Talbot Kennel Club
General Meeting Minutes
August 3, 2026 7:00 pm
Talbot Kennel Club

Officers	**Board Members**
President – Renee' Morris	Joann Beavers
Vice President – Pam Johnson	Shirley Bigelow
Corresponding Secretary – Michael MacLeod	Joanne Silver
Recording Secretary – Sally Kepfer	Marian Shaw
Treasurer – Denise Jester	Kim Moore
AKC Delegate – Ann Wallace	Dara Kraitchman

Call to Order – Sally K called the meeting to order at 7:15 pm. Renee' M was not available for the meeting. There is not a quorum at the meeting so no votes could be taken.

Approval of Minutes – No member had any changes to the June minutes. Will approve at the next General Meeting in October.

Corresponding Secretary's Report – Michael MacLeod: A thank you card was received from Renee' Morris for the surgery care package.

Treasurer's Report – Denise Jester:

Month For May 2026 the club had a profit of $5,137.75. Total gross income for the month was $12,173.00 with expenses of $7,035.25. Income included class income of $2,476.00 and the summer agility trial income of $8,927.

Expenses included class instructors $2100.00, summer agility trial expenses of $956.57.

Year to Date (02/01/2026 through 5/31/2026) 2026 the club had a loss of ($1,805.15). Total gross income for the month was $15,979.50 with expenses Year to date the club has a profit of $17,460.32.

Month for June of $17,784.65. Income included class income of $6,842.50 and the summer agility trial income of $8,160.00.

Expenses included class instructors $1,980, renewal of online Quick Books of $1,101.28, summer agility expense of $11,217.28.

Year to Date Year to date the club has a profit of $15,655.17. (02/01/2026 through 6/30/2026)

Bank Balances The operating account has a balance of $51,136.56 as of 08/02/26. Interest earned so far is $211.00 for one account and $995 for the other account. CD accounts are $10,679.72 and $50,994.60.

Committees Reports

Agility – Renee' Morris: The May 29 - 31, 2026 TKC Agility Trial at Crown Sports Center is in the books! Judge was Megan Shepter. Back by popular demand was the super fun Golden Oldies Challenge and heartwarming Veterans Run. There were nearly 60 more runs for the summer agility trial than last year. Special Thank you to Linda Syner & Pam Johnson (Chief Course Builders); Sandy Moody (Trial Secretary); Robin Valliant (Photo Op and NQ raffle) and Denise Jester (Volunteer Coordinator). There

were 2 MACHs earned at the trial. Several members helped with set-up, during the trial and clean up after the trial. The net profit for the trial was $2017.74.

The next trial is set for October 30 - November 1, 2026 at Heartland Equestrian Center in Frederica, DE. The judge is Laura Kuterbach. We are going to be in a new ring that is out of the way of the sports activity and should be much quieter.

Barn Hunt – Marian Shaw: Fall dates will be October 9-11. Barn hunt practices have been sent out to members and posted on the website.

Breed Show – Joann Beavers: Breed Show – Premium List is published and entries opened on July 27th. Entries close on September 2nd. Volunteers are needed and it is easy to get all your hours in over the four days. We eat well and have a good time. Even if conformation is not your thing, come and learn about a whole different venue.

Renee has developed and ordered New Title Ribbons and Participation Ribbons for the Pee Wee Class.

A flyer has been developed for advertisement and will be handed out at the General Meeting for people to post.

Sally K will have Renee' M send out an email to all members requesting volunteers.

Building – Pam Johnson: A light was installed in the kitchen. Linda is looking at installing LED lights in the parking lot. Linda is looking for an electrician for the outside lights and person to clean the A/C units. Linda is also reaching out the landlord to see if there is any opportunity to obtain (purchase) A/C unit from the bank unit since that unit is now being converted into storage.

Pam Johnson shared information on mat flooring that she has seen while judging agility trials. She will do some further research to see if the new floor cleaner would work the Great Mats flooring, obtain a sample and get estimates

Delegates Report – Ann Wallace: June AKC Delegates meeting was held June 8 and 9 at the Doubletree Hilton in Newark, NJ.

AKC dog registrations are down as are entries in dog sports. The number of events has increased.

The Rat Terrier Club of America's membership to AKC was voted on and accepted by the delegates.

There was a vote on the amendment to Chapter 3, Section 12 of the Rules Applying to Dog Shows – Dog Show Classifications, which codifies the clarification to the rule adopted by the Board at its May 2025 meeting that a competitive non-regular class may not be offered by an event committee for which castration or spaying is a condition of the class. This clarification was passed by the delegate body.

AKC has developed a new program "AKC Family Pack" has been developed to support involvement of new dog owners in AKC sports and events.

AKC has instituted levels of achievement, i.e. Silver, Gold, Platinum in the NOHS of competition began in May. Regional Events are now being offered for NOHS.

AKC has expanded internationally. In an international partnership with Canada and Mexico AKC is collaborating with other countries to develop programs and events to encourage dog owners to become active in dog sports.

Proposed amendment to Article XIV, Section 1, of the Charter and Bylaws of The American Kennel Club. This amendment is the Article XIV, Section 1, of the Charter and Bylaws of The American Kennel Club, which adds verbiage to address that a fee is required to be submitted to the event-giving club when a complaint is filed at an AKC event. The amendment was proposed by the Delegate Bylaws Committee and disapproved by the AKC Board at the February 2026 meeting. Pursuant to Article XX, Section 3 of the AKC Bylaws, the Delegate Bylaws Committee demanded that it be brought forward to the Delegates. It will be published in two issues of the AKC Gazette, and will be voted on at the September 2026 meeting.

The next delegate meeting will be September 14 and 15 at the Doublet Tree Hilton in Newark, NJ. A motion was made by Joann Beavers to have Ann vote in favor of a fee to be submitted to the event-giving club when a complaint is filed at an AKC event if the proposal is brought in front of the Delegates for a vote. Seconded by Joanne Silver.

Education – Sally Kepfer: The Fall schedule will be posted this week. We have a new class taught by Sylvia Zborowski on Thursdays at 7 pm, starting in the Fall. It will be a Therapy Dog Prep Class. The class will teach the basics of therapy dog (TD) work, evaluate the dog to see if it a candidate, train and test to become a TD team.

Legislative – Joanne Silver: Legislative issues on the screw worms and proposed legislation in Delaware were sent out to all members.

https://www.akc.org/legislative-alerts/delaware-2026-legislative-session-ends-with-several-animal-bills-sent-to-governor/

July 2, 2026

The Delaware General Assembly has adjourned its 2026 legislative session after approving several bills that impact dog owners, breeders, pet sellers, shelters, rescue organizations, and veterinarians.

AKC Government Relations (AKC GR) monitored these measures throughout session and worked to ensure that legislation affecting dogs and dog owners is reasonable, enforceable, and protects responsible dog ownership. Below is a summary of the key bills considered this year:

HB 131 – Retail Sales of Dogs and Cats – prohibits retail pet stores from selling dogs and cats, while allowing stores to collaborate with animal shelters and rescue organizations to display animals available for adoption. Senate Amendment 1 added clarifying language and limited exceptions for certain existing retail operations that meet compliance requirements. The bill takes effect six months after it is signed by Governor Matt Meyer.

AKC GR expressed concerns that restricting regulated, licensed sources does not address broader issues such as consumer education, enforcement against irresponsible sellers, and transparency in animal sourcing. AKC supports policies that protect animal welfare and consumers while preserving access to purpose-bred dogs from responsible breeders and maintaining consumer choice.

HB 134 – Animal Cruelty Penalties – increases penalties for repeat animal cruelty offenses, elevates certain repeat misdemeanor violations to felonies, enhances penalties for repeat felony offenders, and imposes lifetime animal ownership bans on individuals convicted of multiple felony cruelty offenses. The bill takes effect immediately upon Governor Meyer's signature.

AKC supports strong, enforceable penalties for those who intentionally abuse or neglect animals, while also recognizing the importance of clear and fair enforcement that protects responsible dog owners and breeders.

SB 257 – Shelter Licensing and Rescue Organization Requirements – creates a state licensing program for animal shelters, requires inspections and ongoing compliance with shelter regulations, authorizes penalties for unlicensed operation, and expands state oversight of shelter activities. The bill also creates a separate statutory definition for an "animal rescue organization," distinguishing rescues from shelters. Under the bill, a rescue organization:

- Must be a nonprofit or animal welfare organization that places animals in adoptive homes.
- Must use foster homes to care for animals.
- May not maintain a physical shelter facility for housing animals.
- May not breed animals.
- May not obtain animals for compensation from breeders or brokers.

SB 257 takes effect January 1, 2027.

AKC GR monitored this bill and encouraged lawmakers to ensure that new requirements are applied fairly and consistently to all entities involved in transferring dogs. AKC supports transparency and accountability in animal transfers, provided that regulations are practical, enforceable, and uniformly applied.

HB 415 – Veterinary Reporting of Suspected Animal Cruelty – as introduced would have required Delaware veterinarians to report suspected abuse or neglect of an animal to the Office of Animal Welfare or other appropriate authorities for investigation. As amended, the final bill narrows the reporting requirement to suspected cruelty offenses as defined under Delaware law. It also provides civil, criminal, and professional liability immunity for veterinarians who report in good faith, requires mandatory reporting training every six years, and establishes confidentiality protections for reports and reporting veterinarians. Enforcement agencies investigating animal cruelty must adopt procedures to protect reporting veterinarians' confidentiality. This Act applies to all licenses issued or renewed after December 31, 2026.

AKC GR appreciates that HB 415 was amended to provide clearer reporting obligations and focus on suspected animal cruelty as defined in Delaware law. AKC supports effective enforcement of animal cruelty laws and policies that address criminal acts of cruelty without creating uncertainty for responsible dog owners, breeders, exhibitors, and veterinary professionals.

AKC Government Relations will continue to monitor implementation of these measures and work with Delaware lawmakers, regulators, clubs, breeders, and dog owners to support reasonable, enforceable policies that protect dogs and responsible dog ownership. Delaware residents are encouraged to remain engaged and watch for future legislative and regulatory developments impacting the dog community.

For questions or more information, contact AKC GR at doglaw@akc.org.

Membership – Miriam Pomilio

Current Membership – 119 Members.

New Members – 4 new members were voted in at the June General Meeting: Susan Miller, Andrea Straw, Gail Witten, and Theresa Pitts.

New Member Applications – One new application was received Marc and Michele Land.

Voting on Marc and Michele's application will be done by email since we don't have a quorum.

Obedience/Rally – Sally Kepfer: The next trials are September 4 – 6, 2026. The premium is available and entries opened July 22nd. There is still runs available for rally on Friday, both trials. Novice and Beginner Novice on Saturday. Sunday has a few spots available. There was a mistake in the premium on Rally entries. They were listed at 60 per trial, but it should have been 55. This was corrected.

Publicity – No report.

Scent Work – Marian Shaw: Our fall judges are Jennie Mitchell and Teri Eyer on October 24 – 25, 2026 at Pinewood Kennel in Sudlersville MD. Containers, buried, exterior and lower-level interiors will be offered.

Standing Rules – Joann Beavers: To meet the October deadline for changes, suggestions need to be brought forward ASAP. Changes need to be voted on by the Board and presented to the membership prior to the October meeting.

Sunshine – Kathy Beisner: (For the period 5/27/26 – 8/02/26)

Paul Esworthy – a get-well card was sent to him on 5/28.

Barbara Coe – a get-well card was sent on 5/28 for the illness of her dog, Magic.

Holly Case – a get-well card was sent to her on 5/30 and a sunshine basket was sent on 6/2 as she was recovering from surgery.

Renee' Morris – a get-well card and sunshine basket was sent to her on 6/2 as she was recovering from surgery.

Mary Newcomb – a sympathy card was sent to her on 6/5 for the passing of her dog, Tip.

Pam Johnson – a get-well card was sent on 6/9. Her dog, Ranger, had surgery.

Larry Jester – a get-well card was sent to him on 6/25.

Website – Renee' Morris: The website is up to date with current information for the Fall Rally/Obedience trials, OFA Eye Clinic and Summer class schedule. The Instructors page has been hidden from the website at this time as it needs to be updated. To update bios are needed from instructors. Once the updated bios are received the site will be updated and returned to public viewing.

Old Business:

OFA Eye Clinic (formerly CERF but now CAER) – August 23, 2026 (Joann Beaver) Cost is $60 per dog. Please contact Joann at elflane@goeaston.net.

Verizon – Denise J is looking into what we can do with the phone to reduce costs.

New Business:

CGC/CGCA, Trick Dog & Fit Dog Walk (Joanne Silver) – TKC will be offering CGC/CGCA, Trick Dog & Fit Dog Walk in conjunction with the DelMarvelous Cluster Breed Show on Sunday, September 20, 2026 at the Delaware State Fairgrounds. One test for $20, two test for $35, 3 tests for $40. FIT DOG will be offered for $10; walk will be mapped out around the show grounds. Pre-entry preferred. Day of entries accepted as time allows. Day of Entries end at 1pm.

Next General Meeting: October 5, 2026. 7 pm.

Adjournment: A motion was made by Joann B, seconded by Shirley B. to adjourn the meeting at 7:46 pm.