

MEMBERS MEETING TUE 09APR19

Meeting Opened at 7.04pm

Apologies: M Chalmers, E Temby & M Kingston

1. **Membership A** – due to staff changes & changes in methodology there has been some lack of cohesion in the application of membership for members where some got no reminder & others had not been a member for a long period. Dogs ACT Council had no idea this was occurring until the change in staff however members are assured that the new procedures put in place will ensure that this will not recur in the future

Membership B – A small team of Councillors are reviewing fees & any proposed changes will be advised to members prior to implementation. They have been looking at the whole of Dogs ACT income & expenditure & have determined that 70% of our revenue comes in via conformation shows with 30% of income arriving over the counter with items such as registrations, certificates etc. The review is taking into account the costs to maintain & run the grounds including watering, mowing et al. They will also be looking at the work able to be completed by Community workers who are assisting us via the ACT Government at no cost to Dogs ACT.

2. **DAS** – Members were advised that the legislation changing laws pertaining to dogs is a different section to the area which determines the fees to be imposed. Dogs ACT has approached DAS (Dept of Admin Services) on several occasions & they have agreed to come & present their facts to members at the Dogs ACT meeting rooms & it is hoped that this will occur in the next month. All Members will be advised of the date & time. Members are encouraged to submit questions 'prior' the event as there will be a specific agenda in order for the DAS representative/s to have answers to those questions.

Dogs ACT representatives had met with the legislative arm of the ACT Government & it appeared that they were unaware of our presence in the canine world of the ACT and surrounding districts. This has now been remedied & they assured us that the proposed legislation was not intended to affect our Members. They are revising this legislation & are keeping Dogs ACT up to date & seeking our opinion on any impact to Members 'prior' to implementation.

3. **EPIC** – There is a meeting with EPIC & Dogs ACT representatives next week. EPIC has been doing a review of the entire showgrounds & have already asked Dogs ACT for the sizes of rings in the bottom area. EPIC's review is due to the fact that now Gungahlin & the tram is up & running some parts of the showgrounds might be used for other events. At this stage nothing is definite about Dogs ACT moving however we have advised that if any of our facilities are moved, we would want exactly what we have now. Members will be advised as soon as Dogs ACT are aware of any changes.

4. **Technology A**– Dogs ACT are reviewing the website & other means of communication to Members & are seeking suggestions for any improvements or requirements sought which will be given to the technology team.

Technology B – Dogs ACT are considering implementing an app(lication) similar to the one currently used by Dogs NSW & Qld where instant messages can be relayed to members. It will be a means where cancelled events, reminders of important meetings, & an immediate means of communication can be sent to Members as soon as possible rather than Members relying on the website or facebook method. Members will be continually advised on progress.

5. **Puppy School** – there is going to be a Members puppy school commence soon for puppies 8 weeks & older which will be held within the meeting room only & possibly on a Thursday afternoon. This enables the room to be disinfected prior to & after the puppy school & Members will retain the safety of their young puppies. Members will be advised of commencement time/date.

6. **Pooch Affair** – Dogs ACT will have a stall at this one day event in June (usually mid-June) & ask all Members to volunteer to take part. This event runs for no more than 6 hours on a Saturday & a roster of volunteers will be set up so that volunteers can do as little (1hr) or as much as they can fit in on the day.

7. **Volunteer Members** – Dogs ACT are having working bees where we are getting issues completed. We have already had the office painted, the containers cleaned up & packed smarter & Dogs ACT are seeking Members to have a more proactive participation in what is their association.

8. **Shows A** – ALL *accidents* which occur at ALL events must be reported on the reps report. This will cover Clubs & members.

Shows B – *Smoking* policy – Dogs ACT do not have one at this time. If Members wish to comment please send in an email to the office.

Shows C – NO *setting up* of equipment prior to 12 noon on the day of a show, twilight shows will have times set out prior to the event by show secretaries.

Shows D – *Parking* signs have been erected along the road & it is the responsibility of Clubs to ensure that NO vehicle is parked at the emergency entry points which are those covered by a chain & are for access & egress of emergency vehicles ONLY.

NO *trailers* are to be parked along the road next to the rings. Trailers are to be parked in Bicentennial Gardens only & again it is the responsibility of all Clubs holding events on the grounds.

Shows E – NO *vehicles* are to be allowed to drive onto the grounds, this applies to every vehicle except emergency vehicles.

Shows F – *Camping* is currently undertaken by Dogs ACT prebookings or via the EPIC office. It is possible that on the events where Show Manager is used that Show Manager will set up a camping area so that campers can pay for entries & camping at the same time.

Shows G – *Show Manager*, the owner Jeremy Cook is willing to come down again to Dogs ACT to explain the use of their database, how clubs can benefit etc.

Shows H – Event calendar – ALL Clubs must get their dates in to the office within the required 12-18 months in advance. This will not only assist Clubs to become organised but also to alert the office that the grounds will be used on that day/weekend/week. Dogs ACT does have external entities applying each month for us to rent the grounds & if we do not know of your proposed dates you may miss out on using the Dogs ACT grounds.

Shows I – April shows in Bungendore. The shows on the Anzac weekend have been moved to the Bungendore showground this year as EPIC advised Dogs ACT at Christmas 2018 that the ACT Government had told them that the Groovin' in the Moove music festival was to be moved to EPIC. It was determined that due to the thousands of people likely to be at this event Dogs ACT should hold this batch of shows at another venue so that there would be no issues of security, noise, chaos etc. Dogs ACT will be in discussion with EPIC after the event to determine its continuance but Dogs ACT would want to remain on our grounds.

Shows J – Amenities sub-committee. Dogs ACT will be looking for Members to volunteer to be part of the running of the Dogs ACT shows. Experience is not necessary but willingness to learn & take part is required & it is likely that these volunteers would only miss one weekend per year of shows.

9. Conformation Judges Training Scheme. The Dogs ACT scheme is a very good one & the team organising it has gone to a lot of effort to set up procedures, policy & compliance with the ANKC rules. There will be new education sessions, some of which will be open to all Members (such as the Puppy Assessment day last Sun – 7th April). These sessions will be for Members to learn & not be instructed as the JTS is a transparent scheme where Dogs ACT wants to encourage the ACT and surrounding canine community to be more of a part of their organisation.

10. Conformation Stewards. There will be a conformation stewards course run in May 2019 for those wanting to undertake this. Dogs ACT trains all their stewards & is a requirement if Members want to undertake the JTS in the future.

11. ANKC. DNA testing for parentage will be implemented on 01Jan2020 and Members are informed that Dogs ACT will be posting more information on this issue when it is to hand.

12. Catering. Dogs ACT does not have its own catering service however if Clubs require catering, we ask that they contact the Dalmatian Club who are holding a National event in 2020 & are catering to raise funds for this event. Contact Bev or Stuart Barr to arrange catering.

13. General Business. A question was raised about the amount of consultation being available on the raising of levies. Dogs ACT President assured the meeting that no fees would be raised without consultation of the Members. Once the review of all fees/costs has been completed Dogs ACT will be giving Members time to review & comment on the proposed changes to fees. All comments will be considered.

NOTE: All comments & suggestions on any topic are to be sent to the Dogs ACT office on admin@dogsact.org.au only.

Dogs ACT hours are Tue/Wed/Thu 9.30am/2.30pm each week. Any changes to these hours will be advised to Members via the website & facebook.

Meeting Closed at 7.55pm