

**MEETING OF THE DOG SHOWING LIAISON COUNCIL TO BE HELD ON  
10 JUNE 2026 AT 10:30AM VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS**

**AGENDA**

**ITEM 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

**ITEM 2. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD  
ON TUESDAY 17 FEBRUARY 2026**

The Council is requested to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 17 February 2026.

**(Annex A refers)**

**ITEM 3. YOUNG KENNEL CLUB & DOG TRAINING**

The Council is invited to note a verbal update from Mrs H Lawrence (Head of Education and Dog Training) and Mrs F Moore (Youth Training and Volunteer Development Manager).

**ITEM 4. RESULTS OF RECOMMENDATIONS/MATTERS ARISING**

Inconsistent or Biased Judging

In February, the Council discussed concerns surrounding the perceived inconsistent or biased judging. Concern was raised that inconsistent or biased judging has been present in the dog showing community for a long time. The Council discussed how to address these issues in a positive, transparent way and agreed that the matter should not rest solely with the Dog Showing Liaison Council, as it relates to judges. The matter was redirected to the Judges Education Team for consideration alongside the JEP review.

The Council is invited to note that the Judges Education Team recommended that the Council await the report of the JEP review and which of its recommendations the Board chooses to adopt; and then in time return with a detailed follow-up request, or points of clarification.

**ITEM 5. PROPOSALS**

To submit a proposal or discussion item, please use our online form so the Dog Showing Liaison Council can discuss and review the suggestion further. Submissions are accepted at any time of year via this form: [Liaison Council Agenda Item](#).

#### Mandatory Class Signs in Show Rings

The Liaison Council is invited to consider a proposal for mandatory class signs in show rings, fostering inclusivity for participants who are hard of hearing.

The proposal advocates for the implementation of mandatory class signs in each show ring at all Royal Kennel Club licensed dog shows, specifically to support and include individuals who are hard of hearing, to enhance both the experience and sense of belonging for participants and spectators alike.

The Council is invited to discuss the following proposal.

**At all licensed shows, each ring shall display a clear and legible sign indicating the class currently being judged. The sign must be positioned so as to be readily visible to exhibitors and spectators and updated promptly as classes change. Show societies shall ensure suitable signage is provided throughout judging in the interests of accessibility and inclusivity for all participants, including those who are hard of hearing.**

(insertions in bold)

(Subsequent paragraphs to be renumbered)

**(Annex B refers)**

#### **ITEM 6. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

##### a. Award Boards

At its February meeting, the Council discussed an amendment to Regulations F(1)3.f.(1) and F(1)3.f.(2) to remove the requirement for award boards to be provided in all rings at championship shows, whilst maintaining the requirement for all shows to have an area to display awards. The rationale highlighted that the use of Awards Boards within individual rings was outdated and an unnecessary extra level of work for stewards, and an additional expense for societies and Championship Show Society committees.

It was noted that although a reasonable sample of data had been collected, it represented only a small section of the dog showing community. The Council therefore agreed that in order to proceed, a concise survey would be the most effective means of collating relevant data.

The Council is invited to note the verbal update from Mrs Cawthera-Purdy regarding further research undertaken and discuss any subsequent considerations.

b. Grand Champions/Champion Class

At its February meeting, the Council discussed the proposal that the Royal Kennel Club introduce a Grand Champion title, competed for only within the Champion classes, with Open classes restricted to non-champions. It was noted that the new class aims to reinvigorate participation, provide renewed incentive for exhibitors, and increase entries, rather than relying on higher fees or cost reductions. It was agreed that further research was required amongst exhibitors.

The Council is invited to note the verbal update from Mrs Cawthera-Purdy regarding further research undertaken and discuss any subsequent considerations.

c. Conduct of Exhibitors

In February, the Council discussed concerns relating to the conduct of exhibitors. It was agreed that the current red and yellow card system should be highlighted more widely, as greater awareness was needed. The Liaison Council requested to review the data from the Governance team detailing the duration for which the current card system had been in place, the number of red and yellow cards issued within a six and twelve month period and the frequency with which the system had been utilised, prior to determining any further discussion.

The Council is invited to note that an update from the Governance Team has been arranged via Microsoft Teams, for 11am on Thursday 13 August.

d. Unbeaten Dog Regulation

The Council is invited to discuss the introduction of an unbeaten dog regulation to ensure that all dogs competing in the Group and Best in Show

competitions are unbeaten. Concerns have been raised that, under the current regulations, a beaten dog may still represent the breed in the Group and Best in Show competitions.

Rationale:

The aim is to encourage greater participation in Stakes classes by providing exhibitors with increased confidence that judging will not favour well-known exhibitors or dogs. Stakes classes were originally introduced to encourage entries and provide exhibitors and dogs with additional experience in the main ring. It is anticipated that this change would increase participation and enjoyment by allowing exhibitors to compete without directly competing against dogs already awarded Best in Show.

e. Breeder Stakes Competition

The Council is invited to discuss a regulation change requiring the breeder to be present in the Breeder Stakes competition, to make it fairer for those exhibiting to qualify for the Crufts competition.

Rationale:

It has been suggested that the rules should be amended to require the breeder of the exhibited dogs to be present when the groups are judged, as part of the qualification criteria for the competition.

**ITEM 7.        STRATEGIC 5 YEAR PLAN**

In February, representatives were invited to develop a new Strategic 5 Year Plan, to align with the needs of dog showing, and to discuss how ideas may be progressed.

The Liaison Council is invited to discuss the draft five year strategic framework document, which aims to create a modern, inclusive, welfare led dog showing environment that is accessible, trusted, and sustainable for future generations.  
**(Annex C refers)**

**ITEM 8.        ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Please give at least one weeks advance notice of matters to be raised under 'Any Other Business' as this assists the office if research is required. These items are discussed at the discretion of the Chair.

**ITEM 9.      DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the Council's next meeting will be confirmed by October 2026.

THE ROYAL KENNEL CLUB'S STRATEGIC AIMS

- Champion the wellbeing of dogs
- Safeguard and enhance the future of pedigree dogs, addressing breed-associated health issues
- Protect the future of dog activities together with our grassroots network
- Become relevant to more dog owners to increase our impact
- Deliver an excellent member experience and widen our community
- Ensure we are financially secure and sustainable