

**MEETING OF THE KENNEL CLUB OBEDIENCE LIAISON COUNCIL
TO BE HELD AT THE KENNEL CLUB ON THURSDAY 16 MAY 2013 AT 10.30AM**

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. TO ELECT A REPRESENTATIVE ONTO THE ACTIVITIES SUB-COMMITTEE EFFECTIVE FROM JUNE 2013 TO MAY 2016

ITEM 4. 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 5. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

ITEM 6. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 19 July 2012 (copies previously distributed).

ITEM 7. TO NOTE THE TABLED REPORT ON THE WORK OF THE ACTIVITIES SUB-COMMITTEE DURING 2012

ITEM 8. MATTERS ARISING/RESULTS OF RECOMMENDATIONS

- a. Regulation Changes
The Council is invited to note that, at its meeting on 9 October 2012, the General Committee approved the proposed Regulation amendments for the introduction of the Multi-Choice and Introductory Classes and the Obedience Code of Conduct, with effect from 1 January 2013.

- b. Guide for New Obedience Competitors
Mrs Garner will introduce a revised draft Guide for Newcomers document developed from the version presented to Council in July 2012 for discussion and review. (**Annex A refers**)
- c. Good Citizen Dog Scheme (GCDS)
An update will be provided by Mr McCartney on the meeting with the GCDS team to discuss how to encourage participants in the Good Citizen Dog Scheme to take part in Competitive Obedience. (**Annex B refers**)
- d. Obedience Information Stand at Crufts 2013
Mr Rutter will advise the Council on the activities of the stand for 2013.

ITEM 8. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- a. Mrs S Garner Mr and Mrs H Watson
Training Advice during Judging

Mr and Mrs Watson request that the Obedience Council discuss the increasing trend for judges not only to observe and judge the dogs in their classes but to offer training advice to the extent that the round becomes a training lesson. We feel this is not what a judging appointment should be for. These impromptu training sessions usually result in the handler and dog spending much more time than the time taken for the competition round. The consequence being that the handler and dog waiting to compete cannot prepare properly as they are kept waiting for an indeterminate length of time, which puts these people at a considerable disadvantage. We would like the Obedience Council to consider the sanctions that might be put in place to discourage judges from over stepping their remit. We are not against any judge offering advice on the basis of what they have seen while the dog and handler are under test where they feel weaknesses exist preventing a successful competition experience.

- b. Mrs S Garner Ms G Howarth
Stays

Ms Howarth requests that the Obedience Council discuss the issue of the increasing disquiet among the Obedience Community regarding stays. Many people consider that there have been too many incidents, both serious and minor, which occur during stays. Considerable amounts of time and money are put into owning and training dogs only for them to be caught up in an incident at a show which could result in a dog that will never complete stays again. Stays are the point in a competition when dogs are at their most vulnerable and many consider that out of sight stays are particularly dangerous. Dogs also often show signs of being uncomfortable whilst completing stays with lots of yawning and lip licking. Many creative and interesting ideas to make stays safer have been discussed in the Obedience Community, though some people do not wish any changes to be made.

Ms Howarth suggests that a survey of all competitors regarding changes to stays be carried out allowing everyone a chance to have their say and be party to any changes that might take place. It is suggested that sub-groups be nominated, one for each region, to work together to compile the survey with referral back to the Obedience Representatives at each stage of development. The results can then be collated to give a definitive answer on the way forward. The creation of sub-groups would allow the already busy Representatives to oversee the survey whilst not increasing their workload.

c. Mr S Rutter Complaints Procedure

Mr Rutter requests that the Obedience Council discuss the Kennel Club disciplinary procedure with specific regard to complaints lodged by Judges. Concern has been raised over whether the Kennel Club could do more to support judges, and societies, when an issue requiring disciplinary measures occurs. This includes providing the complainant with the reasoning behind the decision when a penalty is issued. There is a general lack of knowledge in the Obedience Community regarding how the Sub-Committee decides on the severity of an offence and therefore how rulings and penalties are determined which requires addressing.

ITEM 9. INTER-REGIONAL OBEDIENCE COMPETITION

Mr Page will provide the Council with an update on the changes to the Inter-Regional Obedience Competition for Crufts 2014. (**Annex C – to be tabled**)

ITEM 10. FIVE YEAR STRATEGY

- a. Rally
The Council will be provided with a presentation on the latest Kennel Club dog activity, Rally.
- b. Progress Review
The Council is invited to note that all of the items are either in review or resolved. Representatives are invited to propose further items to the Council's five year strategic plan.

ITEM 11. ACTIVITIES HEALTH & WELFARE SUB-GROUP

- a. The Council is invited to note a report on the progress of the Activities Health & Welfare Sub-Group. (**Annex D refers**)
- b. The Activities Health & Welfare Sub-Group has raised a concern over the different interpretations by judges of the Regulations regarding the stay test during excessively hot weather. The Obedience Liaison Council is requested to consider issuing guidelines regarding the length of the stay test in these circumstances.

ITEM 12. JUDGES WORKING PARTY

Mrs Garner will update the Council on the Judges Working Party meetings on 6 November 2012 and 22 April 2013.

ITEM 13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

ITEM 14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting of the Council will be confirmed in September 2013.

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 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.*' This objective to be achieved through:-

- Ensuring that the Kennel Club is the first port of call on all canine matters.
- Improving canine health and welfare.
- Popularising canine events focusing on the retention of existing participants and the attracting of new.
- Achieving a widening of the Kennel Club membership base.
- Encouraging the development of all those concerned with dogs through education and training.
- Encouraging more people to provide input in the Kennel Club's decision making process."

