

AKC FIT DOG – Randi Chylinski

Dear BCOA Secretaries,

I am writing to propose the introduction of the AKC Fit Dog Program for consideration at your upcoming board meeting. "The American Kennel Club is dedicated to enhancing the overall health and fitness of dogs and their owners. The AKC FIT DOG program is tailored to provide a well-structured, personalized fitness regimen that dog owners can engage in with their pets." ([Source: AKC Website](#))

I am enthusiastic about introducing this program, with the expectation that it may secure approval as a sanctioned activity by our parent club in the near future. To illustrate its potential impact, we could consider hosting AKC Fit Dog Group walks at our National event, which could contribute to the attainment of Fit Dog titles. I currently oversee my own [AKC Fit Dog Club](#), 'CA Greyhounds and Friends,' in Southern California and am well-versed in the operational aspects of this program.

In this context, I am more than willing to assume the role of committee chairperson and lead the coordination of this initiative. I am also open to collaboration with a select team, should that be necessary, and it's important to underscore that there will be no associated costs.

Furthermore, I am prepared to create an informative article for publication in the Aristocrat and on the BCOA website. This article will serve to provide our community with valuable insights into the AKC Fit Dog Program.

Thank you for considering this proposal, and I eagerly anticipate the opportunity to discuss it in more detail at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,
Randi Chylinski

AKC Gazette Breed Column – Kristina Terra

The next Borzoi column will appear in the February issue of the AKC Gazette. The article is about Borzoi people from around the world working on preserving our wonderful breed throughout its history. I have several topics that I am looking into for the May article, among them the balance in Borzoi and Borzoi head types.

AKC Canine Ambassador Program – Emily Killian

The AKC has said they are working to revamp the Canine Ambassador Program, and I will give a full update when I hear more from the rep.

Recommendation for committee members to be added:

- Currently, there are zero committee members.
- Recommend Lori Miller, BCOA member who has years of experience in training dogs and obtaining CGCs and advanced CGCs and other titles on several borzoi.
- Recommend Pam Schwentner, who is an AKC CGC evaluator, does visits with her dog and who has put advanced CGC titles on her borzoi.
- Recommend Emily Lynn, who has put numerous CGC and other titles on her borzoi.

They would be out representing Canine Ambassadors for BCOA, so they would need to sign a Standing Committee Code of Conduct form. Should they fill out the form now, or after they are approved?

Recommend adding a small section on BCOA web site under the "Programs" drop-down about what the program is about. The committee can draft this once we get the go-ahead from the Board.

Emily Killian

Futurity Event – Kim Horn Janek

Because of the need to change venues and dates, Barbara Danieli and I are working with Lydia Pruett to make the necessary changes to the 2024 Futurity eligibility requirements. L. Pruett has advised that one 2023 puppy that was carried forward is no longer eligible for the event. This member will be contacted, and a refund will be issued for their last payment if they so desire.

Two additional litters were nominated in November which would make them eligible for the June 4, 2024 event. L. Pruett will be in contact with those individuals to advise them of the change.

We are in negotiation with an artist for original artwork to be used for the Futurity trophies. I am excited about these and think everyone will be pleased.

We hope to have an opening reception as in years' past but with increasing prices we may find it necessary to cut back on that activity. We are always actively seeking hospitality donations and each one will be acknowledged in the National Show Catalog.

Respectfully submitted,
Kimberley A Horn Janek

HEALTH COMMITTEE – Ginger Jones

Despite the busy Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year holiday season, the Health Committee remained actively engaged in pursuing some of our objectives.

1. BCOA HEALTH STATEMENT

Much discussion took place over the rework of the BCOA Health Statement to provide to the AKC. We request that the Board review and approve the Health Statement included in this report.

2. 2024 NATIONAL SPECIALTY HEALTH CLINICS AND SEMINAR

- a. Caryl Dumaine received confirmation from Salish Veterinary Cardiology that they will provide our echocardiogram clinic. A contract was provided but it fails to show if a hotel stay will be required and for how many nights. It also does not include transportation costs for a drive of approximately 2 hours each way. I've requested that Caryl contact the clinic for updates of these expenses if they are expecting reimbursement for them and if so, to have these included in the contract for review and approval by the Board. Recommendation is for all echoes to be prepaid only and offered to members first until the end of April. After that time if the clinic is not full, we can open it to non-members who are on a waiting list. (see attached contract for cost discussion purposes.)
- b. At this time, Karla Smith has not been able to find an ophthalmologist for our eye clinic. I will continue to pursue this with her.
- c. For the Health seminar, I have contacted Monica Henderson, AKC DNA Program Director, to inquire if she can provide the 2 seminars previously discussed:
 - The AKC Genetic Diversity Program
 - The AKC Purebred Preservation Bank Program (joint seminar with Members Education – Prudence Hlatky)

3. HOLTER RENTAL PROGRAM

- a. I discussed Holter rental program updates with the clinic team. Kelley Frary put together a video tutorial for using the Holter equipment. The video tutorial is very good with just a few corrections and updates needed. This should be ready to load to the website by the end of the first quarter of this year along with the updated forms and application process. Confirmation required from Dr. Anna Gelzer if she will continue to review and record our results for research purposes.
- b. The information team will be working on reformatting the website starting with the main page which should include our BCOA Health Statement. They will also assist with the development of the Holter information pages.

4. HEALTH RESEARCH

- a. Morris Animal Foundation has released information on their Hemangiosarcoma initiative. They have also released information for an approved study on Osteosarcoma using Giant Breed Dogs to trial an alternative therapy to amputation.

Respectfully submitted,
Ginger Jones
Health Chair

Legislative Affairs – Lyn Snyder Hoflin

For the period from November 1, 2023, through January 11, 2024, twelve Legislative Alerts were sent out to the membership via Groups.io. One alert pertained to National legislation. The remaining alerts were for pending legislation in Massachusetts, California, New Jersey, New Hampshire, Texas, Georgia, and Tennessee.

2024 National Specialty Chair – Kim Horn Janek

As most are now aware, BCOA was notified in November 2023 that we lost our National Specialty venue in Olympia, Washington which was to take place in April 2024. After the committee took a deep breath, Facility Chair, Kristina Terra, and her committee went to work to find a suitable location so that it could remain in Region 5. After an exhaustive search, Kristina visited a hotel that had been previously considered for the 2018 National Specialty. Although the hotel did not have our original dates available, they did provide us with some viable alternatives. Three of those options were in direct conflict with three regional specialties as well as the Westminster Kennel Club show. The fourth was deemed agreeable and we forged ahead with getting the Red Lion Pasco Airport & Conference Center under contract. Some additional negotiations were necessary, including ballroom fees, dog fees and number of dogs allowed per room. In the end, all of our concerns were addressed, and we are looking forward to spending June 1-8, 2024 in Pasco, WA where we will gather to celebrate our beloved Borzoi.

We are still in the process of finalizing a field for our lure coursing events. This has not been easy, many fields are not appropriate, extremely expensive (up to \$1600 a day) or do not allow dogs. Going forward, this will be a strong consideration when we choose an area of the country to have our National Specialties.

Because of the change in dates and location we have had some challenges finding judges for some of the venues. We will be diligently working to get the judges under contract so that we will have a premium list ready for publication by March 1, 2024.

The Red Lion Pasco Airport & Conference Center is conveniently located within five minutes of the Tri-Cities Airport (PSC). The hotel provides a complimentary airport shuttle, has an on-site restaurant and a complimentary breakfast included in your paid hotel room nights.

The hotel is now taking reservations. It is a great rate with a very affordable pet fee allowing 4 dogs per room. Not only is it convenient to stay at the host hotel, it also enables BCOA to offset the costs of the ballroom, conference and health clinic rooms.

We are still requesting donations for trophies, hospitality, and general National Specialty expenses. Regional Clubs may wish to sponsor morning coffee or help to defray the cost of the opening reception or our Friday evening social gathering. Please contact us with any ideas you

may have. Members and friends of our breed can check out the Shopping Cart on the BCOA website for details.

Please click on the 2024 Specialty Logo on the BCOA website as well as the Official BCOA National Specialty Group Facebook page for the most up-to-date information.

Kimberley A Horn Janek
2024 National Specialty Chair

Membership Chair - Kelley Frary

- Currently working with Ginger/Lyn/Helen on rectifying membership payments as of January 1, 2024. We have 52 life members who did not update their membership, but are included in the membership booklet and 61 members did not pay their membership on time and will not be included in the booklet. 349 people did pay on time and will be included in membership booklet.
- Hoping to have the first proof of membership booklet ready to go in the last week of January and ideally sent to printers early February. Usually print time is 7-10 days so would expect mailing to be completed by the end of February.
- Attached is the sample tri-fold brochure created to promote BCOA Membership at Regional Specialties. This is just a rough draft and content can be changed or formatted differently. Also, an option to turn this into an 8.5 x 11" Flier instead if preferred. Think this would be lovely to have some of these at our Nationals this year for those who have not joined membership yet and are attending Nationals. Please see attached!
- I will work with Helen after the membership booklet is completed on the next steps involved with including electronic signatures involved in the membership applications somehow. Will follow-up on that!
- Taking over writing up the Memorials for the catalog for Sandra. Currently, I have all but 2 written up and ready to go for the catalog so will have those ready prior to catalog print due date.

Parliamentarian - Betsy Tolley

I am pleased to report that I have been able to answer several questions related to the Bylaws.

Specialty Guidelines – Kim Horn Janek

This committee will be working on updating the Specialty Guidelines when we gather for various BCOA Board Face-To-Face meetings.

We have a template from another specialty club and hope to incorporate many of their ideas. We have found that so much has changed since 2020 and the pandemic and need to make necessary changes to the current guidelines.

Respectfully submitted,
Kimberley A Horn Janek

Specialty Trophies (formerly Standardized Trophies) – Kim Horn Janek

As prices continue to increase, we have found it necessary to make changes to our National Specialty trophies. The committee will be seeking out unique trophies for our top awards while staying within budget.

We currently have hundreds of the bronze head study (affectionately known as “the chocolate head”) which we will continue to use for first place trophies. I have been in contact with several vendors to develop unique trophies which will relate to our venue location. The embroidered chairs were well received last year, and we may use those for some top awards. Watch for trophy details in the premium list.

Respectfully submitted,
Kimberley A Horn Janek