

## From the EXCO Chairman's Desk – August 2025

Dear Members,

Following last month's inaugural message, I'd like to thank those of you who reached out with words of encouragement and ideas for future topics. It's clear there's a real appetite for better communication, and I remain committed to using this platform to keep you informed and engaged.

### Progress on Key Matters

As promised, I want to begin by sharing a brief update on two of the matters raised in July:

#### 1. KUSA System Upgrade

You will have noticed the progress reports now attached to the monthly EXCO minutes. These reports provide a transparent and ongoing record of developments, allowing you to follow the project's progress in detail. Accordingly, updates on the upgraded administrative system will no longer be included in this letter. Please refer to the latest report attached to the EXCO minutes for the most up-to-date information on this important initiative.

#### 2. Marketing and Visibility

FEDCO's dedicated task team is hard at work on the new KUSA website skin and broader engagement strategy. I'm pleased to share that goals set for July 2025 have been achieved. The order of development has now been determined, and the deep dive into the website to create specific links for the public has been completed. EXCO continues to support this work where appropriate, and we look forward to sharing more concrete developments soon.

### Turning Ideas into Action

Today, I want to address a recurring question I've heard from members over the years:

**"Why do I have to put everything in a formal proposal? Can't KUSA, EXCO or FEDCO just do it?"**

It's a fair question—especially in a volunteer-run organisation, where time and energy are precious. But the short answer is: **clarity, collaboration, and accountability.**

We all have ideas, and many of them are excellent. But without structure, even the best ideas can get lost in informal chats, WhatsApp groups, or ringside conversations. Putting something in writing—ideally as a short, focused proposal—helps clarify what's being suggested, why it matters, and how it might be implemented. It's not about bureaucracy for its own sake; it's about giving your idea the best possible chance of success.

Once submitted to your Club or Provincial Council, your proposal enters a process designed to ensure fairness, debate, and eventual decision-making. This doesn't mean the system is perfect (what system is?), but it does provide a clear and open route for change.

The takeaway?

**If something matters enough to say out loud, it probably matters enough to write down.** And when you do, you're not just voicing a concern—you're starting a process of change.

And let us not forget that, at the end of the day, we are all volunteers, giving our time and effort freely. It is this spirit of service that keeps KUSA alive and moving forward, and I remain deeply grateful for the dedication each of you brings to our community.



Kennel Union of Southern Africa

### Welcoming a New EXCO Member

I'm also delighted to welcome Neil Perkins as the new EXCO representative for DOGSPC. For those who may not know him, Neil brings with him a long history of involvement in dog sports, exhibiting, breeding, and judging. He is actively engaged at various levels with several clubs and currently serves as Chairman of the Rottweiler Breed Council. We look forward to the valuable perspective and experience he will contribute to EXCO.

### Looking Ahead

As I look forward, I've come to realize that while regulations are essential for maintaining our standards and fairness, they can sometimes stifle growth and innovation. Thanks to some thoughtful proposals from our members, we've already been able to adopt changes that increase flexibility. One being allowing judges to exhibit at other shows in the same discipline on the same day they are officiating at Open Shows.

Finally, while many of you may already have seen this in the June FEDCO minutes, it's worth highlighting again: for the 2025/2026 financial year, there will be no increase to annual club affiliation fees, show entry per dog return levies, or late submission show penalties. In an environment where costs seem to rise at every turn, this measure should provide welcome relief and help clubs continue their valuable work without added financial pressure.

Thank you again for your support, your passion, and your belief in what KUSA can be.

Warm regards,

**Michael Alberts**

Chairman of the Executive Committee of KUSA

*Prepared with editorial input from ChatGPT to support clarity and tone.*

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