



CANADIAN KENNEL CLUB®
CLUB CANIN CANADIEN™

2025 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

MINUTES

The 2025 Annual General Meeting (AGM) of Members of the Canadian Kennel Club was held on May 31st, 2025 at the Coast Nisku Inn and Conference Centre in the greater Edmonton area of Alberta. It was a hybrid meeting comprised of in-person and remote attendance via Zoom. The meeting was conducted in English with simultaneous French interpretation.

ATTENDANCE

Including the Board members, management team and guests shown below, thirty-one members and guests attended in person and seventy-three joined attended remotely.

Board of Directors:

Corinne Walker (Chair), Zone 8, Manitoba
Janice Kivimaki, Zone 1, Nova Scotia,
Newfoundland, and Labrador
Tina Sandford, Zone 2, New Brunswick, and PEI
Sylvain Sirois, Zone 3, Quebec
Ramona Bauer, Zone 4, Ontario North (*remote*)
Robert Whitney (*Vice Chair*), Zone 5, Ontario East
Peter Scott, Zone 6, Ontario West (*remote*)
Valerie Bandas, Zone 9, Saskatchewan
Lee Anne Bateman, Zone 10, Alberta, NWT,
and Nunavut
Tempest Deptuch, Zone 11, BC Southwest
Wayne Davidson, Zone 12, BC Interior and
Yukon

Absent:

Marc Ralsky, Zone 7, Ontario Central

Management Team:

John Atkinson, Director of Advocacy and
Communications
Tracy Kent, Manager, Events
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:

Robert Bradley, Discipline Committee Chair
Tanis Postma, Registration Committee Chair
Melanie Towell, Audit Committee Chair
Lionel Whittaker, Appeal Committee Chair
Marcus Sconci, CPA, CA, Partner, BDO Canada LLP,
(*CKC's Auditor*) (*remote/part*)
Dr. Alison Skipper, Veterinary and Research Advisor,
The Kennel Club (*remote/part*)
Malak Hamdi and André Muisse, Simultaneous
Language Interpreters (*remote*)

The event opened at 12:00 p.m. MDT by welcoming the keynote speaker, Dr. Alison Skipper, who joined the meeting remotely from the United Kingdom to speak about, "*Why History Matters: The Story of Closed Breed Registers in Pedigree Dogs*".

Following a question-and-answer period and a refreshment break, attention turned to the business of the meeting.

Dr. Skipper left the meeting

1. CALL TO ORDER, INTRODUCTIONS & OPENING REMARKS

1.1 – Call to Order

With a quorum confirmed, Corinne Walker, Chair of the Board, opened the 2025 AGM for business at 1:15 MDT and presided as Chair. She was assisted by Lee Anne Bateman, Director for Zone 10, who served as Master of Ceremonies, and Sylvain Sirois, Director for Zone 3, who moderated the question periods.

The notice of meeting was issued to the membership on April 28, 2025, 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 invited guests were introduced.

1.3 – Memoriam

The Chair extended condolences to the families and friends of the members of the 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 2024 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

In introducing the minutes of the previous AGM, the Chair commented that for the first time in CKC’s history both in-person and online attendees were eligible to vote during the AGM. In the 2022 Referendum, CKC members voted to approve By-law amendments to allow for electronic voting at Annual General Meetings and this was approved by Agriculture Canada in 2024.

The following motion was then put before the meeting:

MOVED BY Tina Sandford, and seconded by Tempest Deptuch, “THAT, the Minutes of the 2024 Annual General Meeting held on June 1st, 2024, be adopted as circulated.”

➤ Following a pause to allow members to vote, the motion was carried.

3. CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence was received for the meeting.

4. PRESENTATION OF THE 2024 AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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 2024 fiscal year. The highlights are shown below.

- The CKC ended 2024 with a strong cash and liquid investment position of \$3,613,160.
- Total 2024 revenue was \$7,085,788 versus \$7,613,707 in 2023 and the total 2024 expenses were \$7,253,723 versus \$7,501,486 in 2023. The year ended with a deficiency of \$167,935, compared to a surplus of \$112,221 in 2023. The main reasons for the decline in revenue over the previous year were a 15% decrease in registrations and a 3% decrease in membership.
- Total net assets decreased by \$167,935 in 2024, due to the current year's deficiency.

Marcus Sconci left the meeting

5. CHAIR'S REPORT

In the Chair's report, Corinne Walker remarked that 2024 was the start of a new three-year term of the Board of Directors. She continued by stating, *"I was extremely pleased with the overwhelming application response we received for committees and councils. The value of our volunteers and their commitment to our sport is immeasurable. Our members come a variety of backgrounds, each bringing their own life experiences whether in business or within the fancy. This knowledge base is supporting our programs, working with the event councils and committees."*

Some of the new services that are now being accessed by members include an educational component available through the many webinars from experts such as Dr. Emmanuel Fontaine and eLearning with the Royal Canin Academy.

We are striving to complete some exciting announcements in 2025 that have been in the works for several years. Ongoing projects such as our Integrated Breed Health Program, our yet to be launched reciprocal agreements with the AKC and the great work going on with our Genetics and Medical and Breeder Relations Committees. The work behind the scenes is extremely valuable when we approach professional organizations such as the CVMA and provincial and municipal governments. Across Canada, materials developed by our staff and committees have been accepted in areas of canine welfare.

We will continue to face challenges but if we maintain a unified front and remain focused, we can overcome them through discussion and education. It is so important to listen to varying opinions to understand those other groups around us. The development of the Advocacy Committee and the important role that they will play will continue to inform and advise federal, provincial and local governments and organizations on the role that CKC can play in helping to develop reasonable animal care legislation and guidelines.

We are actively working to improve our members' experience, develop more educational opportunities and further the groundwork for recognition as CKC to be the go-to entity for anything canine.

In 2024 we saw more exhibitors involved in a record number of events. Conformation event entries increased and not to be outdone, performance and field events saw their best year ever. The CKC is in a sound financial position, and we are moving forward with the membership foremost in our minds.

Thank you all for volunteering; whether at a club level, a match or on a committee or council. You the 19,000 members, make the hundreds of hours of volunteering worthwhile. See you at the shows and in the field. Remember that at the end of the day, we all take the best dog home."

6. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

At the date of the 2025 Annual General Meeting, the Executive Director position was vacant. In lieu of an Executive Director's report, the following members of the Staff Leadership Team delivered reports on some of the accomplishments and work in progress and planned.

- The report given by Sherry Weiss, Director of Operations, included the unaudited financials as at April 30, 2025, and updates on operations, customer service, registrations, membership, and events.
- The report given by John Atkinson, Director of Advocacy and Communications, included updates on two of the pillars in the Strategic Plan: the Integrated Breed Health Program, and Communications, Marketing & Advocacy.
- The report given by Andrew McAllister, Director of E-Business, included updates on two more of the pillars in the Strategic Plan: Modernization of Events and Internal IT Infrastructure.

7. 2025 CHAIRS' AWARDS

It was noted that the annual Chairs' Awards recognize the outstanding commitment, dedication, and accomplishments of CKC members. Eighteen qualified nominations were submitted by their peers, making selection of the winners difficult. On behalf of the Chairs' Awards Selection Committee, Corinne Walker congratulated the following recipients:

- Randy Doan, owner of Goldoan Kennels in Aylmer, Ontario, awarded the **2025 CKC National Heritage Canine Performance Award** which recognizes an individual who has shown exceptional commitment to heritage performance events and the role of dogs in supporting humankind. To qualify, the recipient must have demonstrated national and international success in events such as Field Trials, Herding, Agility, Lure Coursing, Tracking, Earth Dog, Draft Dog and Scent Detection, while also encouraging others to participate and provide mentorship to new competitors.
- Janice Gunn, founder of TNT Kennels & Training Center in Abbotsford, British Columbia was awarded the **2025 CKC National Obedience Competitor of the Year** which recognizes an individual who has achieved excellence in CKC Obedience and Rally Obedience competitions. Candidates must demonstrate fair competition, success at national and international levels, and a commitment to helping others in the sport by offering support and mentorship to fellow competitors.
- Brenda Brown of Baywood Portuguese Water Dogs in Edmonton, Alberta, was awarded the **2025 CKC National Breeder of the Year Award** which recognizes a breeder who has made significant contributions to the improvement of purebred dog health and well-being. To earn this award, the breeder must be internationally recognized for their program's success, have a legacy of excellence, and show a lifelong dedication to advancing the health of their chosen breed(s).

8. ANNUAL REPORT

The Vice Chair of the Board, Robert Whitney, Director for Zone 5, presented the 2024 Annual Report while copies of it were circulated to attendees. The Annual Report not only highlights the activities of our 37 committees and councils and the dedicated member volunteers who sit on them but it also showcases photos of many beautiful purebred dogs of our members and 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 2024 and is a summary of our challenges and achievements during the year.

9. MEMBER RECOGNITION

9.1 – 50 Year Members

Lee Anne Bateman, Zone 10 Director, congratulated the more than 140 members who are celebrating 50 years of CKC membership while their names were scrolled on the screen. She commented that they are the people who have dedicated decades to shaping the Club and advancing its mission. The 50-year membership recognition highlights their invaluable contributions to the CKC's history and their enduring commitment to the purebred dog community.

9.2 – Retirement of the 2024 Honourary Chair and Announcement of the Appointment of the 2025 Honourary Chair

Corinne Walker remarked that Michael Calhoun's term as 2024 Honourary Chair concludes with this meeting and on behalf of the Board and the membership, she thanked him for his dedication to the CKC and purebred dogs, and for his years of volunteerism, judging, and mentorship that has allowed the CKC and purebred dogs in Canada to flourish.

The Chair then announced that during their May 30th, 2025 meeting, the Board appointed Dr. Michael Woods from Dartmouth, Nova Scotia as the 2025 Honourary Chair.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

11. NEW BUSINESS

The floor was then opened to questions and comments from the floor and from members who participated remotely. Fifteen questions were posed, and most were answered during the meeting. Questions and feedback from members requiring follow-up will be considered at the next quarterly Board meeting for referral to committee, council or staff as appropriate for the subject matter.

12. CLOSING REMARKS

Before adjourning the meeting, the Chair thanked everyone for attending and announced that the 2026 Annual General Meeting will be held on June 6th, 2026.

13. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED BY Denis Gros-Louis, from Zone 3, "THAT, the meeting be adjourned."

➤ The motion was carried

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

ITEMS RAISED BY MEMBERS AT THE 2025 AGM

	Question or comment	Summary of Response	Status
1.	<p>Raised by James Greey, Zone 1 What is the CKC digital strategy and timeline?</p>	<p>Answered by Andrew McCallister The member was encouraged to attend the quarterly Board meetings where project updates are regularly presented, and if there is a more specific question on the project, he should email Andrew.</p>	<p>Closed, the question was answered.</p>
2.	<p>Raised by Denis Gros-Louis, Zone 3 The reciprocal agreement with the AKC is a project I think will benefit breeders to co-register in both countries. When will it be launched so we can start thinking about using it as leverage to pressure the US to accept our dogs under the age of six months?</p>	<p>Answered by Sherry Weiss We are in the final stages of testing and hope to have a deadline soon.</p>	<p>Closed, the question was answered.</p>
3.	<p>Raised by Margaret Zacher, Zone 12 When will the Junior Handling Obedience Rules be updated to match the changes that were implemented at the beginning of the year?</p>	<p>Answered by Sylvain Sirois The rule changes will be discussed and voted on during tomorrow's Board meeting.</p>	<p>Closed, the question was answered.</p>
4.	<p>Raised by Denis Gros-Louis, Zone 3 Many breeders are looking forward to joining the Integrated Breed Health Program. What can breeders do to prepare and when will the program be launched?</p>	<p>Answered by John Atkinson Based on feedback from our members, as well as our Breeder Relations Committee and Genetics and Medical Committee, many of our long-standing breeders are already doing the things required to join the Breeder of Distinction Program, such as health testing. A relaunch of the Royal Canin Academy is planned which includes the Breeder 101 courses and is part of the Breeder of Distinction program. It will be relaunched when our rebuilt website is launched which is expected to be at the beginning of 2026.</p> <p>Breeders will be informed when they will be able to sign up for the Breeder of Distinction Program and we will send them the information they need to populate their breeder profile pages so they will be ready for the launch of the revamped website when it's relaunched.</p>	<p>Closed, the question was answered.</p>

5.	<p>Raised by Katherine Bukovic, Zone 10 Are there any plans to have a CKC booth at events such as the Pet-A-Palooza in Calgary, Victoria, and Vancouver, or Edmonton's Pet Expo in 2026 to raise awareness of our breeders and purebred dogs?</p>	<p>Answered by John Atkinson I couldn't agree with you more about the importance of raising awareness about our member-breeders, why they should be put on a pedestal, and the benefits of purebred dogs. Our current Strategic Plan has been focused on getting our own house in order and supporting/engaging our members more. We are getting to a point where we can focus externally. Our new website will be a really great tool with links an information such as how someone can responsibly acquire a dog. I hope that in the next year or two we will be able to work with our members to attend the kinds of events where the public can meet the breeds and we can provide them with more information.</p>	<p>Closed, the question was answered.</p>
6.	<p>Raised by Sylvia Dorosh, Zone 7 When show secretaries be able to submit results online to the CKC?</p>	<p>Answered by Sherry Weiss That is part of the Modernization of Events project being led by Andrew McCallister. It's a big project and we are just in the requirement stage so I don't have a specific date at this time.</p>	<p>Closed, the question was answered.</p>
7.	<p>Raised by Margaret Zacher, Zone 12 Will some breeders be grandfathered into the Breeder of Distinction program?</p>	<p>Answered by John Atkinson We want to make sure that the doors are open for those breeders who are doing the things to allow them to join the program, such as the breed health testing recommended by our national clubs, completing breeder education, and being a member in good standing. A lot of our breeders, especially long-time preservation breeders, are already doing these things making it easy for them to qualify and join the program. If there are any barriers to participation, we suggest breeders reach out to us and we will work with them to help them get to a place where they will meet the criteria.</p>	<p>Closed, the question was answered.</p>
8.	<p>Raised by Devon Nutbeem, Zone 2 How can we extend the length of time from 4 months to 8 months for registering litters and individual dogs without incurring penalties? I have a giant breed. The breed isn't microchipped until the first vaccine is given at 10 weeks of age and will not even see a board-certified cardiologist until 12 week of age which doesn't leave much time for them to get to new homes and the new owners to choose names. Also, with respect to a letter of registration, when multiple owners of the sire exists in different countries, is tough to get it done in the timeframe so some people don't bother.</p>	<p>Answered by Sherry Weiss This is something we can discuss with the Registration Committee and the Board.</p>	<p>Closed – the Committee did not agree with the proposal</p>

9.	<p>Raised by Katherine Bukovic, Zone 10 As you close out the 2023 to 2025 Strategic Plan, when can we expect the 2026 to 2029 Strategic Plan to be released?</p>	<p>Answered by Corinne Walker We don't have an Executive Director right now and that person is a critical player in the work behind a strategic plan. A motion was tabled for the September Quarterly Board Meeting to extend the current Strategic Plan for one year. My hope is that it will be extended but the Board hasn't decided that yet. If that happens, it will give us 2026 to develop the next Strategic Plan with the involvement of our new Executive Director and we will be able to hit the ground running with everyone knowing exactly what we are doing. We are working really hard to find a new Executive Director and we taking the time required to get the right person.</p>	<p>Closed. The question was answered.</p>
10.	<p>Raised by Sylvia Dorosh, Zone 7 Is the CKC able to provide more resources and support to the dog community to train and mentor more judges.</p>	<p>Answered by Tracy Kent Without more specifics, it's hard to say, but we are here to support any council in any event type. If there is something that the council or exhibitors in that event type are interested in promoting or doing, the first thing they should do is to speak to their local council representative to find out there is anything in the works or make some suggestions for the council to consider. Or, they could email me via the CKC email and I will take it to the council.</p>	<p>Closed. The question was answered.</p>
11.	<p>Raised by Sylvia Dorosh, Zone 7 What support can the CKC provide to increase the number of judges?</p>	<p>Answered by Tracy Kent A lot of the disciplines have been reviewing their policies to try and make the process to become a judge either easier or less time-consuming;. The place to start is by discussing it with your council representative.</p>	<p>Closed. The question was answered.</p>
12.	<p>Raised by Carolyn Cox , Zone 10 There is only room for two on registration application. We've had a few issues with regard to getting all our co-owners on the form, so we've had to add another page but something happens in the transmission and we only receive the one. Is it possible to change the registration application so there is room for more than two co-owners?</p>	<p>Answered by Sherry Weiss There is an additional owners form on our website that can be signed. If there is a delay because you get cut off, you can contact our customer service and we will be happy to help you out.</p>	<p>Closed. The question was answered.</p>
13.	<p>Follow up, raised by Carolyn Cox , Zone 10 I've not seen that form. Is it new, listed in some other way or on some other page?</p>	<p>Answered by Sherry Weiss I will send you a link to the form.</p>	<p>Closed - The form was provided</p>

14.	Raised by Devon Nutbeem, Zone 2 There has been talk about judge evaluation program at shows whereby pre-approved evaluators would assess performance and meet with judges afterward to discuss choices. Where is this initiative at present?	Answered by Tracy Kent If you are referring to the Confirmation Judges Observer program, it has been in effect for many years. There are approved observers and area coordinators for the program. Judges are contacted by the observer for the assignment, the forms are completed, conversations take place and the forms are returned to the CKC in a sealed envelope. If there's more you would like to know, reach out and I'll be happy to help you.	Closed. The question was answered.
15.	Raised by Margaret Zacher, Zone 12 There no place on the obedience verification rings form for pre-novice and intermediate novice to be listed.	Answered by Tracy Kent These forms are in the process of being updated and translated. They will be posted soon.	Closed. The question was answered.

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