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## Submission to KC re Potential loss of one set of CCs, 2016 onward

### **1. General Overview**

The Giant Schnauzer Club was concerned and disappointed to hear of The Kennel Club's decision to withdraw CC's in 60 breeds, effective 2016; specifically one set from our breed.

The Committee believes this is not the right time to reduce CC allocation. By doing so, it makes those shows less attractive to exhibitors to enter, consequently, entry numbers will continue to fall.

The Committee wonder if The Kennel Club could take more positive action to support exhibitors at this time; by doing so, promoting dog showing generally.

Exhibitors already face the rising costs of pursuing their hobby; any reduction in CC's, for any breed, will have an additional negative effect, giving a further disincentive to attend shows if they are any significant distance from their home location.

### **Giant Schnauzers**

However, for the Giant Schnauzer in particular, we submit that statistics appear to suggest there is a reasonable basis for reconsidering any reduction of CC allocation.

Analysis of Giant Schnauzer entries, across the 17 societies offering CCs over the last 6 years, and KC registrations, only shows a marginal difference. *(See Appendix 1).*

Year:	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12
Registrations:	259	339	270	313	216	276	196	244	204	237
Entries:	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	589	607	650	568	519	545
Entry Average:	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	34.6	35.7	37.1	32.6	29.9	34.1

6-year 'average entry per show' at which CCs are on offer: 34

6-year 'average number KC registered': 229

These figures suggest 'registrations' have remained relatively static over the past 11 years. Entries (over the past 6 years) has seen a similar trend. The low point for registrations being 2009 (when entries peaked) and for entries, 2011.

2012 has seen the 'per CC show' entry level (34.1) and registrations (237) rise just above the 6-yr averages.

*(contd ...)*

### General Overview (contd)

In a numerically small and late maturing breed, making decisions based on a short timescale (2 years) - especially if one shows a significant variation from the norm - might penalise it more severely than in (numerically) larger breeds.

A low registration in any one year, (as in 2009) has a greater impact in show entries over the next 2 years or so. A more accurate 'trend' may only be determined by an analysis of a longer period (5 or 6 years).

Additionally, duplication of judges, within an equally short time frame, may also have a dramatically detrimental effect on numerically small and late maturing breeds.

Of the 67 shows, with CCs on offer, between 2009 & 2013, some 25 appointments (37%) were undertaken by just 12 people, all of whom had judged the breed within the previous 2 years. A review of their entries proves their 2<sup>nd</sup> appointment always significantly reduces and, in one case (3 appointments within a 5-year period – equivalent to every 17 months) entries fell from a 'high' of 28 (yr average 37.7 dogs per show) to just 18 (yr ave 26). Another example (2 appointments within 15 months) show entries fell from 46 to 29.

The KC list over 90 names approved to award CCs in Giant Schnauzers, (breed specialists & all-rounders). Repeat selection of such a small selection of judges, within a short timescale, inevitably impacts on entries, especially when there are only between 12 & 15 new dogs entering the show arena every 12 months.

Entries might be improved either by Societies selecting judges with a greater time span between appointments, or by The Kennel Club stipulating that, for numerically small and/or late maturing breeds, they will only approve CC appointments with a greater gap than the current 'blanket' 12 month timescale.

Based on these statistics, we request the Kennel Club to review its decision to remove one set of CCs from our breed.

### **2. Proposals for the loss of one set of CCs in 2016**

We welcome the KC's invitation to submit 'recommendations' on which Societies the breed feel should be considered as most likely to have this set of CC's withdrawn. The Giant Schnauzer Club is pleased to have been included in this consultation although we believe our statistics strongly suggest there should be no change in the allocation of CCs for Giant Schnauzers.

Irrespective of the foregoing analysis, if the breed has to lose one set of CCs, the Club reluctantly submits the following assessment:

The Club's 'recommendations' are solely based on the criteria laid out in the KC's consultative document (geographic & calendar spread and number of entries – see Appendix I). Whilst mindful of the three requirements, it cannot be overlooked that, even when CCs are on offer, exhibitors have consistently failed to support shows furthest away from the centres of exhibitor location.

The committee reviewed the poorest 6 performers over a minimum of 6 years – to avoid penalising any one Society for a poor judge selection, or weather conditions.

*(contd ...)*

Proposals for the loss of one set of CCs in 2016 (contd)

The Giant Schnauzer Club undertook an email consultation of exhibitor members, to gauge their opinion of which show(s) were felt to be the least attractive. In analysis of the response, criteria outside that outlined by the KC, was ignored (distance travelled/time of judging start/etc). By & large, the results of the survey largely mirrored the views expressed by the Committee.

Even with CCs on offer, exhibitors have consistently failed to support shows furthest away from the centres of exhibitor location; whether the reason is judge selection, time of year, ease of travel (motorway access, or lack of) can only be surmised.

### **3. GSC Recommendations**

With great reluctance, the Committee name the following societies, in this order, as candidates for loss of Giant Schnauzer CCs from 2016 onward.

#### **1<sup>st</sup> Choice: South Wales Kennel Association : October**

Rationale:

Geographic spread: Both WKC and Bath offer opportunities for exhibitors in this region, although the number of exhibitors located here are minute compared to any other region. Southern Counties is also geographically close to the Giant exhibitor in South Wales.

Calendar spread: There are two shows offering CCs for Giants within 6 weeks of SWKA's date: Giant Schnauzer Club (October) and Northern Schnauzer Club (November); both attracting up to 3 times more entries than SWKA.

Entries: The society consistently and significantly underperforms in attracting support from Giant Schnauzer exhibitors, being the lowest entry in 4 out of the last 6 years.

**SWKA 6-yr average entry: 18.17** (*6-yr Ave breed entry for CC shows: 33.0*)

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> Choice: Bath Canine Society : April**

Rationale:

Geographic spread: Both SWKC and WKC offer opportunities for exhibitors in this region although the number of exhibitors are small compared to any other region. Southern Counties is also geographically close to the few Giant exhibitors in South Wales & the South West.

Calendar spread: There are two shows offering CCs for Giants within 6 weeks of BCS' date: (Schnauzer Club of Great Britain (March - almost double SoCo's entry) and Birmingham National (May – 25% higher).

Entries: The society consistently underperforms in attracting support from Giant Schnauzer exhibitors, being second lowest once & third lowest entry in 3 out of the last 6 years.

**BCS 6-yr average entry: 20.3** (*6-yr Ave breed entry for CC shows: 33.0*)

*(contd ...)*

3. GSC Recommendations (contd ...)

**3<sup>rd</sup> Choice: Scottish Kennel Club (May)**

Rationale:

Geographic spread: Leeds, Darlington & Northern Schnauzer Club provide opportunities for exhibitors in this region. The number of exhibitors located in Scotland is also minute, compared to other regions.

However, the GSC Committee note as this is the only Scottish show to provide CCs for the breed, it would continue to support SKC (May) in receiving CC allocations for Giant Schnauzers.

Calendar spread: There are at least 3 shows offering CCs for Giants within 6 weeks of SKC's May date: (Bath, Birmingham, Southern Counties)

Entries: The society consistently underperforms in attracting support from Giant Schnauzer exhibitors, being the lowest entry in two out of the last 6 years and 2<sup>nd</sup> worst performer in three of those.

**SKC 6-yr average entry: 26.0** (6-yr Ave breed entry for CC shows: 33.0)

**4<sup>th</sup> Choice: Darlington Dog Show Society : September**

Rationale:

Geographic spread: Leeds, Northern Schnauzer Club & SKC provide opportunities for exhibitors in this region although the number of exhibitors located here are relatively small compared to any other region.

Calendar spread: There are four shows offering CCs for Giants within approx 6 weeks of DDSS' date: (SWKA, WKC, Giant Schnauzer Club (October) and Northern Schnauzer Club (November))

Entries: The society consistently underperforms in attracting support from Giant Schnauzer exhibitors, being in the lowest five societies in 4 out of the last 6 years.

**DDSS 6-yr average entry: 28.6** (6-yr Ave breed entry for CC shows: 33.0)

**5<sup>th</sup> Choice: Leeds Championship Dog Show : July**

Rationale:

Geographic spread: Darlington, Northern Schnauzer Club & SKC offer opportunities for exhibitors in this region.

Calendar spread: There are four shows offering CCs for Giants within 6 weeks of LCDS' date: Blackpool, NW&PBS, Windsor & WKC

Entries: This society consistently underperforms in attracting support from Giant Schnauzer exhibitors, being in the lowest five societies in 2 out of the last 6 years.

**LCDS 6-yr average entry: 29.5** (6-yr Ave breed entry for CC shows: 33.0)

(contd ...)

## **Summary: Proposals for the loss of one set of CCs in 2016**

1. Review entry & registration statistics over the last 6 years (not 2) and reconsider the proposed loss of CCs allocation for Giant Schnauzers

2. Consider action to promote dog showing to breed enthusiasts:

a) possible addition of 'Champions' class, to encourage current champions to continue to compete for Best of Sex/Best of Breed; allows them to represent the breed in Group and Best in Show competitions and to compete in annual 'top dog' awards. CC to be awarded (if thought appropriate) to the best of sex from the winners of the other qualifying classes.

May maintain or improve entries by encouraging other exhibitors to continue to enter their dogs for the opportunity to win a CC, when (in numerically small breeds) a prevailing 'best of sex' dominates the show ring for a year or more.

b) request Societies to select breed judges that have not judged the breed at Championship show level for minimum a period of 30/36 months prior to the date of their show (especially for numerically small & slow maturing breeds).

c) The Kennel Club could reconsider minimum period of time between judging appointments for such (numerically small) breeds; e.g. from the present '12 months', to a period which relates to the number of names they have approved to award CCs in the breed, against the number of CC allocations in any one year.

In respect of Giant Schnauzers; 16 sets of CCs per annum / 91 names approved by the KC to award CCs, suggests each approved name might have one appointment every 5.7 years. If the time 'gap' was set at 3 years, it would provide sufficient flexibility to Societies and allows for some duplication of appointments, yet could have a significant positive affect on entry levels.

3. Shows to be considered for loss of CC Allocation – in order of priority:

- |                 |                                |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | South Wales Kennel Association |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | Bath Canine Society            |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | Scottish Kennel Club (May)     |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> | Darlington Dog Show Society    |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> | Leeds Championship Dog Show    |

For complete analysis, see Appendix I, attached.