

## MINUTES OF THE 2022 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 2022 Annual General Meeting (AGM) of Members of the Canadian Kennel Club was held at the Sheraton Hotel Newfoundland in St. John's on June 11, 2022. 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-nine members and guests attended in person and another 136 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  
Paul Oslach, Zone 2, New Brunswick, and PEI  
Frank MacArthur, Zone 1, Nova Scotia,  
Newfoundland, and Labrador  
Richard Paquette, Zone 4, Ontario North  
Alistair Sutherland, Zone 5, Ontario East  
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

#### **Absent**

Dr. Terill Udenberg, DVM, Zone 12, BC Interior  
and Yukon

#### **Staff:**

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

#### **Invited guests:**

Bill Lambert, Health, Welfare and Breeder  
Services Executive, The Kennel Club, UK (*remote*)  
Dr. Tammy Dunbar, DVM, 2021 CKC Honourary Chair  
Tanya Hatton, Chair of the Audit Committee  
Marcus Sconci, CPA, CA, Partner, BDO Canada LLP,  
(*CKC's Auditor*) (*Remote*)  
Sanaa Elkhatabi & Marie Némeh, Language  
Marketplace Inc. (*remote*)

---

### KEYNOTE PRESENTATION

The AGM was preceded by a remote presentation about how the Kennel Club in the United Kingdom is supporting breeders in sustaining and improving the health and well-being of purebred dogs, and how all kennel clubs can collaborate with their breeders to become partners in preservation. The presentation was made by Bill Lambert, who is the Vice Chair of the Board of the International Partnership for Dogs and the Health, Welfare and Breeder Services Executive at the Kennel Club. He oversees the KC's numerous health and welfare initiatives, including breed health and conservation plans, tools for breeders, and Kennel Club supported breed rescue, and he is the KC's chief spokesperson.

## **1. CALL TO ORDER, INTRODUCTIONS & OPENING REMARKS**

### **1.1 – Call to Order**

With a quorum confirmed, Corinne Walker, Chair of the Board, opened the 2022 AGM for business at 3:00 p.m. NT and presided as Chair. She was assisted by Richard Paquette, Director for Zone 4 who served as Master of Ceremonies and Denis Gros-Louis, Vice Chair of the Board and Director for Zone 3 who moderated the question periods.

The meeting notice was issued to the membership on May 3, 2022, in accordance with By-law 8.4.

### **1.2 – Chair’s Opening Remarks**

The Chair welcomed everyone and thanked them for taking time out of a busy shows and trial season to attend. Introductions were made.

### **1.3 – Memorial**

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 scrolled on the screen.

## **2. MINUTES OF THE 2021 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

In introducing the minutes of the previous AGM, the Chair reminded the meeting that all members in good standing and who have completed one year of continuous membership as of January 1, 2022, are eligible to vote. She commented that according to CKC By-laws, only members who are present in person are eligible to vote, and she mentioned that we are planning for a referendum in late 2022 and virtual participation and voting at AGMs will be on the docket.

The Chair then commented that the minutes of the 2021 AGM had been posted on the CKC website and no notice of errors or omissions had been received. The following motion was put before the meeting:

**MOVED BY** Marc Ralsky, “THAT, the Minutes of the 2021 Annual General Meeting held on June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021, be adopted as circulated.”

➤ The motion was carried

## **3. CORRESPONDENCE**

No correspondence was received for the meeting.

## **4. PRESENTATION OF THE 2021 AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

The audited financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2021, were presented remotely by the CKC’s auditor, Marcus Sconci, CPA. CA. Partner, BDO Canada LLP. Highlights were:

- BDO was able to complete a clean audit and provide an unqualified audit opinion. The audit was conducted as planned and no significant issues were encountered.
- BDO's findings were that the financial statements fairly present the Canadian Kennel Club's financial performance during the 2021 fiscal year.
- Highlights of the Statement of Financial Position as at December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021 were:
  - A strong cash and liquid position of \$3.64M. In discussing this, the auditor noted that especially in a pandemic environment, it is important to have cash available because it allows investment in strategic project.
  - Capital and Intangible assets increased by \$176K. Additions (mostly ERP) of \$416K were offset by amortization (depreciation) of \$240K.
  - \$293K increase in deferred revenue mainly due to higher membership renewals compared to the prior year.
  - Deferred rent is now zero compared to \$146K in 2020. It was a one-time Covid-related concession made by the landlord and will no longer be an item going forward.
  - The 2021 deferred leasehold inducement shows the free rent period plus rent escalation over the term of the lease. It will come down to zero by the conclusion of the lease.
- Highlights of the Statement of Operations were:
  - Total revenues increased by \$2M. The main drivers were:
    - \$1.3M increase in Registration revenue due to increased demand for purebred dogs and processing of the backlog.
    - \$581K increase in Shows and Trials fees due to easing of Covid restrictions compared to 2020.
  - Expenses increased by \$1.09M. The main drivers were:
    - \$957K increase in HR expenses due to increased head count.
    - \$362K in Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy was received in 2020 versus none in 2021. CEWS in 2020 (vs. none in 2021).
  - The excess of revenue over expenses for the year was \$771,334.
- The Statement of Changes in Net Assets represents the historical record of revenue over expenses since the inception of the CKC. The main column in restricted funds was capital assets (mostly ERP). The CKC has spent \$1.45M for these assets which will be depreciated over the life of them. The unrestricted funds net assets are now \$2.8M.
- The Statement of Cash Flows summarizes the sources and uses of cash during the year to better understand how the various items in the previous statements impacted the cash flow of CKC during 2021. The cash flow from operations over the year was \$1.06M.
- Cash at the end of the year was up by \$239K.

*Following a few minutes of answering questions on the 2021 Financial Statements,  
Marcus Sconci left*

## **5. REPORTS**

### **5.1 – Chair's Report**

In her report, Corinne Walker commented, *When I reflect on 2021, I am amazed at what we have come through as a Club. We started 2021 off with a brand-new Executive Director. Not only new to the CKC staff, but also new to the dog show and the CKC community, Jeff's not-for-profit background was exactly what we needed for a fresh look at how we could adapt and thrive under the challenges that had been presented to us. As Marcus mentioned, we ended a year initially projected to have a \$344,000 loss with a surplus of \$771,000 – an improvement of \$1.1 million dollars.*

*We pulled ourselves out of a monumental registration backlog through the hard-work and countless hours of dedicated staff and volunteers – and through the patience and understanding of our members.*

*We closed the IT4YOU project in June and moved into a maintenance and growth phase for our new computer system. We are now registering a record number of dogs online, faster than we have ever managed before. Applications like TCNs are now instantaneous, and most litter registrations submitted through the portal are processed and completed the same day. Most Canadian-born dog registrations are processed within one to five days, and applications submitted by our Membership Plus members are processed the following business day.*

*We also worked through what turned out to be another year of lockdowns, with restrictions easing during the spring and summer and shows & trials returning on-mass, rivaling pre-pandemic levels. Only 156 performance and conformation events were scheduled in the first half of 2021 – an 89% decrease compared to pre-pandemic years. In comparison, 1,900 events were scheduled for the latter half of the year.*

*Clubs and members have shown their strength and determination throughout the past year by thinking outside of the box and holding events under less-than-ideal circumstances. From Covid-19 waivers to wrist bands to vaccination confirmation at check-in, our clubs have kept competitors as safe as possible while allowing us all to compete in the sport we love.*

*We welcomed Canuckdogs into the CKC family. A strategic acquisition that allowed the CKC to not only benefit from Sue Coughlan's expertise and years of dedication to the Canine Community, but also allowed us to support our members and the tools they use in their shows & trials journeys.*

*We are now in the early days of a 'new normal'. Just as our clubs and volunteers learned to adapt and adapt again, our organization is becoming nimbler and more proactive. With the hiring of Jeff Cornett as our Executive Director, we took a huge step into developing the CKC to be a more responsive and more 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 an everything canine resource center.*

*CKC is not just shows and trials, not just registrations. We are that and so much more! I would like to thank all the volunteers that have dutifully served on our councils and committees and the CKC staff for their dedication and hard work through this past year. Thank you to my fellow CKC Board Members, eight of whom were new in 2021. They have willingly given their time to attend meetings, answer inquiries, communicate to 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.*

*The next years will be an exciting time for the CKC. The Board and their committees are hard at work on new initiatives that will be very exciting when launched. Thank you to the members for entrusting us with your Club. We will strive to meet and exceed your expectations."*

## **5.2 – Executive Director's Report**

Executive Director Jeff Cornett then presented his report. It included a financial update of the first four months of 2022, (revenues were \$247,946 ahead of budget and expenses were \$126,910 lower than budget). In operations, membership number have grown by 9% from 2021; the record-

breaking trend in litter and dog registrations that begin in mid-2020 peaked in May 2021 and is slowly returning to normal; and the number of events in 2022 are forecast to be slightly more than pre-pandemic levels. Recently completed projects include an HR system upgrade, a financial system upgrade, fee schedule updates for simplification and operational efficiency, 2021 event results and titles, official 2021 Top Dogs results, improved dog title and results information, and improved registration emails.

Continuing his report, Jeff Cornett remarked that upcoming projects include: moving to a new office location in April 2023 with a 64% reduction in expense; a phone system upgrade, redesign of both the public website and the member portal, AKC reciprocal registrations; a 2022 Special Referendum which will include Rules of Eligibility for final approval, By-law updates and new breed registrations; a July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022 symposium on health dog breeding; an improved student bursary program supporting future veterinarians and building relationships with all five vet colleges; and an integrated breed health program.

As part of the Executive Director's report, Stewart Dankner, Chair of the Breeder Relations Committee, and Dr. Paul Eckford, PhD, Chair of the Genetics and Medical Committee spoke about the integrated breed health program. It includes: a DNA program integrating genotypic parentage and health testing information, advanced breed health strategies, and a breeder program (education, elevation, and recognition).

### **5.3 – Annual Report**

The Vice Chair of the Board, Denis Gros-Louis, then presented the Annual Report which includes the reports of the activities of all CKC committees and councils, and also showcases photos of members' purebred dogs. It has stories that speak to the activities of the Club and its members in 2021 and acts as a summary of our challenges and achievements during the year.

Denis Gros-Louis ended his remarks by thanking CKC members who volunteer their time and expertise as members of committees and councils, as subject-matter experts, and as CKC representatives in their canine communities to shape and guide their Club's progress.

## **6. MEMBER RECOGNITION**

### **6.1 – Recognition of Members Celebrating Fifty Years of Membership**

CKC's 2021 Honourary Chair, Dr. Tammy Dunbar, DVM, from Portage La Prairie, Manitoba, was introduced and she presented the members who are celebrating 50 years of membership. In her remarks, she noted that these 60 recipients are members of canine communities across the country and many of them are the people who have been driving our breeds and our dog sports 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 hold dear. She ended her remarks by congratulating the recipients.

### **6.2 – Retirement of the 2021 Honourary Chair and Announcement of the 2022 Honourary Chair**

Corinne Walker remarked that Tammy Dunbar's term as 2021 Honourary Chair concludes with this meeting and on behalf of the Board and the membership, she thanked her for her service.

The Chair then announced that in the June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022 Board meeting, the Board appointed Joan Bennett from Vancouver as the 2022 Honourary Chair.

### **6.3 – Chairs’ Awards**

Attention turned to presentation of the three 2022 Chair’s Awards. Corinne Walker stated that this is the second year these annual awards have been presented. They recognize the outstanding commitment, dedication, and accomplishments of CKC members. Nominations for the awards were submitted by CKC members.

- The 2022 CKC National Heritage Canine Performance 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 recipient was Janet Tanya Wheeler.
- The 2022 CKC National Breeder of the Year Award recognizes a breeder who has dedicated their life to improving the health and wellbeing of purebred dogs. The award was presented to Judi and Blair Elford.
- The 2022 CKC National Obedience Competitor of the Year recognizes an individual for significant achievement in the area of CKC Obedience and/or Rally Obedience. The recipient was Ward Faulkner.

## **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. Nineteen questions were answered. Questions not answered during the meeting were referred to the staff for appropriate follow-up or referral to committee or council.

## **9. CLOSING REMARKS**

Before inviting a motion to adjourn the meeting, the Chair thanked everyone for attending.

## **10. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOVED BY** Marc Ralsky: “THAT, the meeting be adjourned.”

➤ **The motion was carried**

*The meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m. NT*