

Update from Lance Novak, CKC's Executive Director

Over the first weekend in June, an official meeting of the Board of Directors was held to address key items of business that are very topical right now as well as important to the strategic direction of the Canadian Kennel Club.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the meeting was held remotely. This represents a historical milestone because for the first time, an invitation was sent to members across the country to view the proceedings live. 88 members participated in the remote gallery on the first day of the meeting and 77 on the second day. For those who were not able to join us, a synopsis is currently available and detailed minutes will be available by logging into the [CKC Portal](#) and clicking on the menu called "Resources" in the upper blue bar.

An extensive agenda was covered over the two days including approximately 70 motions for amendments to rule books for various canine disciplines that CKC oversees.

There are a lot of exciting initiatives underway in support of CKC's core purpose to promote and register purebred dogs. Updates were provided, for example:

- The Non-Standard Colours Ad Hoc Committee reported that their workplan includes drafting a policy statement on non-standard colours and a list of possible directions for this important and often controversial subject.
- The newly formed Brachycephalic Breeds Advocacy Committee are developing their workplan and reported that they will reach out to breed clubs and veterinarians for input.
- Examining Committees will restart requests for dog examinations according to local Public Health and Government COVID-19 directives and guidelines.
- We had an encouraging update from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada on the 2016 and 2017 Referendums. We expect further details on new/distinct breeds being put forward for Ministerial approval along with many new Rules of Eligibility for breeds in the Sporting and Hound groups.

Our focus in Shows & Trials is on the impact of the Pandemic on operations and events, and a recent communication to members can still be [viewed on our website](#) that covered event cancellations as well as resources and links to support clubs in finding important information in their regions.

Highlights of our recent survey were also shared. We asked clubs and judges to offer insight on their preparedness and ideas for relaunching events when permitted to do so. This will inform the guidance we provide as authorities work to ease restrictions on social gatherings and sporting events.

In the meantime, other initiatives are moving forward, despite the pause in most physical events.

- The roll out of the Shows & Trials module has begun. At this stage, the greatest impact is to staff who will commence processing points and titles for conformation events they have already entered in the system. This will lead to a slow roll out in order of the event date and you will begin to notice enhancements to your dog's profile in the member portal with the display of titles achieved. The roll out will also include the availability and distribution of title certificates. We will be sharing a more detailed update on the Shows & Trials module later this week.
- The Ad Hoc Versatility Title(s) Committee reported that they are working towards a program that supports and encourages human-dog teams to become involved in a variety of CKC activities by recognizing Novice Level achievements, but also setting stringent criteria for teams that aspire to the higher levels. The Committee is in the process of categorizing CKC titles to provide a foundation for this program to celebrate the diversity of member accomplishments. I know that many CKC members are excited about this initiative and look forward to this Committee's progress.
- Keeping on the theme of CKC titles, the Board also voted to add new levels to the Grand Champion title. Effective in January 2021, exhibitors will have the additional opportunity to go beyond a Grand Champion title and work toward a Grand Champion Bronze, Silver and Gold in addition to the existing Grand Champion Excellent title.

Finally, a review and update on CKC operations, with a careful focus on the finances in these dubious times, was provided.

I am pleased to update that since my last video,, in which I focused on the delivery of dog registration certificates, all registration certificates and pedigrees for Canadian born dogs have now been sent by mail or email in pdf format. We are now catching up on foreign dog registration certificates and paper certificates for all those originally delivered in pdf.

Despite the lack of revenues for Shows & Trials, cost cutting measures allowed us to break even in the month of May and projections for the coming months are being monitored very closely. Our Audit Committee Chair encouraged CKC members who haven't already, to renew their memberships. Along with careful management of CKC's resources, membership renewals will support our efforts to maintain CKC's stability through the latter half of 2020.

If you attended the board meeting, thank you for your support, interest and for taking part in this historic event. If you were unable to attend, I hope you can join us in the future as we plan for virtual meetings moving forward.

Best Regards,

Lance Novak
Executive Director