

July 2, 2026

In accordance with Chapter 11, Regulatory Policy and Procedures Manual the following reason for decision is being posted.

Kristi Schenk vs. Maria Soto

Replacement Discipline Committee Reason for Decision

After careful consideration of all written and oral submissions, the Committee concludes that the evidence does not establish, on a balance of probabilities, that SOTO's conduct constituted harassment or a breach of the CKC Code of Ethics, Bylaws, or Policy and Procedures Manual. The social media activity in question is best characterized as an expression of dissatisfaction regarding a contractual dispute, rather than conduct rising to the level of disciplinary violation.

Replacement Appeal Committee Reason for Decision

While the committee acknowledges the situation was a result of a difficult circumstance for both the complainant and defendant, the defendant made the choice to share her experience in a very public manner rather than pursuing alternative avenues within the CKC complaint system.

The committee found that Ms. Soto did not act in the best interest of the CKC and did not put the CKC in a favourable light when she made multiple comments on a social media platform. This not only disparaged Ms. Schenk's breeding practices but highlighted Ms. Schenk as a CKC breeder and CKC employee. Ms. Soto's comments and the subsequent social media activity brought into question the integrity of the CKC, and its breeder members.

The committee found that Ms. Soto acted in a manner which may be deemed as contrary to the basic principles and Objects of the Club and/or contrary to the best interests of the Club and its members when she engaged in social media activity to promote her account of a personal complaint. By doing so Ms. Soto failed to consider the higher standards required in her role as a CKC judge. The manner in which Ms. Soto brought attention to another CKC member, and the Club as a whole was unfavorable to the purebred fancy.

Regarding the Code of Ethics for Canadian Kennel Club Member (Bullet #4), the committee felt this section, as it is written pertains to shows, trials and events. The committee believes that the addition of the last sentence in this paragraph was intended to apply to all interactions, however it is currently written in manner which limits it to shows, trials and other events. The committee would encourage the CKC to revisit this section and adjust the language to make the last section applicable to all interactions.