



March 25th 2021

COA Executive Board Meeting and Board Meeting

New Zoom meeting link: <https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/89498330667>

COA Mission Statement (adapted from Constitution and Bylaws):

To promote the public's knowledge and appreciation of dogs in general and Chinooks in particular; To produce, publish, and distribute to the general public educational materials about the proper care, treatment, breeding, health, development and training of Chinooks; To support and promote study and research on the history, character, breeding, genetics and particular health problems of Chinooks; To establish a national data base of resource materials about the Chinook; To further understanding of the disease, defects, injuries and other ailments that afflict dogs in general and Chinooks in particular; To acknowledge and advance the critical role of an UKC National breed club in providing education, health research and support of rescue for the benefit of the general public, purebred dogs, and Chinooks in particular; To conduct activities including sporting events, licensed events, specialty shows, working certificate tests, obedience, agility and tracking trials, and other such activities and events as may be held under the rules of the United Kennel Club, in furtherance of the above purposes; To urge members and breeders to be guided by principals of good sportsmanship, including fair and honest conduct, and to accept the standard of the breed as established by the COA and the United Kennel Club (UKC) as the only standard of excellence by which the Chinook shall be bred and judged. To otherwise preserve and protect the Chinook and to do all things possible to promote its natural qualities, including the encouragement of regional activities and/or interest/study groups

Agenda:

1. Call to Order and Roll Call of Board Meeting
 - a. Present:
 - i. Denise Reed
 - ii. Brendan Aldrich (joined 6:10)
 - iii. Taylor Scanlon
 - iv. Vicky Delfino
 - v. Kim Kramer
 - vi. Hannah Collison
 - vii. Jon Jolly
 - viii. Kristy Jolly
 - ix. Karen Hinchy
 - x. Bob Cottrell
 - xi. John Habermehl
 - xii. Corine Lindhorst (joined 6:20)

- xiii. Laurel Wilkinson
- 2. Report of President
 - a. Nothing new to report
- 3. Report of Vice-President
- 4. Report of Secretary
 - a. Nothing new to report
- 5. Report of Treasurer
 - a. Financials sent out earlier in the week.
- 6. Report of Bench Chair
 - a. Hannah and I had hoped to secure Rick Gann, (who was to have judged the 2020 specialty) for 2021, but unfortunately, he has a wedding to attend. He is very interested in judging the 2022 specialty. Hannah and plan to continue to work through the list produced by the last Specialty Judge Committee (I think this was when Denise was Bench Chair?) to secure a judge for this year.
 - b. Denise asks about booking a block of rooms at a nearby hotel, which Kim agrees will be a priority. John suggests looking into Air BnBs as well.
 - c. Karen asks about sending out a save the date, which Kim will look into.
- 7. Report of Communications Chair
 - a. Nothing new to report.
- 8. Report of Membership Chair
 - a. Membership Report – March 2021
 - i. **Current Membership Total:** 232
 - ii. **New Members (1):** Kae Arrington (NC)
 - iii. **Puppy Memberships (0):**
 - iv. **Renewed Members (29):** Barry Gilbert (MO), Rhea Moore (VA), Sherry Hung (WA), Rick Skoglund (ME), Megan Pothier (NH), Bobbie Kenney (OR), Matt Bolender (WA), MJ Crance (NY), Nancy Fishinger (FL), Shelly Londer (FL), Sandy Smith (FL), Margi Nowak (WA), David Kargl (IL), Jean Bouteiller (CT), Jennifer Esposito (NY), Marleen Mandt (WA), Cindy Mattson (MA), Jane Cox (MO), Walt Madden (CO), Patricia Martel (NH), Karen Bourque (VT), Noreen Irving (CA), Kim Robinson (CO), Karen Tempesta (MA), Michael Venti (NH), Susan Fletcher (WA), Susan Maser (NJ), Bobbi Babineau-Lounds (CA), John Booth (MI).
 - b. **Membership Goals/Updates for 2020-2021:**
 - i. Look into small membership trinkets/rewards for new members and/or long standing members or periodically send surprises (postcards, stickers, magnets, etc.) – 2021 project
 - c. **Chinook Merchandise Store**
 - i. No new updates

Membership Numbers by Month running total

Date	# of Members	Change
Sep-18	219	
Oct-18	231	12
Dec-18	234	3
Jan-19	243	9
Mar-19	246	3
May-19*	183	(63)
Jun-19	185	2
Jul-19	201	16
Sep-19	202	1
Oct-19	207	5
Feb-20	220	13
May-20	214	(6)
Jun-20	217	3
Jul-20	205	(12)
Aug-20	208	3
Sep-20	218	10
Oct-20	228	10
Dec-20	229	1
Jan-21	231	2
Feb-21	231	-
Mar-21	232	1

*It was discovered the system wasn't demoting membership status when the expire date hit. Once it was corrected, emails went to the members to renew. Some did but some didn't, thus showing the sudden decrease. There were 60 new members added in April/May, so figured it reduced by 123, with 60 renewals.

9. Report of Health & Genetics Chair

a. Background:

- i. As many of you know, many Chinook owners were using Optimal Selection/WisdomPanel for genetic testing for their dogs. These tests provided both disease testing (MDR1 and dwarfism), but also trait testing like color for those that is important too, and also diversity testing. Most exciting, they had a tool for breeding dogs that compared the dog to others in the breed and predicted the diversity/health in

offspring, so you got a ranked choice of breeding partners. It was only a single data point in a breeding decision, but many found it useful. For reasons known only to them, OS/WP killed this service late last year, changing to a service the simply did disease and trait testing. You were no longer to see allele percentages across the population, look up other dog's results, or access the breeding tool. WP has been unclear about its plans for the future of their product.

- ii. Proposal: Enter into a research partnership agreement with Embark Veterinary. Summary of what this means (full document from Embark attached):
 1. Kristy question: what benefit does this initiative have for the COA? Karen replies that Embark will assist with tracking genetic health concerns and will allow the COA to name three health concerns for Embark to focus on. Kristy asks if we have approached Optimal Selection about similar opportunities, and Karen replies that when she talked to them in November, OS was evaluating their plans to bring back online reporting, but were not convinced the breeder tool was going to be part of their offerings going forward.
 2. Kristy worries about selling the Embark kits to COA members who have already paid out of pocket for OS kits. Karen suggests that it's a personal choice and all dogs in a litter need not be swabbed and tested. She also states that Embark is perhaps not a long term prospect (like 10 years) given the pace of technology, but is the better option of what's available now.
 3. Comment from Jon: worried about the optics of pushing Embark after supporting OS.
 4. Jon comments that subsidizing tests is a good idea, but has concerns with using Embark. How would discounts work with the COA subsidy?
 5. Both Kim and Brendan wonder about the portability of data. Could there be a clause in the agreement about extracting data so we could use the information if Embark changes their features. Karen is not entirely convinced that Embark would agree to release complete data but is willing to ask.
 6. Jon asks about how the subsidy works. Embark will send an invoice, open a portal, and COA members will be able to purchase tests this way. Embark will refund money at the end of the quarter. Jon remarks that it's not clear this arrangement is more economical than waiting for sales (ex: 99/kit for a litter). Karen suggests not buying the subsidized kits for whole litters.

10. Report of Historian

- a. Bob has been providing historical lectures and is currently on a project to write an article.
 - i. Question from Kristy: if webinars are recorded, the link can be sent out to membership. Ditto any upcoming events or lectures.

11. Report of Regional Activities Chair

- a. John plans to attend Bob's webinar and assist with getting links out
 - b. John would like to coordinate with the bench chairs to schedule a small hike for specialty attendees.
12. Report of Rescue Chair
13. Report of Registrar
- a. Nothing new to report
14. Report of Working Dog Program Chair (from last agenda):
- a. Formed a WD committee:
 - i. Laurel Wilkinson
 - ii. Jude Griffin
 - iii. Corine Lindhorst
 - iv. Madeline Ulinski
 - v. Susan Fletcher
 - vi. Margaret Hughes
15. Report of Committees
- a. **501©(3):** As I mentioned last month, the draft of the updated COA Constitution and Bylaws was completed and submitted to the Board last month. I'd like to at least have a high-level discussion of the suggested changes at the meeting. The file is parked in the folder with the February 2021 meeting minutes.
 - b. **Breed standard committee**
 - i. Breed Standard: We are now meeting via Zoom. We completed our third meeting last week. I believe by the end of the next meeting we will have gone through the entire standard. We will then finalize the changes we want to make; either by consensus or by voting. We have meetings scheduled through early May, (April 1, 15, 22 and May 6, 20 and 27). I was supposed to be away in June, but that trip was cancelled, so we'll just keep scheduling til we are finished.
16. Unfinished Business
- a. Vicky: D&O insurance/rescue insurance. Financial specifics are in the treasurer's email. Vicky has been trying to get in contact with the lawyer to clarify particular aspects of the insurance policies. One attorney suggested don't do the rescue without a permit through the department of agriculture. For foster families, a hold harmless agreement is something to consider.
 - i. Next steps: connecting with attorney to devise an agreement to supply to people if they want to use it
 - ii. Comment Karen: starting with a lawyer may not be best way forward. Suggestion is to talk to rare breed clubs and see what they do, and then take our proposal to a lawyer to work with.
 - iii. Kim comment: we should not vote on bylaws next month. We might consider partnering with a states-wide rescue.
 - iv. Brendan: we need a rescue chair whose responsibilities are tied to the legalities of rescue once we've decided how to proceed with lawyers.
17. New Business
- a. **Motion 2021-7**
 Motion by Karen, Second by Corine
I move that the COA agrees to enter into a research partnership with

Embark Veterinary.

Jon dissents on the basis of wanting to wait longer. Motion goes to a vote.
Motion passes with 10 yes, 1 no, and 1 abstain.

b. Motion 2021-8

Motion by Karen, Second by Corine

The COA agrees to subsidize the first 150 kits ordered by COA members (2 per household) by \$30/per kit, for a total of \$4500USD.

i. **Discussion:** How did the committee come up with the amounts?

Karen: basically made up.

Motion passes 11-1

18. The next COA Board meeting is scheduled for April 1st 2021 at 6pm MT.

19. Approval of Minutes

Motion 2021-9

Motion by Denise, Second by Vicky

I move that the March 25th 2021 minutes be posted and approved by unanimous consent within 48 hours of posting.

Motion passes by unanimous consent.

20. Adjournment

Motion 2021-10

Motion by Denise, Second by Kim

I move that the April 1st 2021 Board meeting be adjourned by unanimous consent following email approval of the minutes. If there are no objections by the conclusion of the vote on the minutes the meeting will be adjourned.