

SYNOPSIS OF THE 2021 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)

The following is a synopsis of the key items of business that were addressed during the 2021 Annual Meeting of Members held remotely on June 5th, 2021. One hundred and fifty-five members and guests were in attendance. Please note that the proceedings shown below are paraphrased for the sake of brevity. In the event of dispute, the specific wording should be taken from the official minutes. The detailed minutes of the meeting will be formally approved at the next AGM.

Dr. Brenda Bonnett, DVM, PhD; CEO International Partnership for Dogs, delivered the **keynote presentation** on the topic of “You, the CKC, and the International Dog World”. For those members who missed it, her presentation will be posted on the CKC website.

Corinne Walker, Chair of the Board, opened the AGM for the transaction of business at 11:58 a.m. ET. She welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending. In her opening remarks, she stated, *“Having members actively participate in this meeting reflects their dedication to ensure that we, the CKC, remain responsive and effective in dealing with matters on their behalf. Our work involves many matters that concern the dog fancy. From the recent CFIA import regulations to non-standard colours being bred and registered, to the formation of a health registry accessible to all members, these are just a few of the items that the Board and volunteers on committees are grappling with.*

As members, we have another responsibility and that is to cast our vote in referendums that occur from time to time. In the 2020 referendum there were several breeds that applied for recognition to start the process to become a fully recognized CKC breed. As we will discuss today, due to lack of participation we did not reach the required 25% approval vote to move them forward. I strongly encourage you to participate in the next Referendum so that breeds such as these will have the same opportunities that many of ours presently have.”

The Chair then asked for a moment of silence in memory of all those members who have passed away between our previous AGM and June 1st, 2021.

Minutes of the 2020 Annual General Meeting were adopted with no changes made.

The **2020 Audited Financial Statements** were presented by the CKC's auditor, Marcus Sconci, CPA. CA. Partner, BDO Canada LLP.

Marcus Sconci then delivered the **Election Commission's Report** of the 2020 election of the Board and the results of the 2020 Referendum. All 21 By-law amendments passed; however, the four new breeds didn't pass because of low voter turnout.

In the **Chair's report**, Corinne Walker commented, *"This past year presented monumental challenges for all our member clubs, exhibitors, and our staff. What started out as an unknown virus, is now one that is well-researched and part of our daily vernacular. We were all required, in a short period of time to become familiar with virtual meeting platforms to be able to conduct our business. Our staff was required to move overnight to a work at home environment and all the issues that involves. We all became social distancing experts, learned where to purchase litres of hand sanitizer and how to practice touch minimization. Creative ways to host shows and trials were tested, revised, and then revised again to give some opportunity to compete in the events that we all love.*

Now we are in the early days of the beginning of the end of this ongoing nightmare. Vaccines are being distributed across the country, although in some areas not quickly enough. When this is over and the virus is dealt with in the same manner as an annual flu shot, what does this mean for the future of our sport? For 18 months we have isolated, maintained our bubbles, worn masks and washed our hands. The "new normal" is still not known to any of us. What the post-COVID world will be, is still to be determined.

What we do know for sure is, is that our Club has survived one of the most difficult challenges in its history. Not only were we dealing with a computer system crash that handicapped our ability to record events and registrations, but we also had to deal with the potential of a 25% loss of revenue due to the inability to hold shows and trials. We have finally started to come through this period with a computer system that allows through a personal portal, to access shows & trials results for our dogs, registration activity, and the potential for so much more. Along with that, we have succeeded under the circumstances in maintaining a good financial position and have not suffered as gravely as many other not-for-profit organizations have during this time.

The future is bright as we are striving to make our organization nimbler and more proactive. With the hiring of Jeff Cornett as our Executive Director, we have taken a huge step into developing the CKC into being a more responsive and forward-thinking organization. We are striving to become a better communicator to our membership and all dog lovers in Canada. I see in our future a Club that will be the go-to source for everything canine. We will strive to grow our base membership, become a larger online presence and be a more everything canine resource center.

CKC is not just shows and trials, not just registrations. We are that and so much more! We are going to reach out to the public and let them know that Heritage Breeds have held an essential role in the development of our country. The human animal bond is as strong as it ever was, demonstrated by the huge surge of new owners during this COVID pandemic. The unconditional love given by a dog has helped many through these dark months of isolation. We are going to celebrate all those things that make our breeds different and special. From a Labrador serving as a guide dog, to that same breed leaping into a lake to retrieve waterfowl. To a Dachshund showing its true colors by going to ground in search of a varmint. Each of our breeds has a history that needs to be honoured and shared with others.

I would like to thank all the volunteers that have dutifully served on our Councils and Committees. Through their selfless hours of volunteerism, we have been able to grow and expand our vision for the future. With the formation of our National Advocacy and Government Relations Committee, we will be able to respond more effectively to future concerns regarding anti-dog legislation and build policy statements that will be used to educate and inform. These members will later become CKC ambassadors in their respective provinces. By maintaining our advocacy profile on several levels, the CKC will be the first agency that provincial and municipal governments reach out to when enacting new legislation.

I would like to personally thank the CKC staff for their dedication and hard work through this past year. This team lent their individual expertise and experience to help other staff members to shine in their new duties. The management team is constantly looking for ways to improve service and make the overall member experience more seamless. The future is bright. Innovative ideas and new relationships will make the CKC a more progressive and responsive organization. I am thrilled to be a part of this journey and encourage all of you to join us.”

The **Annual Report** was then presented. It contains reports on the activities of our committees and councils. The Chair thanked all those members who serve or who have served on committees and councils for their time and expertise. She remarked that the CKC is a member-based organization that is stronger because of the participation of our members.

The Executive Director, Jeff Cornett, then introduced a special guest, Sue Coghlan. Together, they announced that we are bringing Sue and CanuckDogs.com into the CKC family on a permanent basis. In the announcement, Jeff commented, *“We are excited for this opportunity to maintain and invest in this platform that is such an integral part of many of our member’s lives and delighted to have Sue on board. We know that Canuck Dogs is the go-to place to everything dogs and it will continue to be a valuable resource of our members.”*

The **Executive Director’s report** included:

- Strong financial results for the first five months of 2021.
- An operational update.
- A review of the improvements we have made in the CRM functionality over the last few months, and an announcement of the fact that with the backlog basically caught up, we are closing the IT4YOU Project but that’s not the end of our striving for excellence. What we now have is a stable, secure infrastructure for our platform, remote access for our staff, a faster turnaround times for online applications and a host of other applications.
- Highlights of some of the projects we have the time and resources to get to now that the IT4YOU Project is closed.
- The challenge with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) changes for commercial dogs under eight months of age. The concern is a new requirement for the export breeder to have a kennel site inspection done 90 days before the export of the dog and then they need a certificate to prove they have done it, signed seven days before the export by an accredited veterinarian which needs to be co-signed by the government authority in charge of veterinarians. This is a significant barrier to our members bringing healthy genetic stock into Canada for their breeding programs. It is in contradiction to the Animal Pedigree Act which we are incorporated under, and it is counter to our mission which is the health and preservation of purebred dogs’ wellbeing. We are continuing our conversations with the CFIA and will continue to keep our members abreast of what they are doing. In the interim, members who have had actual experience of not being able to import dogs because of the new criteria, were encouraged to let CFIA know how the new criteria has stopped them from importing breeding stock into Canada and to copy the CKC with these examples.

Turning to **member recognition**, the Chair noted that each year, a member of the CKC is appointed to the position of Honourary Chair. Thora Brown, who served as 2020 Honourary Chair was introduced to the meeting and she virtually recognized the 36 members who are celebrating 50 years of CKC membership this year.

Corinne Walker remarked that Thora Brown's term as the 2020 Honourary Chair concludes with this meeting and on behalf of the Board and the membership, she thanked her for her dedication to the CKC in her role as Honourary Chair, as a past Chair of the Board and as our present Chair of the Rules of Eligibility Committee.

The Chair then announced that in Board meeting yesterday, the Board appointed Dr. Tammy Dunbar, DVM, from Portage La Prairie, Manitoba as the **2021 Honourary Chair**.

Attention turned to presentation of the three **2021 Chair's Awards**. Corinne Walker stated that this is the inaugural year for these awards that will be presented annually at future AGMs. The Chair's Awards recognize the outstanding commitment, dedication, and accomplishments of CKC members. Nominations for these awards were submitted by CKC members.

- The first Chair's Award recognizes an individual with significant achievements in heritage performance events such as CKC hunting-type and field trial events, herding, lure coursing, and many others. The **2021 CKC National Heritage Canine Performance Award** recipient was Janet Lynn Leach.
- The second Chair's Award recognizes a breeder who has dedicated their life to improving the health and wellbeing of purebred dogs. The **2021 CKC National Breeder of the Year Award** recipient was the family unit of Christine and John Heartz, who are recognized throughout the world as one of the leading breeders of Pomeranians.
- The third Chair's Award recognizes an individual for significant achievement in the area of CKC Obedience and/or Rally Obedience. The recipient of the **2021 CKC National Obedience Competitor of the Year** was Lee Kozicki.

The floor was then opened to questions and comments from the membership. Fifty-nine questions and comments were received, and 48 questions were answered during the meeting. Those questions not related to the AGM agenda items were referred to the staff for appropriate follow-up or referral to committee or council. Seventy-three members responded to the AGM survey. The overall feedback was positive.

Before adjourning the meeting, the Chair thanked everyone for attending.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m. ET.

