



**MEETING OF THE SHOWS LIAISON COUNCIL TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY
25 APRIL 2023 AT 11.00AM IN THE BOARDROOM, THE KENNEL CLUB,
CLARGES STREET**

AGENDA

ITEM 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

**ITEM 2. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING HELD
ON WEDNESDAY 3 MAY 2022**

The Council is requested to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 3 May 2022.

(Annex A refers)

ITEM 3. RESULTS OF RECOMMENDATIONS/MATTERS ARISING

a. Reserve Challenge Certificates (RCC)

Proposal: That 5 RCCs should be the equivalent of a Challenge Certificate (CC)

Outcome: The proposal was considered by the SEC and the Board and is currently on progressing in line with the development of the Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system. The Council is invited to note a verbal update.

b. Dogs eligible to compete at matches

Proposal: That dogs which have been awarded a Challenge Certificate (CC) or obtained any award that counts towards the title of a Champion under the rules of any governing body recognised by The Kennel Club be eligible to enter a special class at matches. It should be noted that dogs entered in this class would not be eligible to compete for Best in Match.

Outcome: The proposal and necessary regulation amendments were referred to and recommended by the SEC and subsequently approved by the Board effective from 1 January 2023.

c. Eligibility of Imported Breed Register dogs and non-CC (rare) breeds to compete at matches and limited shows

Proposal: That Imported Register Breeds and non-CC breeds (rare breeds) should be eligible to compete at limited shows and in matches, whether or not a dog had won any award that counted towards the title of a Champion under the rules of any governing body recognised by The Kennel Club.

Outcome: The proposal and necessary regulation amendments were referred to and recommended by the SEC and subsequently approved by the Board effective from 1 January 2023.

d. Counting of Imported Breed Register classes in class limit at limited shows

Proposal: That Imported Breed Register Breeds are not included within the number of classes societies can schedule at limited shows.

Outcome: The proposal and necessary regulation amendments were referred to and recommended by the SEC and subsequently approved by the Board effective from 1 January 2023.

ITEM 4. PROPOSALS

a. Proposed and presented by: Mrs I McManus

That the steward in the ring be allowed to complete Challenge Certificates and Reserve Challenge Certificates whilst the judge completes their judging of the breed. On completion of the judging, the judge must verify that the correct details have been inserted, once the judge is confident that these details are correct, they must sign these and complete the Best of Breed certificate.

F(1)23.d

“The judge shall decide on a Best of Sex and Reserve Best of Sex winner in each sex. Before deciding to award a Challenge Certificate the judge must be clearly of the opinion that the exhibit to which he is awarding the Challenge Certificate is of such outstanding merit as to be worthy of the title of Champion and that the exhibit to which he is awarding the Reserve Challenge Certificate is in his opinion worthy of being awarded the Challenge Certificate should the Challenge Certificate winner be disqualified. Should the Challenge Certificate not be awarded the Reserve Challenge Certificate cannot be awarded. The dog must be in the ring at the time the awards are made. The judge must complete and sign all certificates, in accordance with the catalogue details. **If requested by the judge, the steward may complete but must not sign certificates.**”

(Additions in bold)

(Effective TBC)

Rationale:

- To save a substantial amount of time particularly where there are multiple breeds allocated to a particular ring, in some instances at least one hour could be saved, this would enable the show to progress at a steady pace

b. Proposed and presented by: Mr A Moss

That 'baby puppy' classes be introduced at any breed club shows, and general open and limited shows. It is proposed that this class would be for dogs of 4-6 months old and could be scheduled in a breed (including AVNSC and AV Imported Breed Register) and/or Any Variety basis. There must be no progression to any group or best in show competition.

It is further suggested that the class be scheduled as normal with it being added to what a Level 1 judge can do (i.e., increase from 4 including a puppy to 5 including a 'baby puppy' and a puppy) in the case of breed classes.

F1.c.

"Only dogs of ~~six~~ **four** calendar months of age and over on the first day of the show are eligible for exhibition at Kennel Club licensed shows. However, societies may accept Not for Competition entries at their discretion. ~~and dogs aged four calendar months and over are eligible to enter Not for Competition at all Kennel Club licensed shows. Furthermore, dogs aged four calendar months and over are eligible to enter match competitions.~~"

(Additions in bold, deletions struck through)

(Effective TBC)

F(1).8.a.

"Puppies under ~~6~~ **four** calendar months of age on the first day of the show are not eligible for exhibition."

(Additions in bold, deletions struck through)

(Effective TBC)

F(1)26.g

"A baby puppy is a dog of four and not exceeding six calendar months of age on the first day of the show.

- 1. Baby Puppy classes may be scheduled at any breed club show or general open and limited shows**
- 2. Any Variety Baby Puppy classes may be scheduled**
- 3. Best Baby Puppy in Breed may be declared in each breed from the dogs entered in the Baby Puppy breed classes. There must be no progression in competition to any Group or Best in Show/Best Puppy in Show or Best Baby Puppy in Show"**

(Additions in bold)

(Effective TBC)

F(A)

***** applies to breed club shows and general open and limited shows only**

*****BABY PUPPY**

A baby puppy is a dog of four and not exceeding six calendar months of age on the first day of the show.”

(Additions in bold)

(Effective TBC)

Rationale:

- With a reduction of training clubs since Covid this gives people an opportunity to take young dogs to shows to gain much needed practice and socialisation
- Possible increased interest in open and limited shows as people may wish to socialise and gain real world experience and practice with young dogs
- At limited and open shows only as they are smaller events compared to a championship shows so could act as a good stepping stone for dogs of that age
- No group or best in show competition at general open or limited shows to prevent younger puppies having to stay throughout the day
- For breed shows a formalisation of the puppy walks currently being run

c. Proposed and presented by: Mr A Moss

The Council is requested to note that at its meetings on 7 April 2021 and 3 May 2022 it discussed whether Imported Breed Register breeds and non-CC (Rare Breed) dogs should be eligible for the Junior Warrant (JW) or a similar award. Mr Bennett noted that currently these breeds had no way of gaining a Stud Book Number (SBN). The office clarified that Mr Bennett was correct in that Imported Register Breeds and Rare Breeds (breeds not allocated championship status) were unable to gain a SBN through dog showing. It was further noted that should this be recommended a number of regulation updates would be necessary.

It was acknowledged that currently the Junior Warrant (JW) entitled dogs to a SBN but the Veteran Warrant (VW) did not. It was noted that the current JW criteria required a number of points to be awarded at shows which had CCs on offer for the breed, which was not possible for Imported Register and Rare Breeds.

A suggestion was raised that a different type of warrant for these breeds may be better than adapting the current JW, noting that Imported Register Breeds would be gaining points through Any Variety classes. Mr Bennett alongside Mrs Walmsley and Mrs Chapman undertook to consider this and bring a proposal to the next meeting.

It was highlighted that non-CC breeds were eligible to gain a Show Certificate of Excellence, for which points could only be gained for dogs of over 18 months. It would not therefore be necessary for the proposed Warrant to be available to dogs over this age as an award was already available. In view of the above, it was proposed by Mrs Thomson that the proposal be amended to include an age restriction to state that only dogs of up to 18 months would be eligible for the award. This was seconded by Mr Bennett. Mrs Chapman, who had seconded the original proposal, confirmed her agreement with the amendment.

However, it was acknowledged that the placing of such an age restriction would require careful reconsideration in respect of the points criteria, as any dog whose owner wished to achieve the award would now have a restricted time to gain the required number of points, rather than being able to gain them throughout its showing career.

Noting this, the Council agreed to defer further discussion pending submission of a revised proposal at its next meeting. Mr Bennett, Mrs Chapman, and Mr Moss undertook to collaborate to formulate a proposal for a non-CC Breed Warrant, which would, as far as possible, reflect the JW scheme.

Accordingly, the Council is invited to consider the following annexes as provided by Mr Moss. The Council is invited to note that the rationale is included within the annexes.

Junior Certificate of Excellence
(Annex B to follow)

ITEM 5. DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. Presented by: Mr S Bennett

It is noted that the current regulations do not allow best in show to be the highlight of the show as it is not the last competition to be judged and other competitions may be an anti-climax. Given that if a puppy at present wins a group/best in show etc it is no longer automatically the group/best in show winner, it may be more proportionate to allow shows to decide their own order themselves. It is noted that in Europe best in show is always the last award made.

Rationale:

- To give societies more freedom to manage their own shows
- Allow best in show to be the pinnacle of a show

b. Presented by: Mr S Bennett

There is a significant decrease in the number of stewards, which is causing major concerns for the organisers of shows. It is therefore suggested that:

- All judges approved to award Challenge Certificates must steward at any general limited, open or championship show at least once a year or;
- Any judge that wishes to be approved for an additional breed must steward on a further two occasions before approval

It is suggested that any judge that assists a society as a committee member and/or helps in the running of a show on the day will be exempt from the above requirement.

c. Presented by: Mr S Bennett

The cost of venues continues to rise as well as the number of suitable available venues that allow dog events falling. Could The Kennel Club consider setting up a further venue like the Stoneleigh building in another area.

ITEM 6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

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

ITEM 7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

An announcement confirming the date of the next meeting will be confirmed in September 2023.

NOTES:

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

THE KENNEL CLUB'S STRATEGIC AIMS

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