



# THE KENNEL CLUB

## **KCLC BREEDS COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD ON 26 MAY 2021 BY MICROSOFT TEAMS AT 11AM**

### AGENDA

#### **ITEM 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

#### **ITEM 2. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 4 NOVEMBER 2020 (Minutes previously circulated)**

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

The Council is requested to note the following updates upon its recommendations:

a) Guest attendance

At its meeting held on 4 November 2020, the Council gave consideration to a proposal to allow guest speakers to speak about a proposal and stay for the entirety of the meeting. The Council is requested to note that its recommendation that breed representatives who attend a meeting as a guest to present complex proposals should be allowed to stay for the whole meeting was considered by the Show Executive Committee. The Council is requested to note that, following a recommendation from the Show Executive Committee, the Board has approved the below regulation to be effective from 1 July 2021:

Regulation P(B)4

**TO:**

Breed representatives may apply to attend a council meeting for a specific purpose. Such application, specifying the agenda item concerned, must be made in writing to the Secretary, at least one calendar month before the date of the meeting. Attendance by breed representatives will be at the discretion of the Breeds Council chairman. A representative attending for this purpose ~~will be present when the specific issue is being discussed and not for the whole meeting~~ and will have no vote.

(Deletions struck through)

(Effective 1 July 2021)

b) Kennel Club Liaison Council timeframes

At its meeting held on 4 November 2020, the Council gave consideration to a proposal which would alter the length of time for submission of items to the Council and the timescales for issuing the agenda. The Council is requested to note that the Show Executive Committee gave consideration to the proposal and directed that the new proposed deadlines be referred to the Activities Committee and Field Trial Committee at their next available meetings for consideration.

c) Communication campaign

At its meeting held on 4 November 2020, the Council considered a proposal to increase the publicity of the Council to make people more aware of what it is and what it does. The Show Executive Committee considered the proposal and was of the view that such an article would need to cover all the liaison councils and not just the Breeds Liaison Council. The Committee was

in favour of an article to be included in the Kennel Gazette, however consideration was still being given by the relevant team as to the specific content and timeframe.

d) Non-standard colours

At its meeting held on 4 November 2020, the Council considered a proposal which requested that non-standard colours appear at the bottom of the list when registering litters. The Council is requested to note that the requested change would be made in due course.

e) Health results on registration forms

At its meeting held on 4 November 2020, the Council had noted that there had been a change in policy whereby no health results would be shown on registration certificates, as up-to-date results of health tests would be available on The Kennel Club website. The Council expressed its concern that this would not be a positive step and it was preferred that the results should continue to be shown on the registration certificates.

The Council is requested to note that this change was not made lightly and it was made to present health information in a more up-to-date and dynamic way that is beneficial to both the puppy buyer and the breeder. When The Kennel Club started to collect health data, there were limited ways in which this information could be reported and the registrations certificates and Breed Record Supplement were the best solution at the time. However, information would only be correct at the time of printing.

The Council is requested to note that online data for an individual dog, including estimated breeding values, can be updated in real time either with new test results or results of any new tests that could change or become available at a later date.

## **ITEM 4. PROPOSALS**

- a) Proposer: Chow Chow Breed Council  
Presented by: Mr E Paterson, Utility delegate

To give breed clubs the opportunity to engage with new owners of breeds, it is proposed by the Chow Chow Breed Council, seconded by the Bulldog Breed Council that The Kennel Club issue a list of registered breed clubs specific for the breed to new puppy owners, at the time when the owner is sent a Transfer of Ownership certificate.

This would then enable new owners of a breed to contact a club relevant to their breed and would give the club the opportunity to encourage responsible ownership and also develop the possible avenues of showing, agility etc., as appropriate for the breed.

- b) Proposer: Irish Water Spaniel Association  
Presented by: Mrs J Holgate, Gundog delegate

The Irish Water Spaniel Association would like to request that The Kennel Club supports 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.

Currently there is no reference to breed clubs on these pages and the means of locating information about them is protracted in the extreme. The only route being through the 'Find a Club' search facility then scrolling down to find breed clubs to find an alphabetical list of breeds. We would suggest that the general public not familiar with the pedigree dog world would be highly unlikely to know that breed clubs for specific breeds exist so would have no incentive to look for them via any other route than the Breed Information pages.

We would further suggest that The Kennel Club's support in this matter would go some way to provide resources to potential owners especially those looking for information about vulnerable

native breeds which is not available elsewhere and which is so often sought on social media currently.

- c) Proposer: The Yellow Labrador Club  
Presented by: Mrs S Walton, Gundog Delegate

The Yellow Labrador Club wishes the Council to consider a number of issues in relation to health schemes, as follows:

1. That The Kennel Club re-assess the Kennel Club (KC)/British Veterinary Association (BVA) hip and elbow schemes to bring the costs and turnaround times more in line with the overseas schemes. The aim should also be to ensure that the working of the scheme should be robust enough to withstand any future events which may occasion the BVA office in London to close down. The Club would suggest that The Kennel Club considers facilitating the installation of an IT system at the BVA linked to The Kennel Club registration database which could enable online submission by a breeder's vet of a form with the dog's details and digital images which could then be read and scored remotely by the BVA scrutineers. The turnaround time from submission to results being sent by email should be a maximum of three weeks.

2. The Yellow Labrador Club would like to propose that The Kennel Club keep a record of all hip and elbow results whether they are done under the BVA scheme or under an equivalent scheme abroad. It should be possible to access these records via The Kennel Club website along with the BVA results. Caveats must be published alongside non-UK results and where possible an equivalent if the result had been scored by the KC/BVA scheme.

3. To enable the second proposal, the Yellow Labrador Club suggests that a study should be carried out to establish the comparability of each overseas scheme to the KC/BVA scheme. Scores from KC/BVA and the overseas scheme on plates for hips and elbows for the same dog should be compared, a report prepared and published in the Health section of The Kennel Club website.

## **Rationale**

It would appear that the KC/BVA hip and elbow schemes have fallen behind in efficiency than those of some other countries. With modern technology it should be possible to install an IT system linked to The Kennel Club registration database which could enable online submission of a form with the dog's details and digital images which could then be read and scored remotely by the BVA scrutineers. This should improve turnaround times and result in a reduction in costs both to the BVA and breeders using the scheme. Also should there be another pandemic or lockdown the system would be robust enough to be able to continue.

The club is aware of the high standards and quality of the KC/BVA hip and elbow schemes and would not in any way want this compromised.

Prior to the pandemic turnaround times were not always satisfactory. During the pandemic it has become clear that the KC/BVA scheme has fallen short of expectations. People have had to wait up to five months for hip and elbow results which has caused considerable inconvenience to breeders and jeopardised breeding plans.

It has come to the attention of the club that many breeders have turned to the overseas schemes which are cheaper and have an average turnaround time of less than two weeks despite the Covid restrictions. If the KC/BVA continues to run as it does then there is a danger that many breeders (having discovered how quick and easy and cost effective it is to send their plates abroad) will continue to use the overseas schemes.

The Club feels that this is going to cause considerable confusion in the future and will be detrimental to the health of our dogs. To encourage breeders to continue to use the KC/BVA schemes action needs to be taken quickly before breeders get used to sending their plates abroad.

Should it be necessary to enact the second part of the proposal there is a concern that some of the overseas schemes may not be comparable to the KC/BVA scheme which could lead to a lowering of standards. To help ensure that this does not occur the club would ask that The Kennel Club arrange for the BVA to score a number of X-ray plates that have already been scored abroad to allow The Kennel Club to observe how comparable the other scoring systems and the BVA scheme are.

The value of the EBVs would be diminished as not all scores for dogs and their progeny would be available in the calculations.

A register of all scored dogs would be most helpful to breeders when selecting possible stud dogs. The scores of all the progeny of a stud dog were previously available all in one list with names of the dams on MyKC. This is no longer available on the new Kennel Club website.

## **ITEM 5. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

No items for discussion have been submitted.

## **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 THE NEXT MEETING**

The next KCLC Breeds Council meeting will be held on 3 November 2021. Agenda items must be received by 5 August 2021.

## **THE KENNEL CLUB'S STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE**

**To raise the relevance of The Kennel Club in the eyes of the public at large, dog owners and those who take part in canine events, so as to be better able 'to promote in every way the general improvement of dogs'.**

### **Notes:**

1. *The Kennel Club will reimburse standard class return rail fares to all Representatives attending the meeting from their address 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 class rail fares. Although, it is requested that tickets are booked well in advance to take advantage of any reduction in fares.*
3. *Please give 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 reasonable and externally incurred costs connected with a Council, if agreed in advance. Therefore, Representatives should apply to the office of The Kennel Club for approval of any costs they might wish to claim prior to the expense being incurred.*