

Mandate for Subordinate Committees of the Nordic Kennel Union (NKU)

1. General Provisions

1.1 Purpose of the Mandate

This mandate defines the functions, responsibilities, and operational framework for Committees appointed under the Nordic Kennel Union (NKU), in accordance with article 4.3 in the Framework for cooperation within NKU ([link to the framework from the website](#)).

The Committees are appointed to preserve advisory and cooperative purposes within the NKU. The NKU Executive Committee holds overall authority and may amend or revoke this mandate when necessary. Committees must operate in accordance with the decisions of the Executive Committee and the principles set out in the NKU Framework.

1.2 Purpose of the Committees

The Committees serve as expert advisory bodies to the NKU Executive Committee. Their role is to support NKU's mission of promoting and harmonizing canine science, breeding, welfare, and dog-related activities across the Nordic countries; ensure coordinated approaches to regulations, standards, and policies related to their area of expertise; ensure common Nordic strategies; and provide professional recommendations and proposals for the Executive committee.

1.3 Decision-Making Authority

Committees have delegated authority to develop proposals and subject-specific strategies within their topic. Draft decisions must be presented to the NKU CEO-meeting for further consideration and recommendations before it goes to the NKU Executive Committee for approval. Matters of principle or those affecting all Nordic countries must be elevated to the Executive Committee. Committees may establish subgroups when appropriate.

1.4 Principles of Operation

Committees shall operate with transparency and openness, sharing relevant information with the NKU Executive Committee, national kennel clubs, and other Committees as appropriate. Collaboration and dialogue are expected at all levels. Strategic matters are handled by the Executive Committee, while technical and specialist issues are managed by the relevant Committees, with escalation only when necessary.

1.5 Financial Provisions

Committees may not incur joint costs or engage external experts without prior approval from the NKU CEO-meeting. Any proposals involving financial commitments must be

submitted to the Executive Committee for consideration. Unless otherwise agreed, costs are borne by the member countries.

2. Appointment and Composition

2.1 Appointment of Members

Committee members are appointed by their national kennel club. Membership in each of the Committees should include representation from all Nordic kennel clubs and individuals with knowledge and expertise in the relevant field.

2.2 Competence Requirements

Each Committee must collectively possess subject-specific expertise, understanding of Nordic kennel club structures, and ability to harmonize policies across countries.

3. Working Methods and Procedures

Committees must follow NKU's rules and maintain cooperation with national kennel clubs. Each Committee meet at least once per year.

The Committees constitute themselves and elect a chair who is responsible for convening Committee meetings. The chair is also responsible for setting the agenda for the meetings.

As a general rule, Committee meetings shall be held digitally. If there is a particular need to hold a physical meeting, this must be clarified with the CEO group.

Meetings of the Committees shall normally be held online. In-person meetings may be held only if all Members represented in the Committee agree in advance and the related costs are borne in accordance with Article 8 in the Framework for cooperation within NKU (link to the framework from the website.)

All Committees shall submit an annual written report of their activities to the Executive Committee, in accordance with Article 4.1.3, except the Disciplinary Committee, which is independent and may submit information or recommendations to the Executive Committee or directly to the Members on its own initiative.

4. Responsibilities

Committees are responsible for analysing issues within their area, proposing common Nordic positions, harmonizing rules and practices, monitoring developments, and ensuring that all work promotes high standards of dog welfare. Strategic issues and matters of principle must be escalated to the Executive Committee.

Any Committee may invite external experts to assist in its work, where the particular nature of the subject requires such support. The costs relating to such experts shall be

borne by the inviting Member unless the Executive Committee has approved in advance that the costs shall be treated as a joint NKU expense in accordance with Article 8 in the Framework for cooperation within NKU (link to the framework from the website.)

5. Reporting

Committees shall provide their outputs in writing (recommendations, proposals, or reports) using Secretariat templates. Narrative minutes are not required unless specified in a mandate from the Executive Committee. Each Committee shall maintain a brief action log (owner, action, due date, status) for oversight by the CEOs and the Secretariat.

Committees shall submit a yearly report to the NKU Executive Committee and ensure transparency in their work. Upon request from the NKU Executive Committee, the chair of each Committee might be asked to report more often.

6. Specific mandate for Committees of the NKU

Each of the NKU Committees may add its specific areas of responsibility and working order to this document.

Approved by the NKU Executive Committee on the 16th of April 2026.

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