

**American Kennel Club, Inc.**  
**MEETING of the BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**AKC Offices at 101 Park Avenue, New York, NY and via Video Conference**  
**January 12, 2021**

The Board convened via Zoom video conference on Tuesday January 12, 2021 at 11:00 a.m. Eastern Time.

Mr. Sprung was present in the NY Office. All other Directors participated in the meeting by video conference. The Executive Secretary was present in the NY Office and participated by video conference.

The November 10, 2020 Board Meeting minutes, copies of which had been provided to all Directors, were reviewed.

Upon a motion by Mr. Sweetwood, seconded by Ms. McAteer, the November 10, 2020 Board Meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

**PRESIDENTS REPORT**

Mr. Sprung reported on the December events in Orlando as follows: As Show Chair he stated that the extensive planning and execution worked. Our knowledgeable staff did well. The positive comments from the Board were shared and appreciated by our employees.

He praised the streaming of each event including agility, obedience and the group judging on AKC.tv. It was very successful, although for the record the pay-per view breed judging offer for Saturday and Sunday did not meet subscriber expectations.

Registration and Customer Service have had outstanding results with appreciation to Mark Dunn, Linda Duncklee, Jill Zapadinsky and Staff; as their customer service has these proven results:

- Every area in Registration is up and the queues are short.
- 288,500+ litters and 702,000 individual registrations
- Best full year since 2009 & 2008, respectively.

He reported of making a decision which he ran by Tom and Dominic to not charge the 2021 annual fee for our Registered Handler's Program (RHP) members; as their livelihoods have been very negatively affected.

Tim Thomas sent me this RHP feedback:

"Comments included that this act not only relieves the members of their financial obligation after a very difficult year but made them feel appreciated as well for their Individual contributions to the RHP and the sport on the whole." Patti Proctor stated the appreciation from our RHP members is tremendous

and they believe we care, and it is a two-way street. Also, Patti suggested a document for Clubs if there is a COVID-19 issue at an event; Doug Ljungren and Glenn Lycan have addressed that request. Processing of Conformation and Obedience results are completed for 2020; Performance is scheduled to be done next week and Companion this week.

Along with this work, BI and ICG are analyzing Sports & Events processes for 2018, 2019 and 2020 (pre and post COVID) to understand historical and year over year changes, dashboards including time to process events, time to receive results, event changes, event cancellations, revenue by event types, time allocation by processing activity and costs by processing activity.

Working with LB Dean in Human Resources, we are making a training video on active shooter preparedness available to every staff member. It is provided by the Department of Homeland Security. The Board is welcome to participate.

Delegate Meeting attendance: Research was conducted for the Delegate Zoom meetings in comparison to the past 5 years of Delegates Meetings. The September (376) and December (377) 2020 meetings were the highest attended in 5 years; only March of 2016 is on par with them at (374). Another interesting statistic was that a comparison of June, September and December 2020 to 2019 meetings are, respectively, for 2020 +55, +61 and +65. These figures were shared with Mary Lou Olszewski for the DAAC at her request.

Budget: In the letter that was composed to the Delegates on the 2021 budget, there were a few proactive steps of reinvesting funds back into the company. The only item necessary in North Carolina at the time of the writing was a replacement of the backup generator. Keith Frazier, managing the N.C. facility, is overseeing this initiative and the installation is scheduled for tomorrow. This install is two years ahead of the current generator's remaining lifespan. Natural gas will be more efficient and provides AKC, AKC Reunite and AKC CHF with an uninterrupted supply of fuel in the case of disaster.

Lastly, the inaugural *AKC on ESPN* had excellent results.

Gina DiNardo, Executive Secretary, participated in this portion of the meeting to share with the Board details about the new Disney / ESPN agreement which began with the 2-hour *Fastest Dogs USA* on ESPN2 Sunday, December 13, 2020. The show used the finals of the AKC Fast CAT Invitational to highlight competitors: it was the number one show on ESPN2 for the entire day.

### **Legal Update**

The Board reviewed a legal update as of December 2020.

### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Dr. Davies discussed his desire to separate the Board Pension and Investment Committee into two (2) separate committees. Following a motion by Dr. Battaglia, seconded by Ms. Biddle, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to approve the new structure; there will be a Board Pension Committee and a Board Investments Committee.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

**FINANCE**

Ted Phillips, Chief Financial Officer, provided a financial update for the eleven months ending November 30, 2020.

Despite the ongoing challenges due to COVID-19, a positive report of AKC's operations was conveyed.

YTD Net Operating Income is \$13.1 million primarily due to higher registration revenues and cost containment, offset by lower recording and service fees.

Registrations Statistics: 2020 YTD Litter Reg. was 6.5% ahead of budget, 8.2% better than 2019 YTD. 2020 YTD Dog Reg. was 15% ahead of budget, 17% better than 2019 YTD.

Registration Fees exceed the prior year by 19.5% or \$5.8 million. This increase is led by Dog Registration ahead of 2019 by 24.4% or \$5 million.

Pedigree & Other Litter Fees exceed budget by 24% or \$1.6 mil primarily due to 3-Generation Pedigree Sales.

Events & Entries continue to reflect the impact of COVID-19 cancellations. Compared to the same period in 2019, Events & Entries were down by 53.5% & 57%, respectively.

Events & Other Fees trail budget and 2019 Actual by 42% and 39% respectively. This is primarily due to Recording & Service Fees which trail prior year by 44.3% or \$4.7 million.

Product & Service Sales exceed budget by 11.6% or \$1.1 million led by merchandise sales due to increases in e-commerce ahead of prior year by 65% or \$621k.

Advertising, Sponsor/Royalties trail budget by 8% or \$892k due to a combination of lower income across all lines due to lower activity due to the pandemic.

**EXECUTIVE SECRETARY**

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

**Löwchen Proposed Breed Standard Revision**

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

Following publication of the proposed standard changes in the May 2020 Secretary's page of the *AKC Gazette* there was extensive discussion from the club. The LCA Breed Standard

Committee made further revisions to the proposed standard, and as a result Staff recommends that the revised standard be published for comment again.

Following a motion by Dr. Garvin, seconded by Mr. Powers, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to approve the revised standard for publication for comment in the Secretary's Page of the *AKC Gazette*.

#### **Standard Schnauzer Proposed Breed Standard Revision**

The Board reviewed the proposed revisions to the Tail section of the Standard Schnauzer breed standard as submitted by the Standard Schnauzer Club of America, Inc. (SSCA). The standard was last revised and approved by the AKC Board February 9, 1991.

Following a motion by Mr. Tatro, seconded by Ms. Biddle, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to approve the standard revision for publication for comment in the Secretary's Page of the *AKC Gazette*.

#### **Acceptance of Pedigrees from the Azerbaijan Kennel Club**

The Board reviewed a request from the Azerbaijan Kennel Club to be added to the list of registries with pedigrees acceptable for AKC registration. Kennel Union of the Republic of Azerbaijan (hereinafter referred as KURA) is a national non-profitable canine organization in Azerbaijan, which was established in 2001 and a member of FCI (Fédération Cynologique Internationale) since 2006, and FCI full member since 2015. KURA is the only all breed registry authority in the country. KURA issues Pedigrees and records registration records of all pure breed dogs in Azerbaijan.

In 2019, KURA registered approximately 2500 dogs. Since 2015, KURA organizes Crufts® Qualification shows 2 times per year and International Dog Shows inviting FCI international judges; and KURA conduct and participate in education programs, seminars.

Following a motion by Dr. Garvin, seconded by Mr. Tatro, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to add the Kennel Union of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the list of registries with pedigrees acceptable for AKC registration.

#### **Sloughi Stud Book**

The Board reviewed a request from the American Sloughi Association to keep the Stud Book Open for the Breed. The Sloughi Book is scheduled to close January 1, 2021. Currently AKC will accept dogs registered with America Sloughi Association and United Kennel Club. Staff recommends the Sloughi Stud Book remain open until January 1, 2026. This will be discussed further at the February Board Meeting.

#### **Danish-Swedish Farmdog Club of America – Advance to Miscellaneous**

The Parent Club of the Danish Swedish Farmdog, the Danish-Swedish Farmdog Club of America (DSFCA), has requested approval for the breed to move into the Miscellaneous Class.

The Danish-Swedish Farmdog Club of America has met the requirements of the Recognition of New Breeds Board Policy approved in February 2017. Requirements include an active parent club, with serious and expanding breeding activity over a wide geographic area, and documented club activity. The Danish-Swedish Farmdog Club of America has an active membership participating in Companion Events and FSS Open Shows when available.

Following a motion by Mr. Powers, seconded by Mr. Sweetwood, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to consider the matter at this meeting, waiving the normal notice procedures. Following a motion by Mr. Carota, seconded by Mr. Sweetwood, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to advance the Danish-Swedish Farmdog to the Miscellaneous Class effective June 30, 2021

### **New Breed for Foundation Stock Service ® – Barbado da Terceira Parent Club**

The Board was advised that the Foundation Stock Service (FSS) Committee recently approved a petition for the Barbado da Terceira to be accepted into the FSS program. The Barbado da Terceira (meaning “bearded”) is thought to have evolved from the dogs that were brought to the island of Terceira in the Azores around the 15th century for the purpose of herding cattle and livestock.

### **COMPANION and PERFORMANCE**

Doug Ljungren, Executive Vice President, Sports & Events and Pamela Manaton, Director, Obedience, Rally, Tracking participated in this portion of the meeting via video conference.

### **Managing Waitlists on Limited Entry Obedience and Rally Trials**

With increased COVID restrictions, clubs are experiencing a reduction in the number of people they may have in a facility for their events. This means that more clubs are hosting limited entry obedience and rally trials and with so few events being offered, it has resulted in more entries being received than can be accommodated. The Board reviewed a recommendation on how to manage waitlists at limited events to allow the most participation in events by modifying the existing waitlist requirements. The recommendation would allow a club to set a waitlist closing date beyond the event closing date; however, it must be a minimum of three days prior to the first trial date in a set of trials.

This will be discussed further at the February Board Meeting.

### **Random Draw Method for Accepting Entries in Obedience & Rally Trials**

The Board reviewed a Staff a recommendation to establish a Random Draw method of entries to be used at a club’s option for limited entry obedience and rally trials that have their own standalone event number. The Random Draw method would provide the club with a fair way to accept entries for trials if the club anticipates the entries will overload beyond their limits, and to create equity between all exhibitors.

This will be discussed further at the February Board Meeting.

**Obedience Fix 'n Go Concept**

The Board reviewed a Staff recommendation to allow obedience handlers to use the “Fix ‘n Go” option while performing in the ring at obedience trials when a dog’s performance does not meet their expectation. The “Fix ‘n Go” concept allows the team to reattempt one individual exercise, and then leave the ring. Using the “Fix n’ Go” option will result in a non-qualifying score (NQ). “Fix ‘n Go” would be offered on a one-year pilot basis in order to give the staff time to evaluate its impact.

This will be discussed further at the February Board Meeting.

**CONFORMATION**

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

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

The Board reviewed a recommendation from the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee (DSRC) to modify Chapter 16, Section 6 of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows*, which addresses the requirements for a dog to achieve the Grand Championship title at AKC Conformation dog shows.

The Delegate Body at its September 2020 meeting approved a proposal to modify Chapter 16, Section 6 of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows*. During discussion at the September meeting, a motion to amend the proposal was made and approved, modifying the first sentence of the proposed insertion from, “At independently held specialty shows for breeds divided into recognized varieties...” to “At independently held specialty shows and concurrent specialty shows for breeds divided into recognized varieties...” The amended proposal was subsequently approved by the delegate body to be effective January 1, 2021.

At the DSRC’s November 19, 2020 meeting, the DSRC voted, unanimously, to recommend the removal of “and concurrent specialty shows” from the last paragraph of Chapter 16, Section 6 of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows*. Their reasoning includes:

1. Concurrent specialties are by definition independent specialties. Stand-alone, concurrent, and evening are all types of independent specialties.
2. The amendment to the proposal, which was eventually approved, resulted in inconsistent language within the section.

This will be discussed further at the February Board meeting.

**Calculating Distance for Conflict Checks**

Based on a request from the Board, Staff presented a memo outlining how the AKC currently calculates distance between events and judging assignments and has done so over the past

fifty-plus years (50+), discussing the advantages and disadvantages of the current process and possible alternatives.

Staff will present options for consideration on ways to modify the current Board Policy for the Board to review.

### **Preserving Corresponding Dates for Clubs**

Staff provided information on the preservation of corresponding dates for clubs when they have events cancelled or rescheduled due to COVID.

When a club notifies the AKC that they are cancelling an event due to COVID, AKC creates a new event for them on the corresponding date in the following year. If a club desires to reschedule later in the year, AKC will still create next year's event based on their corresponding date and note the rescheduled event as a one-time occurrence.

AKC will continue to follow this procedure during the COVID pandemic to support clubs and preserve their corresponding dates, including the situations where a club has cancelled or rescheduled their events in both 2020 and 2021.

### **New and Low Entry Breeds – Talking Paper by Carmen Battaglia**

The Board discussed a paper written by Dr. Battaglia looking at dog registrations and entries for Low Entry breeds and new breeds admitted to the AKC stud book in the past 10 years. Dr. Davies suggested that he would like to create an Ad Hoc Committee to work through the issues presented in the paper. The Committee would be chaired by Mari-Beth O'Neill, Vice President, Special Serviced Chair; other members are Mark Dunn, Executive Vice President; Dr. Carmen Battaglia, AKC Board member; Chris Sweetwood, AKC Board member and an additional AKC Staff member from the Sport & Events Department.

Following a motion by Mr. Powers, seconded by Ms. Biddle, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to approve the committee as suggested.

### **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.

*Mr. Tatro was not present for this portion of the meeting.*

### **Recertification Requirements for Conformation Judges**

The Board reviewed a Staff memo which provided additional information concerning the planned structure of the newly approved requirement for Conformation Judges to complete a recertification course/exam on current AKC procedures and policies every five years.

**CLUBS**

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

*Mr. Tatro was not present for this portion of the meeting.*

**Club Relations 2020 Activity Report**

The Board reviewed a status report meant to communicate to the Board key information and trends regarding AKC clubs.

Club Relations is responsible for the accreditation, advancement, and licensing for AKC's 15 types of clubs, AKC member club status approvals, bylaw approval, territory approvals, sanctioned match program approvals, and informal guidance regarding club dispute resolution. In total, Club Relations receives approximately 375-400 emails received per month. It is an objective of Club Relations to make it as easy as possible for clubs to associate with the AKC within the rules and policies established by the Board.

Number of clubs as of December 3, 2020 (\*Note: the total number of clubs in 2019 was 4969)

|                         |              |
|-------------------------|--------------|
| Member clubs            | 638          |
| Licensed clubs          | 4,140        |
| Sanctioned Plan A clubs | 90           |
| Sanctioned Plan B clubs | <u>112</u>   |
| Total                   | <b>4,980</b> |

In 2020, AKC approved 32 new clubs and 10 clubs reported as dissolved. Over the past four years there have been no new Rally or Earthdog clubs.

New Parent Clubs in 2020: Small Munsterlander Club of America

New All-Breed Clubs in 2020: Dubuque Kennel Club; Kennel Club of North Mississippi and Wisconsin Kennel Club

New Group Clubs in 2020: Carolina Sporting Dog Association and Rocky Mountain Non-Sporting Club

New Member Clubs in 2020: Arrowhead Kennel Club and Sherwood Dog Training Club

Number of Specialty Clubs approved under the Reduced Sanctioned Match Program: **7**

Number of Group Clubs approved/advanced under the Reduced Sanctioned Match Program: **4**

Bylaw review requests handled by staff: **136**



**Delegates and Member Clubs**

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

**Report on Member Clubs Bylaws Approved in October and November 2020**

Del Monte Kennel Club, Monterey, CA (1938)

Del-Otse-Nango Kennel Club, Otsego and Delaware Counties, NY (1998)

Salisbury Maryland Kennel Club, Salisbury, MD, including Wicomico, Worcester and Somerset Counties (1967)

**Report on Newly Licensed Clubs approved in October and November 2020**

American Belgian Laekenois Association, 160 total households (57 households in 17 states west of the Mississippi River; 103 households in 21 states east of the Mississippi River.)

*Mr. Tatro was present for the remainder of the meeting.*

**COMPLIANCE**

Bri Tesarz, Director, Compliance participated in this portion of the meeting via video conference.

**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.

Following a motion by Mr. Sweetwood, seconded by Mr. Hamblin, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to consider the matter at this meeting, waiving the normal notice procedures.

Following a motion by Mr. Sweetwood, seconded by Mr. Powers, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to keep the deposit amounts the same for 2021. A complaint pursuant to Article XII, Section 1 is \$500. The fee to file an Appeal to an Appeal Trial Board is \$200.

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

**REGISTRATION**

Mark Dunn, Executive Vice President; participated in this portion of the meeting via video conference.

**Parent Club Sponsored Frozen Semen Program**

The Board reviewed a request from The Akita Club of America, Inc (ACA). The ACA requests that the AKC Board allow the registration of frozen semen litters wherein the frozen semen owner is a canine reproductive bank established by the ACA. This request is in keeping with AKC Board Policy established in February 2017. ACA requests AKC Board approval to move forward with their plan to establish a breed specific frozen semen bank.

Following a motion by Mr. Hamblin, seconded by Dr. Garvin, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to consider the matter at this meeting, waiving the normal notice procedures.

Following a motion by Mr. Sweetwood, seconded by Mr. Powers, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to approve the request of the Akita Club of America to establish a breed specific frozen semen bank and allow the registration of frozen semen litters wherein the frozen semen owner is a canine reproductive bank established by the ACA.

Following discussion, Mr. Sprung recommended that AKC explore establishing a frozen semen program which would increase gene pools, ensure saving of quality producers and eliminate the challenge for each Parent Club of taking this step for their breed or not, ultimately assisting breeders of today and in the future.

**CONSENT**

Following a motion by Mr. Powers, seconded by DR. Battaglia it was VOTED (unanimously) to approve the following Consent item:

- Australian Terrier Proposed Breed Standard Revision
- Parent Club Designation for Kia Ken
- Mudi Eligibility to Compete in the Herding Group
- Russian Toy Eligibility to Compete in the Toy Group
- Assistance to Member Club Applicants
- Conformation Junior Showmanship, Canine Partners
- Delegate and Club Approvals
- Resolution – Honorable David C. Merriam

**Australian Terrier Proposed Breed Standard Revision**

The Australian Terrier Club of America has balloted its membership in accordance with the club's Constitution and By-laws on a proposed revision to the General Appearance, Tail and Forequarters sections of the breed standard. The Board reviewed the results of the ballot submitted by the Australian Terrier Club of America.

The following results were submitted:

## RESULTS

|   |                 |
|---|-----------------|
| <b>Total number of Members Balloted</b> | <b>150</b>      |
| <b>Ballots Returned</b>                 | <b>125</b>      |
| <b>Yes Ballots</b>                      | <b>89 71.2%</b> |
| <b>No Ballots</b>                       | <b>36 28.8%</b> |

The Board VOTED to approve the proposed standard revision to the Australian Terrier Breed Standard with an effective date of April 7, 2021

### GENERAL APPEARANCE

A small, sturdy, medium-boned working terrier, rather long in proportion to height with pricked ears and docked tail or undocked tail. Blue and tan, solid sandy or solid red in color, with harsh-textured outer coat, a distinctive ruff and apron, and a soft, silky topknot. As befits their heritage as versatile workers, Australian Terriers are sound and free moving with good reach and drive. Their expression keen and intelligent; their manner spirited and self-assured.

The following description is that of the ideal Australian Terrier. Any deviation from this description must be penalized to the extent of the deviation.

### TAIL

Set on high and carried erect at a twelve to one o'clock position, in balance with the overall dog, a good hand-hold when mature, docked leaving slightly less than one half, or undocked from straight to curved forward. The tail set is of primary importance.

### FOREQUARTERS

Shoulders – Long blades, well laid back with only slight space between the shoulder blades at the withers. The length of the upper arm is comparable to the length of the shoulder blade. The angle between the shoulder and the upper arm is 90 degrees. Faults – Straight, loose and loaded shoulders. Elbows – Close to the chest. Forelegs – Straight, parallel when viewed from the front; the bone is round and medium in size. They should be set well under the body, with definite body overhang (keel) before them when viewed from the side. Pasterns – Strong, with only slight slope. Fault – Down on pasterns. Dewclaws - May be removed.

### Parent Club Designation for Kia Ken

The Board VOTED to designate the Kai Ken Society of America as the Parent Club representing the Kai Ken with the AKC.

### Mudi Eligibility to Compete in the Herding Group

The Board VOTED to approve the request from The Mudi Club of America (MCA) and will accept the breed into the Stud Book of the American Kennel Club. The Board also VOTED to approve the breed standard as submitted. The breed will be moved from the Foundation Stock

Service into the Stud Book of the American Kennel Club on December 29, 2021. The Stud Book will remain open until January 1, 2027. The Mudi will be eligible to compete in the Herding Group as of January 1, 2022.

## **STANDARD OF THE MUDI**

### **GENERAL APPEARANCE**

The Mudi is medium in size and moderate in conformation. The Mudi has courage, a trait useful for working the most stubborn livestock, a loyal protector of property and family members, sometimes used for hunting wild boar. The wedge-shaped head, erect ears and almost square body typifies this extremely versatile, intelligent, alert, agile, all-purpose Hungarian farm dog. Withers pronounced and forming the highest point of the body sloping towards the croup. The coat is short and straight on the face and front of the legs. The rest of the body is covered by a coat that is very wavy to curly, growing to a length of up to approximately 3 inches.

### **SIZE PROPORTION, SUBSTANCE**

The Mudi is medium boned. The height from the withers to the ground is almost equal to the body length from the point of the shoulder to the point of buttocks. The Mudi should stand squarely on all fours and when viewed from the side the topline, front legs and back legs should closely approximate a square. Size – Dogs are from 16 inches to 18½ inches, ideal 17½ inches, bitches from 15 inches to 17½ inches, ideal 16½ inches. Fault - Height at the withers below 15 inches or over 18½ inches for either sex is a very serious fault. Weight – Ideal weight in dogs is 24 pounds to 29 pounds and in bitches 18 pounds to 24 pounds.

### **HEAD**

The head is wedge shaped when viewed from the top and from the side with the length of the muzzle slightly less than half of the total length of the head. The stop is defined but not obvious.

*Expression* – The Mudi is alert, lively and intelligent. *Eyes* – The eyes are almond shaped and set slightly oblique thus giving the Mudi a "dare devil" expression. Dark brown eyes are preferred however the following variations are permitted: Merle patterned dogs may have solid brown, blue, or brown speckled with blue eye(s). Brown, gray and gray-brown dogs may have lighter brown eyes. Yellow and white colored dogs may have dark brown, lighter brown, blue, or brown speckled with blue eye(s). Rims of lids are tight, close-fitting to the eyeball and completely pigmented. Brown and gray – brown dogs have brown pigmentation and grey dogs have gray pigmentation. Yellow and white dogs may have black, brown or gray pigmentation. Disqualification – Yellow eyes in black dogs. Pink eyes. *Ears* – The Mudi ears are high set, fully erect and covered with abundant hair reaching beyond the edges of the ear leather. The ears are triangular and only slightly taller than the width at the base. The ears are very mobile and alert, able to move independently in reaction to any stimulation. Disqualification - Drop or semi-pricked ears. *Skull* – The skull and forehead are slightly domed. The

occiput and brows are only slightly apparent. *Muzzle* – The muzzle is strong with the bridge of the nose straight and tapering to a blunt end at the nose. The lips are tight, and the lip pigment corresponds with the pigment of the nose and eye rims. Whiskers shall be present. *Nose* – The nose is narrow, rounded in front with moderately wide nostrils. The bridge is straight. The nose color is black with the following exceptions: Brown and gray-brown dogs have brown noses. Gray dogs have gray noses. Yellow and white colored dogs may have black, brown or gray noses. The nose pigmentation is solid. *Fault* – Discolored areas. *Disqualification* – Pink or spotted nose. *Bite* – A full complement of teeth of medium size that meet in a scissors bite. *Fault* – Level bite. One or more missing teeth are a serious fault. *Disqualification* – Over or undershot mouth, wry mouth.

### **NECK, TOPLINE, BODY**

*Neck* - Neck is of medium length, placed high on the shoulders, slightly arched and is well-muscled. The skin at the throat is tight, dry, and without a dewlap. *Topline* - Withers are pronounced and forming the highest point of the body with the backline sloping towards the croup.

*Body* - The body is smooth and tight with hard, but not bulging muscles. The back is short, straight, and taut. The loin is short, straight, and firmly coupled. The croup is slightly sloped, and of medium breadth. The tail follows the natural line of the croup.

*Chest* - Forechest is slightly curved, the point of the sternum only slightly protruding. The chest is moderate in depth with ribs that are slightly sprung that extends back to a slight tuck-up. *Tail* – When relaxed a full-length tail will hang with the lower third raised almost to horizontal but when alert and during active movement the full-length tail is carried in sickle shape higher than the topline. The tail is abundantly coated; the hair on the underside can be 4 inches to 5 inches long. Tails come in all-natural lengths including a natural bob. No tail length is preferred over any other length. Docking of tail is undesirable but is not regarded as a fault. *Fault* – Tightly curled “pig-tail.”

### **FOREQUARTERS**

The shoulders are moderately angulated, with long, well-knit shoulder blades and an upper arm matching in length. The angle formed between the shoulder blade and upper arm should be 100 to 110 degrees. The elbows are tucked firmly against the brisket. The legs are long and straight, with medium bone. The pastern is very slightly sloped. Feet are compact, oval in shape; pads deep and strong, toes moderately arched and close. The nails are strong and preferably black or slate gray. Front dewclaws are desirable.

### **HINDQUARTERS**

The hindquarters are well-developed and muscular, and in balance with the forequarters having moderate angulation. The upper thigh is thick and strong, with a long, strong lower thigh. The hocks are short, vertical, and parallel to each other. A vertical line drawn from the point of buttocks down to the ground almost touches the front of the rear toes when viewed from the side. Rear dewclaws are not desirable. Hind feet same as the forefeet.

**COAT**

Head and front of legs are covered by short, straight and smooth hair. On other parts of the body, the coat is uniformly very wavy to curly. It is dense and always shiny, about 1 inch to 3 inches long. At some spots, cowlicks and ridges are formed. The coat is longer on the back of the forearms and the upper thighs, where it forms pronounced featherings. The tail is abundantly coated; the hair on the underside may be as much as 4 inches to 5 inches long. The distinctive coat naturally repels much of the dirt and debris encountered while working. The Mudi is presented in a natural coat, never appearing sculpted, wooly, fluffed nor blown dry so as to obscure the natural curls and texture of the coat. Disqualification – Short, smooth, flat coat on the whole body; long hair on the face.

**COLOR**

Allowed colors are: Black – all over with no shading. Brown – color can range from a light brown to chocolate with lighter shades of brown on the breeches and underbelly. Gray – all over with no shading. Gray-brown – color is a dilute of brown (Isabella) with lighter shades on the breeches and underbelly. Yellow and white – color can range from white to a near-white cream to a darker shade approaching golden with lighter shades on the breeches and underbelly. The merle pattern may appear with any color. No color is preferred over any other color and there is no preference of the solid vs. merle pattern. Minimal white markings are tolerated but not desired on any color or pattern; this includes a white patch on the chest less than 2 inches in diameter and small white markings on the toes. Fault – Any white markings more extensive than the foregoing are a serious fault. Allowable light shadings are not to be confused with white markings. Disqualification – Wolf gray (agouti – alternating bands of color along each hair shaft), black and tan, albino (pure white with pale pink skin and pink eyes) or any other non-allowed color or markings.

**GAIT**

Action is true, free, supple and tireless, exhibiting facility of movement rather than hard driving action. The trot is not long striding yet covers the ground with a minimum of effort. The capability of quick and sudden movement is essential.

**TEMPERAMENT**

Alert, always energetic, cheerful and intelligent the Mudi is an animal without any trace of timidity or aggressiveness. Extremely able to learn, adaptable, courageous and always enthusiastic about any job that needs to be done are typical Mudi traits.

**FAULTS**

Any deviation from the foregoing should be considered a fault, the seriousness of the fault depending upon the extent of the deviation.

**DISQUALIFICATIONS**

Yellow eyes in black dogs. Pink eyes. Drop or semi-pricked ears. Pink or spotted nose. Over or undershot mouth, wry mouth. Short, smooth, flat coat on the whole body; long hair on the face. Wolf gray (agouti - alternating bands of color along each hair shaft), black and tan, albino (pure white with pale pink skin and pink eyes) or any other non-allowed color or markings.

***Approved October 9, 2017***

***Effective July 1, 2018***

**Russian Toy Eligibility to Compete in the Toy Group**

The Board VOTED to approve the request from The Russian Toy Club of America (RTCA). The Russian Toy will be accepted into the AKC Stud Book and will be eligible to compete in the Toy Group on January 1, 2022. The breed will be moved from the Foundation Stock Service into the Stud Book of the American Kennel Club on December 29, 2021. The Stud Book will remain open until January 1, 2027. The Board also VOTED to approve the breed standard as submitted.

**STANDARD OF THE RUSSIAN TOY****GENERAL APPEARANCE**

A small elegant dog, lively, long-legged, with fine bone and lean muscles. Sexual dimorphism only slightly defined. Active, cheerful, possessing keen intelligence, slightly aloof to strangers but neither cowardly nor aggressive.

**SIZE PROPORTION, SUBSTANCE**

The Russian toy has a square build; the height, when measured vertically from the ground to the highest point of the withers, is equal to the length, when measured horizontally from the prosternum to the point of the buttocks. The height at the elbows is only slightly more than half of the height at withers. The chest is sufficiently deep reaching to the elbow. Height at withers for both dogs and bitches: 8 inches to 11 inches. Weight for both dogs and bitches: up to 6½ pounds. Disqualifications - Height at withers over 12 inches or under 7 inches. Weight less than 2 pounds.

**HEAD**

The head is small compared to the body. *Expression* – The expression is bright, attentive with attitude. Eyes are quite large, rounded, dark, slightly prominent, set well apart and looking straight ahead. Eyelids are tightly fitting. Black and Tan dogs have eyes that are darkest brown to black with black eye rims. Chocolate and Tan dogs have eyes that are brown to light brown and eye rims that are brown to light brown (darker color preferred). Blue and Tan dogs have eyes and eye rims that are slate grey. Red coated dogs have eyes that are darkest brown to black with black eye rims. Red Sable dogs have eyes that are darkest brown to black with black eye rims. Red Brown dogs have eyes and eye rims that are brown (darker color preferred). *Ears* – Ears are big,

thin, set high, erect and wider at the base tapering to a triangular shape. Semi-pricked ears in longhaired dogs with heavy fringes is permissible but not desirable. Disqualification – Hanging (completely down) ears. *Skull* – The skull is high but not too wide (width at the level of zygomatic arches does not exceed the depth of the skull). *Stop* – The stop is clearly pronounced. *Muzzle* – The muzzle is lean and tapered and is slightly shorter than the skull. *Cheekbones* – The cheekbones are only slightly pronounced. *Nose* – Black and Tan dogs have black noses. Chocolate and Tan dogs have noses that are brown to light brown (darker color preferred). Blue and Tan dogs have slate grey noses. Red coated dogs have black noses. Red Sable dogs have black noses. Red Brown dogs have brown noses (darker color preferred). *Lips* – Lips are thin, lean, tight-fitting. Black and Tan dogs have black lips. Chocolate and Tan dogs have lips that are brown to light brown (darker color preferred). Blue and Tan dogs have slate grey lips. Red coated dogs have black lips. Red Sable dogs have black lips. Red Brown dogs have brown lips (darker color preferred). *Bite* – The teeth should meet in a scissor bite. Russian Toy teeth are small, white. Absence of two incisors is permitted in each jaw. Faults – Level bite or incisors sloping forward. The absence of more than two incisors in either jaw is a serious fault. Disqualifications – Overshot, undershot. Absence of one canine.

#### **NECK, TOPLINE, BODY**

*Neck* – The neck is long, lean, carried high, slightly arched. *Topline* – The topline gradually slopes from the withers to the root of the tail. *Withers* – The withers are slightly pronounced. *Body* – The chest is oval, sufficiently deep and not too wide. *Underline* – The underline has a tucked-up belly and drawn up flanks, forming a nicely curved line from the chest to the flanks. *Back* – The back is strong and straight. *Loin* – The loin is short and slightly arched. *Croup* – The croup is somewhat rounded and slightly sloping. *Tail* – Tails may be natural or docked (only two or three vertebrae are left) and is carried high. The undocked (natural) tail is a sickle tail. The tail should not be carried lower than back level when moving. Fault – Low set tail.

#### **FOREQUARTERS**

*Shoulders* – The shoulder blades are moderately long and not too sloping. *Upper Arm* – The upper arm forms an angle of 105 degrees with the shoulder blade. The length of upper arm is approximately equal to the length of shoulder. *Elbow* – The elbow is in line with the body. *Legs* – Forequarters legs are thin and lean. Seen from the front, the front legs are straight and parallel. The forearm is long, straight. The carpus (wrist) is lean. Pasterns are almost vertical. Dewclaws may be removed or left natural. *Feet and Toes* – Forefeet are small, oval, turning neither in nor out with pads that are cushioned. Toes are well knit and arched. Hind feet are a little bit narrower than forefeet with pads that are cushioned, and toes are well knit and arched. *Pads and Nails* – Black and Tan dogs have black nails and pads. Chocolate and Tan dogs have nails and pads that are brown to light brown (darker color preferred). Blue and Tan dogs have slate grey nails



and pads. Red coated dogs have black nails and pads. Red Sable dogs have black nails and pads. Red Brown dogs have brown nails and pads (darker color preferred).

### **HINDQUARTERS**

Seen from the rear, the hind legs are straight and parallel, but standing a little bit wider than the forelegs. Stifles and hocks are sufficiently bent. *Angulation* – Hindquarters should be sufficiently angulated. The upper thigh muscles are lean and developed. The upper and lower thighs are of the same length. Hocks should be vertical. There should be no rear dewclaws. Serious fault – Short legs.

### **SKIN**

The skin should be dry and tight-fitting.

### **COAT**

*Hair* – There exists two types for the breed: smooth-coated and long-coated. Smooth coat dogs have short, close-lying, shiny hair, without undercoat or bald patches. Long coat dogs have bodies covered with moderately long (one inch to three inches) straight or slightly wavy hair, close-lying, which does not hide the natural outline of the body. Hair on the head and on the front part of limbs is short and close-lying. There are distinct feathers on rear side of limbs. The feet have long, silky hair which completely hides the nails. Long coated dogs have ears that are covered with thick, long hair forming a fringe. Dogs of more than three years have such a fringe which should completely hide the outer edges and tips of the ears. Body hair should not look tousled nor be too short (less than ½ inch). Disqualification – Long coat dogs: absence of any fringes on ears and presence of curly hair. (Dogs younger than 18 months may have sparse or few fringes).

### **COLOR**

Russian Toy coats may be Black and Tan, Chocolate and Tan, Blue and Tan, Red, Red Sable, or Red Brown. Black and Tan coats are jet black with rich, bright tan markings over eyes, on cheeks, inside ears, on chest, legs, and on underside of tail. Chocolate and Tan coats are rich chocolate brown with tan markings over eyes, on cheeks, inside ears, on chest, legs, and on underside of tail. Blue and Tan coats are blue based grey coloring with tan markings over eyes, on cheeks, inside ears, on chest, legs, and on underside of tail. Red coats are whole-colored red that may range from rich ruby to lighter hues, but deeper saturated color is preferred. Red Sable coats are red with black-tipped hair on body and ears. Red Brown coats are red with brown-tipped hair on body and ears. Faults – Presence of bald patches in smooth coat dogs. Too long or too short hair on body of long coat dogs. Small white spots under ½ inch on chest and toes. Solid black, brown and blue colors. Tan markings too large or with dark shadings. Any white spots on the head, abdomen and above metacarpus. Severe fault – Large white patches over ½ inch on chest and throat. Disqualification – Presence of brindle markings.

**GAIT**

Easy, straightforward, fast. No noticeable change in the topline when moving.

**TEMPERAMENT**

Active, cheerful, possessing keen intelligence, slightly aloof to strangers but neither cowardly nor aggressive. Fault – Timid behavior.

**FAULTS**

Any departure from the foregoing points should be considered a fault and the seriousness with which the fault should be regarded should be in exact proportion to its degree and its effect upon the health and welfare of the dog.

**DISQUALIFICATIONS**

Height at withers over 12 inches or under 7 inches.

Weight less than 2 pounds.

Hanging (completely down) ears.

Overshot, undershot.

Absence of one canine.

Long coat dogs: absence of any fringes on ears and presence of curly hair. (Dogs younger than 18 months may have sparse or few fringes).

Presence of brindle markings.

***Approved July 14, 2017***

***Effective July 1, 2018***

**Assistance to Member Club Applicants**

Board policy for processing Member club requests includes a minimum household within their local territory requirement. Some licensed clubs eligible to submit a membership request are not able to meet the local household requirement despite possessing extensive experience in holding successful AKC events. The Board VOTED to amend the policy to waive the local household requirement for member clubs based on event experience and history so they may be approved under Board policy. The new policy changes the local household requirement for member club applicants which have the experience.

The local household requirements for all clubs remain the same. However, if a club eligible for member status applies without the minimum local household requirements, and the club instead has event history that is extensive, they may qualify for approval under the new policy.

**AKC Household Requirements**

(August 1, 2017; amended May 2020 and January 2021 Board meeting)

Clubs applying for member, licensed or sanctioned status shall meet the following minimum household membership requirements:

All-Breed Clubs: 30 households / 25 local

Specialty Clubs and Group (Limited Breed): 20 households / 12 local

Agility, Obedience and Rally Clubs: 20 households / 12 local

Field Trial, Hunting, Lure Coursing, Herding and Earthdog Clubs: 20 households / 12 local

Scent Work Clubs: 20 households / 12 local

Tracking Clubs: 12 local households

Coonhound Clubs: 15 households / 8 local

**Conformation Junior Showmanship, Canine Partners**

The Board VOTED to modify the Junior Showmanship Regulations to permit an 18-month pilot program to allow Juniors with AKC Canine Partners-listed dogs to be eligible to compete in Conformation Junior Showmanship. The implementation of allowing Juniors to handle AKC Canine Partners will allow new young people and their families into the AKC, which will support the future of clubs and events. The effective date is July 1, 2021. The impact of the pilot program will be assessed prior to the end of 2022.

**Delegate and Club Approvals**

**The Board VOTED to approve the following individuals to serve as Delegates:**

Timothy Carrion, DDS, Owings Mills, MD

To represent Swamp Dog Club

Mary Lou Cuddy, Granville, NY

To represent Saratoga New York Kennel Club

Daniele Ledoux-Starzyk, Henderson, NV

To represent Silver State Kennel Club

Carey L. Moreschini, Pueblo West, CO

To represent Southern Colorado Kennel Club

Cecilia Resnick, Leander, TX

To represent Japanese Chin Club of America

Susan Schneider, Blairstown, NJ

To represent Norfolk Terrier Club

**The Board VOTED to approve the following Clubs for Membership:**

American Boerboel Club  
American Cesky Terrier Fanciers Association  
Miniature American Shepherd Club of the USA

**The Hon. David C. Merriam Resolution**

AT A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OF

THE AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB

Held on **January twelfth, two thousand and twenty-one,**

the following Resolution was unanimously adopted:

WHEREAS,

**THE HON. DAVID C. MERRIAM**

was first appointed to The American Kennel Club Board of Directors on August fourteenth, nineteen hundred and seventy-nine, serving until his resignation on July twenty-ninth, nineteen hundred and eighty-five; and,

WHEREAS, he again became a Delegate on March eighth, nineteen hundred and ninety-four, serving until nineteen hundred and ninety-six; after which he was elected American Kennel Club Executive Vice President/CEO on March twelfth, nineteen hundred and ninety-six; and,

WHEREAS, on September ninth, nineteen hundred and ninety-six, he resigned as Executive Vice President/CEO, and was appointed to the Board of Directors and elected Chairman; and,

WHEREAS, he served on the Board as Chairman from September ninth, nineteen hundred and ninety-six, and Vice-Chairman from March thirteenth, two thousand and one until March tenth, two thousand and nine; and,

WHEREAS, he received AKC approval to judge his beloved Bull Terrier breed in nineteen hundred and sixty-seven and judged terrier breeds at prestigious venues in the United States and the United Kingdom until his retirement from judging in two thousand and twenty; and,

WHEREAS, his lifelong dedication to the Bull Terrier in the roles of breed club officer, Delegate, exhibitor, judge, and tireless advocate has moved his fellow breed fanciers to bestow upon him the nickname "Mr. Bull Terrier," and his years as a trial-court judge in the State of California gave him the rare distinction of being an esteemed judge inside and outside of the ring;

WHEREAS, we will ever cherish our association with this distinguished sportsman, jurist, gentleman, and friend; and,

NOW THEREFORE, be it,

RESOLVED, that the Directors of The American Kennel Club extend to him their most sincere best wishes upon his retirement from dog show judging, and their deep appreciation for his past and continuing dedicated service to the sport of purebred dogs, his breed, and The American Kennel Club.

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Dr. Thomas M. Davies

AKC Board Chairman

It was VOTED to adjourn Tuesday, January 12, 2021 at 3:16 p.m. Eastern Time.

Adjourned

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_

Gina M. DiNardo, Executive Secretary