

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

**AGENDA**

**ITEM 1. TO CONFIRM APPOINTMENT OF THE CHAIR FOR THE COUNCIL TERM JANUARY 2026 TO DECEMBER 2028, FOLLOWING A SECRET BALLOT CONDUCTED VIA EMAIL PRIOR TO THE MEETING**

**ITEM 2. TO CONFIRM APPOINTMENT OF THE VICE CHAIR FOR THE COUNCIL TERM JANUARY 2026 TO DECEMBER 2028, FOLLOWING A SECRET BALLOT CONDUCTED VIA EMAIL PRIOR TO THE MEETING**

**ITEM 3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

**ITEM 4. HEALTH AND WELFARE**

The Council will receive a presentation from Ms F McDonnell (Health & Breeding Manager) to discuss health initiatives at the Royal Kennel Club and explain the Health and Breeding Advisory Group.

**ITEM 5. 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 6. PROPOSALS**

The Dog Showing community is invited to share any ideas which might help to improve or develop Dog Showing.

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 prior to the next meeting in June. Submissions are accepted at any time of year via the online form: [Liaison Council Agenda Item](#).

## **ITEM 7.      DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **a. Award Boards**

The Council is invited to discuss an amendment to Regulation 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.

#### Rationale:

The use of Awards Boards within individual rings is now potentially an outdated and unnecessary extra level of work for stewards, and an additional expense for societies and Championship Show Society committees. Many Championship Shows now make use of an iPad to upload results in real time to the printers' results service. Exhibitors can access the results on their phones. The stewards in the ring still have the results on their steward's sheets which can be accessed by exhibitors if needed and within the judging book. A hard copy should still be kept in the Chief Steward's Office for the duration of the show for further reference if required. The heavy metal structures take up room within the ring and have always posed a health and safety issue in terms of trip hazards, and this escalates to risk of injury particularly in windy weather. The provision of the paper awards sheets has both a cost and environmental impact.

### **b. Grand Champions/Champion Class**

The Council is invited to discuss the impact of dominant exhibitors on competition and participation within breed showing. Concerns have been raised that current structures limit opportunities for long-standing exhibitors, discourage entries due to cost, and reduce competitiveness in Open classes.

It is therefore proposed that the Royal Kennel Club introduce a Grand Champion title, competed for only within Champion classes, with Open classes restricted to non-champions.

#### Rationale:

This aims to reinvigorate participation, provide renewed incentive for exhibitors, and increase entries, rather than relying on higher fees or cost reductions.

c. Conduct of Exhibitors

The Council is invited to discuss concerns surrounding the conduct of exhibitors. The real challenge the dog showing community is facing isn't the visible arguments or public disputes on social media. It's the quieter, persistent patterns of conduct that make exhibitors feel uncomfortable or undervalued and ultimately lead them to stop participating. These behaviours can be subtle, but their impact is significant. It is suggested that a way needs to be found to acknowledge and address this.

d. Inconsistent or Biased Judging

The Council is invited to discuss concerns surrounding the perceived inconsistent or biased judging. Concerns about inconsistent or biased judging have been present in the dog showing community for a long time. The Council is requested to discuss how to address these issues in a positive, transparent way and work toward meaningful improvement.

**ITEM 8.        STRATEGIC 5 YEAR PLAN**

Representatives are 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 Strategic 5 year plan will be shared with the community and published with the minutes of the meeting.

**ITEM 9.        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 10.      DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the Councils next meeting will be on 10 June 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