

MINUTES OF THE 2024 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 2024 Annual General Meeting (AGM) of Members of the Canadian Kennel Club was held at the CKC office in Etobicoke, Ontario on June 1st, 2024. It was a hybrid meeting comprised of in-person and remote attendance via Chime Live. The meeting was conducted in English with simultaneous French interpretation.

ATTENDANCE

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

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, Québec
Ramona Bauer, Zone 4, Ontario North (*remote*)
Robert Whitney (*Vice Chair*), Zone 5, Ontario East
Peter Scott, Zone 6, Ontario West (*remote*)
Marc Ralsky, Zone 7, Ontario Central (*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 (*remote*)

Management Team:

Jeff Cornett, Executive Director
John Atkinson, Director of Advocacy and
Communications
Sue Coghlan, Manager, CanuckDogs (*remote*)
Tracy Kent, Manager, Events
Andrew McCallister, Director, e-Business
Tara Merrimen, Director of People and Culture
Sherry Weiss, Director of Operations
Annette Maggs, Recording Secretary (*remote*)

Invited guests:

Lucy Bender, Discipline Committee Chair
Dr. Emmanuel Fontaine, Senior Scientific
Communications Veterinarian, Royal Canin
Harin Greer, Director of Breeder Channel North
America and Catherine Paladin, Breeder
Relationship Manager – Québec, Trupanion
Denis Gros-Louis, Registration Committee Chair
Mike McBeth, 2023 Honourary Chair
Marcus Sconci, CPA, CA, Partner, BDO Canada LLP,
(CKC's Auditor) (*remote/part*)
Melanie Towell, Audit Committee Chair
Daret Koudenkova & François Godbout, Language
Marketplace Inc. (*remote*)

The event opened at 12:00 p.m. ET with two keynote presentations. The first was a presentation about "*The Impact of the Partnership Between Trupanion and the CKC*". It was made by Harin Greer, Director of Breeder Channel North America, Trupanion, and Catherine Paladin, Breeder Relationship Manager – Québec, Trupanion. The second presentation was about "*Improving Canine Futures: The New Era of Puppy Care*". It was made by Dr. Emmanuel Fontaine, Senior Scientific Communications Veterinarian, Royal Canin North America.

Following a question-and-answer period and a refreshment break, attention turned to the business of 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 2024 AGM for business at 1:15 p.m. ET and presided as Chair. She was assisted by Lee Anne Bateman, Director for Zone 10, Director for Zone 11, 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 29, 2024, 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 scrolled on the screens.

2. MINUTES OF THE 2023 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, 2024, 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 Tempest Deptuch, “THAT, the Minutes of the 2023 Annual General Meeting held on May 27th, 2023, be adopted as circulated.”

➤ The motion was carried

3. CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence was received for the meeting.

4. PRESENTATION OF THE 2023 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 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.

5. REPORTS

5.1 – Election Commission’s Report on the Results of the 2023 Election and Special Referendum

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.

Marcus Sconci left

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

5.2 – Chair’s Report

In her 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 had 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 a 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."

5.3 – Executive Director’s Report

Executive Director, Jeff Cornett, then presented his 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.

5.4 – Annual Report

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.

6. MEMBER RECOGNITION

6.1 – 50 Year Members

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 over the past 50 years. They 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. She ended her remarks by congratulating the recipients.

The second member spotlight video was then presented.

6.2 – Retirement of the 2023 Honourary Chair and Announcement of the Appointment of the 2024 Honourary Chair

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.

6.3 – Chairs' Awards

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 the 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.

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. Thirteen 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.

9. CLOSING REMARKS

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.

10. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED BY Janice Kivimaki, “THAT, the meeting be adjourned.”

➤ The motion was carried

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

ADDENDUM

ITEMS RAISED BY MEMBERS AT THE 2024 AGM

	ITEM	STATUS
1.	Raised by: Karen Prokopetz & Taylor Phillips from Zone 9 Question: They asked about CKC's efforts to resolve the issues caused by the American CDC's new rules for crossing the border with dogs & also provide a timeline	Closed The question was answered by Janice Kivimaki. She spoke about CKC's relationship building and advocacy work related to this issue.
2.	Raised by: Denis Gros-Louis, Zone 3 Question: Will and when will the CanuckDog platform be available in both languages?	Closed The question was answered by Jeff Cornett during the AGM. He spoke about the CanuckDogs Project and mentioned that one of the goals is to make it available in both languages.
3.	Raised by: Boyd McIntyre, Zone 10 Question: English Springer Spaniels now have two distinct varieties. There are distinct differences in both body shape and colouring. Isn't it time to recognize these differences and formally separate the breed into field and bench?	Closed The question was answered by Tempest Deptuch. She spoke about the process followed by the BSC.
4.	Raised by: Tara Leggo, Zone 3 Question: I have been competing in altered classes for the past two years and have seen considerable growth and interest in it. Could an Altered Grand Champion title be considered?	Closed This item was referred to the Conformation Council who considered it and reported to the December Board meeting. Based on the current entries, the very limited revenue it would bring, and the IT costs involved to program the title, the Council was not in support of this new proposal.
5.	Raised by: Karen Pelletier, Zone 2 Question: Can CKC work with Trupanion to request they offer a kennel insurance so that CKC members can insure all their dogs under one insurance plan rather than singly. My dogs live in the house with me. I do not actually have a kennel, but I have a registered kennel name. I breed only occasionally. Twice in the 12 years of showing dogs. I only have 3 of my younger dogs insured. As they age, insurance goes up. Females cost more to insure. I have not had a claim yet. I would like to insure all 5 of my dogs but it's too costly singly. I would welcome the opportunity to insure all my dogs under one policy and pay annually. Perhaps this is something others would like as well. The rates could be based on number of dogs you own, or other factors.	Closed Staff brought this suggestion up with BFL and Trupanion and found that they do not offer this type of insurance.

6.	<p>Raised by: Andre Rodriquez, Zone 6</p> <p>Question: A few years ago, a law was passed against Pitbulls. After that we saw breeders especially for American Staffordshire Terriers stopped breeding. But if you want to see a Pitbull you can just walk 5 minutes in High Park to see a lot of them. It opened a big door for rescues to be imported to Canada for adoption, especially from the US. It doesn't make sense. Now there's a law about puppy mills regulations. It says things about inbreeding. I don't think puppy mills care about inbreeding. A law against Pitbulls was actually a law against breeders and now a law against puppy mills is a law against breeders. Is CKC doing something or is CKC accepting government regulations about how we should breed?</p>	<p>Closed</p> <p>The question was answered by Corinne Walker. She spoke about the new Advocacy Committee and advised the member that the place to raise his concerns is with the Director for his Zone.</p>
7.	<p>Raised by: Tanya Wheeler</p> <p>Question: When someone sends a letter to the CKC regarding challenges they face in services or any manner of discontent, how is it handled and why do people never receive acknowledgement of their letters being received?</p>	<p>Closed</p> <p>The member was asked to send the specifics to the ED for investigation.</p>
8.	<p>Raised by: Vicki McKague, Zone 6</p> <p>Question: I am curious about how many members actually pay dog insurance in some form or another? If they do have dog/pet insurance, who do they recommend I go with? I recently got a new puppy but hope to do some dog breeding down the road as well. I may have some other questions, but this is the most important to me at the present time.</p>	<p>Closed</p> <p>It was recommended that she consider Trupanion</p>
9.	<p>Raised by: Ashley MacLeod, Zone 11</p> <p>Question: There has been the delightful introduction with CKC acknowledging Rat sports and Trick titles in the past few years. I am wondering if there may be potentially to look at setting up a title recognition from a frisbee sport organization, such as UpDog like the AKC recognizes?</p>	<p>Closed</p> <p>The question was answered by Jeff Cornett. The member was advised that when we receive a request such as this, there is a process to form a business case and staff recommendation which goes to the Board.</p>
10.	<p>Raised by: Dominc Valois, Zone 3</p> <p>Question: It is really nice that the following classes are offered: BBE, Veterans, OH, Altered, etc. However in Québec I believe one club offered it this spring and no one else for the remainder of 2024. Would it be possible to push clubs and show secretaries to offer these classes at shows? There is interest despite the grumbings of club execs and show secretaries. Many of us would like to participate. Also new people to shows would get their toes wet with their senior or altered dogs. What a shame to not see if offered in QC.</p>	<p>Closed</p> <p>The question was answered by Corinne Walker and Tempest Deptuch. The member was advised that we need people who want those events to join clubs, encourage them to offer these events by volunteering to help, and to encourage their family and friends to participate in the events to support the clubs.</p>
11.	<p>Raised by: Jean Delisle, Zone 3</p> <p>Question: Is CKC thinking of producing a "Dog/pet" passport CKC ID with information on owner, medical, photo, etc. something like the Europeans do. This initiative could greatly assist to officially identify and verify a dog's health and vaccination status during travel or in regulatory situations.</p>	<p>Closed</p> <p>The question was answered by Corinne Walker. The member was advised that we are waiting to see what CFIA and CDC will require before considering anything else.</p>

12.	<p>Raised by: Jannine Kowalchuk, Zone 12</p> <p>Question: Has any thought been given to adding a platinum grand champion level? If not, could this be brought up with the Conformation Council?</p>	<p>Closed</p> <p>The question was answered by Tina Sandford. The member was advised that she is not aware of anything being considered at this time and she was encouraged to bring it up with her Conformation Council Rep for future consideration.</p>
13.	<p>Raised by: Audrey Prune, Zone 6</p> <p>Question: Is CKC open to studies to counterbalance studies done by the research world?.</p>	<p>Closed</p> <p>The question was answered by Jeff Cornett. The member was advised that it's aspirational but before that, we need to be able to support it with our own research data and dollars.</p>