



**MEETING OF THE BREEDS LIAISON COUNCIL TO BE HELD ON 6 JUNE  
2023 AT 11.00AM VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS**

**AGENDA**

**ITEM 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

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

The Council is requested to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 25 May 2022.

**(Annex A refers)**

**ITEM 3. RESULTS OF RECOMMENDATIONS/MATTERS ARISING**

**a. Communication campaign**

At its meeting held on 4 November 2020, the Council supported a proposal to make the dog owning community more aware of its role and remit, in order to encourage engagement. The Show Executive Committee considered the proposal and whilst in support, it was noted that such an article would need to cover all six Liaison Councils and not just the Breeds Liaison Council. The Council was in favour of an article being published in the Kennel Club Journal.

An update was provided to the Council by the office. The marketing and communications department had advised that the Kennel Gazette would be a more appropriate channel for such an article than The Kennel Club Journal, however it would be necessary for suitable content to be formulated. One suggestion had been the inclusion of profiles of one or more Council members with an emphasis on their work and achievements via the Council, which would provide an appropriate 'news' element. It was agreed that this should be progressed as soon as possible by the office.

The Council is requested to note that the matter was currently under discussion with the Chair and an update would be provided when possible.

**b. List of breed clubs on The Kennel Club website**

At its meeting held on 26 May 2021 the Council considered a proposal from the Irish Water Spaniel Association requesting that The Kennel Club supported breed clubs on its website by providing a list of such clubs and their contact information on the breed information pages with an explanation of their purpose. The Council noted that currently locating information about breed clubs via The Kennel Club's website was not a simple process and the Association considered that, as many people were not aware of the existence of breed clubs, they would be highly unlikely to look for them unless their attention was drawn to them. For this reason, it would be helpful for suitable signposting towards breed clubs to be provided for prospective puppy buyers, in order to provide an additional source of guidance and information for them. The Association suggested that The Kennel Club's support in this matter would go some way to provide resources to potential owners.

Some concern had been expressed as to the potential difficulties in ensuring that contact information for breed clubs included in breed information pages was kept up to date, and that considerable resources would be required for maintenance. As an alternative it was suggested that owners could be directed to the Find a Club facility via signposting.

The office provided an update, confirming that the Find a Club facility was currently in development for delivery, and it was anticipated that it would be released towards the end of 2022. The Council's recommendation had been forwarded to the relevant team within The Kennel Club, and it had been taken into consideration.

The Council reiterated its view that new puppy owners should receive as much information as possible but agreed that the matter should be reviewed once the Find a Club facility was available.

The Council is requested to note that the Find a Club facility was now live and a link to this had been placed in the breeds a-z section of the website to direct people looking to purchase a dog to relevant breed clubs.

#### **c. Colour Watch**

The Council is reminded that it had raised concerns with the number of non-breed standard registrations. As such the Council is invited to note a summary regarding the introduction of a 'colour watch' system, which had now received Board approval.

**(Annex B refers)**

#### **d. Partnerships Shows**

The Council is reminded that its views had been requested on the matter of partnership shows.

The Council is invited to note that a verbal update would be provided at the meeting.

**e. Vulnerable breed stands at Crufts**

The Council is invited to note that a suggestion was raised that all vulnerable breeds and non-CC breeds receive a 50% discount on the cost of a breed club stand at Crufts. This was sent directly to the Crufts Committee to ensure it was considered in a timely manner.

The Council is invited to further note that the suggestion had now been considered by the Crufts Committee, which recommended that only the vulnerable native breeds should receive a discount of £75 noting that the full price is currently £175 which just covers the cost to supply the stand unit. The Council is invited to note that this had now been approved by the Board.

**ITEM 4. PROPOSALS**

**a. Proposed and presented by: Mrs S Walton**

That the current regulation regarding the submission of critiques be amended as follows to include The Kennel Club judges critique website as an appropriate place for submissions.

It is appreciated that not every judge, exhibitor, etc. may have access to the internet and some exhibitors, breeders etc. still like to read critiques in a weekly journal. Therefore, the requirement for the critique to be published in the dog press should stand.

F(1)20.d

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

(Additions in bold, deletions struck through)

(Effective TBC)

**Rationale:**

- It could be said that the present rule is out of date as there is only one weekly dog journal and there is no enforceable requirement for the dog press to publish critiques that have been submitted to it
- As The Kennel Club has provided a website for critiques to be published it would be sensible to include the publishing of critiques on this platform in the regulations
- Unable to obtain information from the dog press as to whether critiques have been submitted or when they will be published

## ITEM 5. DISCUSSION ITEMS

### a. Presented by: Mrs S Walton

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

F(1)20.d

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

(Additions in bold, deletions struck through)

(Effective TBC)

#### **Rationale:**

- Exhibitors really want to see critiques as they want to know what a judge thought about their dog.

### b. Presented by: Mrs T Jackson

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

As a compromise if this is not possible that the registration certifications include a message, along line of “before considering breeding please check the recommended health tests for <this breed> at <https://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/dog-breeding/the-kennel-club-assured-breeders/breed-specific-requirements-and-recommendations-including-health-screening/>

#### **Rationale:**

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

**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**

The Council is invited to note the next meeting is planned for **8 November 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***