



## **KCLC BREEDS COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD AT THE KENNEL CLUB BOARDROOM ON 22 MAY 2019 AT 11AM – AGENDA**

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

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

**ITEM 3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

**ITEM 4. TO ELECT A MEMBER FOR THE SHOW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR THE TERM OF THE COUNCIL**

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

The Office will give a presentation to Council representatives giving details of the Kennel Club and Liaison Council structure and procedures and the role of Council representatives.

**ITEM 6. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 7 NOVEMBER 2018**

Annex A refers.

**ITEM 7. RESULTS OF RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Council is requested to note the following updates to recommendations from its meeting held 07 November 2018:

**Proposal: Australian Cattle Dog Society of Great Britain**

a) ‘The Society would like to propose that the KC Registration Documents be altered to allow space for the Kennel Club/British Veterinary Association Eye Panelists to stamp when they do annual eye certification.’

The Council is invited to note that this proposal was forwarded onto the Health & Breeders Team for their review and a verbal update will be provided.

**Proposal: Southern Newfoundland Club**

b) ‘At the Southern Newfoundland Club’s Committee meeting held in January 2018 it was unanimously agreed that the Club write to the Kennel Club to formally recommend that it consider that the spaces next to ‘Health Screening – Kennel Club British Veterinary Association Schemes’ and ‘DNA Tests’ on the registration information document should never be left blank. The Club proposes instead to add the wording ‘None Recorded’, or similar, if there was no test result to show.

The Council is invited to note that the above proposal is due to be considered by the Health & Breeders Team at its next meeting and a verbal update will be made at the meeting.



## **ITEM 8. MATTERS ARISING**

### **Discussion Items:**

**To be presented by Mr D Winsley.**

**a) 'As Kennel Club Breeds Liaison Council Officer and on behalf of the Staffordshire Bull Terrier Breed Council of Great Britain & Northern Ireland, Ms Jackson wished to propose that the registration fees for puppies from parents that are DNA tested to the minimum recommended for that particular breed, were set at a lower level (e.g. 20% less) than the registration fees for puppies that are from parents that are not tested to the recommended minimum. The differential should be a financial incentive to DNA testing which will give a better impact on all breeds health requirements, outcomes and breeding.'**

At its meeting held on 07 November 2018, the Council had given consideration to the above proposal. It was hoped that the introduction of reduced registration fees would encourage breeders to carry out DNA testing which would benefit the breed and would contribute to the Kennel Club's objective of promoting the wellbeing of all dogs.

The Council had noted that registration fees were already slightly lower for members of the Assured Breeder Scheme (ABS) but acknowledged that not every breeder wished to join the Scheme. Furthermore, the proposal appeared to only refer to DNA testing and did not cover other tests such as hip and elbow scoring. Furthermore, the proposal did not clarify whether it would cover those dogs which had not been DNA tested but were 'clear by inheritance'. In addition the Assured Breeders Scheme provided a list of health tests applicable to each breed.

The Council had expressed its support of the proposal in principle especially in regards to health testing. However it did not consider that the current proposal was clear and requested that the Breed Council submit a revised proposal.

The Breed Council has now submitted a revised proposal and the Council is requested to give further consideration to this matter:

**The Staffordshire Bull Terrier Breed Council of United Kingdom and Ireland wish to propose that the registration fees for puppies from parents that have followed breed specific requirements and recommendations in relation to health testing, should be afforded the same privileged reduction in registration fees as those registered with the Assured Breeder Scheme, compared to puppies that are registered from parents who are not seen to follow any breed specific requirements and recommendations as regards health screening. This promotes good breeding practices with the aim of working together.**

### **b) Sentience of Animals**

At its meeting held on 22 November 2017, the Council had expressed its concern that media reports appeared to suggest that Members of Parliament had taken a vote that rejected the idea that animals were sentient. At its meeting held on 07 November 2018, the Council noted that since the vote the Government had drafted the Animal Sentience (Sentencing and Recognition of Sentience) Draft Bill. Under the terms of the draft bill, the maximum penalty for animal cruelty offences would increase from 6 months to 5 years imprisonment, and it would ensure that animals were defined in UK law as sentient beings.

The Council are requested to an update from the Public Affairs Team:

'In essence from a legislative perspective we are no further forward, the Animal Sentience (Sentencing and Recognition of Sentience) Draft Bill has not progressed through parliament and been implemented into UK law.'



Following parliamentary scrutiny it was felt the initial drafting of the Bill had been rushed and some areas needed further clarification / refinement for it to fully achieve its aims. Therefore the Government is still in the process of redrafting the Bill with a view to bringing it back to parliament. Therefore new UK laws regarding animal sentience and cruelty sentencing have not progressed further at this stage.

However, it is important to note that 'animal sentience' from a legal perspective is a much greater issue for wild animals. The most important legal protection for companion animals, such as dogs, is currently and will continue to be enshrined under the various Animal Welfare Acts across the UK. These Acts place a legal duty of responsibility on the keepers of the animals to look after the welfare of these animals. This will not be directly impacted as a result of Brexit or the previous sentience vote.

The sentience Bill if and when passed will place some form of duty on Government to consider animal sentience when taking decisions, which will be welcome.' c) Judges Competency Framework At its meeting held 07 November 2018, the Council received a report on developments within the Judges Competency Framework (JCF). The Council are requested to note updates to the JCF since its last meeting. (**Annex B refers**)

## **ITEM 9. PROPOSALS**

Proposed: Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club of Great Britain

To be presented by: Mr D Winsley

a) The Soft-Coated Wheaten Terrier Club of Great Britain would like to bring to the attention of the Kennel Club the fact that the recent publication of breed mentors' names, as part of the Judges Competency Framework (JCF) process, has caused some issues for the Mentors in our Breed.

The impact of publishing these mentors names, has caused issues for them and caused additional work for our breed club in trying to prevent mentees from making direct contact with them.

The Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club of Great Britain acknowledges that -

- The Kennel Club advise in their Code of Best Practice for Breed Mentoring (Section 5.3) that the mentors names would be published;
- The Kennel Club website does advise Mentees not to contact the mentors directly regarding mentoring sessions, and instead go via the BEC to arrange.

However, our experience and that of our breeds mentors, is that once the mentors' names were published, they began receiving contact from individuals asking for mentoring sessions. The mentors concerned were not expecting this level of contact, nor were the club, and the mentors felt they were being unduly harassed.

Regardless of the advice to mentees on the Kennel Club website stating they should go via the Breed Education Co-ordinator to arrange mentoring sessions, it seems they either have not seen this guidance, or are choosing to ignore it.

As a result, our breed club was in the position of having to re-assure mentors that mentees should only be going direct to the BEC, and not directly to them individually.

We are aware that our breed club's experience and that of our mentors, was not an isolated instance, and that several other breed clubs had similar issues to resolve.

If the mentors continue to be contacted directly by the mentees, we will lose their goodwill in carrying out this important voluntary role and will have insufficient mentors for JCF.



We would therefore like to understand the rationale behind the decision made by the Kennel Club to publish the mentors' names. If the correct process is that mentees need to go via the BEC to arrange mentoring sessions, what is the reason to publish Mentors' names.

If there are legitimate reasons for publishing the mentors' names in this way, then advising mentees of the correct process must be given greater prominence to prevent further direct contact with mentors.

Proposed: Golden Retriever Breed Council

To be presented by: Mrs S Walton

b) The Golden Retriever Breed Council wishes to propose amendments to Regulations B 2.c: that the Kennel Club should not continue the current practice of registering puppies of either 'impure or unverified origins' in the Breed Register but instead consider only registration in the Activity Register; or as an alternative, to publish such litters in a clearly different section of the Breed Records Supplement. Also, we would request that the statement on the front of the Breed Records Supplement, "Where asterisks are shown after the registered name, this identifies the dog of either impure or unverified origins" be included on the home page of the Health Test Results Finder.

Rationale:

As this practice could affect all breeds the matter is being brought before this Council for its consideration. In Golden Retrievers for example, litters have been found in Breed Record Supplements AU4 /2, AU3 /2 and AV2 /2, all sired by the same unverified dog and including one litter registered by a KC Assured Breeder. It is felt that people generally are unaware that the Kennel Club registers puppies that are of either 'impure or unverified origins' in the Breed Register; and we fear that there may be potential for misunderstanding and/or misrepresentation: the puppies could be 'impure' although being sold as a specific breed, for example in this case Golden Retrievers. Litters are published in the Breed Records Supplement with the puppies' names marked only by an asterisk(s); and the parents' / grandparents' health screening might be incomplete or untested. To improve awareness and understanding it also would be helpful to have relevance of the asterisk(s) against a dog's registered name explained on the Health Test Results Finder.

Proposed: Kirsteen Farrar – Chair, the Newfoundland Club

To be presented by: Ms J Davie

c) The Kennel Club Assured Breeders Scheme is a significant step forward in promoting responsible breeding in pedigree dogs and enabling purchasers to have a framework by which to make decisions about the suitability of breeders.

The scheme currently states:

*1.2) Supply a brief written statement for publication, accurately outlining their experience and involvement in the breed(s) or type of dogs that they produce. Statements of experience are updated during an Assessment visit or may be updated by the Kennel Club at the Assured Breeder's request. Registration and awards records are checked to verify whether the Assured Breeder qualifies for a Breeding Experience and/or Kennel Club Stud Book accolade. It is the Assured Breeder's responsibility to inform the Kennel Club which registered breed club they belong to so that records may be checked with regard to the Breed Club Accolade. The Accolade of Excellence is awarded, after nominations are considered, by the Board, and may be removed at any time. Information is shared with breed club secretaries to confirm breed club membership.*

The listing on the Kennel Club website currently indicates whether the Assured Breeder is a member of one or more breed clubs. However, we are aware that many puppy purchasers assume that the breed club membership relates to the breed in which they currently advertising puppies for sale, which may not



necessarily be the case. For example an Assured Breeder may be a member of the St Bernard Club only and advertising Newfoundland puppies for sale. Often the purchaser wrongly assumes the membership is of the Newfoundland Club (in this example) and therefore assumes a level of knowledge of the breed and that they are complying with that specific breed club's Code Of Ethics and are therefore taking false assurance from the information. The proposal is that the specific breed club that the breeder is a member of is listed with their details on the Kennel Club website under any advert for puppies that they currently have available. We believe this would enhance the credibility of the scheme.

Proposed: the Irish Setter Breeders Club

To be presented by a Gundog Delegate.

d) A DNA test for PRA RCD4 (late onset PRA) was made available to the breed in 2011. The Joint Health Group for Irish Setters which is comprised of representatives of all 8 UK breed clubs and headed by Professor E D Hall, has previously requested that the Kennel Club issue a definitive policy document regarding acceptable breeding combinations of all stock (clear, carrier & affected). Can the Kennel Club now address this and provide breeders with a definitive statement? It is also very concerned (as are all responsible breeders) that litters continue to be registered by the Kennel Club where the status (clear, carrier & affected) of both parents is unknown, despite the availability of the DNA test and request that the Kennel Club refuses to register such litters in future.

Proposed: the Irish Setter Breeders Club

To be presented by a Gundog Delegate.

e) The onset of the JCF appears to be have created more Open Shows with one judge being invited to judge various breeds. Consequently, this has limited the opportunities for single breed specialists to judge and be assessed according to the JCF system. These people have no wish to become so called 'All Rounder judges'.

To enable Breed Clubs to contribute to the JCF assessment program we need classes for our breed's aspiring judges. We need Breed Specialists who are aware of the finer points of breed to replace Judges who have recently retired to ensure we do not loose breed type.

With reference to the 'Find a Judge' List, which will likely be huge in Band D and Band E breeds, how will Open and Championship Show secretaries be able to differentiate between those judges regarded as Breed Specialists and those generically referred to as 'All Rounders'?

Proposed: Shetland Sheepdog Breed Council

To be presented by: Mrs B Thornley

f) The Shetland Sheepdog Breed Council proposes that the Kennel Club review the illustrations on the Kennel Club's Breed Standard web site and consider changing the artist's impressions to actual photographs.

Rationale:

One of our Breed Clubs recently received an email from an overseas person asking "whether your Kennel Club uses the picture of the Sheltie as a guide to breeders and judges as it portrays many faults which are undesirable" This is embarrassing, our breed is native to the UK and it should be portrayed by a good specimen of the breed. Having looked through the breed standards since receiving the email, there are many which do not give a true picture of how each breed should look.

Proposed: Karen Tregaskis, Pointer Exhibitor

To be presented by: Mrs S Walton



g) Transitioning from the Show Certificate of Merit (ShCM) and the transfer of points to the new Show Certificate of Excellence (ShCEx)'

Rationale:

Only points won from 1st January 2018 can be counted towards the recently introduced ShCEx system. This means that exhibitors who have been collecting points for several years and have not achieved the required number for the title of ShCM will now lose any points won before 1st January 2018.

Many exhibitors who are just involved in the fun side of the sport by attending Open Shows have been collecting points for several years towards the ShCM title and only allowing the transfer of just 1 years' worth of points won, relative to the entire life of a dog attending Open Shows appears to be unfair.

Therefore the proposal is that all points won to date should be counted and transferred to the new ShCEx system. This would encourage exhibitors to continue going to Open Shows and working towards achieving the new ShCEx title. This would be a fairer way forward for many exhibitors who may not be able to exhibit regularly and who therefore need more time to win the necessary points required.

**ITEM 10. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

None.

**ITEM 11. 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 12. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

The next KCLC Breeds Council meeting will be held on 06 November 2019. Agenda items must be received by 08 August 2019.



## THE KENNEL CLUB'S STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

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.*