

SYNOPSIS OF THE 2024 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The following is a synopsis of the key items of business that were addressed during the 2024 Annual Meeting of Members (AGM) held on June 1st, 2024 at the CKC office in Etobicoke, Ontario. It was a hybrid meeting comprised of in-person and remote attendance via Chime Live. A total of 34 members and guest attended in person and another 39 logged on remotely.

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.

The event opened at 12:00 p.m. ET with a presentation about the impact of the partnership between Trupanion and the CKC. This was followed by Dr. Emmanuel Fontaine from Royal Canin who spoke about the new era of puppy care.

Following a refreshment break, Corinne Walker, Chair of the Board, called the 2024 AGM to order at 1:15 p.m. ET for the transaction of business. She welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending. The head table and special guests were introduced.

The Chair then asked for a moment of silence while the names of all those members who have passed away since the previous AGM were shown on the screen.

Minutes of the 2023 Annual General Meeting were adopted with no changes made.

There was no **correspondence** received for the meeting.

The **2023 Audited Financial Statements** were presented by the independent auditor, Marcus Sconci, CPA. CA., Partner, BDO Canada LLP. BDO provided a clean audit with an unmodified opinion that the financial statements fairly presented the CKC's financial performance during the 2023 fiscal year. The total 2023 revenue was \$7,613,797 versus \$7,633,814 in 2022 and the total 2023 expenses were \$7,501,486 versus \$7,289,720 in 2022. The excess of revenue over expenses for the year was \$112,221 versus \$344,084 in the previous year.

It was noted that according to CKC By-law 13.5, the accounting firm appointed as auditor serves as the Election Commission. A report on the **2023 election and referendum** was then received from the Election Commission (BDO). In it, Marcus Sconci confirmed the results of the 2023 Election and that one new breed (the Dogue de Bordeaux), ten separate By-law amendments and 51 Rules of Eligibility passed in the Referendum.

The first of two videos recognizing members who go above and beyond to represent purebred dogs and contribute to our mission was received. The videos spotlighted Abby Falls, Carrie Greene, Donna Gottdenker, Pam McClintoka, and Tracy Silverthorne.

In the **Chair's report**, Corinne Walker remarked, *"When I reflect on 2023, I am pleased at how positive a year it was for CKC and all of our members. First of all, it was the first full year that our community was able to "go back" to doing many of the things that we may have taken for granted prior to the pandemic. With a record 3,771 events, we saw a staggering 240,000 participants across all of our shows and trials including conformation, field trials, obedience, herding, and many other disciplines. This was 40,000 more entries than we had in 2019, before the pandemic. We also had the fourth year in a row where our membership increased and in 2023 we had over 19,500 members. In addition to a growing membership, the Canadian Kennel Club continues to operate more efficiently and effectively, while careful management of finances ensures that we remain financially stable.*

2023 provided us with additional highlights, including the hosting of our 2023 Annual General Meeting in Kelowna, where we were warmly welcomed by local members. We held an Election and Referendum that came with an increased voter turnout; seven new Board members were elected, 10 By-law amendments were passed, and 51 Rules of Eligibility were approved. We also welcomed the Dogue de Bordeaux as a fully recognized breed with 95% of those voting in support. While not a part of the Referendum, we also added two breeds to our miscellaneous list: the Appenzeller Sennenhund and the Bergamasco Shepherd Dog.

I would like to sincerely thank the members of our previous term's Board members who completed their terms in December: Frank MacArthur, Paul Oslach, Denis Gros-Louis, Richard Paquette, Alistair Sutherland, David Gilmour, and Tammy Luethje. Their commitment and contributions to the CKC are appreciated and they made a positive impact on the work of our Club. 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.

To our volunteers, and members of our committees and councils, thank you! You donated your time, energy, and enthusiasm over the last term. Without your dedication, we could not have accomplished as much as we had. You helped us to stay true to our mission and to serve our members regarding all our canine disciplines.

Your Board of Directors held eight formal meetings and several informal meetings over the course of the past year. We made progress on a number of key projects and issues that will benefit the CKC community. I am pleased to share that we continue to progress on our Integrated Breed Health Program with new educational content for breeders through the Royal Canin Academy. We're looking forward to sharing more of this with you shortly; our Executive Director will discuss the highlights in his upcoming report. We also launched the first official Respiratory Function Grading Scheme (RFGS) in partnership with the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA), to measure the diagnosis and severity of Brachycephalic Obstructive Airway Syndrome (BOAS). We have seen great uptake so far with over 160 dogs assessed last year and more to come this year. We look forward to working with our clubs to make the BOAS testing the norm with our Brachycephalic breeds.

In the fall of 2023, our Advocacy team completed the development of a National Advocacy Plan that will help us to grow our policy positions, develop relationships with provincial and federal governments, and start to proactively engage decision makers on the matters that concern us all. A feature of this will be our new Advocacy Committee which will have 10 Advocacy Ambassadors, one from each province. Last year, we were busy working to influence government policy on a number of fronts including regulations regarding dog importation, Québec's new law on companion animals, PEI's Dog Owners Act, Ontario's PUPS Act, and amendments to the Ontario Fish and Wildlife Act. While we may not always be able to sway a government to change its course, we made significant inroads to represent our members' interests, provide input into legislation and regulations, and build relationships with both government and stakeholders alike that will help us in the future.

On the operational side of things, we are always trying to improve for our members by streamlining registration processes and improved shows and trials administration. In 2023, we continued to upgrade our online member portal and registration applications, using your feedback to improve usability and functionality. The improvements made in 2023 provide a more stable environment for future improvements for our members.

Last year, CKC was pleased to expand the Veterinary Student Bursary from one student to five students. The CKC Veterinary Student Bursary donates \$2,000 to each of the five veterinary colleges in Canada, allowing students to continue their education in the field of veterinary studies and support veterinary training programs. To further the impact of our donation, the University of Calgary's generous donors made a matching contribution in 2023, bringing the total bursary at that university to \$4,000.

Our Executive Director will share more of CKC's news and accomplishments with you in his report, and to learn more about what your Club has been working on, I encourage you to read our 2023 Annual Report.

While every organization has its challenges, CKC is firmly faced in the right direction. By engaging and listening to you, we will continue to work on matters that benefit you, our members, and our community. With new strategic projects, our ongoing member growth and new breeds being recognized, the future looks bright. I truly believe that the best is yet to come. Thank you for entrusting us with your Club. We will continue to strive to meet and exceed your expectations. Once again, thank you."

Jeff Cornett then presented his **Executive Director's report**. It included:

- A financial update of the results of the first four months of 2024
- An update on operations.

- Updates on the progress of the four pillars in the Strategic Plan: Integrated Breed Health Program; Modernization of Events; Communications, Marketing and Product; and Internal Infrastructure.
- A review of accomplishments.
- A foretaste of things in the pipeline including:
 - Online judges' exams.
 - Providing support and tools for clubs to be more successful.
 - A new Advocacy Committee beginning in June.
 - A kennel guidelines checklist pilot.
 - AKC reciprocal registration.
 - CanuckDogs shorter term updates.
 - A CanuckDogs Strategic Initiative (CSI) with improved and new features for exhibitors and integration with CKC's systems,
 - A club portal for clubs to update their information, submit renewals, and keep their executives up to date.
 - Health and parentage DNA kits.
 - Continued engagement with our member breeders on elements of our Integrated Breed Health Program, including a member town hall meeting in June or July.
 - New ways to keep members informed and engaged on the work of our Club.

The Vice Chair of the Board, Robert Whitney, then presented the **2023 Annual Report** which not only contains reports on the activities of our committees and councils, but also showcases photos of the beautiful purebred dogs of our members and our staff. 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 2023 and is a summary of the challenges and achievements during the year.

Lee Anne Bateman, Zone 10 Director, congratulated the more than 140 members who are celebrating **50 years of CKC membership**. She noted that they are the people who have been driving our breeds and dog sports in Canada forward for the past 50 years. 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 love.

The meeting was then treated to the second member spotlight video.

Corinne Walker remarked that Mike McBeth's term as 2023 Honourary Chair concludes with this meeting and on behalf of the Board and the membership, she thanked Mike for her

dedication to the CKC and purebred dogs, and for her years of volunteerism, breeding, and mentorship.

The Chair then announced that during their May 31st, 2024 meeting, the Board appointed Michael Calhoun from Québec as the **2024 Honourary Chair**.

Attention turned to announcement of the three **2024 Chairs' Awards** recognizing the outstanding commitment, dedication, and accomplishments of CKC members. On behalf of the current Chair of the Board (Corinne Walker), the Past Chair of the Board (Joan Bennett) and herself as 2023 Honourary Chair, Mike McBeth congratulated the following recipients:

- Marie-Paul Babin was awarded the **2024 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.
- Catherine McMillan was awarded the **2024 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.
- Michael Calhoun was awarded the **2024 CKC National Obedience Competitor of the Year** which recognizes an individual for significant achievement in the area of CKC Obedience and/or Rally Obedience.

The floor was then opened to questions and comments from the floor and from members who participated remotely. Twelve questions were posed, and most were answered during the meeting. Member feedback and questions requiring follow-up will go to the next Board meeting for referral to committee or staff.

Before adjourning the meeting, the Chair thanked everyone for attending and announced that the 2025 Annual General Meeting will be held in the Greater Edmonton area of Zone 10 on May 31st, 2025.

The meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m. ET.

