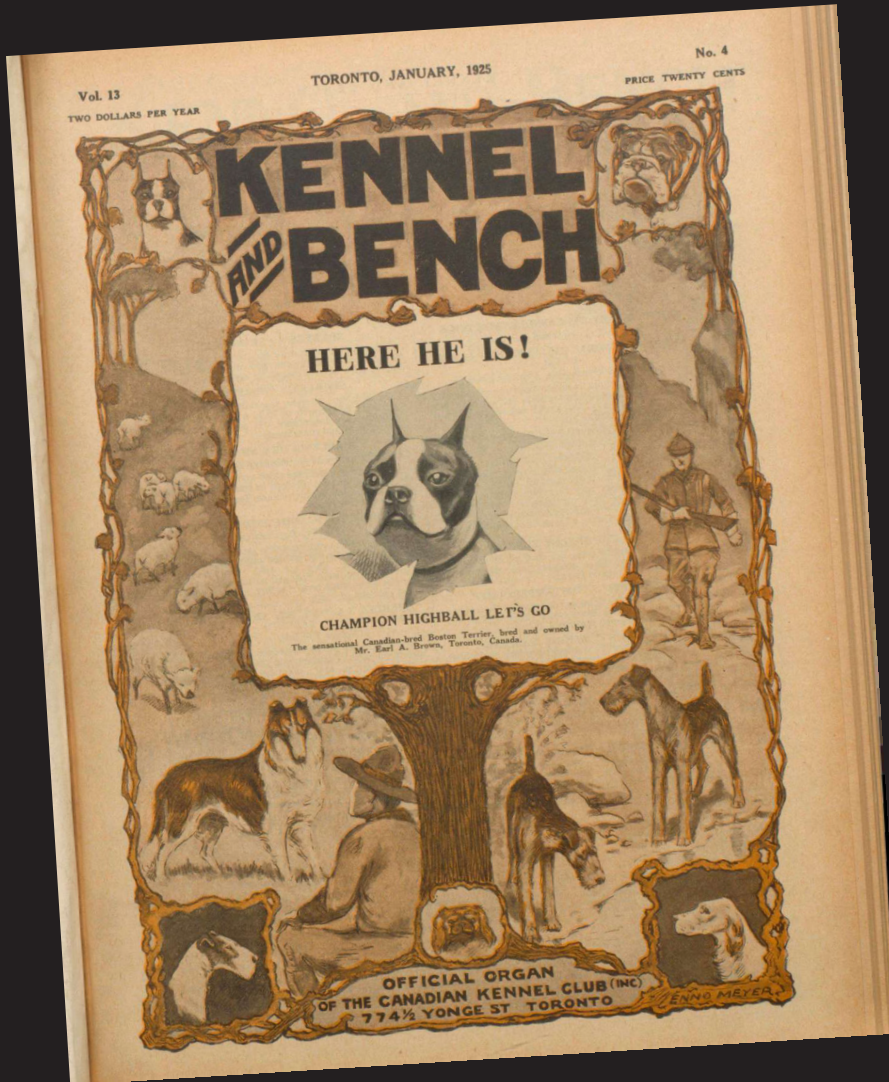




KENNEL AND BENCH

JANUARY 2025

2025 Tattoo Letter is "N"



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2022 REFERENDUM APPROVAL BY AGRICULTURE CANADA

We are pleased to announce that CKC has received approval from the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) of the 2022 Referendum.

The 2022 Referendum contained 8 By-law updates, 35 Rules of Eligibility (ROE's). The 6 New Breed Approvals have not yet been approved.

The Rules of Eligibility changes will apply to the following breeds:

AKITA	KOMONDOR
ALASKAN MALAMUTE	KUVASZ
BERNESE MOUNTAIN DOG	LEONBERGER
BOSTON TERRIER	NEAPOLITAN MASTIFF
BULLDOG	NEWFOUNDLAND
BULLMASTIFF	PUG
CANAAN DOG	ROTTWEILER
CANADIAN ESKIMO DOG	SAINT BERNARD
CHINESE SHAR-PEI	SALUKI
DOBERMAN PINSCHER	SAMOYED
EURASIER	SCHNAUZER (GIANT)
FRENCH BULLDOG	SCHNAUZER (STANDARD)
GREAT PYRENEES	SIBERIAN HUSKY
GREATER SWISS MOUNTAIN DOG	SPANIEL (ENGLISH COCKER)
GREENLAND DOG	WELSH CORGI (CARDIGAN)
HOVAWART	WELSH CORGI (PEMBROKE)
IRISH WOLFHOUND	

Over the coming weeks, CKC will make any necessary changes to our systems and official documents (i.e. forms, policies, etc.) to implement the changes from the 2022 Referendum. We will notify our members when these changes are complete, when you can view the updated ROE's before registering new dogs, and read the changed by-laws in the updated By-laws booklet.

CKC continues to follow up with Agriculture Canada regarding the approval of new breeds submitted for recognition in the 2022 Referendum. We will provide an update for members as soon as it is possible.

BY-LAW CHANGES FROM THE 2022 REFERENDUM

We recently sent out a notice that the 2022 Referendum received approval by Agriculture Canada.

While we are working closely with Agriculture Canada to get approval on the By-law for 6 new breeds submitted for recognition, we are updating our documents and systems to reflect the remaining 8 by-law amendments. For example, one

By-law change is that CKC member breeders will no longer be required to provide CKC with a record of their non-breeding agreements. However, they will be required to retain their non-breeding agreements as part their private breeding records. In order to update our system to reflect this change, the **Member Portal will be unavailable the morning of Tuesday, December 3, 2024.** We appreciate your patience while we make these updates.

We are happy to share that one of the approved By-laws is that we will no longer require members to be at least 50 years of age in order to become a Life Member. Life Membership in CKC will be granted to any member who has achieved 30 years of continuous and unbroken service as a Regular or Membership Plus Member. We will be reaching out to our dedicated long-term members in the coming weeks who are now eligible for Life Membership!

You can view the 2022 Referendum here. We will update you when the CKC by-laws and all system changes have been made.

UPDATE REGARDING CDC DOG IMPORTATION RULE

We continue to advocate on behalf of our members regarding the new import rule from the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

We have outlined our latest efforts below regarding the steps taken by CKC in the last few weeks.

1. CDC's Response to CKC's Joint Letter with the American Kennel Club (AKC)

We have received a response from the CDC to the joint letter we sent with the American Kennel Club to Dr. Mandy Cohen, CDC Director, outlining our concerns. In their letter, CDC expressed that the minimum six-month age requirement aligns with their rules and current regulations of the United States Department of Agriculture under the Animal Welfare Act, which requires the dogs imported for resale to be at least six months old on arrival. Additionally, CDC's letter stated that the minimum six-month age requirement would better protect the health of people and animals, by preventing high-risk dogs with falsified or unverified veterinary documentation from entering the United States through rabies free and low- risk countries. The letter stated that they will carefully monitor how the rule is working on the ground and adjust their approach as needed.

A copy of CDC's letter to CKC can be viewed here. (Word version)

2. CKC's Response to the CDC Letter

In response, we sent a letter to the CDC and copied the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (who continues to negotiate with the CDC). In our letter, we reiterated to CDC, that CKC

member breeders and their low-risk, Canadian-born, CKC-registered dogs should not be adversely impacted while conducting beneficial and accountable breeding practices that have a positive impact on the health, well-being and preservation of purebred dogs. Further, we expressed that we remain concerned that the ban on the importation of dogs under six months of age into the U.S. disproportionately impacts CKC members who responsibly own, train and breed their Canadian born, CKC-registered dogs in Canada. In this respect, we have clarified that unlike high-risk dogs imported for resale, personally owned dogs that are Canadian-born, and CKC-registered, managed by breeders and enthusiasts from birth, are not high-risk, and do not present public health threats posed by importers of unhealthy dogs for resale. We have urged CDC to recognize the unique and low-risk profile of Canadian-born, CKC-registered dogs and grant an exception to the current U.S. import requirement of a 6-month minimum age for dogs.

A copy of CKC's letter to CDC can be viewed here. ([Word version](#))

We encourage members to contact CDC via this [MEMBER TEMPLATE LETTER \(Word version\)](#) and check the CFIA and CDC websites for up-to-date information. An increase in the number of members expressing concerns will help to support the advocacy work we are doing, as well as the ongoing CFIA negotiations. We will provide further updates regarding our advocacy efforts in the weeks and months ahead.

We would appreciate you copying "Jeff Cornett, Executive Director, Canadian Kennel Club" when writing your letters. You can copy us by including ED@ckc.ca in your email address line.

INTERNATIONAL DOG HEALTH WORKSHOP WEBINAR - RECORDING NOW AVAILABLE!

We're thrilled to invite you to view a recording of the CKC member-exclusive webinar where we shared insights from the 5th International Dog Health Workshop that was hosted by the International Partnership for Dogs (IPFD) in June 2024. This was a fantastic opportunity to hear firsthand reflections on the latest in dog health, trends in breeding, and so much more!

Lee Anne Bateman (CKC Board Director) and John Atkinson (Director of Advocacy and Communications), who represented CKC at the workshop, joined Marc Ralsky (CKC Board Director and IPFD President) to share the most impactful takeaways from the event. By watching, you get a behind-the-scenes look at discussions with industry experts, innovative topics, and insights that matter directly to CKC and our members.

Please click below to view a recording of the webinar which is posted in your Member Portal account.

International Dog Health Workshop Webinar - International Partnership for Dogs (IPFD)

Our Signature Work:

- **DogWellNet.com:** A curated hub of information and resources created to facilitate international collaboration and the distribution of knowledge, expertise, and experience among our stakeholders
- **Harmonization of Genetic Testing for Dogs (HGTD):** Two major components: 1) A free database searchable by Genetic Test Provider, Tests, and Tests by Breed. 2) Genetic Counselling resources
- **Health Strategies Database for Dogs (HSDD):** Includes breed-specific health/mentality testing requirements and recommendations established by Health Strategy Providers (HSPs), including kennel clubs, breed clubs, veterinary organizations, and others

SEMEN CULTURE AND CANINE FERTILITY

Guest blog by Dr Emmanuel Fontaine, Scientific Communications Veterinarian at Royal Canin North America

Recently, I came across an intriguing research article focusing on the microbiome present in the semen of male dogs. The term 'microbiome' refers to a community of microorganisms (bacteria, fungi, viruses, etc.) living in a specific environment, and it has been a central theme in my presentations recently, where I've highlighted the crucial role of the gut microbiome in kittens and puppies. However, this was the first time I encountered its study in the context of male canine reproductive health. The potential revelations hidden within the microbial communities of dog semen could open a new frontier regarding male dog infertility. In this blog, I share with you what I found in this paper and how I think it can help us when it comes to dog breeding.

In the field of canine fertility testing, we often find ourselves navigating between traditional methods and innovative techniques.

A commonly practiced traditional method involves analyzing the ejaculate (**performing what we call a 'spermogram'**) to detect abnormalities in semen quality. Some discussions also revolve around performing bacterial cultures of the semen, especially when a bacterial infection is suspected.

I must admit I have always been skeptical of this approach, given the inherent non-sterility of semen.

It's common to find some bacteria in semen, making the interpretation of such tests quite complex.

My skepticism was partly what made **the study I mentioned earlier** so intriguing; it offered a fresh perspective on how semen quality correlates with the bacterial populations in a male dog's ejaculate. And the research provided several insightful findings that warrant attention for those of us interested in male dog fertility I believe.

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Rethinking Bacterial Cultures in Male Dog Semen

In male dogs, the ejaculate is divided into three distinct phases, each with its unique characteristics.

The first phase, known as the pre-sperm or urethral wash, primarily consists of a clear fluid that serves to cleanse the urethra. The second phase is the sperm-rich fraction, which is the most critical for reproductive purposes as it contains the majority of the sperm. Lastly, the third phase is the prostatic fluid, a larger volume that follows the sperm-rich fraction and helps to flush the sperm into the female's reproductive tract, providing a medium for the sperm to swim in.

The study challenged the idea that it's essential to differentiate between culturing the second (spermatic) and third (prostatic) parts of the ejaculate.

It found that both sections produce similar outcomes, greatly simplifying the collection process, especially given the larger volume of the prostatic phase.

This could make the analysis process smoother, more accessible, and less daunting.

Secondly, they found that **bacterial communities in semen are consistent between dogs with normal sperm (normospermic) and those with a high number of abnormal sperm (teratozoospermic)**... which was quite unexpected.

Although this is a preliminary study and the usual disclaimer of 'needing further research' applies, it suggests we should be cautious about hastily conducting bacterial analyses on male dog ejaculate.

I frequently emphasize that the value of a test lies in its interpretation, and this study underscores a crucial point: **solely observing infertility in a male dog makes deciphering the results of a semen bacterial culture exceedingly challenging.**

Mycoplasma in Male Dogs: A Bacterial Conundrum?

In the discussion section of the paper, there was a detailed paragraph on Mycoplasma in canine semen and its implications.

Mycoplasma, a bacterium commonly found in the genital tracts of various species, including dogs, continues to be a subject of debate regarding its impact on both male and female fertility.

The study highlighted that a significant majority (89%) of male dogs naturally carry Mycoplasma within their reproductive systems.

This prevalence complicates the interpretation of qualitative PCR tests used to detect Mycoplasma in ejaculate; **its commonality raises questions about the meaning of positive findings.**

Again, the value of a test lies in its interpretation, which, in this case, appears to be particularly complex given our current knowledge.

Currently, there is no quantitative benchmark to distinguish between normal and elevated levels of Mycoplasma in dog semen, leaving its role in male infertility ambiguous at best. **Often considered a secondary pathogen, Mycoplasma flourishes under conditions established by primary issues.**

Importantly, **this insight suggests caution in prescribing broad-spectrum antibiotherapy, which could lead to antibiotic resistance and disrupt critical microbiomes—vital for animal health.**

*The prospect of integrating cutting-edge tests like semen microbiome analysis into our practice is thrilling. These advancements promise to unlock new dimensions in canine fertility, marking the dawn of a transformative era in reproductive veterinary medicine. Indeed, we are on the cusp of significant breakthroughs, with a palpable sense of change sweeping through our field. **responsible pet owners, but you are breeding the highest quality of dogs. Rates being based on the age of enrollment comes from the concept of families that have insurance won't hesitate to get their pet the treatment that they need. So younger pets have lower rates and better coverage since we can cover anything if it were to come up. The more healthy pets that maintain coverage, the lower costs will be on average to insure a pet.***

APPEAL COMMITTEE REPORT

The following is a report of a decision reached by the Appeal Committee at its meeting held on November 16, 2024.

Appellant: Boxjoy's Tiny Tina Turner

Respondent: Christina Shalaby, (CKC Member)

Discipline Committee's Findings:

Found for the Complainant, Christina Shalaby and directed that Boxjoy's Tiny Tina Turner be excluded from further CKC events pending an Examining Committee report.

Appeal Committee's Findings:

Found for the Appellants, owner of Boxjoy's Tiny Tina Turner and directed that the appeal be upheld in whole and the decision of the Discipline Committee be set aside.

Appellant: Melissa Algarra (CKC Member)

Respondent: CKC

Registration Committee's Findings:

To deny the litter registration amendment sought on January 11, 2023.

Appeal Committee's Findings:

Found for the Appellant, Melissa Algarra and directed that the appeal be upheld in whole. Therefore, the Appeal Committee is allowing the amendment of litter number JA4053501KU to reflect date of mating as July 21, 2022, and date of birth as September 20, 2022.



CANADIAN KENNEL CLUB MISSION STATEMENT

Who We Are

The Canadian Kennel Club (CKC) is the primary registry body for purebred dogs in Canada and currently recognizes 187 breeds. As a non-profit organization, the CKC is dedicated to encouraging, guiding, and advancing the interests of purebred dogs and their responsible owners and breeders in Canada and promoting the knowledge and understanding of the benefits which dogs can bring to Canadian society.

The CKC is incorporated under Animal Pedigree Act, a federal statute under the auspices of the Ministry of Agriculture. The organization includes approximately 20,000 individual members and over 700 breed clubs across Canada. The Club registers purebred dogs, regulates dog shows and performance events, and speaks out on major issues concerning dog ownership and the health & welfare of dogs across Canada.

Mission

As the prime registry of purebred dogs in Canada, our purpose is to serve our members and the public with education, support, guidance and sanctioning of events for all their canine endeavours. Our goal is the preservation of purebred dogs and the health, well-being and enjoyment of all dogs.

Vision

The CKC with its members, will be the definitive authority in Canada for purebred dogs, and an advocate for all dogs, setting the standard for the preservation of breeds and continuous improvement of health, wellbeing and enjoyment of purebred dogs.

Values

Passion: We are dedicated to purebred dogs with the belief in the value of dogs as an integral part of our lives, our society and the contributions dogs brings to our humanity.

Preservation: We are committed to the preservation of breed characteristics while producing healthy well-socialized dogs, with a commitment to continuous improvement and well-being of purebred dogs.

Knowledge: We educate and expand public awareness of the contribution purebred dogs bring to society. This includes the vast array of activities and opportunities for purebred dog enthusiasts... as well as a commitment to the principles of responsible breeding practices and responsible dog ownership.

Commitment: We protect and enhance the interests of our members, breeders, associated clubs and the public, supporting them with openness, honesty and compassion.

Integrity: We uphold the integrity of our registry, the high standards of governance and management of the Canadian Kennel Club.

AN INFORMATION SUPPLEMENT FROM THE CKC

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