



**MINUTES OF THE KCLC BREEDS COUNCIL MEETING HELD VIA
MICROSOFT TEAMS AT 11.00 ON 25 MAY 2022**

Present:

Mr A Bicknell	Mrs D Britten
Miss C Boggia	Mr S Collier
Mr J Cuddy	Mr G Davies
Mrs D Ellrich	Mr J Horswell
Mr T Hutchings	Mrs T Jackson
Mr R Kinsey	Miss SA Leslie
Mrs J Morgan	Miss E Newton (item 8 onwards)
Mr E Paterson	Mr K Pursglove
Mrs J Piper	Mr D Roberts
Dr A Schemel	Miss A Summers
Miss S Taylor	Mrs A Teasdale
Mr M Walshaw	Mrs S Walton

In Attendance:

Miss D Deuchar – Head of Canine Activities
Mr J Winnington – Manager, Breed Shows Team
Mrs A Mitchell – Senior Committee Secretary
Miss C Walsh – Officer, Breed Shows Team

NOTE: any recommendations made by the Breeds Liaison Council are subject to review by the Show Executive Committee and The Kennel Club Board, and will not come into effect unless and until Board approval has been confirmed.

ITEM 1. TO ELECT A CHAIRMAN FOR THE TERM OF THE COUNCIL

1. Following an online election process during which a number of nominations for the post of Chair were received, Mrs Jackson was duly elected as Chair.

IN THE CHAIR: MRS T JACKSON

ITEM 2. TO ELECT A VICE-CHAIRMAN FOR THE TERM OF THE COUNCIL

2. Nominations for the post of Vice-Chair were received by email prior to the meeting, and an election took place by online ballot, following which Mr Paterson was duly elected as Vice Chair.

ITEM 3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

3. Apologies were received from Mrs C Morgan, Mrs K Moores, Mrs J Sparrow and Mrs B Thornley. Mrs M Swash was not present.



ITEM 4. TO ELECT ONE MEMBER FOR THE SHOW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR THE TERM OF THE COMMITTEE (2022-2025)

4. Following an election carried out via email prior to the meeting, Mr Paterson had been proposed and seconded as the Council's representative on the Show Executive Committee. No further nominations had been received and Mr Paterson had been duly elected as the Council's representative.
5. Accordingly, Mr Paterson and Mrs Jackson, in her capacity of Chairman of the Council, would attend meetings of the Show Executive Committee on behalf of the Council.

ITEM 5. PRESENTATION TO THE COUNCIL ON KENNEL CLUB STRUCTURES AND PROCEDURES

6. The meeting received a presentation giving details of The Kennel Club and Liaison Council structure and procedures and the role of Council representatives.
7. The issue of confidentiality was highlighted, and all representatives were reminded that in the interests of accuracy and consistency they may not discuss any matters considered by the Council until the minutes had been issued.
8. In response to a request, the office confirmed that a copy of the presentation would be circulated to all Council delegates following the meeting.

ITEM 6. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 26 MAY 2021

9. The minutes of the meeting held on 26 May 2021 were approved as being an accurate record.

ITEM 7. RESULTS OF RECOMMENDATIONS

10. The Council noted the following updates to recommendations from its meeting held 26 May 2021:
Communication campaign
11. At its meeting held on 4 November 2020, the Council had 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.
12. 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.

13. It was agreed that this should be progressed as soon as possible by the office.

Lists of breed clubs on The Kennel Club website

14. At its meeting held on 26 May 2021 the Council had 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 had 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 had suggested that The Kennel Club's support in this matter would go some way to provide resources to potential owners.
15. 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.
16. 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.
17. 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.

Health schemes

18. At its meeting held on 26 May 2021, the Council gave consideration to a proposal from the Yellow Labrador Club, represented by Mrs Walton which wished the Council to consider a number of issues in relation to health schemes. In particular, the Council highlighted the long delays experienced by many breeders in obtaining hip and elbow scores via The Kennel Club (KC)/British Veterinary Association (BVA) scheme, as a result of which many had chosen instead to carry out scoring via overseas schemes, in particular using schemes in Australia, the USA, and Sweden. The Council highlighted the potential for considerable confusion in the future, alongside concerns regarding possible detriment to the health of dogs, and it was hoped that breeders could be encouraged to continue to use the BVA/KC schemes.
19. The Council had also considered a suggestion that The Kennel Club should reassess the BVA/KC hip and elbow schemes in order to bring the costs and turnaround times to be more in line with the overseas schemes, and to ensure that the workings of the scheme should be sufficiently robust enough to withstand any future events which may occasion the BVA office in London to close. Furthermore, it was suggested that The Kennel Club should consider facilitating the installation of an IT system at the BVA linked to The Kennel Club's registration database which could enable online submission by a breeder's veterinary surgeon 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.



20. The Council had also supported a proposal that The Kennel Club should keep a record of all hip and elbow results whether under the BVA scheme or under an equivalent scheme abroad. It was of the view that it should be possible to access these records via The Kennel Club website along with the BVA results. Caveats should be published alongside non-UK results and, where possible, an equivalent, if the result had been scored by the BVA/KC scheme. The Council was in full support of the publication of all hip and elbow scores, albeit with caveats as necessary. The proposal also included an issue on comparison between schemes. There was a suggestion that a study should be carried out to establish the comparability of each overseas scheme to the BVA/KC scheme. Scores from BVA/KC and the overseas scheme on plates for hips and elbows for the same dog should be compared, a report prepared and published in the relevant health section of The Kennel Club website.
21. The Council noted that updates had been issued to breed health co-ordinators and they had been assured that a number of measures were being developed with the BVA to enhance the BVA/KC Scheme, and progress would be reviewed later this year. In particular, the breed health co-ordinator for Labrador Retrievers had been made fully aware of these developments.
22. It was confirmed that no comparison would be made between the BVA/KC Hip & Elbow Scheme and other schemes at this time, but may be undertaken by the genetics and health screening sub-group of the Dog Health Group at a later stage if the measures to enhance the BVA/KC Scheme were not considered to have been effective. The appropriate channel for this to be discussed or for interested parties to contact The Kennel Club to discuss this matter was health@thekennelclub.org.uk.
23. Noting this, the Council was informed that the Labrador Breed Council's health sub-committee had made its own comparisons between approximately 50-60 sample x-rays which had been submitted to both the BVA and the Australian National Kennel Council, and had concluded that there did not appear to be significant differences between scores obtained via the two routes. It had requested assistance from The Kennel Club in progressing its research but had not as yet received co-operation on this matter.
24. The Council noted concerns that some breeders were frustrated that scores obtained via overseas schemes would not be published by The Kennel Club, and were advocating setting up an alternative registry. The Council did not consider this to be a desirable outcome, but emphasised its own frustration regarding the lack of progress on the matter of the recording of health results.
25. Mrs Jackson undertook to contact Mr Lambert, The Kennel Club's Health, Welfare and Breeder Services Executive. to raise these concerns.
26. A query was raised as to whether it was possible for submissions to be made to the BVA digitally. It was confirmed that the BVA's website contained the following statement as part of an FAQ:
Can I submit online?
Yes, we accept online submissions from vet practices, and over half are now submitted online. We plan to further increase the volume of online submissions and to gradually phase out paper-based submissions.
27. Further information on the BVA scheme was available at: <https://www.bva.co.uk/canine-health-schemes/hip-scheme/>



ITEM 8. PROPOSALS

Proposed: Whippet Breed Council

To be presented by: Mrs E Newton, Hound Delegate

28. Due to technical issues as a result of which Mrs Newton, a delegate for the Hound group, had been temporarily unable to join the meeting, the item was presented by Mrs Boggia.
29. The Whippet Breed Council wished to propose that the custom and practice of lining dogs up from left to right, with the last class judged on the left, be adopted as a regulation when awarding a CC at Championship shows or Best of Breed at Open shows. At the present time confusion and conflict may arise where not all judges were using the same practice.
30. It was of the view that should this custom be adopted as a regulation, it would also benefit the welfare and inexperience of puppies as they would not be unnerved by older and more experienced dogs wanting or needing to move faster on the move. It would also provide clarity for judges, stewards, exhibitors and spectators.
31. The Whippet Breed Council wished to draw the Council's attention to an instance in which a judge had awarded the Challenge Certificate to a Minor Puppy which was on the left of the line-up, but had then requested that the dog placed 2nd in the Open class be called in to challenge for the Reserve Challenge Certificate, due to a confusion over which class the Challenge Certificate winner had come from.
32. The proposal was seconded by Mr Walshaw.
33. Mrs Newton joined the meeting at this point.
34. The Council acknowledged that it was good practice to line the dogs up in class order, although it also accepted that where a Veteran class was judged prior to Minor Puppy, a judge may request that the Veteran winner should stand next to the winner of the Open class, and that it was quite acceptable to do so. This would also apply in the case of other classes in which adult dogs may compete, such as Special Beginner or Good Citizen classes. It was not of the view that there was any requirement for a regulation to state a mandatory order in which dogs should be lined up.
35. The Council was also of the view that in the instance referred to, the judge should have been aware that they had awarded the Challenge Certificate to the winner of the Minor Puppy class. It considered that any confusion was a reflection of incompetent judging which was a judging issue, and not a regulatory matter.
36. A vote took place, and by a large majority, the proposal was not supported.
37. It was highlighted that, should the Whippet Breed Council wish to make a recommendation to judges that dogs should be lined up in strict class order, then it may do so, however the decision as to the order of dogs within the line-up would remain at the discretion of the judge.

ITEM 9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Dogs of non-standard colour

38. The following item had been accepted for discussion under Any Other Business as it had originally been submitted for a previous agenda but was omitted.



39. Represented by Mrs Walton, the Labrador Retriever Club, together with the Midland Counties Labrador Retriever Club wished to propose that the following be included in The Kennel Club's show regulations:

'Clubs and societies may include a clause in their schedules stating that entries for their events will only be accepted for dogs whose coat colour is as set out in the relevant breed standard and it is the responsibility of the owner to ensure their dog complies with this requirement.'

40. The two clubs were of the view that this measure would address concerns within the Labrador community regarding the possibility that dogs of a non-standard colour may be entered at a show or another Kennel Club licensed event, which they did not consider to be desirable. It was emphasised that including such a statement in schedules would be at the discretion of clubs, and would not be mandatory.
41. The Council noted that there were similar concerns in other breeds, in which dogs of non-standard colours were already being exhibited. However, it was emphasised that Kennel Club breed standards did not include disqualifying faults, and as such, coat colour could only be considered as a fault to be taken into account when assessing a dog, and judges should penalise it accordingly.
42. There was little support for the proposal to be progressed, and it was also noted that the wider issue of non-standard colours was already being considered by The Kennel Club via a working group chaired by Mr F Kane. Accordingly, the Council did not recommend that any further action be taken at the present time.

Contact information

43. The office confirmed that it would supply a list of email addresses to Council delegates in order to allow them to agree which delegates would represent which breeds.
44. Mrs Jackson also offered to set up a community group via Slack, a messaging app, which would facilitate informal discussions to take place in between Council meetings.

Breed representatives

45. It was noted that some breeds had not appointed representatives to the Council, but that they may still submit nominations to the office.

ITEM 10. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

46. The next KCLC Breeds Council meeting would be held on **Wednesday 09 November 2022**. Agenda items must be received by **11 August 2022**.
47. The Council noted that proposals or discussion items may be submitted either from a breed club, or by an individual, however a delegate must be briefed to present the item at the meeting.
48. In response to a query, it was confirmed that no decision had as yet been made as to whether the meeting would take place at The Kennel Club, or whether it would be held remotely.

The meeting closed at 12.15 pm with thanks to all present.

MRS T JACKSON
CHAIRMAN