



AUSTRALIAN SHEPHERD CLUB OF AMERICA, INC.®

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The 2000 ASCA General Membership Meeting was called to order on Wednesday, October 11, 2000 at 7:45 PM by President Kathy Warren

A quorum was achieved for voting of the proxies only.

President Warren made introductions of the Board of Directors and Executive Secretary. The minutes of the 1999 General Membership meeting were published in the Aussie Times. There were no additions, deletions, or corrections and minutes were approved as published.

Treasurer's Report--As of 9/30/00
Cash in Checking--\$97,910.76
Cash in savings--\$114,234.06
Prudential Utility Fund--\$41,589.69
Aim Weingarten Fund--\$54,959.08
Net income as of 9/30/00--\$73,783.62

COMMITTEE REPORTS

AGILITY--presented by Chairman Paul Kirk
Again it has been a year of phenomenal growth for the Agility Program. Here are some statistics for the period of June 1, 1999 to May 31, 2000 to demonstrate that growth:
During this past year, 122 Agility Trials were held; an increase of 48.8% over the number of trials held during the 1998-99 ASCA year; During this past year, there were 18,427 entries; an increase of 49.4% over the number of entries in the 1998-99 ASCA year; During this past year, 498 Agility titles were earned by Australian Shepherds; an increase of 15.3% over the past year; During this past year, other breeds earned 1,625 titles; a decrease of 17.4% over the past year.
During the past year two Australian Shepherds earned the Agility Trial Champion (ATCH) title; twice as many as were earned last year. Earning the Agility Trial Champion title demands extreme dedication and an immense amount of hard work by both the handler and the dog. The ATCH requires the equivalent of 20 faultless qualifying runs in Elite Regular Agility, plus 10 qualifying faultless runs in Elite Jumpers, plus 10 qualifying faultless runs in Elite Gamblers. (This adds up to a total of 30 faultless qualifying Elite scores after the dog has earned its Elite Regular Title, its Elite Gamblers title, and its Elite Jumpers title). You will recall that the first dog to achieve the Agility Trial Champion was ATCH Ahlarlay's Kodiak Scamp, CD, owned and handled by Sandra Katzen. The second dog to achieve the ATCH was ATCH Taycin's Little Zooligan, CDX, owned and handled by Mary Finley and Paul Kirk. During this past ASCA year two dogs earned their Agility Trial Champion titles:
Taycin's Sweet Chelsea Beck, owned and handled by Kirsten Cole-MacMurray;
Oxford's Caelin Herds for Ewe, owned by Kirsten Cole and Gayle Oxford and handled by Kirsten Cole-MacMurray

Also, during this past ASCA year two other breeds earned the ATCH:
Papillon owned and handled by Barbara Cecil;
Belgian Malinois owned and handled by Barbara Benner.

Highlights of Committee Activities during this past year:

Provided for handlers 60 and over to be able to compete in the Veterans Division, if they wished to do so; also provided that disabled persons could also compete in the Veterans Division, if they wished to do so.

Removed the requirement that titles be earned under different judges.

Simplified the paperwork for requesting sanctioning of Agility trials.

What's in the future?

An Agility Finals

Computer recording of Agility data A word of thanks to liaisons who have assisted me during the time that I have been on the Agility Committee:

Maarten Walter

Ken Silveira

Kyle Trumbull-Clark

Paul Kirk announced his retirement as Agility Committee Chair and announced the new Chair for 2001 will be Annelise Allan

DNA COMMITTEE---Pete Adolphson, Chair

The DNA Committee was renamed in 2000 and is now known as the DNA & Genetics Committee. This change was due to the expanding work of the Committee to address the need to work on health problems in the breed. At this time the Committee is looking for more dogs to participate in the VetGen Epilepsy research project. The lab will drop Aussies as a breed on this project unless more dogs are entered in the program.

Thanks were given to the Georgia club for hosting the Nationals. Thanks were given to the DNA Committee members for all their hard work this past year.

Pete Adolphson has been elected as Board liaison to the DNA Committee. Chris Reedy has been elected as the DNA Committee Chair for 2001. Thanks were given to Linda Gray for acting as Board liaison for 2000. Thanks were given to Lori Middleton for acting as liaison to ImmGen for 2000. Lori will be stepping down from this position and George Johnson has agreed to accept this role.

DNA testing will become even more important in the future. Following are some statistics on the use of DNA testing in ASCA:

There are now 1286 dogs enrolled in the ASCA DNA database. 850 are DNA-CP, 400 are DNA-VP. The totals for the past 4 years are: 1997--146, 1998--267, 1999--406, 2000--500 (projected). This is a 350% growth rate. Entrants to the program have increased from about 12 per month in 1997 to 40 per month in 2000.

George Johnson has developed a seminar on the DNA program for his own club. This seminar may be available for other clubs in the future.

Methods for sample collection:

Blood is still the preferred method as it can be stored for future use. ImmGen will continue to provide this service for ASCA. If and when the Universal Marker Set is established as a worldwide standard, ImmGen will use these markers. ImmGen believes they are using the most likely markers at this time. ImmGen has agreed to rerun all ASCA DNA samples free of charge if the markers are different from those they currently use. Hair pulls and cheek swabs are also still acceptable methods for DNA analysis through ImmGen. These can be stored but there is greater risk of contamination. Tails are no longer allowed due to improper preservation and shipping in the past. Hair pulls are still the easiest and cheapest and can be done easily on very young puppies with results received before the puppies leave for new homes.

DNA Certifications will now be accepted as identification by OFA.

Canada---a new lab called HealthGene is now co-operating with ImmGen to analyze ASCA Aussies. This lab was approved by ASCA to alleviate problems shipping biological specimens across the border. HealthGene has a website for more information: HealthGene.com This information will also appear soon in the Aussie Times. For those wishing to use HealthGene, do not go through the Business Office for kits. Go directly to the lab and tell HealthGene you need the ASCA test. This information will also be on the ASCA website. It is uncertain at this time what types of samples HealthGene will be accepting (blood, cheekswab or hair). Committee will check into this.

Dogs analyzed by ImmGen via cheekswab or tails: It is uncertain at this time if these dogs will have to be reanalyzed. If they do, it is likely only the most recent generation of dogs on a pedigree will have to be done.

DNA Complaint Resolution Rules: The Committee has developed a standard procedure for filing complaints against dogs regarding pure breeding. If a problem is discovered there is a new procedure for matching dogs to unknown parents. The complete details will appear in the Secretary's Reports in the Aussie Times, in special notices in the Aussie Times, and on the ASCA website. Briefly, there will be two types of DNA testing--Voluntary and Involuntary. Voluntary testing will continue as it is now--owners requesting kits and voluntarily submitting samples for testing. There will be no penalties if discrepancies are discovered from a voluntary test. Involuntary testing will take several forms

1. Random DNA checks done by the Registry. Once a month the Business Office randomly selects a litter application for testing. The puppy selected and it's parents are sent a free DNA kit and must return the sample for testing. All dogs tested will receive normal DNA certification and be entered into the database. Canadian dogs will now be included in the random testing.

2. Complaint initiated testing. A dog and its parents will be tested. Any errors found are considered involuntary. Penalties will follow for non-compliance in either of these situations. Full details of these kinds of testing will appear in the Aussie Times.

The purpose of this new procedure is to remove the politics from the penalty phase of this process. These rules will go into effect in 2001.

Owners are urged to do voluntary testing in order to prevent an involuntary discovery. No blame is associated with involuntary testing and only those who refuse to comply with test requests will be penalized.

Epilepsy Study---Flyers were included in all exhibitor bags given out at the Nationals urging anyone with an epileptic dog to participate in the VetGen study. Please pass along this information to your clubs. The study needs 3-5 more families of dogs in order to keep the Australian Shepherd in the study.

At this time blood samples are also being accepted for a gene bank. These samples will be stored until a researcher requests them for a study. A short form needs to be filled out covering details about the dog and its history. All genetic diseases must be certified by a vet. Any dogs already DNA'd via blood sample can enter the gene bank by calling the Business Office for the paperwork. No additional blood is required. The paperwork will stay on file in the Business Office. Any dogs on file that develop problems later will need to have their file updated through the Business Office. 24 dogs per year will get a free DNA test if they exhibit a priority disease. These dogs will be randomly selected each month.

CONFORMATION COMMITTEE---Shelley Hollen, Chair

Altered Champion program---This will be the same program as the Championship program for intact dogs to allow those with altered dogs a goal and a purpose in showing. It will be another venue for these people to compete. Member feedback on the program has been overwhelmingly positive. UKC is also considering a program like ASCA's. Similar recognition for altered animals occurs in Horses, cats and livestock shows. There have been many questions and much confusion regarding this program. Members were urged to keep up on the information published in the Times and elsewhere. This program has been under consideration for 10 years and was not created hastily. The ASCA Conformation Committee spent

2 years developing the program and continues to welcome input on it. The program was made mandatory for the first 2 years because many clubs would refuse to offer it. The program needs a fair trial in order to judge need. If the program is successful, the mandatory requirement may be removed. No LEP dogs will be eligible to compete. The program is for purebred Australian Shepherds only.

Future issues:

1. USASA Breed Standard change---they are asking us to communicate with them about both standards. Nose color definitions are not clear in our Annotations. New judges are unclear on this part of our standard. Missing teeth are not addressed at all. A new guidelines for judges might clarify this.
2. Closing of entries prior to start of judging
3. ASCA Website--plans to have an Illustrated Standard. This will go along with seminars and education for judges.
4. ASCA accepting AKC judges who have no experience with our breed. This is done now and needs to be changed.
5. Other breed vs. Breeder judges--discrepancies in approval requirements.

Motion regarding requiring Nationals Pre-Shows to be specialty-only was defeated.

AKC judges of other breeds being allowed to judge Aussies was discussed. We required a test of these judges at one time in order to teach them about the Aussie. Some areas of the country have difficulty finding judges if these people are eliminated from our judges pool. The Committee will look into creating a test for AKC and UKC judges. The Committee will also look into creating seminars and educational events for all judges. An illustrated standard or videotape will likely be among the materials developed. The judging test may be from a video.

JUNIOR COMMITTEE---Michelle Berryessa, Liaison

Committee needs more adult help and has been on hold for this lack. More people are needed to apply for the Committee--adults and juniors both. The Junior rulebook is badly in need of updating.

MVA COMMITTEE---DeeDeeBaldwin, Chair

Thanks were given to the Georgia club for hosting the Nationals.

More dogs that ever were entered in Versatility at this Nationals---60 total.

Announcement of the new column in the Aussie Times devoted to Versatility. A rulebook is being developed plus guidelines for Affiliates. We are moving toward an ASCA Versatility Program. An outline for a rulebook will be ready to go to the Board by the April Board meeting.

The Committee needs input from members---solutions requested rather than complaints.

Thanks were given to all MVA Committee members, the ASCA Board of Directors, Liaison Kathy Warren, and the Affiliate Clubs.

OBEDIENCE COMMITTEE--Nancy Link, Chair

Judges test is in place and approved. Judges will be required to take this test every 3 years. The test highlights differences in our rules from other programs. It also serves to let judges know that the ASCA program is not a "practice" program, but a serious titling program. UKC obedience judges go through a rigid program of approval through their own club.

Rules changes in 2000---You now only need to qualify for 3 legs under 2 different judges.

Obedience Finals---many Obedience Committee members are competing in the inaugural event this year. Thanks to Renee Reschenthaler for helping make the first one a success. Some minor improvements are needed and have been noted. The rules will be re-evaluated and improved. Photos will be posted soon.

Plans are in the works to add a specifications page to the rulebook. This program is membership driven and the Committee welcomes input.

Thanks were given to Liaison Kyle Trumbull-Clark.

New AKC rules are being looked at and considered for inclusion in the ASCA program. The Committee is waiting to see how these rules work for AKC before adding them to ASCA's program.

New scoresheets for judges are being researched.

Limited Entries---If trials fill, no non-regular classes will be held. Ring limitations are the cause for this rule. Precedence must be given to regular classes.

STOCKDOG COMMITTEE---Leslie Sutherland, Committee Member

2000 Stats:

94 Trials

8,524 entries

756 Australian Shepherd titles

33 Australian Shepherd WTCH's

847 Other Breed titles

25 Other Breed WTCH's

Trials declined from 151 to 94 in 2000 but Entries increased by 93 entries.

Thanks were given to all donors to the Stockdog Finals---Francesca Canfield, Bob Magee, COAST, ASCNE

Thanks to all who donated to the Finals payback to contestants---Bob Magee, Central Valley ASC, COAST, Ken Silveira, Bob Magee, ASC of Rogue Valley, Susan and John Rossy, George Frey, SWASA and a donation in the name of Trent and Christi Densmore.

Thanks to those who donated Awards---ASC of Washington, COAST, C Hangin' 5 (the Moe's)

Thanks to all participants, Liaison Kathy Warren and the Board of Directors.

TRACKING COMMITTEE---Audrey Wartman, Chair

Chapters 1 & 2 of the regulations have been submitted for approval. Changes include requiring a club to submit a topographical map with parameters of area to be used, buildings and areas with stock. Some areas have been unsuitable in the past.

In the future the committee is considering adding a VST test similar to AKC's and a Tracking Champion title.

Thanks to the Georgia club for supplying an excellent site for the test at Nationals.

Comments were made regarding better promotion of the tracking program. Committee will try to promote tracking more to the Affiliates. A Clubs Guidelines is being developed. Clubs must also take some responsibility for promotion of the program.

Suggestion made to supply a trophy for all qualifiers in Tracking at the National Specialty. Board will look into this.

HALL OF FAME COMMITTEE--Beth Ellen Roop, Committee member

Several options came from the Hall of Fame Committee's survey

1. Keep the HOF as it is
2. Tighten the requirements for HOF
3. Keep the HOF and mandate conformation and working titles be earned for kennels, sires and dams
4. Keep the HOF as is but tighten the requirements and offer a HOF Excellent.

Agility is being considered to add to the obedience and tracking category.

The survey was very helpful in getting new ideas. Thanks to all who took the time to submit a survey.

The Altered Champion program will not be considered for HOF inclusion until after the 2 year trial period.

Explanation that the original HOF required Champions and working titles and one other category of qualification. Members were against these requirements so it was changed to requiring Champions and one other category. Members have now come back to asking for working titles to be required. The original program also didn't specify which categories titles had to come from. Any rules revisions will need to clearly reflect the intent of the program.

BYLAWS COMMITTEE---Jerry Aufox, Chair

Several drafts and revisions have been discussed in the Committee. The goal is to maintain flexibility while keeping the power with the membership.

The new Chair for 2001 will be Patrick MacRoberts. It is hoped the Bylaws will be completed in time to be voted on in 2001.

ARPH---Craig Bohren, President

Craig took office on 7-1-00. Thanks were given to GAASC for donating the profits from the agility trial to ARPH. Thanks were given to Laura Kelley for organizing workers for agility and the parade of rescues.

ARPH is now a tax exempt 501(c)3 corporation. All donations are now tax deductible as are expenses incurred by volunteers. There are now 225 volunteers in 37 states and 1 province (Quebec). 3500 dogs have been rescued over the last 6-7 years for an average of 500 per year. ARPH encourages all adopters to join ASCA. ARPH educates the public about the Australian Shepherd. ARPH still needs donations and volunteers for fostering, transportation and evaluating. The network of homes evens out most discrepancies in need and supply. Aussie Times announcements have been answered with help every time and the organization continues to learn and improve. Please visit our booth at the Nationals.

ARPH's website: aussierescue.org

Thanks to all ARPH volunteers across the country. Thanks to ASCA members, Affiliate clubs, and Board liaison, Sandy Tubbs.

PROGRAMMING TEAM LEADER---Aaron Beasecker

The ASCA database is in the process of being upgraded. This will be all new technology. The Agility module should be in by December. All upgrades are under budget at this point. Thanks to all the staff at the Business Office and Lola Hill the upgrades are getting done right. Members should expect to see improved speed and reliability. Plans are to have much information on the web.

ELECTION RESULTS

Pete Adolphson, Jerry Aufox and Chris Davenport were elected to the ASCA Board.

Voting: Pete Adolphson--733, Jerry Aufox---703, Chris Davenport---946

Thanks were given to outgoing Directors Linda Gray, Gary Hawley and Terry Martin.

Referendum Questions

1. Should ASCA keep the Hardship Registry open? Yes--1061 No--337
2. Should the Hardship Registry rules be amended to allow Hardship registration of AKC registered dogs? Yes--920 No--458
3. Should ASCA investigate accepting dogs through the Hardship registry that are only registered through a foreign registry? Yes---795 No--528

Proxy Items:

Amendment of Article I, Section 1C of the Bylaws relating to the Aussie Times to bring the Bylaws into compliance with IRS regulations:

For---1269 Against---57

Repeal of current article IV, Section 1 and 2 of the Bylaws, adoption of a new Section 1 establishing five classes of membership and defining each, and renaming and renumbering the remaining sections

For---1089 Against---198

Amendment of Article VIII, Section 8 of the Bylaws to set out the procedure for electing and the duties of the Treasurer

For---1252 Against---49

OLD BUSINESS

The Board was requested to investigate problems with "miniature Australian Shepherds"

NEW BUSINESS

Alan McCorkle, USASA President sent a letter to the ASCA Board asking for us to join them in a joint venture to revise the two Breed Standards for Aussies. ASCA has no Breed Standard Committee at this time but if members would like to form one this could be done. Alan and Pam Levin were invited to come to this meeting but were unable to make it.

Cindy Taylor described a problem with a dog being shown in ASCA shows that was not legally registered with ASCA. This dog came in through the Hardship Registry and it was noted these rules were currently under revision.

Terry Thomascik cited a problem with "mini" Aussies in Alaska. These dogs were registered through the Continental Kennel Club.

Roger Stevens requested a Bylaws change be considered where Directors would be elected by region and voted on only by members within that region. Articles of Incorporation may need to be changed as well.

It was announced that Director Sandy Tubbs was improving in her battle with cancer and would greatly appreciate cards and letters from members wishing her well.

Terri Morgan asked if CASA would be required to hold Altered Champion program classes at the 2001 Nationals. Ann DeChant asked if it would be possible to limit the number of Altered Champion shows required to be held by each club. The Board has received petitions with 160 signatures in favor of this program and 112 individual letters in favor. Only 10 letters have been received against the program. Some discussion of charging prohibitive prices for Altered Program entries in order to discourage participation. Such tactics will just force the ASCA Board to step in to stop them. This program needs to be given a fair chance.

Question was asked regarding whether ASCA was considering adding a Flyball program. This is not being done at this time.

Meeting adjourned
Kris Toft, Secretary

