



Established 1957

AUSTRALIAN SHEPHERD CLUB OF AMERICA, INC.®

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This report details the day to day activities of the ASCA Board of Directors and includes issues before the ASCA Board and communications done by mail, fax, email and/or phone.

November 1-30, 1998

96:17 JUNIOR SHOWMANSHIP-JUNIOR COMMITTEE: The ASCA Board is pleased to announce that Cassandra Noe has been appointed as a member of the ASCA Junior Committee.

98:11 OBEDIENCE RULES-OBEDIENCE FINALS: Motion by Trumbull-Clark, seconded by Gray.
I move to accept the following recommendation from the ASCA Obedience Committee as ASCA's Obedience Finals Program with scores to be tabulated for rankings starting June 1, 1999 for the first Finals to be held at the year 2000 Nationals. If approved, a full page ad with the following rules shall be printed in the January/February 1999 AUSSIE TIMES so the membership can be made fully aware of this new program. ASCA OBEDIENCE FINALS STATEMENT OF PURPOSE This competition is designed to be self supporting by those breeders and handlers who take pride in their contribution to the development of the Australian Shepherd. Its intention is to showcase ASCA's finest obedience dogs to the world so that we may share the virtues of this versatile breed with others.

SECTION 1 RUNS

1. The Obedience Finals will be run in conjunction with the National Specialty each year on the same day as the first day of regular conformation.
2. The Finals will consist of two (2) go rounds in each category. This may be on one (1) or more days at the discretion of the Host Club(s) and will be listed in the premium list.
3. The Host Club(s) will determine the random run order. Dogs will not run in their order of ranking.

SECTION 2 ELIGIBILITY

1. Eligible scores are those received during the ASCA Finals Year. The ASCA Finals Year is June 1st through May 31st of each year.
2. Eligible dogs are ASCA registered Australian Shepherds that have received three (3) qualifying scores in each category that the dog will be competing in at the Finals.
 - A. The three (3) highest scores obtained during the competition year will be used to determine rankings.
3. Eligible obedience categories are: Open, Utility and Superdog.
4. Dogs must have their UD titles to compete in the Superdog category.
5. The maximum number of dogs eligible per registered owner or co-owner(s) is two (2).
6. Eligible dogs for the Obedience Finals are the top ten (10) obedience dogs as ranked in the AUSSIE TIMES from each category, (Open, Utility and Superdog). There may be more than 10 dogs if there are ties in the top ten listings. The next ten (10) dogs in the listings will be contacted as alternates.
7. If a dog is ranked in Superdog that dog may only show in the Superdog category regardless if the dog is ranked in either Open and/or Utility. This will allow more dogs to compete for the finals.

SECTION 3 VERIFICATION

1. All eligible contestants and alternates who have qualified for the Finals will be notified by certified mail by the ASCA Business Office by July 1 of the year the competition will be held. Alternates will be notified of their standing as well.
2. All eligible contestants wishing to compete and alternates must complete an official entry form and send it and the entry fees (except the alternates who will pay when they become eligible) to the ASCA Business Office. This confirmation of intent to compete must be postmarked no later than July 15th of the competition year. The ASCA Business Office will send the entries of the Obedience Final to the Host Club(s) by the close of entries for that year's Nationals.
3. If an eligible contestant fails to send in an entry form the next alternate who has stated his/her intent to attend will be notified by the ASCA Business Office. If a cancellation occurs the day of the Finals, one (1) of the ten (10) alternates on the grounds will become eligible in order of their scores. If no alternates are available, the Finals will run short. No entry fee will be refunded except as specified in Section 8.4

SECTION 4 FEES

1. The entry fee charged at the Obedience Finals Competition is fifty (\$50) per dog for Open and Utility. The entry fee for the Superdog competition is \$100. This money will be used to cover any expenses the Host Club(s) may incur hosting the Finals Competition as well as awards for the top Finals winners. The Host Club(s) will submit their expenses to the ASCA Board of Directors. When all expenses have been met any additional monies will be used for funding the next years competition.
2. The ASCA Business Office will keep an accounting of all money received and is responsible for informing the Host Club(s) of the Finals, the Board of Directors and the ASCA Obedience Committee as to the amount received by August 1st of the competition year.

SECTION 5

AWARDS

1. All classes will be placed one (1) through the number of dogs entered. Rosettes will be awarded for each placement. Special awards will be given to the winner of each class.
2. All of the monies received from the Finals entries, minus the expense money to the Host Club(s), and all monies donated will be used for prizes at the Finals Obedience Competition only. Any unused monies will revert back to the Finals fund.
3. ASCA is responsible for procuring awards and ribbons for the Obedience Finals competition.
4. All placements will be awarded including non-qualifying scores.
5. All ribbons will have the date and location of the Obedience Finals printed on them. First through Fourth will have ASCA approved regular class obedience trial colored ribbon denoting the placement. (First place is blue, second place is red, third place is yellow and fourth place is white.) The remaining ribbons will be the same color and will have the placements, the number depending upon the number of dogs being shown, on them.

SECTION 6

JUDGING

1. Two (2) Judges are necessary, their scores will be added for the placing.
2. Each Judge will judge one round of Open and one round of Utility.
 - A. Each Judge will stay with their respective ring. The dog and handler teams will change rings.
 - B. The Judges will determine which ring and class are to held on the morning of the first day of competition. (One judge will be judging Utility while the other judge is judging Open.)
3. Each dog will be have two (2) go rounds, one under each judge.
4. The scores will be added for each dog for the two (2) go rounds and will determine the placing. All scores will be used, including non-qualifying.
 - A. Superdog placements will be determined by the sum of the two (2) Open and two (2) Utility scores.
5. If there are tied scores, placements will be determined by a run-off, using the Novice heel free exercise.
 - A. Runoffs will be done after all dogs have competed, this includes any bitches in season.
6. There will be a Finals winner from each of the following categories: Open, Utility and Superdog. The winner will carry the title of; (year won) ASCA Champion (Open or Utility) Obedience Dog. The winner of the Superdog category will carry the title of, (year won) ASCA Supreme Champion Obedience Dog.
7. The ASCA Obedience Rules and Regulations will be the standard by which these Classes are judged with the following exception in Utility:
 - A. Each directed jump will be scored separately. Each jump (high and bar) is scored 20 points.
8. The runoff Judge will be decided by coin toss at the same time when the Judges decide who will start judging which class.
 - A. The runoff ring is which ring belongs to the runoff Judge.

SECTION 7

RING REQUIREMENTS

1. If the ring has to be matted then the entire ring is to be matted, not just under the jumps.
2. Two full sets of jumps are required. One full set (high, broad and bar jump) for each ring. This will ensure the rings run as efficiently as possible.
3. Each ring will have 3 stewards. A gate steward, a table steward and a ring steward. The gate steward will make sure each team is ready to enter the ring when the judge is ready to judge them. The table steward will take care of the paper work with the help of either the gate or ring steward as per Section 8.1. The ring steward with the help of the either the table steward or the gate steward will set the jumps, will be a post for the figure eight exercise, will hold the clipboard for the judge during the moving stand, will set out scent articles and/or gloves for the retrieval exercises.

SECTION 8

MISCELLANEOUS

1. Scores will be posted as soon as they are available. Three different people: the Judge and two stewards (who are NOT entered in the Finals) will check the addition of the scores before they are posted.
2. Sits and downs will be done after a group of individual exercises are completed. The number of dogs in each group will be determined by the judge from the number of dogs entered. There will be no more than 12 dogs in each group of sits and downs.
3. Bitches in season will be allowed to compete. They will compete last after all other judging is finished with the exception of runoffs each day. This includes sits and downs. This means that a bitch that is entered in the Superdog category will be competing back to back in both rings.

A. If there is a run off for placements the dogs will run in a ring that has been used by the bitch in season. A good obedience dog should be able to compete after a bitch in season as been judged. These dogs are proofed against everything else that could happen.

B. Bitches in season must be crated (not placed in an X-pen) in a specified area, away from the obedience rings, prior to and during the competition, except when competing.

4. There will be no substitution of dogs. Should a dog entered be unable to compete the next dog on the alternate list will become eligible to compete. If there is a veterinary certificate stating an entered dog can not compete for what ever reason and there is an alternate available to take that dogs place, entry fee(s) will be refunded. If there is no alternate available to take said dogs place then there will be NO refund of entry fee.

5. Judges for the Obedience Finals will not judge the same classes at any show held in conjunction with the National Specialty.

6. Placements and awarding of prizes will be done in the presence of the conformation competitors. This would give the biggest chance for the public to see the top obedience dog and handler teams. To the obedience community this is as big as going Best of Breed. (Not everyone can stay for the banquet but could stay one more day for the competition.)

7. There will be NO overall high scoring dog, only high scoring dog in each category.

Comments: The Obedience Committee has worked very long and hard to devise the above program for an ASCA Obedience Finals. This is a program that the membership has been requesting.

Approve: Lori, Kyle, Linda & Kathy. Disapprove: Gary, Michelle, Phil Jane & Terry.

Motion is defeated.(this was sent back to the Obedience Committee for further revisions).

97:15 COMMITTEE PROCEDURES: Motion by Trumbull-Clark, seconded by Warren.

I move to accept the following as the ASCA Committee Procedures minus the asterisks and "NOTES". These have been placed here temporarily for the Board's clarification:

COMMITTEE PROCEDURES

MEMBERSHIP:

*1.) Committees normally shall be made up of thirteen (13) people. NOTE: The word "normally" allows for the stated goal to be the target and allows flexibility for the exceptions that occasionally, for good reasons, need to be made.

2.) Committee members will be appointed by the Board for a period of two years and may be reappointed by the Board.

*a.) Each year, each committee shall hold an election of its chair during the period of 30 days before to 30 days after the National Specialty. Chairs shall serve for one year terms and may be reelected. This person may come from within the committee or from outside. If the Committee Chair comes from within the committee than that person will be replaced with someone within the region the Chairperson came from. The person elected must have a minimum of one year in that respective Committee as a member and a minimum of three consecutive years as an ASCA member in good standing. If the Chair is unable to carry out his/her duties as listed in these procedures, the committee shall elect a new chair. If at any time a committee member believes that the Chair is not carrying out his/her duty, the committee member may contact the liaison for resolution.

*b.) Normally the Committee shall have two (2) people from each of the six ASCA regions. NOTE: The word "normally" allows for the stated goal to be the target and allows flexibility for the exceptions that occasionally, for good reasons, need to be made.

c.) New Committees created in ASCA will have the position of Committee Chair appointed by the Board for the first term and elected by committee members thereafter. The person elected as Committee Chair must have been a member in good standing of ASCA for three (3) consecutive years.

*3.) All members (including the Chair) will have one vote in all issues brought before them.

4.) To remain on the committee, each member must respond to greater than 80% of the issues brought before the committee. The Chairperson shall contact those members who drop to 80% participation and readvise them of this requirement. The Chairperson shall advise the Board, through the liaison, of members whose participation drops below 80%. These people will be immediately replaced by the Board.

*5.) Each committee shall vote and select one Board member to function as the liaison between the committee and the Board. The Board liaison is not a member of the committee but is responsible to explain to the committee what the Board's position is and must fully understand the committee's recommendations so he/she may help the Board to understand the position taken by the committee on any issue. The liaison is not to interfere in the deliberations of the committee and is not allowed to change or alter any of the recommendations made by the committee, but must endeavor to understand the committee's position and present it to the Board as presented by the committee. The Board liaison to a committee is required to present the committee's proposal to the Board in the form of a motion.

*6.) The Executive Secretary will forward Committee Members names to the Office. The Office will then forward a current copy of the ASCA Program Rule Book and a copy of the Committee Procedures to each Committee Member. The Office will automatically send Committee Members and Board members, Rule Books when updated. The Program Rule Book will be made available on the ASCA Web page and available upon request from the Business Office.

*Note: This requires that Program Rules shall be on the website. We will also need to include rule books as available information from the Office in the TIMES.

*7.) When a committee schedules a meeting with the Board, the Committee Chairperson will provide the Board with an Agenda for the meeting at least fourteen days prior to the meeting. The Agenda may include, but is not limited to:

- a.) Committee recommendations to the Board;
- b.) Issues requiring clarification;
- c.) Advice on trends or programs;
- d.) Issues requiring direct discussion.

Committee recommendations on the Agenda will follow the Committee Procedures. Fourteen days prior to the meeting the material must be sent to the Board for each recommendation.

*8.) When there is a quorum of the committee present at the ASCA Nationals, business may be conducted and any motions passed at this time can be presented to the ASCA Board of Directors for their approval during the scheduled committee meeting with the Board.

*9.) Committees may schedule one conference call each year at ASCA's expense, which will include all Committee members and the Board liaison. The Agenda for this call must be submitted to the Board prior to the call. The purpose of the call is to allow the entire Committee to be in touch at least once each year and enable them to discuss issues of a complex nature.

AGENDA

1.) Committee Agendas are determined by the Board, Committee Members, and the General Membership.

- a.) First priority is given to items submitted by the Board.
- b.) Priority of other items are determined by the amount of input received from the members (both committee and general).

VOTING PROCEDURE

*1.) Any Committee Member may raise issues for discussion. All issues, whether received from the General membership, Judges, Non-members, Board member or Committee members must be sent to the Chairperson who will:

- a.) Immediately distribute issue(s) to all committee members and Board liaison.
- b.) Set a three week deadline from the postmark date of the mailing to members for receipt of comments back from committee members.

c.) At the deadline, the Chairperson copies all comments received and distributes them to committee members and Board liaison.

d.) Set a three week deadline from the postmark date of the mailing to members for receipt of a motion with a second and any further discussion.

e.) At the end of the second and any further discussion period, the Chairperson will copy all comments and distribute them to the committee members and Board liaison.

1. If a motion with second is received, the Chairperson will also include a vote card to committee members.

2. If no motion is received, it is a dead issue.

f.) The Chairperson sets a deadline of three weeks from the postmark date of the mailing to members for receipt of the votes.

g.) At the end of the three week voting period the Chairperson will tabulate the votes cast and mail the results to the committee members and Board liaison.

h.) The Chairperson will then mail or fax the committee recommendations on the issue to the Executive Secretary for distribution to the Board. Material received with the recommendation must include:

1. A motion with a second.
2. All comments made during the discussion periods.
3. Any correspondence received from the General Membership.
4. Results of the vote.

2. Conditions affecting voting:

- a.) No vote will be taken if the motion does not have a second.
- b.) No votes will be counted after the deadline is reached.
- c.) A simple majority of votes received is necessary to pass a motion.

3. The Chairperson will then call the Board liaison and explain the committee's recommendation.

4. When publishing voting results for the committee and the Board, members names and how they voted must be listed.

When publishing votes in the AUSSIE TIMES, only the final count will be published.

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON'S DUTIES

1.) All correspondence comes to the committee Chairperson. The Chairperson immediately copies it and sends it out to committee members and the Board liaison.

2.) The Chairperson is responsible for the administration of the voting procedures.

3.) The committee Chairperson will take minutes at all committee meetings and conference calls and will distribute these minutes to the committee members and Board liaison within a week of the meeting/call.

*4.) The Committee Chairperson will prepare a detailed report for each issue of the AUSSIE TIMES. This report will include, but is not limited to the following:

- a.) All issues that have been sent to the Board with the committee's recommendation since the last report. Each of these issues should be accompanied by a short description.

- b.) All issues, with short description, under consideration by the committee.
- c.) The last paragraph of the report should be, "The committee welcomes your comments on these issues."
- d.) In any issue deemed necessary by the Chair, a request for resumes to fill any upcoming openings in the committee may be made. This report must be approved and initialed by the Board liaison before being submitted to the AUSSIE TIMES editor.
- 5.) The committee Chairperson must answer all correspondence directed to the committee providing whatever answers or assistance is requested. If unable to help the person who is writing the committee, the Chairperson must refer the person to the office or officer who may be of assistance.
- 6.) Reimbursable expenses incurred by the committee Chairperson are:
 - a.) Postage
 - b.) Stationary
 - c.) Cost of copies
 - d.) Up to \$25 in phone calls per month.

All reimbursable expenses, with receipts, must be submitted to the ASCA Treasurer within sixty days of the expense. Comments: At the Spring Board Meeting in 1998, the Board made changes to the Committee Procedures. These changes were then sent to the ASCA Committees for their input. The Stockdog, Obedience and Agility Committees responded to all changes, the DNA Committee responded to only the number of people that shall make up the committee. The committees were in agreement as to their thoughts on the changes made by the Board. Those thoughts have been incorporated into the previous Committee Procedures in the above, to provide for procedures that the committees would prefer.

Approve: Kathy, Kyle, Lori, Gary, Michelle & Linda. Disapprove: Phil & Jane. Non-Voting: Terry.
Motion carries.

98:15 OBEDIENCE COMMITTEE: The ASCA Board is pleased to announce the addition of JoAnn Wolf to the Obedience Committee.

BOARD APPROVAL: The Education Coordinator asked the ASCA BoD for approval for an ad that was to be placed in the Southwest Stockman's program for their stock show held in January '99.

Approve: Lori, Jane, Linda, Michelle & Terry. Abstain: Phil. Non-Voting: Gary, Kyle & Kathy.
Request approved.

90:03 SHOW RULE CHANGES: Motion by Wildhagen, seconded by Hawley. I move that the Show Rules be amended by revising Chapter 3, Section 3.10 to read as follows: Section 3.10 Only ASCA Affiliate Clubs, in good standing, may sanction and conduct one ASCA event per day per state, except California, Alaska and Nevada. a. No change. b. No change. c. Nevada is divided into two (2) areas: From the southernmost border north to highway 6, and from highway 6 north to the Oregon and Idaho borders. One event per day may be held in each of these two (2) areas. This amendment shall be an interim rule change that will become effective 30 days following announcement in the Aussie Times and shall remain in effect until new rules applicable to same-day events across borders and within the same state are completed by the Conformation Committee and approved by the Board of Directors.

Author's comment: This rule change is provided for the Nevada clubs to allow them flexibility to host events where conflicts are nonexistent. Both clubs have agreed that no conflict exist between them and they should be allowed to proceed with their events until a more comprehensive rule change is in effect that considers same-day event concerns between adjacent clubs across defined borders and within the same state where conflicts either do not exist, or can be resolved between these clubs. Effective 1-1-99.

Approve: Kathy, Gary, Phil, Jane, Terry, Linda, Michelle. Disapprove: Kyle. Abstain: Lori.
Motion carries.

RED BLUFF BULL SALE REQUEST: ASCA was approached by Ken Silveira for \$350 for the rental fee for booth space at the Red Bluff Bull Sale.

Approve: Lori, Kyle. Disapprove: Gary, Phil, Jane, Terry, Michelle, Kathy. Abstain: Linda.

ASCA welcomes Kari Kardel Blackburn, Counselor At Law, email: laborlaw@pobox.com as the new ARPH Chairperson.

ASCA welcomes the following ARPH Committee Members: Kay Marks-Northeast Committee Member, Frances J. Sittel-Northwest Committee Member, Bill Hess-Southeast Committee Member, Bob Holt-South Central Committee Member (new region), Linda Lamon-Southwest Committee Member, and Micki Handte-Midwest Committee Member.

A request for an ad to be placed in the National Western by the Education Coordinator.

Approve: Linda, Gary, Kyle, Lori, Phil, Michelle & Terry. Non-Voting: Kathy & Jane.

Request for ad in National Western is approved.

97:14 DNA COMMITTEE: Motion by Middleton, seconded by Gray. Upon recommendation from the DNA Committee, I move that in addition to the DNA Database Program Certificate that is sent by the ASCA Business Office to the owner of a dog that is profiled by ImmGen, the Business Office will also include two additional items: 1) a copy of the Confirmation of DNA Typing Service; and, 2) a copy of the DNA profile. VOTE: Adolphson, Alison, Cochran, DeChant, Hellmeister, Johnson, Mann, Reedy, and Sharp / approved (unanimous). Comment: Since both of these items are provided by ImmGen, it is a simple matter to copy them and send with the Certificate. In this way, the owner of the dog receives the information about his/her dog's genotype and this information can be shared with anyone interested in the dog, such as potential puppy buyer. Although it might be argued that this information might be used in an attempt to falsely register a dog, I doubt that anyone who is voluntarily profiling a dog would try to mislead the registry, as sooner or later this "mistake" would be detected.

Approve: Michelle, Lori, Gary, Jane, Kathy, Terry, Linda & Kyle. Non-Voting: Phil.
Motion carries.

90:03 SHOW RULE CHANGE: Motion by Berryessa, seconded by Martin. I move that the following be sent to conformation Judges that are judging in countries where tail docking is prohibited until the time a change is made to our Breed Standard to reflect the motion: The ASCA Board of Directors has been requested to make a determination whether the Australian Shepherd can be faulted for having a tail longer than 4 inches (as described in our Breed Standard) in a country that does not allow tail docking. Our Articles of Incorporation allow enforcement of our purposes only insofar as "are not forbidden by the law of the state, territory, district, or possession of the United States, or by the foreign country". Therefore, it is the interpretation of the ASCA Board of Directors, that in a country where tail docking is forbidden, that the tail can not be faulted if it is over 4 inches in length. At this time, there will be no preference for tail set.

Approve: Unanimous
Motion carries.

MOST VERSATILE AUSSIE: Motions by Warren, seconded by Middleton. I move to accept the proposed Most Versatile Aussie Rules presented by the Most Versatile Aussie Committee to be used at the 1999 National Specialty. I also move that the Most Versatile Aussie Committee become an ASCA Standing Committee.
Comments: See attached letter from Dee Dee Baldwin Versatility Chairperson.

To the ASCA BoD:

Thank you for creating the special committee to work on the Most Versatile Aussie rules for the ASCA National Specialty. The committee has come to a consensus on sending the proposed draft for the 1999 nationals. We would like for you to also consider in conjunction with this draft that the MVA committee be continued.

A very brief history of what has transpired between last spring, and now. I had a very good response to the committee. I accepted all but one request for membership on the committee. Almost every member has contributed to the process - a notable feat for 15 people scattered from Alaska to Texas to New York, and points between. The committee also represents a good cross-section of those competing. Two of the members have earned SVCH on their dogs. Several members have never competed past started/novice level performance. We have people who specialize in one particular area, and those who compete often in versatility. We have representation from each of the performance committees, and the conformation committee. It was a somewhat slow and rocky start to the group, but we finally got focused and rolling at the Nationals. Unfortunately, that did not leave much time for all the things that we wanted to consider. Even with email, it takes some time to get consensus, and we have two very interested, active members who do not have email access. We did put out a survey, and talked with many people competing at the nationals. By far the thing that people wanted most to see were dogs getting credit for every event where they successfully perform, and for the level of that performance. There are also numerous suggestions for improvement on the conformation portion of the program. I went into this giving the committee three goals for the MVA rules revision. The first was that we did not create a new program, but improve upon the current program. We cannot make improvements if we are constantly making broad brush, wholesale changes. Second, we wanted to keep it as simple as possible while creating a fair and equitable program. The third was that we define what the Most Versatile Aussie means so we have a framework for building and improving the program. I think I can safely say that the consensus of the committee currently is that we have accomplished the first goal. We did make improvements to the previous program. The second goal may not have been met as well as we would've liked. There are still ideas that people have about how to score more equitably and more simply that have not yet been fully explored, and deserve to be considered. The third, our definition, is also a work in progress that deserves a bit more time and discussion. We chose, however, to present the rule changes as they are now in deference to letting the year go by and not contributing anything from the committee. As I said, we feel these changes are an improvement, but further improvements can and should be made. To that end, we request that the MVA committee be made a regular, standing ASCA committee, or at the very least be continued another year so that this year's changes can be evaluated and revised if needed. Many people see the MVA as the highest award offered.

That may be a bit strong depending on your frame of reference, but I do feel that it is an important program as a melding of all the programs that ASCA offers. Because it is an important program, we need to keep working with it. One of the basic tenants of nature is that nothing is static. All things must either grow or die. No option. If we do not continue to look at and work with the MVA program, it will soon become static and obsolete.

As other programs change, and new programs added, MVA will need to adjust as well. In the approx 6-7 months that the MVA committee has been in existence I've received several requests from affiliates asking for help and information about how to bring a MVA program to their club. I would like to see the committee as a resource for those clubs who need some help and guidance getting their own programs up and running, as well as working with the rules for the National specialty. I've also had a great many people say that they think the MVA rules should be standardized for the affiliates so that people competing in MVA always know the rules of the game. There are a great many pros and cons to that idea, but it's another that I believe deserves some thought and exploration. In light of all the foregoing, the MVA committee submits the proposed rule changes, and requests to be named an ASCA standing committee.

Sincerely, DD Baldwin, MVA Committee Chair

Approve: Linda, Kyle, Gary, Phil, Kathy, Lori, Michelle & Terry. Abstain: Jane.

Both motions are approved.

MOST VERSATILE AUSSIE RULES for ASCA NATIONAL SPECIALTIES

Approved and Effective-will be used at the 1999 National Specialty

The Most Versatile Aussie Award is offered to recognize the dog who best combines the attributes of herding ability and trainability, and who faithfully represents the breed standard.

This dog exhibits the strong herding ability that is the basis of the breed by attaining a qualifying score in at least one regular working trial class. The dog demonstrates trainability and willingness to please by the combination of skill and expertise required to qualify in at least one of the recognized performance events - specifically agility, obedience and/or tracking. The dog is a true and honest representative of the breed when evaluated against the breed standard. Herding ability, performance measurement, and breed evaluation are based on the rules and scorecards established by ASCA for the individual events, and the combined event "Most Versatile Aussie."

* Rules for this award will be included in the published Premium List

*Copies of the approved rules must be available upon request and on the Show Grounds

*The person(s) who will be responsible for versatility record keeping for the duration of the competition will be identified to the ASCA Board prior to the start of the Nationals.

MOST VERSATILE RULES

1. To earn the Most Versatile Aussie Award, each entry must earn a score from the Conformation Evaluation and a qualifying score from a regular Stock Dog class. In addition, to remain eligible for the MVA Award, each entry must earn a qualifying score from at least one of the following three performance programs: Agility, Obedience, and Tracking. Specifics as they relate to each program will be mentioned in these rules under each program.
2. Ties for awarding the Most Versatile Aussie Award and placements will be broken using the highest Stock Dog score as calculated for MVA points. In the case that a tie still exists, the dog with the highest number of qualifying scores in all MVA qualifying events will prevail. If the tie is still not broken, dual placements shall be awarded.
3. Computation of all scores for awarding the Most Versatile Aussie Award will be handled by either the Most Versatile Aussie show committee, or by one identified member of the show committee. The Host Club may request assistance in the tabulation and auditing of the MVA scores from the Versatility Committee, or the ASCA BoD. The Host Club will provide a location where all scores will be posted as soon as practicable after each eligible competition is completed. It is the owner/handlers responsibility to check the scores as posted. Awards for MVA will be final once presented.
4. All entrants who successfully earn scores as required by these rules will be placed first through tenth.
5. CONFORMATION EVALUATION
 - a. An ASCA Breeder Judge will be used.
 - b. Ninety points are available. The form and point schedule used will be provided to the evaluator.

- c. This class will not be placed and no awards will be given. The score given by the evaluator will be used.
- d. This class is open to spayed and neutered animals as well as intact animals.

6. STOCK DOG

- a. The highest qualifying score from the Started, Open, Advanced, or Post-Advanced will be used to compute MVA points. Highest score is defined as the score that will result in the highest number of MVA points.
- b. Additional qualifying scores will earn 5 points each
- c. Points will be computed as follows:
 - Advanced = Score + 6% of score
 - Open = Score
 - Started = Score
- d. Bitches in season entered in Versatility must be accommodated in the Stock Dog Trials.

7. The dog will only earn one MVA score from the three performance categories of obedience, agility and tracking. The one qualifying score with the highest MVA point value will be used as the dogs base score. Any and all additional qualifying scores will be valued at 5 points each and added to the base score to get the dogs total performance score.

8. OBEDIENCE

- a. The highest qualifying score from a regular class will be used to compute MVA points.
- b. Points will be computed using a 3% factor as follows:
 - Utility = Score + 3% of score
 - Open = Score
 - Novice = Score - 3% of score
- c. Bitches in season entered in Versatility must be accommodated in the Obedience Trials. They will either run last, or in a special ring. Qualifying scores received will count for Versatility only.

9. AGILITY

- a. Only Regular Agility, from either the standard, veterans or junior division, will be used for versatility.
- b. The highest qualifying score will be used to compute the MVA points.
- c. Points for MVA will be awarded as follows:
 - 195 for a clean Elite run
 - 190 for a faulted Elite run
 - 185 for a clean Open run
 - 180 for a faulted Open run
 - 175 for a clean Novice run
 - 170 for a faulted Novice run.

d. Bitches in season may enter for Versatility if so stated in the premium list by the host club. If the host club determines to allow bitches in heat to compete in agility, they will run last, or other accommodation as determined by the judge and/or show committee. The bitch may be required to wear pants while on course. Qualifying scores received will count for Versatility only.

9. TRACKING

- a. Points for MVA will be awarded as follows:
 - 195 points for a successful TDX track.
 - 180 points for a successful TD track
- b. Bitches in season entered in Versatility must be accommodated in the Tracking Trials. They will run last in Tracking, and will be kept away from the tracking area until called. Qualifying scores received will count if the premium list specifically states that "bitches in season may participate."

91:07 ASCA BUSINESS: Motion by Gray, seconded by Middleton. I move ASCA allocate the amount of \$5,000 on a yearly basis to be earmarked for upgrading existing hardware and software in the Business Office. This money will be used to purchase new computers, upgrade existing computers or peripherals (printers, tape drives, etc). Comment: Computer hardware is prone to failure after a period of time, generally around 3 years, perhaps a year or 2 longer. If we wait until things break, we could be hit with a large bill all at once. By gradually replacing hardware on an incremental basis we will be in a position to minimize downtime and maximize the use of computers, keeping our customers satisfied. The bottom line.

Approve: Gary, Kyle, Linda, Kathy, Lori, Michelle & Terry. Non-Voting: Jane & Phil.

Motion carries.

BYLAW CHANGE: The ASCA board approved the proposed bylaw change from the ASC of AZ:

At the Sept, 1998 ASC of AZ meeting a motion to change our by-laws was made. The change was approved by the membership at the Oct. 1998 meeting. The following is the by-law. The change is at the end marked in ().

Article VII Section 1 Item D. Any expenditure of two hundred (\$200.00) or more must be presented to the membership for approval with at least three (3)written bids and must be approved by the majority of the members present and voting at the meeting, (with the exception of the cost of printing the Specialty catalogue which may be approved by the Board Of Directors from the bids submitted.)

ASCA BUSINESS OFFICE MONTHLY REPORT

REGISTRY		MEMBERSHIP		EVENTS	
Individual	431	New Single	75	Sanc. Recd.	13
Non-breeding	32	New Dual	19	Sanc. Procd.	16
Litters	241	New Foreign	0	Sanc. Pending	2
Transfers	80	New Canadian	5	Results Recd.	23
Lease	7	Renew Single	207	Results Procd.	25
LEP	2	Renew Dual	70	Results Pend.	12
Duplicates	14	Renew Foreign	2	S&T News	17
Hardships	7	Renew Can.	6	Certificates	391
New Kennel	8	JR Times	5	Conf/OB Show	44
Renew Kennel	14	Affiliates	4	Stock Trials	15
Pedigrees	15			Ranch Trials	1
				Agility Trials	5
				Tracking Tests	0
Judges Apps.	0				
E-mail Reqs.	721				
DNA kits sent	12				
DNA Tests	23				

Submitted by:
Lori Middleton
ASCA Secretary