



MINUTES of a meeting of the BOARD OF DIRECTORS on
Wednesday 12 August 2026 commencing at 2.00pm.

PARTICIPATION:

C Rafton	S McFadden
N Curwen	J Bryson
G Vernon	S Hannigan
R Sinclair	T Hofman
L Brand	P Brown (by Teams)
K Hedberg BVSc	A Gilson
A McIlrath	

IN ATTENDANCE:

V Gagan-Wilson (Company Secretary)
S Buddee (Committee Secretary/Examinations Administrator)

IN CAMERA

1. Opening & Procedural Matters

- **Welcome and Apologies**

- **Apologies**

MOVED K Hedberg BVSc

SECONDED T Hofman

THAT the following apologies be **received**:-

- A Khamis

CARRIED
Unanimously

- **Recording of Board Meeting**

MOVED N Curwen

SECONDED A McIlrath

THAT Directors **note** that, in accordance with the resolution of the Board at Item 5.1 of the Board of Directors meeting held on 8 December 2021, **this Board meeting is being recorded** for the purposes of confirmation of the Minutes and once confirmed at a future Meeting the recording will then be deleted.

CARRIED
Unanimously

- **Declarations of Conflicts of Interest - NIL**

PURELY DOGS

Advancing responsible dog ownership and wellbeing, for families and the community.

We Value:

Advocacy, Education, Responsible Breeding, and Engagement.



- **Receive all Reports on the Agenda**

MOVED A McIlrath

SECONDED K Hedberg BVSc

THAT all Reports on the Agenda be **received**.

CARRIED

Unanimously

2. **Emerging Issues (Risk, Culture, & Updates)**

- **Acceptance of Resignations**

MOVED A McIlrath

SECONDED K Hedberg BVSc

THAT the resignations as listed below be **accepted altogether**.

CARRIED

Unanimously

MOVED A McIlrath

SECONDED J Bryson

THAT the following resignations be **received**:-

- Chair Aggressive Dogs Committee – N Curwen
- Chair Finance Committee – R Sinclair
- Convenor Governance Framework Working Party – T Hofman
- Judicial Panel Co-ordinator – T Hofman
- Chair Judges Committee – N Curwen
- Convenor Regional Committees Working Party – N Curwen
- Chair Sporting Committee – V Harris
- Director K Charnock
- Director V Harris

CARRIED

Unanimously

- **Board Appointments**

- **President**

MOVED L Brand

SECONDED K Hedberg BVSc

THAT Senior Vice President C Rafton be nominated as DOGS NSW President, there being no other nominations, **Senior Vice President Christina Rafton was elected as DOGS NSW President**.

CARRIED

- **Vice Presidents x 2**

Voting was by poll and on counting the votes, Directors **L Brand and J Bryson were elected as Vice Presidents**.

CARRIED

PURELY DOGS

Advancing responsible dog ownership and wellbeing, for families and the community.

We Value:

Advocacy, Education, Responsible Breeding, and Engagement.



- **Senior Vice Presidents**

Voting was by poll and on counting the votes, Vice President **L Brand** was elected as **Senior Vice President**.

CARRIED

- **DOGS NSW Representative on the RNSWCC Health & Welfare Charity Trust**

MOVED L Brand

SECONDED J Bryson

THAT DOGS NSW President C Rafton be appointed as **DOGS NSW Representative** on the **RNSWCC Health & Welfare Charity Trust**.

CARRIED

- **DOGS NSW Delegate on the Australian National Kennel Control Ltd Board of Directors**

MOVED A McIlrath

SECONDED K Hedberg BVSc

THAT DOGS NSW Senior Vice President L Brand be appointed as **DOGS NSW Delegate** on the **Australian National Kennel Control Ltd Board of Directors**

CARRIED

- **Appointment of Chairs/Convenors:-**

- **Aggressive Dogs Committee**

Director S Hannigan was elected as **Chair** of the **Aggressive Dogs Committee**.

CARRIED

- **Finance Committee**

Mrs Lynetter Brown was elected as **Chair** of the **Finance Committee**.

CARRIED

- **Governance Framework Working Party**

Ms Natalie Robbins was elected as **Convenor** of the **Governance Framework Working Party**.

CARRIED

- **Judicial Panel Co-ordinator**

Director S McFadden was elected as **Judicial Panel Co-ordinator**.

CARRIED

- **Judges Committee**

Director J Bryson was elected **Chair** of the **Judges Committee**.

CARRIED

PURELY DOGS

Advancing responsible dog ownership and wellbeing, for families and the community.

We Value:

Advocacy, Education, Responsible Breeding, and Engagement.



- **Regional Committees Working Party**
Director A Gilson was elected as **Convenor** of the **Regional Committees Working Party**.

CARRIED

- **Sporting Committee**
Voting was by poll and on counting the votes **Director A McIlrath** was elected as **Chair** of the **Sporting Committee**.

CARRIED

- **Operations Manager's Resignation**

- **Operations Manager's Handover Document – *WORK IN PROGRESS***

MOVED N Curwen

SECONDED T Hofman

THAT a **progress document** in respect of the Operations Manager's procedures manual be provided to the Board of Directors in **one (1) week's** time.

CARRIED

- **POCTA Submission**

MOVED T Hofman

SECONDED L Brand

THAT the Board of Directors **receive** the briefing from the Media & Government Legislation relevant to the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Amendment (Enforcement and Operational Powers) Bill 2026.

CARRIED

3. **Judicial Matters**

4. **General Business - In Camera**

- **Appointment of Temporary Director Illawarra & South East AND Northern Region**
Voting was by poll and on counting the vote, **Director Elect D Harbin** was elected as **temporary Director** for the **Illawarra & South East Region** from the date of the appointment for the period up to the completion of the 2026 Annual General Meeting in accordance with the RNSWCC Articles of Association, Article 30B(d).

CARRIED

MOVED T Hofman

SECONDED A McIlrath

THAT the Board **nominate persons** to **temporarily** fill the position of **Director Northern Region** from the date of the appointment for the period up to the completion of the 2026 Annual General Meeting in accordance with the RNSWCC Articles of Association, Article 30B(d).

PURELY DOGS

Advancing responsible dog ownership and wellbeing, for families and the community.

We Value:

Advocacy, Education, Responsible Breeding, and Engagement.



Voting was by poll and on counting the vote, **Mrs Crystal Dwyer** was elected fill the position of **Director Northern Region** from the date of the appointment for the period up to the completion of the 2026 Annual General Meeting in accordance with the RNSWCC Articles of Association, Article 30B(d).

CARRIED

The Board agreed to **call for nominations to fill the remainder of the terms** for both the Illawarra & South East and Northern Regions in accordance with the RNSWCC Articles of Association, Articles 30B & 31.

- **Finance Issues** – P Brown
 - Increase of National Database Fee
 - 2027 Scale of Charges
 - Financial Statements as @ 30 June 2026

Director P Brown expressed his concern in respect of the price rise to the membership without explanation.

MOVED T Hofman

SECONDED P Brown

THAT the fee for **Concession Joint Membership** be amended from the proposed amount to **\$175.00**.

CARRIED
unanimously

MOVED K Hedberg BVSc

SECONDED R Sinclair

THAT the broader Schedule of Charges and the **Financial Statements** as at 30 June 2026 were now considered and **accepted**.

CARRIED

- **Finance Issue – SprintDog™ Levy** – L Brand

MOVED L Brand

SECONDED A McIlrath

THAT the **\$1.00 SprintDog™ levy** remain until January 2027 and to be revised after 1 January 2027.

AMENDMENT

MOVED G Vernon

SECONDED L Brand

THAT the review set above for 1 January implementation be **DEFERRED** to February 2027 Board Meeting

CARRIED
unanimously

PURELY DOGS

Advancing responsible dog ownership and wellbeing, for families and the community.

We Value:

Advocacy, Education, Responsible Breeding, and Engagement.



- **Disabled Facilities at Shows – P Brown/A Gilson**

Director P Brown advised the meeting that he felt the amendment to the new Clause, numbered 22.4, of DOGS NSW Regulations Part II-Show needed to be more specific.

MOVED G Vernon

SECONDED K Hedberg BVSc

THAT the recommendation of the Show Committee to include a new Clause, numbered 22.4, into DOGS NSW Regulations Part II-Show, **be amended** to read:-

Section 22, Facilities at Shows:

22.4 All venues holding DOGS NSW sanctioned event **MUST** provide suitable facilities ~~such as~~ **including** disabled toilets for members and public.

CARRIED

- **S Hartwig - Crossbred Siberian Huskies**

MOVED K Hedberg BVSc

SECONDED L Brand

THAT the **full documentation** submitted by Ms S Hartwig in respect of crossbred Siberian Huskies **be forwarded to Dogs Australia** for consideration by the National Canine Health & Wellbeing Committee at its meeting scheduled for Sunday 16 August 2026. In addition, the DOGS NSW Board of Directors requests the National Canine Health & Wellbeing Committee to provide its opinion in regards to how to deal with the miscoloured Dobermanns that is already listed on the Dogs Australia Agenda for the October 2026 Board Meeting.

CARRIED

- **Canine Promotions & Public Awareness Committee Minutes – 2/7/2026 – Strategic Planning/Road Map for Success – R Sinclair**

Director R Sinclair thanked the Canine Promotions & Public Awareness Committee for taking steps to support the Strategic Plan.

Director Sinclair explained that the plan contains seven pillars and that each pillar should have a Board-level Executive Sponsor. Directors would provide oversight and sponsorship rather than necessarily perform every operational task themselves.

The intended sequence was:

- Board sponsorship
- Board approval of sponsors
- Allocation of work to committees
- Implementation and reporting.

This was given as the reason the Strategic Planning Committee had not simply been reassembled and tasked with the work immediately.

PURELY DOGS

Advancing responsible dog ownership and wellbeing, for families and the community.

We Value:

Advocacy, Education, Responsible Breeding, and Engagement.



OPEN MEETING

5. Consent Agenda

- **Previous Minutes**

- Face to Face Meeting – 8/7/2026

MOVED A Gilson

SECONDED L Brand

THAT the **corrected** Minutes of the Face to Face Meeting of the Board held on 8 July 2026 be **confirmed**.

CARRIED

G Vernon AGAINST

S Hannigan, R Sinclair, T Hofman, P Brown ABSTAINED

- Electronic Motion – 17/7/2026 - Items Not Dealt With @ July 2026 Meeting

MOVED A McIlrath

SECONDED A Gilson

THAT the Minutes of the Election Motion of 17 July 2026, being the Items not dealt with at the July 2026 Board meeting be **confirmed**.

CARRIED

R Sinclair, S Hannigan ABSTAINED

- **Directors' Updates - NIL**

- **Committee Reports - For Noting and/or Consideration**

- **OPERATIONS MANAGER'S REPORT**

- Monthly Safety Incident Report
- Summary of Incidents

Item 1.2: Inspection by SafeWork NSW

Recommendation 1A

THAT the Board **note** the outcome of the SafeWork NSW inspection and the completion of the requirements of the Improvement Notice.

Recommendation 1B

THAT the Board **request the SprintDog™ Working Party** provide the documentation listed to DOGS NSW for its records and ongoing compliance purposes.

PURELY DOGS

Advancing responsible dog ownership and wellbeing, for families and the community.

We Value:

Advocacy, Education, Responsible Breeding, and Engagement.



- **COMPANY SECRETARY'S REPORT**

Recommendation 2 – Item 1.2: Board Minutes for Publication

THAT the Board **authorise** the Company Secretary to enable the “for publication” version of Board Minutes to be redacted and uploaded to the DOGS NSW website **one week** after those Minutes have been approved by the President and distributed to the full Board, which will allow for any corrections detected by the President and/or Directors to be rectified prior to publication on the website.

- **ANIMAL WELFARE & COMMUNITY LIAISON OFFICER'S REPORT**

- **FINANCE COMMITTEE – 25/6/2026**

Recommendation 1 – Item 8: Financial Statements as @ 30 June 2026

THAT the Financial Statements as @ 30 June 2026 be **approved** by the Board of Directors.

Recommendation 2 - Item 10.1.1: 2027-28 Scale of Charges

****REFER “Finance Issues – P Brown – Increase to Concession Joint Membership” ABOVE (pages 10 & 11)**

THAT the Board **approve** the 2027–28 Scale of Charges **with the amendment** to the Concession Joint Membership.

Recommendation 3 – Introduction of Documented Inspection & Photographic Evidence Requirement

THAT the Board **approve** the introduction of a documented inspection and photographic evidence requirement for events held at agricultural showgrounds and other venues not regularly used for DOGS NSW events.

Recommendation 5 – Item 10.1.3: Replacement of Rusty GSDL Building Roofing

THAT the Finance Committee recommend to the Board that the quotation from **EME Roofing** be **accepted** for the replacement of the GSDL Building roof with Colourbond roofing.

- **AGGRESSIVE DOG APPEALS PANEL**

- **Meeting 16/7/2026**
- **Meeting 29/7/2026**

- **AGILITY COMMITTEE – 27/7/2026**

The Board noted that the Minutes of the Agility Committee meeting held on 27 July 2026 have not yet been received in the Office.

- **AGILITY JUDGES COMMITTEE**

- **Meeting 14/7/2026**
- **Meeting 4/8/2026**

PURELY DOGS

Advancing responsible dog ownership and wellbeing, for families and the community.

We Value:

Advocacy, Education, Responsible Breeding, and Engagement.

○ **CANINE PROMOTIONS & PUBLIC AWARENESS – 1/7/2026**

Recommendation 1 – Item 6.1: Strategic Planning Committee

THAT the **Strategic Planning Committee** meet with **DOGS NSW Committees** that are mentioned in the Roadmap for Success in order to move forward with plans of action.

Recommendation 2 – Item 6.2: Directors involvement at Dog Lovers Festival

THAT the **Board of Directors** be approached to **attend the Dog Lovers Festival** with or without a dog for a half or full day to talk to the general public and give information. Directors to advise Kerry Christofi of availability on 22 or 23 August 2026 to organise extra passes.

○ **CONFORMATION JUDGES TRAINING COMMITTEE – 29/7/2026**

The Board noted that the Minutes of the Conformation Judges Training Committee meeting held on 29 July 2026 have not yet been received in the Office.

○ **GOVERNMENT FRAMEWORK WORKING PARTY**

- **Meeting 26/5/2026**
- **Meeting 11/8/2026**

The Board noted that the Minutes of the Government Framework Working Party meeting held on 26 May 2026 have not yet been confirmed and the Minutes of the Working Party meeting held on 11 August 2026 have not yet been received in the Office.

○ **LIBRARY & ARCHIVES COMMITTEE**

- **Meeting 6/7/2026**
- **Meeting 5/8/2026**
- **Lease of a Photocopier**

The Board **noted** that the Finance Committee had approved the lease of a Photocopier for the Research & Development Building.

Director R Sinclair expressed his congratulations to the Library & Archives Committee for the work they have done and asked the Board to support them through the next couple of weeks.

MOVED G Vernon

SECONDED A McIlrath

THAT the **Finance Committee** be requested to give consideration to financial assistance to the Regional Shows in New South Wales, possibly through offering Regional Grants.

CARRIED

Meeting recessed @ 4.14pm

Meeting resumed @ 4.40pm

PURELY DOGS

Advancing responsible dog ownership and wellbeing, for families and the community.

We Value:

Advocacy, Education, Responsible Breeding, and Engagement.



- **OBEDIENCE TRACKING & PERFORMANCE DISCIPLINES COMMITTEE – 21/7/2026**
- **OBEDIENCE TRACKING & PERFORMANCE DISCIPLINES JUDGES COMMITTEE – 9/7/2026**
- **RETRIEVING & FIELD TRIALS COMMITTEE – 14/7/2026**
- **RNSWCC HEALTH & WELFARE CHARITY – 6/7/2026**
- **SERIOUS ANIMAL WELFARE COMMITTEE – 7/7/2026**

Recommendation 1 – Item 5.1: DOGS NSW Regulations Part XIII-Code of Ethics, Clause 23(i) - AMENDMENT

THAT Regulation Part 13 Code of Ethics, Clause 23(i) **be amended** as follows:-

Currently reads:

23(i) *the breeder must provide a veterinary certificate disclosing any known defects and the impact of such defects on the quality of the long term health and well-being of the puppy being rehomed. (05/21)*

Be amended to read:

23(i) the breeder must provide ~~a-Veterinary certificate treatment history for any Veterinary intervention and disclosing~~ any known defects and the impact of such defects on the quality of the long term health and well-being of the puppy being rehomed. **(08/26)**

- **SHOW COMMITTEE –30/7/2026**

Recommendation 1 – Item 6: A20 Show Dates

THAT the above **A20 show dates be forward to Dogs Australia** for approval via electronic motion:-

A20

- Liverpool & District All Breeds Kennel Club – 11th Saturday, ie, 13 March 2027
- Newcastle & Merewether Combined Canine Club – 30th Friday, ie, 23 July 2027

- **SPORTING COMMITTEE – 5/8/2026**

Recommendation 2 – Item 8.7: Scent Work Affiliates Guide

THAT DOGS NSW **approve and publish** the DOGS NSW Scent Work Affiliates Guide.

Recommendation 3 – Item 8.7: Realignment of Scent Work Governance

THAT the Board **approve** the realignment of Scent Work governance by separating operational program management from Judges Training and Accreditation, as follows:-

PURELY DOGS

Advancing responsible dog ownership and wellbeing, for families and the community.

We Value:

Advocacy, Education, Responsible Breeding, and Engagement.



- A: Scent Work Program Management Working Party**
- B. Scent Work Judges Oversight and Management Working Party - Proposed Chair**

Recommendation 4 – Item 8.7: Implementation of a Scent Work Program Management Working Party and a Scent Work Judges Oversight & Management Working Party.

THAT the Board **adopt** a staged governance approach by establishing within the Sporting Committee by setting up a **Scent Work Program Management Working Party** and the **Scent Work Judges Oversight and Management Working Party** **AND**

Further, that the arrangement be reviewed after **12 to 24 months** to determine whether future growth and the introduction of additional scent-based disciplines warrant the establishment of a standalone either a **Scent Sports Committee** or split the current **Sporting Committee into a Sporting Management Committee and a Sporting Judges Committee** noting the growth in the other sports.

The following Committees DID NOT MEET:-

- Aggressive Dog Committee
- Breed Standards Committee
- Conformation Judges Examinations Committee
- Grounds Development Committee
- Judges Committee
- Media & Government Legislation Committee
- PR Events Committee
- Regional Committees Working Party
- Spring Fair Dog Show Committee

- **Dogs Australia Matters**

- **Dogs Australia – EOI Strategic Plan Representative**

MOVED G Vernon

SECONDED A McIlrath

THAT Ms Natalie Robbins be appointed as DOGS NSW Representative on the Dogs Australia Strategic Planning Group.

CARRIED

- Dogs Victoria Constitution Rules & Regulations Changes
- Dogs Victoria Media Release
- Dogs Victoria DNA Profiling
- Electronic Motion #222-Approval of A20 Shows - Queensland
- Electronic Motion #223-Approval of A20 Show – Bundaberg Canine Club
- Electronic Motion #226 – Approval of A20 & CACIB Shows – New South Wales
- Dogs Australia June 2026 Special Board Meeting – Minutes
- Dogs Australia June 2026 Special Board Meeting - Summary

PURELY DOGS

Advancing responsible dog ownership and wellbeing, for families and the community.

We Value:

Advocacy, Education, Responsible Breeding, and Engagement.



- Press Release – American Kennel Club & Dogs Australia Mutual Co-operation Agreement

- **National Dobermann Council Australia – Non Allowable Colours**

MOVED K Hedberg BVSc

SECONDED A McIlrath

THAT the letter from the **National Dobermann Council Australia** in relation to Non-allowable Colours be **REFERRED** to the **National Canine Health & Welfare Committee** for consideration at its meeting scheduled for 16 August 2026.

CARRIED

- **FCI Matters**

- FCI Recognition of New Breed - Berger Picard

MOVED L Brand

SECONDED G Vernon

THAT the FCI recognition of the new breed “Berger Picard” be **noted**.

CARRIED

- **Miscellaneous Matters**

- **Yass District Kennel & Training Club Inc – Winding Up**

MOVED T Hofman

SECONDED K Hedberg BVSc

THAT the advice from the Yass District Kennel & Training Club Inc in respect of it winding up be **noted**.

NOTED

6. **Strategic Reporting & Decisions**

- **Strategic Plan 2026-2030 - Implementation**
- **Project Planning & Participation**
- **Future Month Items:-**
 - Youth Forum
 - State Dog Sports Plan

7. **General Business**

- **Motions on Notice**

MOVED K Hedberg BVSc

SECONDED A McIlrath

THAT a **statement be published** to the membership stating that the Board is working together for the benefit of our business and our members and are proud to announce the following appointments:-

- Senior Vice President, Christina Rafton appointed **DOGS NSW President**
- Director Lyn Brand appointed to fill the vacancy as **Vice President**
- Director John Bryson appointed to fill the vacancy as **Vice President**
- Director Lyn Brand appointed as **Senior Vice President**

PURELY DOGS

Advancing responsible dog ownership and wellbeing, for families and the community.

We Value:

Advocacy, Education, Responsible Breeding, and Engagement.



which then completed the Executive Committee membership as follows:-

- President, Christina Rafton
- Senior Vice President, Lyn Brand
- Vice President, Neil Curwen
- Vice President, Glen Vernon
- Vice President, John Bryson

CARRIED

P Brown ABSTAINED

P Brown left the meeting @ 5.59pm

○ **Rescind Use of BoardEffect Software**

MOVED G Vernon

SECONDED K Hedberg BVSc

THAT the decision of the Board of Directors, via Electronic Motion dated 15 November 2024, which reads as follows, be **RESCINDED:-**

MOVED N Curwen

SECONDED L Brown

THAT the Board approve the proposal from Board Effect for provision of Board Management Software at a cost of \$4,000.00 for 20 users and no additional training or implementation fees.

CARRIED

MOVED G Vernon

SECONDED A McIlrath

THAT the Board **agrees to modify the Agenda** for ease of access by Directors and the Company Secretary submit a proposal for the modifications for consideration by the Board at the next meeting.

CARRIED

○ **Recording of Committee & Working Party Meetings**

The President stood down from chair @ 6.19pm

The Senior Vice President took chair @ 6.19pm

MOVED C Rafton

SECONDED A McIlrath

THAT all **Committees and Working Parties** of DOGS NSW must have all and any **online meetings** set up by the Office, either by Zoom, Teams or any other agreed medium and be recorded, with an initial motion to be recorded in the Minutes that the meeting is being recorded and the Committee/Working Party members are to endorse such recording.

CARRIED

The Senior Vice President stood down from the Chair @ 6.20pm

The President returned to the chair @ 6.20pm

PURELY DOGS

Advancing responsible dog ownership and wellbeing, for families and the community.

We Value:

Advocacy, Education, Responsible Breeding, and Engagement.



8. **Other Business & Closing**

- Review of newly assigned actions
- Confirmation of Next Meeting **Wednesday 9 September 2026 @ 2.00pm**
- Meeting Close **6.40PM**

PURELY DOGS

Advancing responsible dog ownership and wellbeing, for families and the community.

We Value:

Advocacy, Education, Responsible Breeding, and Engagement.