Saturday 21st October 2023

Secretary Report

Thank you to everyone who has attended today for the first face to face meeting in over a year.

During 2022/2023 we have hosted zoom meetings which has allowed all the member clubs to participate something which many clubs has found beneficial, but we do need to have at least one face to face per year where possible.

During the year there have been several Zoom meetings regarding the Breed Standard organised by Lesley McFadyen and minutes taken by Clare Robinson Cox and I would like to thank them both on the Councils behalf for their hard work, which has culminated in the proposals we have today.

The proposals have been forwarded to all breed clubs for their deliberations and we have delegates here today who are acting on their behalf. Following an email to the Royal Kennel Club regarding Breed Standard amendments the following was received back along with the relevant form.

Thank you for your email.
Please find attached the form for a proposed Breed Standard change.
Please be advised that you will need to provide confirmation that the council members have agreed any proposed changes and that any other registered clubs for the breed have been consulted.

Should you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact us.
Thank you.
Yours sincerely,
Hayley Swann-Ross
Governance Officer (Interim)
The Kennel Club

These proposals have been discussed with all our respective clubs and could take up most of the meeting today whereby we will be going back over old ground. I am hopeful that delegates have come today with a mandate to amend their votes if its in the best interests of the breed rather than go back to their clubs again and have more delays whereby we could be looking at the next sections of the Standard.

As requested, I did send a letter to the Controller at Loose Women regarding the photo of a Stafford used regarding the recent XL Bully attacks. Yet I have not yet received a response for either the Council or Notts & Derby.

There are no doubt many of these dogs in home that live perfectly happy lives and have no temperament issues and thereby by the Government saying they are

going to get them banned will not work from my point of view education is vital and also the DDA needs looking at to better protect the owners, the dogs and those who have been attacked.

The number of Stafford's that have been registered with the RKC Summer 2023 quarter is 1478 and is with again over 75% registered litters of blues or containing blue. Total registered for the year so far is 2999. There are so many more and in every breed that are unregistered out there with the increased registration costs this will increase.

Thank you, to the clubs who forwarded their judging lists, not everyone did, however an updated list has been sent to all the clubs. Some clubs have already started to have JEP levels included which is extremely helpful to those who are looking to source judges.

There have been several clubs who have organised various seminars during 2023 and have been well supported by both Stafford people and non-Stafford's people. I have been asked to organise several Mentoring sessions over the last few months with the majority being non breed specialists. This is my point of view only, but I can see more Non breed specialists being invited to judge our beloved breed at General Champ shows to reduce costs as all rounders can cover more breeds. We must try to encourage the Generals to still use our Breed judges as more of our up and comings Stafford judges need to be supported.

There has been an update to the criteria regarding Level one and Level two which comes into effect and details have already been forwarded to all the clubs and booklets are available at General Champ shows where the RKC is in attendance, but I can also forward you the information.

Adrian Marret who has been invaluable to all the BECS and the Breed Clubs has now left the RKC and moved to work at Fosse Data.
There is a new email which is now used which is
judges.education@thekennelclub.org.uk

Helen E Reaney

Secretary October 2023 ©