



MINUTES OF THE 2023 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 2023 Annual General Meeting (AGM) of Members of the Canadian Kennel Club was held at the Hyatt Place, Kelowna, BC on May 27th, 2023. It was a hybrid meeting comprised of in-person and remote attendance via Chime. The meeting was conducted in English with simultaneous French interpretation for French-speaking members.

ATTENDANCE

A total of thirty-eight members and guests attended in person and another seventy participated remotely, including the Board members, staff and guests shown below.

Board of Directors:

Corinne Walker (Chair), Zone 8, Manitoba
 Denis Gros-Louis (*Vice Chair*), Zone 3, Québec
 Frank MacArthur, Zone 1, Nova Scotia,
 Newfoundland, and Labrador
 Richard Paquette, Zone 4, Ontario North
 Peter Scott, Zone 6, Ontario West
 Marc Ralsky, Zone 7, Ontario Central
 Dave Gilmour, Zone 9, Saskatchewan
 Lee Anne Bateman, Zone 10, Alberta, NWT,
 and Nunavut
 Tempest Deptuch, Zone 11, BC Southwest
 Tammy Luethje, Zone 12, BC Interior & Yukon

Absent

Paul Oslach, Zone 2, New Brunswick, and PEI
 Alistair Sutherland, Zone 5, Ontario East

Staff:

Jeff Cornett, Executive Director
 Meredith Maxwell, Director of Policy, Advocacy
 and Communications
 Andrew McCallister, Director, e-Business
 Tara Merrimen, Director of People and Culture
 Sherry Weiss, Director of Operations (*remote*)
 Annette Maggs, Recording Secretary (*remote*)

Invited guests:

Dr. Claire Wiley, VMD, DACVIM, Executive Director
 of AKC's DNA Program (*remote*)
 Melanie Towell, Audit Committee Chair
 Lucy Bender, Discipline Committee Chair (*remote*)
 Sylvain Sirois, Registration Committee Chair
 Marcus Sconci, CPA, CA, Partner, BDO Canada LLP,
 (*CKC's Auditor*) (*remote*)
 Malak Hamdi & Nancy Lynn Hancock, Language
 Marketplace Inc. (*remote*)

KEYNOTE PRESENTATION

The meeting opened at 12:00 p.m. PDT with a keynote presentation about empowering breeders to improve the health of breeds. It was made remotely by the Executive Director of AKC's DNA program, Dr. Claire Wiley, VMD, DACVIM (small animal internal medicine). In her remarks, Dr. Wiley spoke about AKC's unique identification and parentage verification, AKC's health and traits testing, future plans and AKC/CKC collaboration. Following a question-and-answer period, Dr. Wiley left the meeting and there was a refreshment break.

1. CALL TO ORDER, INTRODUCTIONS & OPENING REMARKS

1.1 – Call to Order

With a quorum confirmed, Corinne Walker, Chair of the Board, opened the 2023 AGM for business at 1:30 p.m. PDT and presided as Chair. She was assisted by Tempest Deptuch, Director for Zone 11, who served as Master of Ceremonies, Denis Gros-Louis, Vice Chair of the Board and Director for Zone 3, who moderated the question periods, and Tammy Luethje, Director for the zone hosting the meeting (Zone 12).

The meeting notice was issued to the membership on April 21, 2023, in accordance with By-law 8.4.

1.2 – Chair’s Opening Remarks

The Chair welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending. The head table and special guests were introduced.

1.3 – Memoriam

The Chair extended condolences to the families and friends of the members of CKC community who have passed away since the previous AGM. The meeting then observed a moment of silence in their memory while their names were shown on a PowerPoint slide.

2. MINUTES OF THE 2022 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

In introducing the minutes of the previous AGM, the Chair reminded the meeting that all members in good standing who have completed one year of continuous membership as of January 1, 2023, are eligible to vote. She commented that according to CKC By-laws, only members who are present in person are eligible to vote. She reminded everyone that in the 2022 Referendum, CKC members voted to approve By-law amendments that will allow for electronic voting at Annual General Meetings; however, the amendment will not be effective until we receive approval from Ag-Canada.

The following motion was put before the meeting:

MOVED BY Marc Ralsky, “THAT, the Minutes of the 2022 Annual General Meeting held on June 11th, 2022, be adopted as circulated.”

➤ The motion was carried

3. CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence was received for the meeting.

4. PRESENTATION OF THE 2022 AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The **2022 Audited Financial Statements** were presented by the independent auditor, Marcus Sconci, CPA. CA., Partner, BDO Canada LLP. BDO provided a clean audit an unmodified opinion, and their findings were that the financial statements fairly presented the CKC’s financial performance

during the 2022 fiscal year. The total 2022 revenue was \$7,633,814 versus \$7,348,685 in 2021 and the 2022 expenses were \$7,289,720 versus \$6,577,351 in 2021.

5. REPORTS

5.1 – Election Commission’s Report (BDO Canada LLP)

Marcus Sconci reported that a By-election in Zone 12 was conducted in 2022 which resulted in the Election of Tammy Luethje to serve for the balance of the term of the 2021-2023 Board of Directors.

Marcus Sconci left

5.2 – Chair’s Report

In her **Chair’s report**, Corinne Walker remarked, *“I think back to the beginning of 2022 and reflect on how uncertain everything was. There we were, in the middle of another wave of COVID, which was threatening our way of life including the upcoming shows and trials season. Fortunately for us, spring came, the situation improved, and we were back in the swing of things. The highlight of the year was being able to return to the shows and trials, see our dog show family once again, and to participate in the sport we love. The kindness shown to each other, and the sportsmanship both inside and outside the ring was heartwarming. It was obvious to me that we had all regained a part that we were desperately missing.*

We were finally able to return to in-person Board meetings and hold robust discussions. As a national organization, we had the pleasure to travel to beautiful St. John’s, Newfoundland for our first ever hybrid AGM. It was a truly enjoyable weekend. Not only did we have good participation at the AGM by CKC members, but we were also welcomed by local club members who treated us like family and showed us everything St. John’s has to offer.

As a Board, we moved forward on several significant projects. Last year we first announced the Integrated Breed Health Program, and in the year since then, we have launched the first phase of the breeder education portion. Jeff will present a more thorough update during his Executive Director report in a few minutes.

Our Board also championed the move from our old office to a newly renovated office on Eglinton Avenue West. In addition to being on the ground floor, which is well-suited to our canine visitors, the new space has a smaller footprint to accommodate a hybrid workforce and has resulted in a substantial rental savings.

In November, we held a special referendum, and thanks to all of you, we had a very impressive voter turnout. With your votes, six new breeds will be fully recognized, along with several proposed By-law changes. In addition, 38 Rules of Eligibility (ROEs) were also approved.

Our Executive Director, Jeff, is now in his third year with the organization, and he has led our staff team through the difficulties of COVID, the event processing backlogs and several IT-related challenges. Our dedicated staff, most of whom who are active members, are now serving you in both French and English.

Thank you to our CKC staff, the volunteers who serve on our councils and committees, and to my fellow Board members, who have all gone above and beyond in giving up their time to attend

meetings, answer inquiries, communicate to fellow members, and be the go-to persons within their zones. Thank you for having the passion to sit through hours of Zoom meetings, read hundreds of pages of meeting materials, and stay current on complex and ever-changing issues.

We are halfway through 2023 already. This fall we will participate in a general election for the 2024 - 2026 Board of Directors. I encourage every member to exercise their right to vote in this general election. Consider becoming more involved in your club. Participate in a council or committee or put your name forward to run for zone director. The talent required to further the efforts of the CKC are varied and require all of us to work as a team to move our organization forward. More information concerning the general election will be available shortly – watch for member eblasts and check the website for updates.

The best is truly yet to come for our club. With new strategic projects, our ongoing member growth and new breeds being recognized, the future looks bright. Thank you for entrusting us with your club. We will all continue to strive to meet and exceed your expectations. Thank you.

5.3 – Executive Director's Report

Executive Director, Jeff Cornett, then presented his report. It included:

- A financial update of the first three months of 2023 (revenue was \$41,018 under budget and expenses were \$51,794 over budget).
- The Strategic Plan.
- An update on the Integrated Breed Health Program.
- An update on recently completed and future projects.

5.4 – Annual Report

The Vice Chair of the Board, Denis Gros-Louis, then presented the Annual Report which not only contains reports on the activities of our committees and councils, but also showcases photos of our members' and our staffs' beautiful purebred dogs. Available in both English and French on the CKC website, it has stories that speak to the activities of the Club and its members in 2022 and is a summary of our challenges and achievements during the year. Denis thanked the members for voting in the 2022 Referendum which resulted in six new breeds being accepted by the members. He thanked CKC members who volunteer their time and expertise as members of our committees and councils and commented that their work as subject-matter experts and as CKC representatives in their canine communities helps to shape and guide our Club's progress. He ended his remarks by encouraging members who have not yet volunteered to get involved.

6. MEMBER RECOGNITION

6.1 – 50 Year Members & One 75-Year Member

Tammy Luethje, Zone 12 Director, announced the more than 90 members who are celebrating 50 years of CKC membership and one member who is celebrating 75 years (Margarite {Joey} Natrass). In her remarks, she noted that many of them are the people who have been driving our breeds and our dog sports forward. They have helped shape the CKC into what it is today and made it so that all of us can continue to enjoy the breeds and dog sports we hold dear. She ended her remarks by congratulating the recipients.

6.2 – Members Contributing to their Communities

The meeting was then shown a video recognizing the following CKC members contributing to their communities.

- **Joanna Suan** is a volunteer with St .John Ambulance Therapy Dog Program. She has been doing this for 11 years and she owned the first Siberian to earn the THDX title.
- **Catherine Gross** gets her kennel out regularly to donate blood for the Canadian Animal Blood bank and is quite an advocate in encouraging others to do the same.
- **Marla Smith** uses a wheelchair, she lost both her legs. She competes in Rally O with her service Rottweiler. She received her first title and is moving on to the next level. She also has a new puppy she's hoping will follow in her male's footsteps.

6.3 – Announcement of 2023 Honourary Chair

Corinne Walker remarked that Joan Bennett's term as 2022 Honourary Chair concludes with this meeting and on behalf of the Board and the membership, she thanked Joan for her dedication to the CKC, her years of volunteerism and commitment to purebred dogs and the CKC.

The Chair then announced that during their May 26th meeting, the Board appointed Mike McBeth from Ontario as the **2023 Honourary Chair**.

6.4 – Chair's Awards

Attention turned to announcement of the three **2023 Chair's Awards** recognizing the outstanding commitment, dedication, and accomplishments of CKC members. The recipients were:

- Sharon Luckhurt was presented with the **2023 CKC National Heritage Canine Performance Award** which 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.
- Kim Leblanc was presented with **2023 CKC National Breeder of the Year Award** which recognizes a breeder who has dedicated their life to improving the health and wellbeing of purebred dogs.
- Rose Apollonio was presented with the **2023 CKC National Obedience Competitor of the Year** which recognizes an individual for significant achievement in the area of CKC Obedience and/or Rally Obedience.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

8. NEW BUSINESS

The floor was then opened to questions and comments from the floor and from members who participated remotely.

9. CLOSING REMARKS

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and congratulated our 50- and 75-year members, and our National Chair's Award winners. She noted that 2022 was a successful year and as we look forward to the rest of 2023 and beyond, she is excited to see our strategic projects and initiatives come to fruition. She ended her remarks by thanking the Board and staff team and our newest Board member, Tammy Luethje for hosting the AGM weekend of meetings.

10. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED BY Frank MacArthur, "THAT, the meeting be adjourned."

➤ The motion was carried

The meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m. PDT.