

American Kennel Club, Inc.
SPECIAL MEETING of the BOARD OF DIRECTORS
AKC Offices at 101 Park Avenue, New York, NY and via Video Conference
April 6, 2020

The Board convened via Video Conference on Monday, April 6, 2020 at 11:05 a.m.

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

There was a motion by Mr. Powers, seconded by Ms. Biddle and the Board VOTED (unanimously) to suspend the Board Policy on Phone Participation established in 1996 which prohibits Board members from voting if they are participating in the meeting by phone.

The February 2020 Board minutes, copies of which had been provided to all Directors, were reviewed.

Upon a motion by Mr. Powers, seconded by Ms. Biddle, the February 2020 Board meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was an EXECUTIVE SESSION at the beginning of the meeting to discuss sensitive business matters. It was reported that the following Executive Officers were re-elected:

Dennis B. Sprung, President/Chief Executive Officer

Gina M. DiNardo, Executive Secretary

Board Appointment of AKC PAC Member

Following a motion by Ms. McAteer, seconded by Mr. Sweetwood the Board VOTED (unanimously) to appoint Dr. Michael Knight to the AKC PAC Board.

Board Appointment of AKC CHF Member

Following a motion by Mrs. Wallin, seconded by Ms. McAteer the Board VOTED (unanimously) to appoint Steven Hamblin to the AKC Canine Health Foundation Board.

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Mr. Sprung provided the Board with a report on actions that Staff had taken in the last month in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The complete report is included as Addendum A to these minutes.

Legal Status Report

The Board reviewed a legal status report on Legal activities for the month of March 2020.

FINANCE

Peter Rohslau, Controller, summarized AKC's unaudited financial results for the two months ended February 29, 2020. Revenue was down \$98 thousand, or 1% below budget, mainly due to weakness in fees related to events and sponsorships. This weakness was offset by strong results in registration and admission sales to the Meet the Breeds® event in NYC. Controllable expenses were down \$433 thousand, or 4% below budget, as a result of reduced payroll related costs (14 headcount below budget) and a delay of some marketing related costs. These savings were partially offset by increased spending to secure the Meet the Breeds® rental space. Non-controllable expenses were down \$185 thousand, or 8% below budget, as savings in depreciation

were realized from reduced capital spending since Q4 2019 along with other expense savings. Net Operating Income exceeded budget by \$520 thousand, mostly as a result of cost savings identified above. These results were prior to the effects of the pandemic. Other non-operating losses were almost \$5 million with a majority of the loss coming from investments.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Mari-Beth O'Neill, Vice President, Sport Services participated in this portion of the meeting via videoconference.

Lowchen Proposed Breed Standard Revision

The Board reviewed proposed revisions to the Lowchen breed standard, submitted by the Lowchen Club of America (LCA). The current standard was approved May 11, 2010.

Following a motion by Dr. Garvin, seconded by Mrs. Wallin, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to approve the proposed revisions to the Lowchen standard for publication for comment in the Secretary's page of the *AKC Gazette*.

Biewer Terrier Eligibility to Compete in Toy Group

The Board reviewed a petition submitted by the Biewer Terrier Club of America seeking acceptance into the AKC Stud Book and for the Biewer to be eligible to compete in the Toy Group.

The Board of Directors, at the July 2018 Board Meeting, approved the Biewer as eligible to compete in the Miscellaneous Class effective July 3, 2019. Per the approved policy, breeds will remain in Miscellaneous Class one to three years and be evaluated at the end of the first year.

Following a motion by Mr. Smyth, seconded by Dr. Knight, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to accept the Biewer Terrier into the AKC Stud book effective January 1, 2021 with eligibility to compete in the Toy Group. The Board also approved the breed standard as the official AKC Standard for the breed.

Standard of the Biewer Terrier

GENERAL APPEARANCE: The Biewer Terrier is an elegant, longhaired, uniquely colored toy terrier with a breed signature ponytail. The coat parts down the middle, hanging straight and evenly on both sides of the body as though a comb has been used to part it. The back is level, with height at shoulders being equal to height at the croup. Although the outline of the dog gives the appearance of a square, the body length is slightly longer than the overall height. The tail is set high and carried well arched over the body, covered with a long luxurious plume. The Biewer Terrier has a lighthearted whimsical, childlike attitude. Although mischievous at times, they are obedient and make a loyal companion.

SIZE PROPORTION, SUBSTANCE: *Size-* Height at the shoulders is the same as the height at the croup, measuring 7 to 11 inches, with weight being 4 to 8 lbs. *Proportion-* Length of body from prosternum to ischium is longer than over all height, making the dog off square although square is acceptable. *Substance-* Body is fine to medium boned with a level top line. *Serious Fault-* Over 8 lbs.

HEAD: *Expression-* Is more human than that of a dog, being bright and intelligent. *Eyes-* Are medium sized and may be round or almond shaped with a crisp, clear countenance. *Iris-* as dark as possible. *Ears-* Are small, upright, V shaped, moderately wide set and covered with hair except the tips being shaved. They are set to the back of the skull and the base is level with the eyes. *Skull-* Slightly rounded. *Stop-* Moderate. *Muzzle-* One-third the length of the head.

Eye rims, Nose, and Lips- Completely black. *Bite*- Level or scissor bite. *Teeth*- Straight and even. *Serious Fault*- Incomplete pigment on the eye rims, nose, and lip; Ears not standing erect. *Disqualification*- Blue eye(s).

NECK, TOPLINE, BODY: *Neck*- Moderate in length, free from throatiness. *Topline*- Level. Body-length is slightly longer than the overall height although square is acceptable. *Chest*- Comes to the elbows with a good width. *Ribs*- Moderately sprung. *Underline*- Slightly tucked up. *Back*- Level topline. *Loin*- Well developed and strong. *Tail*- Set high, when in movement carried well arched over the body in a graceful sickle curve, covered with a long luxurious plume. Plume lies to either side of the body. Length of tailbone must go to the stifles or longer. When reposed, the tail may be relaxed. A kink in the tail is not to be faulted. *Serious Faults*- Roach or rounded back; high in the front or rear.

FOREQUARTERS: Forelegs should be straight, elbows neither in nor out. *Angulation*- Moderate. Shoulders are nicely laid back to allow for good reach and freedom of movement. *Elbows*- set close to the body. *Legs*- Straight when viewed from the front are muscular and covered with hair. *Pasterns*- Up and straight. *Dewclaws*- May be removed but not required. *Feet*- Round. *Toes*- Well arched covered with hair which may be trimmed not to impede movement or trimmed to show the shape of the foot. *Pads*- Black and/or flesh. *Nails*- Black and/or white.

HINDQUARTERS: In balance with the forequarters. *Angulation*- Rear to match front. *Legs*- Hind legs are straight when viewed from behind, muscular and covered with hair. *Stifle*- Slightly bent when viewed from the side. *Hocks*- Straight when viewed from behind, pointing neither in nor out. *Dewclaws*- May be removed but not required. *Feet*- Round. *Toes*- Well arched covered with hair which may be trimmed not to impede movement or trimmed to show the shape of the foot. *Pads*- Black and/or flesh. *Nails*- Black and/or white.

COAT: Long and flowing with a soft silky texture. Hair is straight without an undercoat, hanging close to the ground if not touching. Coat maybe trimmed to floor length for ease of movement. Head fall is tied up into a single ponytail on top of the head, hanging loose. Puppy ponytails may be placed a little lower on the head as to gather the short hairs. A bow is used for adornment; no topknots or rollovers. Feet are trimmed for a neat, clean appearance. Trim around anus. Head falls that have been altered by teasing, curling, topknots, or roll overs shall be so severely penalized as to be eliminated from competition.

COLOR: The Biewer Terrier is a uniquely colored toy terrier. *Head Coloring*- Blue/Black, Gold/Tan and White in good symmetry. Any combination of the following two colors, (Blue/Black and Gold/ Tan); (Gold/ Tan and White) in good symmetry is acceptable. *Body Coloring*- Hair on back is blue/black and white. Amounts of each color are of personal preference with no dominating patterns. No amount of tan hair may be found on the back, belly, chest, legs or feet. A small amount of tan hair may be found around the anus. *Chest, Stomach, Legs and Tip of the Tail*- White. The white from the chest should come up the neck to cover the chin. Legs are to be white from the elbows and stifles to the feet. *Disqualification*- any tan hair on back, belly, chest, legs or feet.

GAIT: The Biewer Terrier moves with confidence and pride. Movement should be graceful, smooth and straightforward without being stilted or hackneyed. When viewed from the side the top line remains level, he gives an impression of rapid movement, size considered. Hind legs should track in line with the front legs, going neither inside nor outside. Tail must be up when in movement. *Serious Fault*- Hackneyed gait in adults.

TEMPERAMENT: Intelligent, loyal and very devoted to their human family. They have a fun loving, childlike attitude that makes them a great companion for all ages. They quickly make friends with animals of any origin.

The foregoing description is of the ideal Biewer Terrier. Any deviation from the above described dog must be penalized to the extent of the deviation.

SERIOUS FAULTS: Roach or rounded back; Hackneyed gait in adults; Incomplete pigment on the eye rims, nose, and lips; ears not standing erect; over 8 lbs.

ELIMINATING FAULTS: Head falls that have been altered by teasing, curling, topknots, or roll overs.

DISQUALIFICATIONS: Blue eye(s); Any tan on back, belly, Chest, legs or feet.

CONFORMATION

Doug Ljungren, Executive Vice President, Sports & Events; Mari-Beth O'Neill, Vice President, Sport Services; Tim Thomas, Vice President of Dog Show Judges; Glenn Lycan, Director, Event Operations Support; and Alan Slay, Director, Event Programs participated in this portion of the meeting via video conference.

Limited Number of Events Policy

Starting in January 2019, the Limited Number of Events Policy was changed to provide flexibility across the country. The goal was to assist clubs that might want to hold a third show and provide additional opportunities for local exhibitors without negatively impacting other clubs in the region. Given one year of experience under the new policy, the staff presented a memo at the January 2020 meeting to explore possible additions to the policy that could further assist clubs without negatively impacting other clubs in the area.

Following their discussion in January, the Board requested a modification to the Limited Number of Events Policy to allow clubs the option of holding a third show provided they meet specific criteria. The staff recommendation is, in addition to the current policy, a club would qualify for a third show provided there are no other shows within 500 miles on the day of the show or any day of the cluster.

Following a motion by Mr. Sweetwood, seconded by Mr. Hamblin the Board VOTED (In favor: Ms. Biddle, Mr. Carota, Dr. Davies, Dr. Garvin, Mr. Hamblin, Dr. Knight, Ms. McAteer, Mr. Powers, Mr. Sweetwood, Mr. Tatro, Mrs. Wallin; against: Mr. Smyth; abstained Dr. Battaglia) to approve an addition to the Limited Number of Events Board policy which will allow clubs the option of holding a third show provided there are no other shows within 500 miles on the day of the show or any day of the cluster.

This addition to the policy is effective immediately.

Limited Number of Events Policy (April 2009 Board meeting; amended March 2015, July 2016, January 2017, January 2018, August 2018 & April 2020)

- All-breed or limited-breed clubs have the option to hold two shows in a calendar year.
- Local specialty clubs have the option to hold shows on two days per year or two shows per year, at their option. Local specialty clubs have the option to hold one additional show in conjunction with their breed's national specialty. There is no limit on national clubs.
- All-breed and limited-breed clubs in Alaska, Hawaii and Puerto Rico have the option to hold up to four shows in a calendar year.
- Show or obedience clubs have the option to hold any number of obedience or rally trials.

- No conformation events will be approved to be held on or between December 24th and December 31st.
- Clubs in the continental U.S. granted isolated status prior to January 1, 2019 will retain their isolated status and will be allowed to hold up to 4 shows per year.
- An all-breed or limited-breed club may, at their option, hold a third show provided the following criteria are met:

1. All of a club's shows must be held within 50 miles of the club's territory.

2. All-breed clubs must have 20 or more open weekends in a calendar year (no all-breed show) within 400 miles from the club's show site, and there are no all-breed shows within 400 miles on the day of the third show or any day of the cluster.

Or

All-breed clubs may hold a third all-breed event in a calendar year if there are no all-breed shows within 500 miles on the day of the third show or any day of the cluster.

3. Limited-breed clubs must have 20 or more open weekends in a calendar year (no all-breed/limited-breed of the same group shows) within 400 miles from the club's show site, and there are no limited-breed shows within 400 miles on the day of the third show or any day of the cluster.

Or

Limited-breed clubs may have a third limited-breed event in a calendar year if there are no all-breed shows or limited-breed shows of the same group within 500 miles on the day of their third show or any day of the cluster.

When multiple all-breed clubs are clustering together only the club whose territory the event weekend is being held in may be granted a third show. If the multi-club weekend is being held outside of any of the club's territories no third show will be granted.

Entry Limitations for Two AB Shows in One Day Policy

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

Based on the actual experience of clubs that held two shows in one day in 2019, the recommendation is to modify the limit on the number of entries to 600 entries per show. Currently the limit is 500 entries per show. The other provisions to this policy will remain unchanged. These are – (1) clubs must provide at least one ring per 100 entries, (2) limit judging assignments to 100 dogs per event, with a maximum of 175 dogs per day, and (3) limit to no more than one special attraction with group competition between the two shows. These provisions ensure that events are completed in a reasonable time. The two shows in one day policy is meant to assist clubs holding small shows.

This will be discussed further at the May meeting.

Isolated Small Clubs-Allow Four (4) Shows in Three (3) Days

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

This will be discussed further at the May meeting.

Reinstatement for Dogs Disqualified for Attack by a Judge

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

This will be discussed further at the May meeting.

Application for Futurity or Sweepstakes – Chapter 2, Section 10

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

The recommended changes generalize the language by removing the reference to a form and whether or not the futurity or sweepstakes will be open to nonmembers; providing flexibility to remain consistent with any modification to the application procedures without further amendment to the rule.

This will be discussed further at the May meeting.

Grand Champion Points – Rules Applying to Dog Shows – Chapter 16, Section 6

The Board reviewed a recommendation to modify Chapter 16, Section 6 of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows*, to award at independent specialties for breeds with varieties the highest number of Grand Champion points awarded in any variety at that specialty to the entry awarded Best of Breed in the inter-variety competition and the highest number of Grand Champion points awarded in its sex in any variety at that specialty to the entry awarded Best of Opposite Sex to Breed of Breed in the inter-variety competition.

This will be discussed further at the May meeting.

JUDGING OPERATIONS

Doug Ljungren, Executive Vice President, Sports & Events; and Tim Thomas, Vice President, Dog Show Judges, participated in this portion of the meeting via video conference.

Mandatory Ramp Examination – Clumber Spaniels

The Board reviewed a request from the Clumber Spaniel Club of America that the Board of Directors mandate the use of a ramp for all examinations of the breed including during group and Best in Show judging. Currently, Clumber Spaniels may be judged either on the ground or on the ramp at the discretion of the judge.

This will be discussed further at the May meeting.

CLUBS

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

Group Clubs – Expediting the Sanctioning Process

The Board reviewed a Staff recommendation to make several changes to the current policy regarding the membership requirements and the sanctioning process for Group clubs. These changes are meant to reduce the administrative burden of forming a Group club and to shorten the time required for a club to become licensed to hold a show.

The specific recommendations are:

1. Reduce membership requirements to 20 household / 12 local. (Currently 30 household / 25 local)
2. Reduce breed representation to 25% of the breeds in the group. (Currently 50%)
3. Reduce the sanctioning process to be dependent upon the amount of experience in the club. (Currently two B-matches and two A-matches are required)

This will be discussed further at the May meeting.

Delegates and Member Clubs

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

Report on Member Clubs Bylaws Approved in February and March 2020

Basset Hound Club of America (1937)

Eastern German Shorthaired Pointer Club, Lebanon, NJ (1940)

Report on Newly Licensed Clubs Approved in in February and March 2020

Chihuahua Club of Hawaii, Island of Oahu, HI, 43 total households, 43 local.

Pacific Northwest Greyhound Club, greater Tacoma, WA (including communities north to SedroWoolley, south to Woodburn, OR), 20 total households, 13 local.

Toy Dog Club of Alaska, greater Anchorage, AK (including communities south of Denali National Park, east to St. Wrangle National Park and west to Lake Clark National Park), 30 total households, 27 local.

Willacoochee River Beagle Club, Willacoochee, OK (including communities of Enigma, Alapaha and northeast to Baxley), 20 total households, 8 local.

COMPLIANCE

Approval of Annual Fees

The Charter and Bylaws of the American Kennel Club, Inc. "Charter and Bylaws" require that the Board of Directors set deposits annually for the submission of complaints pursuant to Article XII, Section 1; as well as deposits for appeals to an Appeal Trial Board pursuant to Article XIII, Section 7.

The current deposit to file a complaint pursuant to Article XII, Section 1 is \$500. The current deposit to file an Appeal to an Appeal Trial Board is \$200. Staff requests that these deposits remain the same for 2020.

This will be discussed further at the May meeting.

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

CONSENT

Following a motion by Mr. Sweetwood, seconded by Mr. Carota it was VOTED (unanimously) to approve the following Consent items:

- Delegate Approvals
- Dogue de Bordeaux Proposed Breed Standard Revisions
- Field Spaniel Breed Standard Revision
- Appointment of AKC PAC Board Members
- Patricia M. Cruz Resolution
- William J. Feeney Resolution

Delegates Approved

James F. Barron, Redwood City, CA
To represent Contra Costa Kennel Club

Joann B. Beavers, St. Michaels, MD
To represent Talbot Kennel Club

Stephanie A. Crawford, Binghamton, NY
To represent Del-Otse-Nango Kennel Club

Andrea C. Hesser, Flower Mound, TX
To represent Mid-Continent Club of Tulsa

Tracy J. Pancost, Louisville, KY
To represent West Highland White Terrier Club of America

Dogue de Bordeaux Proposed Breed Standard Revisions

The Board VOTED to approve the proposed revisions to the Dogue de Bordeaux breed standard to be balloted by the membership of the Dogue de Bordeaux Society of America in accordance with the club's Constitution and Bylaws.

Field Spaniel Proposed Breed Standard Revisions

The Field Spaniel Society of America, Inc (FSSA) has submitted proposed revisions to the Field Spaniel standard, specifically to add a disqualification for the sable color pattern. The current standard was approved September 14, 1998. The Board approved the FSSA to ballot the membership at the January 2020 meeting.

The ballot results have been received from the FSSA:

Total number of Members Balloted	251
Ballots Returned	203
Valid Ballots	196
Invalid Ballots	7
Yes Ballots	146 74%
No Ballots	50 26%

The Board VOTED to approve the revisions to the Color section of the breed standard with an effective date of June 30, 2020.

Color: Black, liver, golden liver or shades thereof, in any intensity (dark or light); either self-colored or bicolored. Bi-colored dogs must be roaned and/or ticked in white areas. Tan points are acceptable on the aforementioned colors and are the same as any normally tan pointed breed. White is allowed on the throat, chest, and/or brisket, and may be clear, ticked, or roaned

on a self-color dog. The sable pattern, a lighter undercoat with darker shading as tipping or dark overlay, with or without a mask present, is a disqualification. Disqualifications: The sable pattern, a lighter undercoat with darker shading as tipping or dark overlay, with or without a mask present, is a disqualification.

Appointment of AKC PAC Board Members

The Board VOTED to reappoint Mr. Christopher Sweetwood, Ms. Wendy Jordan and Dr. Carmen Battaglia for new two-year terms.

Patricia M. Cruz Resolution

AT A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OF

THE AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB

Held on **April 6th**, two thousand and twenty,

the following Resolution was unanimously adopted:

WHEREAS,

Patricia M. Cruz

First joined the Delegate body as Delegate from the Santa Cruz Kennel Club in March nineteen eighty-nine, and has served as Delegate from the Heart of Plains Kennel Club since June two thousand and six; and,

WHEREAS, she was first elected to the American Kennel Club Board of Directors in two thousand and twelve, was reelected to the Board in two thousand and sixteen, and was elected Vice Chairman of the Board in two thousand and nineteen; and,

WHEREAS, during her Board tenure, her experience as an Executive Field Representative, an AKC judge, an officer and Director of the Ladies Kennel Association of America and Riverhead Kennel Club, and a founding member of the Owner Handler Association were invaluable assets in her role as Board Liaison to the Delegate All-Breed Club Committee and in the deliberations of the Board of Directors; and,

WHEREAS, her professional background as a union secretary and president, a journalist, and a sales and marketing consultant uniquely qualified her for leadership during an unprecedented period of growth and diversification for the American Kennel Club; and,

WHEREAS, we are ever mindful of the contributions she has made to the organization and our sport during her lifetime in dogs, and will always recall fondly the enthusiasm, intelligence, and with that endeared her to her colleagues; and,

WHEREAS, we will ever cherish our association with this distinguished sportswoman and friend;

NOW THEREFORE, be it

RESOLVED, that the Directors of The American Kennel Club extend to her their most sincere best wishes for the years ahead and their deep appreciation for her past and continuing dedicated service to The American Kennel Club.

William J. Feeney Resolution

**AT A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF
THE AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB**

Held on **April 6th**, two thousand and twenty,
the following Resolution was unanimously adopted:

WHEREAS,

William J. Feeney

First joined the Delegate body as the representative of the Sir Francis Drake Kennel Club in June two thousand and four, serving several terms on the Delegate Bylaws Committee, where he worked to protect the prerogatives of the Delegate Body;

WHEREAS, he was first elected to The American Kennel Club Board of Directors in March, two thousand and twelve, and was reelected in March two thousand and sixteen; and,

WHEREAS, he was elected Chairman of The American Kennel Club Board of Directors in March two thousand and nineteen, and served as Chairman until March two thousand and twenty; and,

WHEREAS, the experience he gained as President, Director, and Bylaws Committee Chairman for the Golden Retriever Club of America was an asset in his role as Board Liaison to the Parent Club Committee; and,

WHEREAS, beginning in nineteen seventy-eight he distinguished himself as a breeder-exhibitor of quality Golden Retrievers; and,

WHEREAS, as a committed advocate for canine health, he is a recipient of the Golden Retriever Foundation Award of Merit and a past Vice President of the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals; and,

WHEREAS, his professional expertise as a lawyer was invaluable in his role as a member of the Legal Outreach Committee formed to find means to improve the image of, and find additional advocates for, purebred dogs and the AKC among the legal and legislative communities;

WHEREAS, his tenure on the Board of Directors and as Chairman of the Board coincided with an era of unprecedented growth for The American Kennel Club in the advancement of our sport and responsible ownership among pet owners; and,

WHEREAS, we are ever mindful of the great contributions he has made and continues to make to The American Kennel Club and the Sport of Purebred Dogs; and,

WHEREAS, we are will ever cherish our association with this distinguished lawyer, sportsman, and friend; and,

NOW THEREFORE, be it

RESOLVED, the Board of Directors of The American Kennel Club extend their most sincere best wishes for the years ahead and their deep appreciation for his dedicated service to the American Kennel Club.

REQUEST FOR AKC MEMBERSHIP

Following a motion by Dr. Garvin, seconded by Ms. Biddle the Board VOTED (In favor: Dr. Battaglia, Ms. Biddle, Mr. Carota, Dr. Davies, Dr. Garvin, Dr. Knight, Ms. McAteer, Mr. Powers, Mr. Sweetwood, Mr. Tatro, Mrs. Wallin; abstained Mr. Hamblin and Mr. Smyth) to disapprove the application for AKC Membership submitted by the Mid-Atlantic Leonberger Club of Virginia.

ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE BOARD TO HELP CLUBS

In order to provide the sport greater flexibility during this time of uncertainty, the AKC Board discussed and VOTED unanimously the following standard procedures/policies. These modifications will be in effect for 2020, unless specific dates are noted.

1. Event Application Fees – For events cancelled in 2020, Event Application fees will be applied to the club's next event of the same type provided the club has notified the AKC of the cancellation.
2. Modification to Limited Events Policy – Clubs previously not eligible may hold a third show in connection with their show/cluster if they meet the following provisions:
 - Must hold all of their shows within 50 miles of the club's territory, and
 - No other shows are held within 500 miles of the show site on the day of the show or any day of the cluster.
3. Distance Restrictions for Conformation
 - Extend the distance conformation clubs may hold a show outside their territory from 125 miles to **200 miles**. This applies to all types of conformation clubs – Specialty clubs, Group clubs and All-Breed clubs.
 - Extend the distance specialty clubs may join another specialty club of the same breed outside their territory from 200 miles to **300 miles**.
 - There is no change to the conflict policy – 200 miles between shows.
4. Breed Specialties – Increase the number of specialties a local specialty club may hold from two specialties or two days of specialties per year to **two independent or concurrent specialties or two days of independent or concurrent specialties, plus up to four designated specialties**.
5. Assignment Conflicts for Conformation Judges
 - Waive the policy restricting judges from being assigned the same breed, Group or Best in Show at events held within 30 days and 200 miles. This applies to conflicting weekends and does not apply to events on the same weekend, circuit or cluster.

- Waive the same day exhibiting restriction for judges assigned only NOHS Groups and/or NOHS BIS. This will provide clubs greater flexibility and options in panel assignments. Judge assigned NOHS group or NOHS BIS show only may exhibit the same day, but MAY NOT compete in NOHS the same day they judge.
6. Junior Qualifications
 - Allow Juniors that turned 18 on or after March 1 to compete until Oct 31. This will encompass the qualifying period for both the AKC National Championship (ANC) and Westminster.
 - 2020 ANC Junior criteria revised to 3 wins in Open with Competition (usually 5 wins).
 7. Clubs – Information regarding the Government Stimulus Package has been posted on the Club Development Facebook page and the Government Relations website. (www.akc.org/legislative-alerts/summary-of-federal-cares-act/)
 8. Event Applications – Waive all fines for the late submittal of event applications and judges panels through the end of October. This provides clubs more time to reschedule and plan their events.
 9. Conformation Judges Education – Free online breed education webinars presented by Parent Club Judges Education Coordinators/Presenters provide additional educational resources which may be submitted on future application for the breed.
 10. Conformation Judges Education – All Canine College breed courses are being offered at half price thru May 31.
 11. Clubs – Waive the Public Education requirements. Clubs are encouraged to do their best to increase their social media presence, interact and educate their local communities.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

It was VOTED to adjourn Monday, April at 4:30 p.m.

Adjourned

Attest: _____

Gina M. DiNardo, Executive Secretary

Addendum A

COVID-19 AKC Efforts

COVID-19 EFFORTS RECAP

- Created a COVID-19 information page: <https://www.akc.org/press-center/covid-19-updates-from-the-american-kennel-club/> (updated regularly)
 - Content includes:
 - Information from the CHC and WHO
 - Frequently asked questions
 - Event cancellations (updated daily)
 - Links to additional AKC resources (Government Relations, Marketing, Canine College)
 - Created a resource page for dog owners coping with COVID-19 crisis: <https://www.akc.org/dog-owners/coronavirus-covid19-outbreak-resources-dog-lovers/>
 - Topics include (but are not limited to):
 - Key articles – “Can Dogs Get Coronavirus”, “FAQ on AKC Event Impacts” and “AKC Event Cancellations”
 - Indoor Fun and Games for Dogs
 - Train Your Dog at Home (video series)
 - Daily Dose of Puppies (videos)
 - Fun dog related articles and quizzes (e.g. “20 books for dog lovers of all ages”, “Can you guess the breed by the nose”)
 - Developed AKC’s Woof from Home Challenge”
 - Daily activity for dog owners that encourages them to spend time with their dog doing something constructive, fun AND comforting
 - Each activity falls under one of the following themes: DIY, Trick, Health or Bond/Love
 - Each activity can be done from the comfort of one’s home with things found around the house
 - Graphic detailing the activity is posted every morning on Facebook, Twitter, IG stories
 - On Instagram Stories, we are sharing related UGC
 - AKC Dog Stars influencers are participating
 - Highlights: <https://www.instagram.com/stories/highlights/18090266131152298/>
 - Sent to over 2 million recipients a Special Edition of The AKC Nibble Newsletter that included several key articles and linked to our new resource page
 - Regular communication with clubs to assist with cancelling and rescheduling events (Events and Club Development).
 - New “AKC Friends & Family” Facebook Group established to support fanciers/exhibitors/owners who want to connect and engage with each other
 - Continued social sharing of 5-6 COVID-adjacent articles per week; COVID-19 related content ideation/refresh/creation/edit/publish for various audiences: puppy seekers, dog owners, breeders; 30+ stories
 - Weekly AKC.TV interviews with Dr. Klein to bring accurate CV-19
 - President’s Gazette Letter focused on AKC efforts to help clubs
 - Email/information sent to Delegates and club officers:
 - AKC position on COVID-19
-

- AKC Noteworthy News (President's letter)
- AKC PupPals participation
- AKC office closures
- AKC staff changes
- Theo's Letter (A letter to our community)
- Dr. Klein COVID-19 interview
- Hosting weekly webinars for our AKC Canine Ambassadors and Public Education Coordinators with useful tips and information they can use during this time
- Canine College is hosting a Judges Education Webinar daily (began 3/30) provide Parent Clubs the opportunity for Judges Education (1 CEU). Over 900 judges have participated
- Expanded the AKC PupPals program to medical professionals, nursing and hospital patients; over 400 requests received

Emails to Core Constituency and Dog Lovers

- March Nibble Newsletters: All Nibble newsletters listed integrated more COVID-19 articles/resources:
 - 3/26 Breeder Special Edition COVID-19 (Breeders)
 - 3/26 Senior Dog (target senior dog owners)
 - 3/24 Health (target AKC Actives dog owner health opt-ins) 680K SENT | 29% OPENS | 6% CTO
 - AKC Communicates 3/16, 3/27 & 4/3 - COVID-19 resources
- Included announcement of PupPals expansion to all above newsletters
- 3/25 – PupPals to Delegates
- 3/25 – Inviting Therapy title holders to participate in PupPals

Government Relations

Developed an information for legislative COVID-19 issues: <https://akcgr.org/covid19?0>

- Content includes:
 - [Status of Legislatures Impacted by COVID-19 -UPDATED DAILY](#)
 - [MA Update: Governor Orders Closure of Non-Essential Businesses](#)
 - [Letter From Dennis Sprung/Summary of Federal CARES Act](#)
 - [Georgia: Shelter-In-Place Order Pending, Ask Governor to Designate Pet Care Businesses as Essential](#)
 - [Impact of COVID-19 on Legislative Activity](#)
 - [Update: State Exemptions Protecting Pet Care, Supplies and Services During Shutdown](#)
 - [USDA APHIS Updates Inspections Protocols During COVID-19 Pandemic](#)
 - [Update: New York Declares Pet Services "Essential Businesses"](#)
 - [Ask Your Elected Officials to Declare Pet Services "Essential Businesses" During COVID-19 Related Closures](#)
 - [AKC Urges Officials To Allow Pet Food & Service Suppliers To Remain Open During COVID -19 Crisis](#)
 - [Maryland: Session Ends Without Passing Animal Bills](#)
 - [California Update: Palm Springs Delays Action on Breeder Restriction Proposal](#)
 - [3/19 Update: COVID-19 Impact on Legislative Activity](#)
 - [Maine Info: Emergency Act Signed by Maine Governor Extends Dog License Compliance Period](#)
 - [California Update: Session to Be Suspended, Hunting Bill Hearing Postponed](#)

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- [California Update: Session to Be Suspended, Hunting Bill Hearing Postponed](#)
- [California: Palm Springs to Vote on Thursday \(3/19\) on Breeder Restrictions. Act Now!](#)
- [ALERT: Changes to Legislative Calendars in New England](#)
- [Impact of Covid 19 on Legislative Activity](#)
- [Maryland: Session to Suspend on Wednesday, Animal Bills Receive Positive Amendments](#)

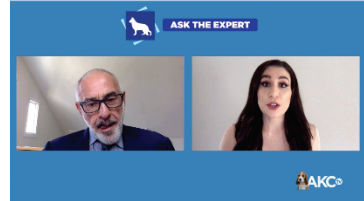
AKC COVID-19 Hubs

Press Center

Home / Press Center / COVID-19 Coronavirus: Updates from the American Kennel Club

COVID-19 Coronavirus: Updates from the American Kennel Club

COVID-19



American Kennel Club Updates on COVID-19 Pandemic

The American Kennel Club is closely monitoring the situation surrounding the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. We encourage all staff, judges and exhibitors to follow the World Health Organization and Center for Disease Control's recommendations to maintain proper hand...



Recommended For You

- Lifestyle: The Top 100 Boy Dog Names
- News: Can Dogs Get Coronavirus?
- Lifestyle: 71 Unique Dog Names for Girls and Boys
- Lifestyle: The Top 100 Girl Dog Names

COVID-19 Resources for Dog Lovers



Home / Pages / Coronavirus COVID-19 Outbreak: Resources for Dog Lovers

Coping With Coronavirus COVID-19

Resources, ideas, advice, and fun to help dog owners deal with the crisis

Can Dogs Get Coronavirus?

LEARN MORE

FAQ on AKC Event Impacts

LEARN MORE

AKC Event Cancellations

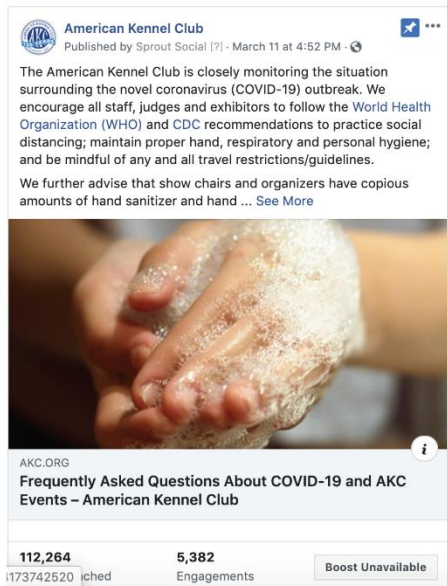
LEARN MORE

Government Relations Info Hub




Examples of Social Media Posts

AKC Main FB Page Posts



American Kennel Club
Published by Cody Barr [?] · 25 mins · 🌐

Stay vigilant and don't let your cleaning products cause more harm than good!



5,593 People Reached 74 Engagements **Boost Post**

👍👎 12 2 Comments 3 Shares


👍 Like 💬 Comment ➦ Share 🌐

Most Relevant ▾

Most Relevant ▾

Comment as American Kennel Club

Author
American Kennel Club 🐾 We have added information on AKC office closures in New York and North Carolina, with a list of contacts you may need to communicate with our staff at this time. Our staff is working remotely to assist you as seamlessly as possible. <https://www.akc.org/press.../akc-office-closure-information/>



AKC.ORG
AKC Office Closure and Contact Information – American Kennel...

Like · Reply · Commented on by Melissa Olund [?] · Remove Preview · 2w

Reply as American Kennel Club

Author
American Kennel Club 🐾 We have added a Q&A on AKC Events and COVID-19 to AKC.org. You may find it here: <https://www.akc.org/.../frequently-asked-questions.../>

Like · Reply · Commented on by Melissa Olund [?] · 3w · Edited

View more comments 2 of 78

American Kennel Club
Published by Sprout Social [?] · Yesterday at 9:00 AM · 🌐

Don't worry, there are no time limits here.
👉 Which skills are you working on? 👈



WOOF from HOME

three sign AKC Rally course

Pick your three favorite Rally skills and set up a small course with quickly drawn signs. Navigate the course and give lots of praise. Rally around your dog as you rally around your living room!

American Kennel Club
Published by Sprout Social [?] · 2 hrs · 🌐

A manicure isn't just for show – good nail care is a sign of good health!
👉 Show off those toes! 👈



WOOF from HOME


nail care

Gently grasp your dog's paw and push your thumb on the pad to extend the nail. Using trimmers or a grinder, remove just the tip. Nail polish not required!

AKC Registered Handlers Posts

AKC Registered Handlers Program
 March 19 at 3:46 PM

These ideas are geared towards the horse industry but are equally applicable to the dog show world! We're going to have to get creative to get through our "Corona-cation"!



HORSEANDHOUND.CO.UK
10 ways you can support small equestrian businesses and freelancers right now - Horse & Hound

Larry Cornelius, Patricia Proctor and 2 others
 5 Shares

Like Comment Share

Write a comment...

Tim Thomas shared a link.
 Founding Member · 19 hrs

In reference to the attached message sent from AKC Communications this weekend, Judging Operations staff will be working remotely and is making every effort to uphold the level of service that our judges have become accustomed to expect. We have every expectation to maintain our normal schedule of dates for review of regular status requests and permit status approvals.

However, please know that there may be some delays in responding to or processing items delivered via UP Mail or courier services. If possible, we encourage you to send your communications and/or documents via email to judgingops@akc.org or fax to 919-816-4225.

For those submitted applications, do not forget that your forms and verification documents can also be shared through the e-portfolio in the AKC Canine College.

We do appreciate your patience and understanding. Please stay safe and stay home!

<https://link.akc.org/view/5b58b95424c17c17c657b172bs78r.a7ms/a1909c19>

LINK.AKC.ORG
link.akc.org

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, American Kennel Club customers are advised that the AKC Staff will be working remotely for the time being. The physical headquarters in New York, NY is closed and the operations...

Corinne Miklos, Vicki Sailer-Cushman and 37 others
 6 Comments

Like Comment

Tim Thomas
 Founding Member · March 16 at 4:39 PM

To all judging applicants:

Please know that Judging Operations is currently filing through all of the scheduled interviews that have been impacted by event cancellations or due to the applicant cancelling for precautionary measures.

The department will be in contact with all affected judges in the upcoming days as we are exploring alternative options where feasible including scheduling via teleconference. Priority in scheduling will be given to (1) cancelled interviews (chronologically), (2) applications currently in processing, and (3) applications yet to be received.

If you are yet to apply, please expect that no interviews will be scheduled until the pending interviews for all applications currently in-house that can be rectified, have been.

While this is not priority #1 in the grand scheme of things, we have fielded many questions and understand to concern from those directly impacted.

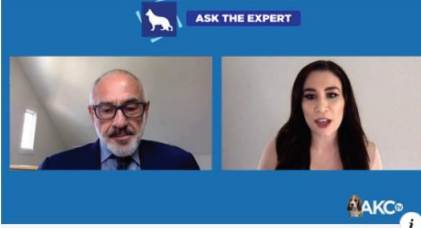
Larry Cornelius, Bonnie Linnell Clarke and 72 others
 33 Comments

Like Comment

Tim Thomas shared a link.
 Founding Member · March 21 at 12:22 PM

Great factual information from Dr. Jerry Klein

<https://akc.tv/watch/19/4628/video-3/coronavirus-update-march-18th-2020/?ctx=/watch/4/2037/series/ask-the-expert>



AKC.TV
Ask The Expert - Coronavirus Update March 18th, 2020 - Can Dogs Get Coronavirus? | AKC.TV

Larry Cornelius, David Kirkland and 14 others
 1 Comment

Like Comment

Sulle Greendale-Paveza Yes it is !!
 Like Reply · 2d

Write a comment...

Club Development Page:

Fisher H Guy shared a [link](#).

Hello we are working remotely from home please know we are doing everything we can to help clubs and your events.

<https://link.akc.org/view/5b58b95424c17c17c657b172hs78r.a7ms/a1909c19>

About this website

LINK.AKC.ORG

link.akc.org

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, American Kennel Club customers are advised that the AKC Staff will be working remotely for the time being. The physical headquarters in New York, NY is closed and the operations center in Raleigh, NC has limited staff.

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About this website

AKC.TV

Ask The Expert - Coronavirus Update March 18th, 2020 - Can Dogs Get Coronavirus? |

AKC.TV

Can Dogs Get Coronavirus? - an update for March 18th, 2020. AKC Chief Veterinary Officer Dr. Jerry Klein is here to talk about the Covid-19 Coronavirus pandemic and how dog-owners can navigate this stressful time. Do you have worries or questions? We want to help!

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AKC Noteworthy News

Communications <Communications@akc.org>
To: Krista Kemple

Monday, March 30, 2020 at 4:14 PM



These are unprecedented times for the world and our sport. The AKC is aware that the recent COVID-19 virus outbreak has greatly impacted our clubs nationwide. Though this is a difficult time, we remain encouraged that we will all get through this together.

Our staff has been working diligently to create informative content on AKC.org and AKC.TV to help you through this time. An example of this is a wonderful interview done by our Chief Veterinary Officer Dr. Jerry Klein that provides helpful information regarding COVID-19 and our dogs, [which can be viewed here](#). We have also created an [informational hub](#) that advises on latest actions and event cancellations.

And for those looking for information or fun content to pass the time we have created a resource page that can help. Activities include in home training tips, a #Wooffromhome daily social media challenge, a free ["Conformation for Beginners" video](#) from AKC Canine College, and much more.

I am also delighted to inform you that we have expanded our AKC PupPals

AKC Gazette Letter

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The AKC is continuing to help each club by providing our services 24 hours per day, 7 days a week. A list of direct contacts is below for any assistance you desire. To report a cancellation, call 919-816-3579 and on the weekend or outside of business hours 919-816-3955, or call upon staff directly:

Dennis Sprung	DBS@akc.org	212-696-8327, cell 316-637-4567
Doug Ljungren	Doug.Ljungren@akc.org	919-816-3903
Alan Slay	Alan.Slay@akc.org	919-816-3906
Glenn Lyvan	Glenn.Lyvan@akc.org	919-816-3560
Guy Fisher	Guy.Fisher@akc.org	919-816-3705
Patric Proctor	Patricia.Proctor@akc.org	
Carrie DeYoung	Carrie.DeYoung@akc.org	818-886-8212

We advise each club to make their informed decision based upon local, state, and federal law and to heed the advice of the CDC. A number of events were postponed or cancelled as well as held. Our constituency has responded with different opinions. Many at events passed along positive comments about being able to do something they enjoyed with their dogs; others are of the opinion each event regardless of size should be cancelled by the respective clubs. As you know, among our 5,000 independent clubs, there are 26 different sports. Some are very small and are spread over large venues. Of course, after the club makes a decision it is up to the exhibitor to participate or not. When a club contacts us to make a change, staff is providing a host of ideas as well as assisting with opportunities for a future time, checking corresponding dates, mileage, judges con-

flicts, the 30-day/200 mile policy, etcetera. No matter what decision a club makes, the AKC is here to assist in this difficult time. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us. We continually update information on AKC.org and Facebook as well as e-mail updates to our constituency.

For more information on COVID-19 and event cancellations, please visit <https://www.akc.org/press-center/social-19-updates-from-the-american-kennel-club/>. A sticky bar was implemented last week on our home page to direct people to the latest updates. Clicking it will take you to the Press Center. As a further proactive measure, we already began overtime in the Sports/Events Department to ensure we operate without any backlog for our clubs. We also are adding the capability of more than 30 additional Sports/Events Department employees to work from home. Currently Registration, Customer Service, and CGC work remotely so these departments will continue assisting our customers without interruption.

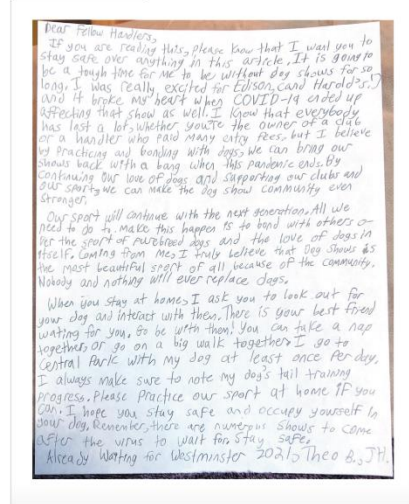
As this unfortunate situation remains very fluid, we will continue to meet with office staff and Field Representatives so that they may provide you with up-to-date information as it develops.

Dennis B. Sprung
President and CEO



MARSHALL WATKINS/AKC

Theo's Letter



A Letter to our Community - Inbox

Message

Delete Archive Reply Forward All Attachment Meeting Move Junk Rules More to Read/Unread Categorize Follow Up Send to Desktop Insights

A Letter to our Community

DS © Dennis Sprung Thursday, March 26, 2020 at 1:10 PM

To: Everyone in NC; Everyone in NY; Field Reps-All

Theo.pdf 729.7 KB

Download All Preview All

Dear friends,

As the pandemic spreads, AKC staff continues its work to help dog people plan for today and our future together. We will in time be back at each and every type of AKC event with our beloved dogs. With 26 kinds of AKC events, we will have 26 ways to love our dogs once again.

This is of course a busy time for everyone at AKC. There are countless zoom meetings and calls with Clubs, Delegates, Judges, Exhibitors, Handlers, Superintendents and others within our family. Emails and texts are received and responded to around the clock, each one of importance.

While replying to those I received, one letter from a Junior named Theo, age 10, was compelling and positively inspiring so I decided to share it with each of you. With this passion for our dogs and events, the future is indeed bright.

As we know, dog people are strong, resilient and devoted. Together we will win this war.

Call me anytime,
 Dennis
 cell 516 637 6567
 office 212 696 8327

Thank you to staff

THANK YOU STAFF

DS **Dennis Sprung** Friday, March 20, 2020 at 12:43 PM
To: Field Reps-All; Everyone in NC; +3 more

You replied to this message on 3/20/20, 12:49 PM.

Dear friends,

Everyone on **staff** is serving our constituency, particularly the fancy, in the most admirable way.

The dedication of each department serves our clubs, breeders, exhibitors, Delegates and judges. In the 26 sports facing postponements or cancellations the assistance provided to clubs is appreciated. Including the Sports&Events **staff** on line at the loading dock in North Carolina this very moment to pick up new computers which expands our servicing clubs and exhibitors.

This terrible virus has us on the ropes but not down. We will keep acting collectively, making sacrifices that help insure our dogs and fanciers future will return to the competitive enjoyment experienced over the past 135 years.

I congratulate everyone for **your** many accomplishments working remotely. From Registration and Customer Service who have long term expertise in doing this to the departments now learning to do so and already accomplishing successfully in social media, PR, Club Relations, Communications, Club Development and many more. I consider every department in the corporation to be a strong link in our care for dogs and customers.

We as **staff** are in this together and along with the core constituency will succeed for their sake and that of the dogs we love.

Once again **thank you** to everyone and our dedicated Board of Directors.

Be well. Together we will win this war.

Dennis
516.637.6567

Email to Constituency regarding office closure

March 20, 2020 | [View Online](#)



AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB

Dear AKC Club Officer,

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, American Kennel Club customers are advised that the AKC Staff will be working remotely for the time being. The physical headquarters in New York, NY is closed and the operations center in Raleigh, NC has limited staff process inbound and outbound orders.

The AKC is working to keep this transition as seamless as possible and will maintain the usual operations hours of 8:15a-4:30p EST Mon-Fri. The customer service call center will remain open until 8pm EST Mon-Fri, online registration services are available 24/7, and AKC DNA processing continues as normal. Customers using these services should experience minimal disruption. However, be advised that during this time, we may experience delays with the postal mail processing. **We strongly encourage customers to use email to contact staff, use customer service as a service, and make use of our other services when applicable.**

March 20, 2020 | View Online



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Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, American Kennel Club customers are advised that the AKC Staff will be working remotely for the time being. The physical headquarters in New York, NY is closed and the operations center in Raleigh, NC has limited staff process inbound and outbound orders.

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