



**MEETING OF THE BREEDS LIAISON COUNCIL TO BE HELD ON
04 NOVEMBER 2025 AT 11.00AM VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS**

AGENDA

ITEM 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

**ITEM 2. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD
ON TUESDAY 24 APRIL 2025**

The Council is requested to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 24 April 2025.

(Annex A refers)

ITEM 3. RESULTS OF RECOMMENDATIONS/MATTERS ARISING

- a. Amendment to the 'Progeny not eligible for registration' endorsement
The Council is invited to note the following response received and supported by Helen Fox (Chief Partnerships and Canine Wellbeing Office. Executive remit across Registrations Services, Registrations Compliance, Health and Breeder Development and Partnerships), Gary Johnson (Senior Manager Registrations Compliance) and Linda Branwhite (Governance and Legal Executive):

"The Council is absolutely correct in recognising that endorsements are a contentious and complex issue. The Registration Compliance Team (formerly Breeder Services) — are already extensively involved in managing high-volume, often protracted and occasionally litigious cases regarding the misapplication or disputed use of endorsements by breeders.

Our experience clearly shows that these matters require significant staff time and resource, often at considerable cost to the Kennel Club and at no cost to the individuals involved. Were breeders able to remove or replace endorsements 'at will', the burden on our teams would only increase. It would risk undermining the integrity of the endorsement system and likely generate a new wave of complaints from owners, particularly where private arrangements break down. In our experience, even when such arrangements are private, owners frequently seek to involve the Kennel Club in resolving disputes.

We therefore do not support additional complexity or flexibility in the system at this time. While we acknowledge that views may differ - particularly regarding the extent to which breeders should retain control post-sale - we believe that any reform must balance breeder intent, buyer protection, and the operational impact on the Kennel Club.”

b. Matches and Special Events

The Council is invited to note the following amendments were recommended by the Shows Executive Committee and subsequently approved by the Board:

Match Regulations

1. A match is a form of competition where judging is by elimination one against one. A match may be intra-club or an inter-club competition between **Royal Kennel Club Registered** societies.

2. A **Royal Kennel Club Registered** society may hold up to 12 matches per annum. In the case of clubs which have registered branches, each branch may hold one match per calendar month.

3. ~~Application.~~ Application for authority to hold matches is to be included within the annual returns required under Regulation C.4.a.(1). Separate applications to The Royal Kennel Club for each match is not required. **No fee is payable for matches.**

4. On the day of the event a current public liability insurance document must be held **by the Organisers.** ~~or the event will be deemed to be unrecognised.~~

5. Exhibits must be in the registered ownership of one of the members of one of the societies competing in the match. In the case of a dog owned in partnership, each member of such partnership must, at the time of entry, be a member of one of the societies competing in the match.

6. Puppies 4 months of age and over may compete in a match.

7. Dogs, which have won a Challenge Certificate, **5 Reserve Challenge Certificates (under different judges)** or obtained any award that counts towards the title of Champion, ~~excluding Reserve Challenge Certificates,~~ under the rules of any governing body recognised by The Royal Kennel Club, are not eligible for entry in matches. However, they are allowed to attend the match and enter a special class restricted to only dogs that have won a Challenge Certificate or obtained any award that counts towards the title of Champion. The winner cannot compete for Best in Match or Best Puppy in Match.

Special Event Regulations

8. Special Events are designated as any breed show related event which cannot be included on the schedule of a normally licensed show due to being invitational and therefore not open to all competitors, or which are not being held at a licensed show. Where competitors qualify for a final

via heats held at that and other shows, special event permission must be sought for the final whether it is held in conjunction with a licensed show or as a separate standalone event.

9. The regulations relating to the disqualification and forfeit of awards will apply to these events.

10. Application for permission to hold a special event may be made by any Royal Kennel Club Registered General or Breed Society. A separate application to The Royal Kennel Club for each special event must be made with the appropriate fee.

11. On the day of the event a current public liability insurance document must be held by the Organisers.

General Regulations for Matches and Special Events

12. 4. ~~Jurisdiction and responsibilities.~~ The Officers and Committee Members of the organising society will jointly and severally be liable for the organisation of the Match **or Special Event** and **ensuring** that it is run under the rules and regulations of The Royal Kennel Club.

~~5. Regulations.~~

~~a.~~ **13.** A dog must at the time of entry for a match be solely and unconditionally the property of the exhibitor and must, at the time of competition, be registered in the exhibitor's name at The Royal Kennel Club.

~~b.~~ **14.** Separate entry forms must be completed by each exhibitor and must be signed by the exhibitor or his/her authorised agent.

~~c.~~ **15.** The committee of the society may reserve the right to refuse any entry on reasonable grounds.

~~d.~~ Exhibits must be the property of the members of one of the societies competing in the match. In the case of a dog owned in partnership, each member of such partnership must, at the time of entry, be a member of one of the societies competing in the match.

~~e.~~ **16.** If a dog competes which has been exposed to the risk of any contagious or infectious disease during the period of 21 days prior to a match **or special event** and/or if any dog shall be proved to be suffering from any contagious or infectious disease, including contagious results of inoculation against distemper, at a match **or special event**, the owner thereof shall be liable to be dealt with under Royal Kennel Club Rule A11.

~~f.~~ Dogs, which have won a Challenge Certificate or obtained any award that counts towards the title of Champion, excluding Reserve Challenge Certificates, under the rules of any governing body recognised by The Royal Kennel Club, are not eligible for entry in matches. However, they are allowed

~~to attend the match and enter a special class restricted to only dogs that have won a Challenge Certificate or obtained any award that counts towards the title of Champion. The winner cannot compete for Best in Match or Best Puppy in Match.—~~

~~g. Not more than 64 dogs may compete at a match.—~~

~~h. Prize cards, diplomas, rosettes and other printed awards may be awarded at matches but they must be overprinted 'match'.—~~

~~i. Societies are permitted to present special prizes at matches.—~~

~~j.~~ **17.** A society shall keep a list of the names of all competing dogs with awards, and the names and addresses of the owners for a period of twelve months from the date of the matches **or special event.**

(Insertions in bold, deletions struck through)

(Effective from 1 January 2026)

c. Special Beginners Eligibility

The Council is invited to note that the Show Executive Committee did not support the following proposed amendment as it was concerned that it would be discouraging, and difficult to police:

For owner, handler or exhibit not having won a Challenge Certificate or Reserve Challenge Certificate, ~~or for those breeds not allocated championship status, Best of Sex or Reserve Best of Sex at a championship show.~~ **Owners or handlers who have exhibited or handled a dog at shows over the previous seven consecutive years are not eligible for this class.**
(Insertion in bold. Deletion struck through)

However, it was agreed that the Show Executive Committee would review and consider this regulation amendment further at its next meeting, in addition to a discussion around handling dogs for the Challenge only. An update will be provided in due course.

d. Judge critique penalties displayed

The Council is invited to note that the Show Executive Committee did not support the following proposed amendment as it was agreed that a robust system was already in place, and therefore did not need amending. The matter was referred to the Judges Committee and it also agreed not to support this proposal.

e. Digitalised Breed Record Supplement

The council is invited to note that there has been no further development of the digitalised Breed Record Supplement, and that it would still be produced in hard copy.

There are several other digitalisation projects currently underway, and it is hoped that the Breed Record Supplement may be included next year, however this has not yet been confirmed.

ITEM 4. PROPOSALS

a. Breed Appreciation Days

Proposed by Ms H Simper on behalf of all five Tibetan Spaniel Clubs

The Tibetan Spaniel Association, The South Western Tibetan Spaniel Club, The Northern Tibetan Spaniel Club, The Scottish Tibetan Spaniel Club and The South East & East Anglian Tibetan Spaniel Society wish to propose that anyone who has completed a BAD online must have attended a face to face BAD before they can be mentored.

Rationale:

At present a candidate can reach and begin work on Level 3 without putting their hands on a Tibetan Spaniel.

b. Champion Class Review

Proposed by Ms T Concannon. Presented by David Simpson.

Supported by the Great Dane Club

Ms T Concannon suggests that Champions are restricted to entering the Champion Class, and cannot go on to compete for a CC. It was proposed that a new award be created (e.g. Supreme/Grand Champion) for which these Champions could compete for.

Rationale:

Many breeds are being hit by falling entries and difficulties attracting and then keeping new exhibitors. Without these future custodians it will become increasingly difficult for many Clubs, Societies and possibly even breeds to survive in the potentially challenging years ahead.

One potential issue that some breeds are facing is dominant dog or bitches in the breed, preventing potentially worthy dogs from going on to achieve their Champion title. This has resulted in falling entries, either across the breed, or in some cases in one sex where there is a dominant male or female.

By removing the dominant dog or bitch along with all Champions, this would allow other dogs to be able to have a better chance of competing for CC's and going on to become Champions. As always, it would be the judges who decide if a dog is worthy of being a champion and if no dog was worthy, a Challenge Certificate or Reserve Challenge Certificate could still be withheld.

It is also important, however, to encourage Champions to continue to be exhibited. Not just for numbers but also to keep quality dogs in the ring, for both future judges and exhibitors to learn from. To do this, we suggest a similar system to that used in some other countries, where the CC winner and Champion Class winner can then compete for Best Dog and Best Bitch. These wins could then be accumulated to work towards a new award (e.g. Supreme/Grand Champion). The winning Dog and Bitch would then compete for Best in Breed.

- c. Working Class for Border Terriers
Proposed by Ms C Khatchikian-Jrasamuyr. Presented by Sally Leslie
Ms C Khatchikian-Jrasamuyr proposes a Working Class at Crufts dog show and General Championship shows, for the Border Terrier breed.

It has been proposed that the class is defined as:

WORKING CLASS

For dogs, neuter, bitches that hold a work record, listing their awards, for dogs, neuter, bitches that have qualified, by achievement, of their awards and are issued with a Working Certificate Attestation that qualifies them entry into (FCI) Working Class at national CAC and international CACIB shows plus submission of this certificate entitles them entry to Crufts/general championship shows. The winner of the respective sex classes is entitled to challenge for the Challenge Certificate. Not age restricted.

(Insertions in bold)

(Annex B Refers)

ITEM 5. DISCUSSION ITEMS

Breed Appreciation Day Period Extension

Proposed and Presented by Mr A Gilchrist

At present, breed clubs are requested by the Kennel Club to hold a Breed Appreciation Day every two years. The breed clubs for the Afghan Hound are finding this onerous and would like to request the period be extended to every four years. It has also been queried whether there is a limit to the number of clubs that can work together to present a Breed Appreciation Day.

The office can confirm that there is not a limit to the number of clubs that can work together to present a Breed Appreciation Day.

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 Chair.

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***