

## President's & Secretaries Meeting – Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> October, 2017

Amenities Building – Dogs NSW Orchard Hills – 11.00am

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### MINUTES

#### 11.00 AM WELCOME

##### **Purpose of the Day**

**Chair – Mrs Lynette Brown**

Welcome to the 2017 President's & Secretaries. It should be noted that any decisions made today will be in the form of recommendations for consideration by the Board of Directors in accordance with the RNSWCC Articles of Association, Part V-Administration, Clause 55(a) & (c) and Part III-The Board of Directors, Clause 27(d).

There are a few Agenda Items that were submitted by the closing date and will be discussed later in the meeting and members are requested, should they have any additional items for discussion that these be submitted to the Dogs NSW Office in writing for consideration by the appropriate staff member/Committee in due course.

##### **APOLOGIES**

- The County of Cumberland Kennel Association Inc.
- The Australian Silky Terrier Association of NSW
- The Ladies Kennel Association of NSW
- Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Breed Club of NSW Inc

#### 11.15 AM OVERVIEW OF THE YEAR TO DATE

**Chair – Mrs Lynette Brown**

The Chair mentioned significant events/improvements for the information of Affiliates:-

- Attendance by the Governor of NSW at the Spring Fair
- Introduction of the RNSWCC Health & Welfare Charity. This will give our members the ability to make tax deductible donations and offers an alternative charity to those who want to bequeath funds to RNSWCC. The Constitution has been accepted by the Board and the Committee is moving to the next level.
- Upgrading IT equipment in the Office to improve communication with members & Affiliates
- Improvements to emergency procedures/equipment: upgraded PA System, fluoro vests and wands for directing ambulances, upgraded first aid kits, supply of defibrillators at Orchard Hills and in Regional Areas. Dogs NSW is prepared to make available for any club who requests a defibrillator for their region. First aid kits upgraded, including compression bandages with instructions on how you should handle a snake bite. High Vis Vest have been added along with a flashing light to help direct ambulances where to go. An arborist has given an assessment on the tree that had fallen down near the hound ring.

- Dogs NSW APP
- New Website under development, we currently have 500 pages and with the new website we will have the capacity of 2500 pages meaning we will be able to upload more information, advertisements and a quiz for new dog owners on what breed would best suit their lifestyle.
- Heat Policy down from 40 degrees to 38 degrees and from 2 days prior to 3 days. The Board took into consideration a few factors including the Bureau of Meteorology NSW (“BOM”), advice from Dr K Hedberg BVSc as well as dogs, exhibitors and the reputation of Dogs NSW.
- Online entries moving towards Dogs NSW doing entries.
- Drainage at camping grounds
- Gordon Douglas Building is officially closed with demolition to be shortly undertaken followed by upgrading the roads and carparks.

## **11.30 AM KEY ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION**

### **Dogs NSW Guidelines for Club Management, Show Secretaries**

**Director – Mr John Sheppard**

The Guidelines for Show Management document is included on the Dogs NSW website which is a Show Secretary’s guide that is outdated however, the Show Committee is currently working on updating this guide. Members should be aware that the process for resolutions from Committees and the Board of Directors including changes to Regulations, approval of Show Dates, Complaints and resolutions can take up to and over a few months. If there are any issues, members are advised to contact the Office by email which will then be passed onto the relevant committee for a written reply.

### **RNSWCC Representative Reporting**

**Mrs Lynda Brandt**

Clubs are reminded that Show/Trial Representatives cannot be a member or relative of a member of the Club and that they are just there to observe and make an unbiased report. The Representatives are not there to participate in any decision making process, interrupt any rules or regulations however, they are to be made aware of any problems or issues that occur so that they may include this in their report. The Representative must report any and all incidents no matter how minor they may seem.

### **Latest Regulations**

**Director – Mr John Sheppard**

At the beginning of every Gazette, there is a section title ‘FROM THE OFFICE’ which includes all recent Regulations changes. Clubs are reminded of the following regulation changes:

- Memberships are all changing to renew in July as of now. This will align all memberships together and with the Judges renewals.

- The fee to register dogs on the Limited Register is to be the same as the Main Register fee as 1 January 2018. This is because the process to register a dog on the Main Register or Limited Register is the same for the Office to complete.
- The trophy, and a sash or rosette, given at discretion of the Affiliate running the show for Runner Up Neuter in Show and Neuter Class in Show are now at the clubs discretion.
- As per the advice provided by the Dogs NSW Solicitor, Clubs are unable to reject any entry.

Clubs are reminded that if a show has been cancelled due to extreme weather conditions and said club has not refunded entry fees to the exhibitors you are then required to pay the levy fee to Dogs NSW, however, if said Clubs is to do a full or partial refund then they are not subject to pay said levy fee. Refund information should be included in Clubs advertisements for their shows and in their own policies.

### **Aggressive Dogs**

**Director – Mr Myron Arthur**

Clubs have a duty of care for exhibitors and exhibits if a dog is found to be aggressive and if the issue of an aggressive dog is glossed over, the club would be found negligent if the same dog is to have a worse incident later on. Dogs NSW Regulations require anyone who observes an aggressive dog to write a statement on what occurred.

### **Hearing of Aggressive Dog matters on the day of the Show**

**Director – Mrs Nancy Keck**

A workshop was held on the Hearing of Aggressive Dog matters on the day of the Show by Director Nancy Keck.

*Meeting recessed for lunch at 12.30pm*

*Meeting resumed at 1.15pm*

### **Complaints made on the day of the Show.**

**Director – Miss Jan Seary**

A presentation was held on Complaints made on the date of the Show by Director Jan Seary.

The Regulation for the return of Representative Reports and Marked Catalogues is **REGULATIONS - PART II – Show, SECTION 2 - CLASSIFICATION OF A SHOW**, which reads:-

*2.10 The Show Representative(s) shall report in writing to the Dogs NSW Secretary within seven (7) days of the close of such Show on the general conduct thereof and in particular on all matters of controversy which arose and on all breaches of the Regulations which occurred thereat and on such other matters as the Board of Directors may from time to time require. (11/86)*

**AND**

**SECTION 5 - CATALOGUE AND SHOW SCHEDULE, Clause (e)** which reads:-

*(e) at least one copy of the Marked Catalogue shall be lodged with the Dogs NSW Secretary within fourteen (14) days of completion of such Show.*

Unfortunately the Regulations do not mention the Results Sheet nor the levy but the Show Manager includes this requirement in the approval letter for the Show as follows:

Please note that the following documents will be required following the completion of the event:

- 1) Marked Catalogue and Result Sheet within fourteen days of the event, along with the Dogs NSW Exhibitor Levy of \$1.00 per entry, per event.
- 2) The Representative Report(s) must be lodged within seven days of the close of the event.

**Annual Reports - submission to Dogs NSW**

**Mrs Virginia Gagan-Wilson**

The Annual Report Information Sheet/Check List is provided to Affiliates each year for the completion of their Annual Reports. This document is quite extensive and I believe covers all that is required.

It is extremely important that these requirements are met and that Annual Reports are submitted correctly and in a timely manner. Failure to properly complete your Annual Reports and submit them by the due date could render your Club being suspended from conducting or applying for shows until such time as the Reports have been received or fully completed.

Should an Affiliate have difficulty in obtaining relevant documentation from former Office Bearers, you are entitled to seek dispensation from the Board, however, you should provide documentary evidence that you have made all attempts to obtain these documents.

### **Stewards Training**

**Mrs Lynda Brandt**

Clubs are reminded that Stewards are extremely valuable to Dogs NSW and the Stewards & Representatives Committee is willing to run a Stewards Course in regional areas and any expressions of interests should be emailed to the Office of Dogs NSW.

**1.15 PM**

### **QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

#### **Item 1 The Gordon Setter Club of NSW**

##### **The Proposal Regarding Evaluation of Visiting Overseas Conformation Judges**

This matter was discussed at the ANKC Conference last weekend and as the Minutes of that Conference have not yet been confirmed, Chair Lynette Brown is unable to provide the resolutions passed in regards to this matter, however, once the Minutes have been confirmed, advice will be disseminated to all Affiliates.

#### **Item 2 The Gordon Setter Club of NSW**

##### **NSW Fair Trading Model Constitution Changes**

The CEO and the Honorary Solicitor are currently working on incorporating the recent changes into the RNSWCC Constitution for Affiliates template and this is a work in progress. As soon as it has been finalised and approved by the Board of Directors, it will be disseminated to all Affiliates.

It should be noted, however, that NSW Fair Trading has indicated to Dogs NSW on several occasions that its Model Rules are just that, "model" rules and, therefore, are only a guideline to assist incorporated clubs to structure their own Constitutions. Therefore, it is the preference of Dogs NSW Board of Directors that Clubs use the RNSWCC Constitution for Affiliates template when drafting or amending their Constitution.

### Item 3 Kellie Edwards (member Southern Region).

#### 3.1 Applying for Agility and other dog sports to be officially recognised as a "Sport" under the AIS.

Quite some consideration has been given to the idea of applying to the Australian Sports Commission for either ANKC Ltd or Dogs NSW to be recognised as a Sporting Association. On perusing the application form it states upfront that to be eligible to be recognised, the organisation must meet **all** the required criteria. The very first criteria on the application form is *"Is the organisation recognised as the pre-eminent body in Australia .....*". That immediately renders Dogs NSW as being ineligible as it is only a State body. The ANKC Ltd, at its October 2016 Conference advised that it did not meet the criteria.

#### 3.2 The decision for any new Affiliate requiring a minimum of 15 Dogs NSW Members

The current Regulations Part X-Affiliated Bodies, state:-

*1.3(b)(ii) In respect of an All Breeds Club or General Dog Club, has at least 30 financial members of which:-*

- (a) at least 15 of those 30 members are financial members of Dogs NSW and*
- (b) those 15 financial members of Dogs NSW own a dog registered on an ANKC Ltd National Register. (07/16)*

**AND**

*1.3(c)(iii)(A) a specialist club, at least ten (10) financial members each of whom is:-*

- (i) a financial member of Dogs NSW or another State member Body and*
- (ii) the owner of a specimen of the breed registered on an ANKC Ltd National Register in respect of which the club is a specialist or semi group club. (07/16)*

which should be noted was amended to reduce the required numbers in July 2016.

### **3.3 Additional Investment in Regions by Dogs NSW**

Dogs NSW are continually investigating various avenues for increasing revenue therefore, does not have funding available for the incentives detailed in this item. Without specific details of what type of training is being referred to, “*training*” of Affiliates is not considered to be a responsibility of Dogs NSW and Affiliates wishing to be better educated should consider relevant TAFE courses available in their area.

In respect of the need for improved/upgraded facilities, it is the responsibility of the Affiliate to investigate options for increasing income, eg, the increasing of entry fees, fund raising, sponsorship, etc.

The attendees at the meeting thanked the Directors and staff for conducting such an informative meeting.

***Meeting Closed 3.20pm***