A letter from the vet is not needed.

- e. **Proposed by: Poodle Breed Council**
Presented by: Ms T Jackson

Health results on registration documents

At its last meeting the Council considered a discussion item submitted by the Poodle Breed Council for The Kennel Club to review its decision to cease including health test results on Kennel Club registration documents. The Council was in agreement with the discussion item and requested The Poodle Club to bring back a proposal.

The Council is requested to consider the following proposals:

Proposal A:

The Poodle Council requests that The Kennel Club review its decision to cease including health test results on Kennel Club registration documents. The Poodle Council proposes that The Kennel Club registration document contains all test results that The Kennel Club requires of breeders in the Assured Breeder Scheme.

Rationale:

Puppy buyers do not generally know where to find the health tests of the parent dogs. Once the puppy is mature, the owner chooses to breed still in ignorance of the health status of the parents and chooses a mate without understanding the consequences. Our 3 Breed Health Coordinators are aware of this problem because a very common question put to them is how to find the Health Test Results, all three are strongly in support of the proposal.

If the Council is not in support of Proposal A, then it is requested to consider:

Proposal B:

Add a message on the Registration Certificate "Before considering breeding please check the recommended health tests" link <https://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/dog-breeding/the-kennel-club-assuredbreeders/breed-specific-requirements-and-recommendations-including-healthscreening> or guidance on how to find this on The Kennel Club website.

- f. **Proposed by: Whippet Breed Council**
Presented by: Ms E Newton

Proposal:

To add the following definition for a Racing/Coursing class for use when it is held which can be adopted by any of the sighthound breeds.

RACING/LURE COURSING for Whippets over 12 months of age on the first day of the show who have competed (trials not accepted) twice or more in Racing or Lure Coursing during their lifetime with a recognised club/association, prior to the close of entry. The recognised club/association passports or licence will be checked on the day of the show. (Proof of eligibility may be confirmed with the recognised club/association.)

Rationale:

This would ensure uniformity in the definition of the class.

- g. **Proposed by: North East Bull Terrier Club**
Presented by: Mr M Walshaw

Proposal:

That the time limit between judges judging championship shows be reduced to 12 months from 18 months.

Regulation F(1)22.d.(2)(a)

TO:

There must be an interval of not less than ~~48~~ **12** calendar months between the appointment of a judge to award Challenge Certificates to the same sex of the same breed.

- h. **Proposed by: Boxer Breed Council**
Presented by: Mr T Hutchings

Proposal:

The Boxer Breed Council wishes the Council to consider a change to the endorsement 'Progeny not eligible for registration'.

At present the endorsement can be lifted by the breeder but once lifted cannot be reinstated. It is proposed that an additional option should be made available for the endorsement to be lifted by the breeder for one litter at a time, being automatically reapplied after the litter had been registered.

Rationale:

It is understood that conscientious breeders do not want their lines and often their life's work being abused; they do not want their puppies falling into the hands of unscrupulous, commercial breeders; hence they often find it much easier to endorse all their puppies in order to save themselves the worry. However, it is feared that the widespread use of endorsements is a deterrent to new breeders entering the hobby.

We propose that it should be made possible for breeders to lift an endorsement for one litter, but for the endorsement to be reinstated immediately afterwards. Any request for future litters from the owners could then be considered individually by the breeder in a similar way. If, for instance, if the bitch had needed a caesarean and was not a good mother, then it would not be lifted again.

It is believed this straightforward amendment to the endorsement rules would allow the conscientious original breeder the comfort of knowing that they still retained some degree of control, and it would allow the keen newer breeder to demonstrate good faith. It would also mean, hopefully, that more people could become responsible dog breeders.

The real problem with the current system is that the removal of an endorsement is a one off, irreversible act. Once it has been removed a breeder loses control over their line. There have been examples of breeders lifting an endorsement for all the right reasons, but then seeing the bitch in question go on to have litter after unsuitable litter and there is nothing the original breeder can do.

ITEM 7. DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. Presented by: Mr J Horswell

Matches and Special Events

Whether the maximum number of dogs permitted to enter matches should be increased from 64.

Many breed clubs hold special 'of the year' events on a knockout match basis. The regulations currently state that no more than 64 dogs may compete in a match. Is this number appropriate if the club holds different competitions, e.g. puppy, veteran etc.

Could a licence apply to each competition, in which case the limit is 64 per contest. Breeds with varieties find this number limits the number of participants, while other breeds could invite all Challenge Certificate winners.

b. Presented by: Mr J Horswell

Written Critiques

Whether breed clubs should be encouraged to ask their judges to provide written critiques on all dogs exhibited at breed club shows.

These shows could allow for written critiques to be provided, where time constraints and the impact on other breeds and group judging is not a consideration. This would give exhibitors more value for their entry fee and could be a useful training aid for judge and observer at open show level. At championship shows exhibitors would gain a critique from an expert, and if a student judge is present, it would enhance their education.

c. Presented by: Mrs S Walton

Special Beginner Definition

The Council is invited to discuss concerns, raised by the Labrador Club of Scotland, with regards to the definition of Special Beginners and to consider reviewing and rewriting the criteria for Special Beginners to better reflect its original purpose of encouraging new entrants.

The current criteria for Special Beginners, as stated in the schedule, includes individuals who have not won a Challenge Certificate or Reserve Challenge Certificate, or those whose breeds have not been allocated Championship Status, Best of Sex or Reserve Best of Sex at a championship show. Under this definition, individuals with several years of experience are still classified as beginners.

Additionally, individuals seeking judging qualifications can participate in Special Beginners, even though they haven't exhibited or bred a dog to the extent of winning a Challenge Certificate or Reserve Challenge Certificate. Once these individuals obtain judging qualifications, it raises the question of whether they will continue to participate in Special Beginners classes. There appears to be some ambiguity regarding when an individual ceases to be a Special Beginner as individuals with multiple Junior Warrant winners and other stud book number winners can still enter the category. This raises concerns about the spirit of the class and whether it aligns with its intended purpose.

It is suggested that Junior Warrant points should not be gained from a win from the Special Beginners class as it gives an unfair advantage against other exhibitors who are not eligible.

It is also suggested that a time limit for eligibility be introduced or redefining the criteria to exclude individuals who have achieved certain milestones in their breeding or exhibiting journey.

A suggestion on how the definition could be re-worded is provided as follows:

“For dogs that have not previously won 5 first places in Special Beginners at open shows and 3 first places in Special Beginners at championship shows.”

This would ensure exhibitors with ten-plus years of experience wouldn't be able to stay in the class as a result of them having won their way out of it.

The Council is invited to note that a proposal regarding Special Beginners is due for consideration by the Shows Liaison Council at its meeting on 23 April 2024. A verbal update will be provided as to the outcome of the Shows Liaison Council meeting.

d. Presented by: Mr D Roberts

Colour Not Recognised Puppy Adverts

The Dachshund Club would like to seek the views and the support of the Breed Liaison Council for The Kennel Club's Find a Puppy service to no longer accept advertisements for colour not recognised puppies.

Rationale: People looking for a puppy and seeking advice from The Kennel Club will expect information to be accurate and assume that puppies being advertised by The Kennel Club will be Kennel Club registered and have a Kennel Club 'seal of approval'. There is widespread concern at the high number of puppies being registered with The Kennel Club that are of colours outside of the Kennel Club Breed Standard and advertised on the Find a Puppy website. The reason why The Dachshund Club are against the dilute colours being bred is that there can be health issues associated with them, for example loss of fur. Some of these dilute colours are being mated to dapples (merle). We are now seeing piebald dapples of dilute colours. This is not an issue that is confined to the Dachshund breed.

e. Presented by: Mr M Walshaw

The Southern Dandie Dinmont Terrier Club would like the Council to consider reducing the time limit between judging appointments at championship shows for vulnerable breeds, specifically relating to breed specialists, from 18 months to 12 months.

Breed specialists within most vulnerable breeds are rare and it can be difficult for show secretaries to find a balance between breed specialists and all-rounders. More flexibility around the 18-month rule between appointments for our breed judges could prove to be beneficial for our three clubs when trying to secure the services of a judge who we would hope would bring a good entry to our championship shows. We believe we are not the only numerically small vulnerable breed which finds itself in this situation.

A breed specialist for Dandie Dinmont Terriers is defined as needing to have 'preferably owned and exhibited Dandie Dinmont Terriers for a minimum of 5 years and to have bred and/or owned a minimum of 3 dogs which obtained an entry in The Kennel Club Stud Book when under the ownership of the person'.

Currently, there are 33 judges on Find a Judge who could be classed as a breed specialist for Dandie Dinmont Terriers, but there are a number who are no longer judging for various reasons and 3 who reside overseas. This means that there are a possible 26 breed specialists, with 23 residing in the United Kingdom and within that number the status of another 4 judges is unknown.

The Southern Dandie Dinmont Terrier Club would like to see how the other vulnerable breeds view the situation and whether they find themselves in a similar situation.

ITEM 8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Please give at least two weeks advance notice of matters to be raised under 'Any Other Business' as this assists the office if research is required. These items are discussed at the discretion of the Chair.

ITEM 9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Council is invited to note that the next meeting is scheduled for **5 November 2024**. The submission deadline for items for the agenda is 7 August 2024.

NOTES:

1. The Kennel Club will reimburse standard rail fares to all representatives attending the meeting, from their addresses as recorded at The Kennel Club. Claim forms will be available at the meeting.
2. Those resident in Northern Ireland or Scotland may apply in advance for authority to substitute shuttle air travel for standard rail fare, although it is requested that tickets are booked well in advance to take advantage of any reduction in fares.
3. Please give advance notice of matters to be raised under Any Other Business. This assists the office if research is required. These items are discussed at the discretion of the Council Chairman.
4. Kennel Club Liaison Council Regulations state that The Kennel Club will bear the cost of all reasonable and externally incurred costs connected with a Council, if agreed in advance. Therefore, representatives should apply to The Kennel Club for approval of any costs they may wish to claim prior to the expense being incurred.

THE KENNEL CLUB'S STRATEGIC AIMS

- ***Champion the wellbeing of dogs***
- ***Safeguard and enhance the future of pedigree dogs, addressing breed-associated health issues***
- ***Protect the future of dog activities together with our grassroots network***
- ***Become relevant to more dog owners to increase our impact***
- ***Deliver an excellent member experience and widen our community***
- ***Ensure we are financially secure and sustainable***