



Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever Club (USA)
VIDEO/TELECONFERENCE BOD MEETING
Wednesday, August 21, 2024
AGENDA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

July 2024 Video/Teleconference Board Meeting
(Please see: **Attachment A – July 2024 Board Meeting Minutes**)

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

None submitted

SECRETARY’S REPORT

Submitted by Ann DiSilvestre

End of year reports from members of the Board of Directors and Committee Chairs are due no later than September 16, 2024

To streamline the BOD meeting scheduled for October 14, 2024, notice is hereby given of the following additional meetings of the BOD via Zoom:

Wednesday, October 2, 2024 – to review the year end Financials

Wednesday, October 9, 2024 – to review the year end reports from the BOD and Committee Chairs

TREASURER’S REPORT

None submitted

REGIONAL DIRECTOR REPORTS

None submitted

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Health & Genetics

Submitted by Karen Bauman, Chair

(Please see: **Attachment B – An Update from the Health and Genetics Committee – August 2024**)

AGENDA ITEMS:

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Proposal #1: Liberty Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever Club (Liberty NSDTRC)– 2025 Club Year Specialty Date Approvals

Submitted by: William Burland Corresponding Secretary Liberty NSDTRC.

Description: Liberty NSDTR requests the following dates be approved for our Designated & Concurrent Specialties for 2025

1. MD Sporting March 1, 2025, West Friendship MD, Designated Specialty & Sweeps.
2. Bryn Marw June 14, 2025, Ludwigs Corners, PA.
3. Bryn Marw June 14, 202 Ludwigs Corners, PA. Concurrent Specialty & Sweeps
4. Valley Forge KC Oaks, PA. December 6, 2025 & Sweeps.

Justification: As an AKC Licensed Club Liberty NSDTR is granted 4 Specialties per year. Liberty's focus is the greater Philadelphia region and serves the needs of a vibrant and growing Toller community of exhibitors and breeders.

AKC rules provide that a local club obtain an approval letter from the National Breed Club approving the dates (Similar to the last letter provided to Liberty for Bryn Mawr Specialty and the letters provided to NSDTRC-NE). Therefore, Liberty is providing the dates of its upcoming Specialties and requests the Parent Club Board issue a letter of approval to the AKC

Administration: N/A.

Financial Implications: Liberty assumes all financial risk and costs associated with events it sponsors.

Specific Board Action Requested: Issue letter to AKC approving the dates submitted for the 2025 Liberty NSDTRC club year specialties.

ADJOURNMENT

EXECUTIVE SESSION

ADJOURNMENT



Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever Club (USA)
VIDEO/TELECONFERENCE BOD MEETING
Wednesday, July 10, 2024
MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 7:48pm EST by President Terri Krause. Roll call was taken. Board Members present on the video/teleconference call: Region 1 Director Annie Garwood, Region 2 Director Barb Rohr, Region 3 Director Cindy Richardson, Region 5 Director Amanda Kaiser, Region 7 Director Travis Massie, Vice President Melissa Savage, Secretary Ann DiSilvestre, and President Terri Krause. Treasurer Carolyn Kurth, Region 4 Director Pat Romeiro, and Region 6 Director Hillaré Lafond was absent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

June 2024 Video/Teleconference Board Meeting

MOTION: To approve the minutes as written.

Motion made by Terri Krause. Motion seconded by Annie Garwood.

APPROVE [8]: A. Garwood, B. Rohr, C. Richardson, Amanda Kaiser, T. Massie, M. Savage, A. DiSilvestre and T. Krause.

OPPOSE [0]:

ABSTAIN [0]:

Motion approved by the Board of Directors.

AGENDA ITEMS:

NEW BUSINESS

Proposal #1: Designated Specialty at Kentuckiana Cluster Saturday March 15, 2025.

MOTION: To approve the designated specialty.

Motion made by Travis Massie. Ann DiSilvestre seconded the motion.

APPROVE [8]: A. Garwood, B. Rohr, C. Richardson, Amanda Kaiser, T. Massie, M. Savage, A. DiSilvestre and T. Krause.

OPPOSE [0]:

ABSTAIN [0]:

Motion approved by the Board of Directors.

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting of the Board of Directors at 7:57pm EST.

Motion made by Terri Krause. Ann DiSilvestre seconded the motion.

APPROVE [8]: A. Garwood, B. Rohr, C. Richardson, Amanda Kaiser, T. Massie, M. Savage, A. DiSilvestre and T. Krause.

OPPOSE [0]:

ABSTAIN [0]:

Motion approved by the Board of Directors.

NOTE: President's vote was cast for all motions, but only counted in the case of a tie.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann DiSilvestre, Secretary

An update from the Health and Genetics Committee – August 2024

Submitted by Karen Bauman

Happy summer to all!

Website changes

Although most of you are hopefully spending summer outside with your tollers, next time you are at your computer please check out the updated webpage on the Club website (<https://www.nsdtrc-usa.org/health/overview/>). In addition to an updated summary and background on the OFA Canine Health Information Center (CHIC) program (see also our 2022 article in Quackers), new information has been added, including:

- A link to the International Partnership for Dogs (IPFD) which hosts the Harmonization of Genetic Tests for Dogs Initiative, a global effort to provide reliable information on gene tests (see the genetic testing tab). The site provides summaries of diseases/conditions, and related scientific publications, as well as companies offering testing for the disease/condition. This website (DogWellNet.com) is endorsed by the AKC Canine Health Foundation (CHF).
- A link to an excellent four-part webinar series from 2020 that the AKC CHF provides for free, called the *Review of the current state of genetic testing in dogs*. This webinar is designed for breeder and owners, and provides an excellent background on this topic.
- A link to the page on the AKC CHF website where you can find all the amazing podcasts, updates and webinars they provide for free. A great resource on everything from canine cancer to tick borne diseases.

Updating breed health and genetic testing recommendations

There has been significant progress made to address a concern submitted by several members (via a proposal to the Club Board), which requested the committee update the information currently listed about the recommended health and genetic testing for tollers on AKC website (health section) and the CHIC program. In brief, the justified concern was that the information on the two webpages did not match and they were both out of date. The goal since that proposal has been not just do a one-time fix, but to set us up for the future with a transparent and complete process.

Below are highlights of what has been done thus far:

- A protocol has been created to assure these testing recommendations are reviewed more frequently moving forward. This will also assure that the AKC and the CHIC recommendations are updated synchronously, so both should contain the same information moving forward.
 - Nothing like this previously existed for our committee, nor could I find any recommendations from CHIC or AKC, so this is completely new.

- Currently the protocol calls for a review by the committee at set intervals, e.g. every 3 years. However, importantly, the protocol also requires a review to be triggered sooner in the event of a health issue that has significant impact on the breed (where not testing might cause harm to the genetics of the breed or compromise the welfare of a great number of tollers).
 - For example, had this protocol been in place, the discovery of cardiac laminopathy (CLAM) would have triggered a review given that CLAM is a fatal heritable condition.
- A decision tree has been created to objectively evaluate the tests available for tollers to determine breed specific recommendations. By establishing a set of questions and the potential responses in this format, the outcomes can be more easily understood and readily documented. The use of a decision tree format also provides transparency, removes the potential for bias (intentional or unintentional) and allows for continuity going forward.
 - Some examples of the questions are:
 - does this condition have breed-wide implications?
 - is the condition lethal?
 - is this condition inherited?
 - is there a test, and has it been validated for tollers?

Recently an in-depth status report was given to the Board (summarized in this update for all members) and received positive feedback. The draft protocol and decision tree is ready for expanded discussion with new committee members (new committee members have been submitted for board approval), as well as a review by a diverse group of expert advisors. Once this is done and we've incorporated the edits, everything will be submitted to the board for final approval. Assuming the protocol and recommendations are approved, we will work with the Club President to formally request these changes be made to the AKC and CHIC sites; the health page of our website will also be updated. The hope is to have this completed as soon as possible – the goal is by the end of 2024, or sooner (if possible). We understand that many members are anxious to have this completed, but I hope everyone will understand the importance of taking the time to get this right.