

ASCA® General Membership Meeting
October 4, 2007
Augusta, New Jersey
ASCA® Golden Jubilee National Specialty

Board Attendance: President Patrick MacRoberts, Treasurer Kristin McNamara, Vice President Michelle Berryessa, Director Roger Stevens, Executive Secretary Jo Kimes, Secretary Ann DeChant, Director Ally Bryant and Directors-Elect: Jerry Aufox, Chris Davenport, Rick Gann

Membership Attendance: Cheri Preciado – CA, Sue Florek – MI, Kathy Dawson – MI, Leah Swatko – Ontario, Canada, Sunday Miles – MI, Joan Skillman – MI, Jeri Long – MI, Glenda Stephenson – FL, Corey Norman – MI, Lori Anglemeyer – MI, Robbi Norman – MI, Caroline Vroeman – Holland, Lue Goossens – Belgium, Cynthia Clark – KS, Dawn Semmel – NY, Rachel Vest – GA, Kathy Stevens – AL, Chris Caldwell – WA, Debby Rosenglick – FL, Karen Spriggs – FL, Dawn Williams – IN, Michelle Durkin – IN, Lynne Gish – IN, Margaret Mac Donald – NY, Nancy Walker – VA, Paula Waterman – VA, Linda LaFrance – FL, Elizabeth Eckert – FL, Jon Eckert – FL, Nancy Watson – FL, Robert Watson – FL, Katherine Norris – CT, Rebecca Wasson – GA, Jeff Wasson – GA, Janet Goin – NV, Sue Bishop – NY, Matt Mason – NH, Mary Sue Carlisle – ME, Cindy King – CT, William Pechka-King – CT, Trish Alexander – CA, Jean Miller – TX, Andrea Bair – CA, Kristie McClaran – CA, Susan Graham – CA, Diana Decker – NM, De Angelo – NY, Lori Fausett – FL, Jonna Cole – NV, Tab Caldwell – VA, Pauli and Bill Haggis – CT, Sue Kelly – MI, Karen Bennett – Wimbush – OH, Kay Marks – PA, Lisa Wiseman – NY, Janet Benson – CT, Tenley Dexter – NY, Marcia Welch – ME, Jeri Campstaro – NY, Betsy Atkinson – NY, Linda Braun – NY, Odette Fetzner – NY, Elly Matesic – NY, Maren Matesic – NY, Heather Gould – NY, Linda Hasell – NY, Mark D. Westerman – TX, Marsha Westerman – TX, Manfred Hoerteis – TX, Sherry Baker – CA, Fiona Hibbard – CA, Carol McLaughlin, DVM – CA, Linda Bell – TX, Kathy Fretz – VT, Debra St. Jacques – NY, Marty Strawnier – PA, Dianne Barrett – CT, Celeste Kelly – MAINE, Barbara Barreiro – NH, Amanda Bushee – NH, Karen Miller – MA, Renee Reschenthaler – GA, Gull Reidy – MA, Kathi Wood – IN, Alaina Holstage – MI, Dianne Escalada – FL, Mirjam Walter – OR, Diane Keedy – FL, Deborah Dodds – DE, Karen Soule – NY, Lynne Skinner – NY, Melinda Gann – TX, Heather Herron – MI, Cindy Snyder – NY, and Margaret Abrahamson - NY

The Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President MacRoberts who welcomed everyone. He introduced the ASCA® Board: Director Roger Stevens, Director-elect Rick Gann, Treasurer Kristin McNamara, President Patrick MacRoberts, Director-elect Jerry Aufox, First Vice President Michelle Berryessa, Director-elect Chris Davenport, Director Allison Bryant, Secretary Ann DeChant, Director Linda Gray and Executive Secretary Jo Kimes. Office Manager, Jean Miller was also introduced. She is at the ASCA® Booth and would love to talk to you.

MacRoberts announced that there would be a meeting about the 2008 Nationals next door right after this meeting. He said, "If you have any questions or comments about that Nationals, Becci Maloney will be there with a great presentation to show you what's really going on over there." He thanked Becci.

MacRoberts: "This year is the 50th Year of ASCA®. That's a pretty big deal for us, for the Club, and it's a big deal for ASCA®. I'd like to ask people who have been here for 50 years in the Breed to stand up. The Hartnagles have been in the breed forever, as we know. Sherry's

Mom, also, Audry Klarer. Sherry, I'd like to thank your Mom from the Membership because I know we all want to thank the people who came before us in this breed and this great Club. So thank you."

"I also have a presentation to make. We have someone here tonight who has been involved in this breed for a long time and been very focused on the Health and Genetics of the breed. She has helped a lot of us to breed better dogs through taking a look at pedigrees and doing pedigree analysis. She was on the original ASCA® Health Committee and the original ASCA® DNA Committee. She founded the Australian Shepherd Health and Genetics Institute with a number of other people...C.A. Sharp." He presented her with an ASCA® jacket in her favorite colors and an honorary Life Membership card to ASCA.

Treasurer's Report – Kristin McNamara

I'd like to begin with 2006 Audit information.

Beginning balance of \$614,629

Ending balance \$491,069

"We had a loss. That includes cash and equivalents, property plant and operations, and investments. We have a number of investments and our savings is in there. As for this year, we have closed the gap in the deficit. That doesn't mean we've recouped that money yet, but we expect by the end of the year to end perfectly even. We are down in Membership and Events by 20%, but that's to be expected. If you look at comparable programs, as well as AKC, they're down 20% as well. Agility is in the black. It is a successful program. The reason we have closed that gap is mainly with that drop, Business Office expense overhead is down now. Last year we were doing a lot of clean up. Now we are spending a lot less time on overtime, temps, and our knowledge level of our employees is better, so obviously we are getting more for our money. Also, the *Aussie Times* was mentioned last year, so I thought I would bring it up. The *Aussie Times* is actually a profitable venture. It looks like we lose a lot of money on paper, but we also bring in enough, that it's breaking even. So it is not as big a concern as it was last year. Just so people know, typical income...33% of our income comes from Registry, Membership is about 23% and *Aussie Times* subscription is 18%, and yeah, you get them together, but we do track them separately. If you are a Service Member, that's why it's up higher. Typical Expenses: Payroll is 23% of our outgo, *Aussie Times* printing is 15% and insurance is about 11%. Motions that Directors made this year that effect us financially: There was a Service Member increase from \$8 to \$10, and this was all in effect June 1. There is a litter fee increase, and I don't have it from the original, but it is listed and we released a sheet, and I don't need to read that all...We increased Individual Registrations...bulk mailing rate for the *Aussie Times*. It was going periodical and now we have bulk and that saved us \$20,000 on postage this year, which is nice. We approved the first phase of online interface programming which is \$14,000. It isn't spent yet, but will effect us at some point when it goes through. ASCA® reduced it's Board of Director expenses by making use of a Message One thing so we don't have individual fax machines. Things go directly to Jo Kimes, and they are distributed to the Board by email. What happens is you fax in directly to the number, and it distributes it to Jo Kimes and she distributes it to us via email. It saves a lot of money as we don't have to keep Fax Machines and pay for that line. We rounded fees for Membership Services for duplicates and transfers which earns us about \$5000 more, and as of October 2, we passed a Motion so that the 2008 National Finals reimbursement will be capped at \$15,000. That was an average of the last 10 years Nationals reimbursement, and we will use this next year to see how it works. The 2008 host Club was behind that so we're not..."

MacRoberts announced that we would have the Committee Reports:

Agility Committee: Sue Graham, Chair

“Hello everybody, I’m Sue Graham, Chair of the Agility Committee. ASCA® Agility made it through its first year of going solo, and I would like to thank all the hardworking ASCA® Affiliates and Members who hosted over 150 dates of ASCA® Agility Trials from the ASCA® year June 1 2006 to May 31, 2007. So far this ASCA® year starting June 1, 2007 through the end of December, the Office has received sanctioning requests for approximately 90 days of Agility Trials. Although, the number of trials has decreased since dual sanctioning ended, the average run fee and income to ASCA® has increased as well as this interest in LEP and Service Membership numbers. I think for its first year, the consensus is that the Agility Program is holding its own. In the past year, the Committee has been trying to find a good balance between not making too many changes to the program but tweaking the Rules enough just to enhance the program. One change that will go into effect as of January 1, is a decrease in the opening point accumulation period in Gamblers to 30 seconds, and we’ve also adjusted the minimum point requirements that you need. Other items we will be working on are ways to encourage participation of other breeds as well as the course review and design process and clarifying sections of the Rule Books that need to be more specific.

In closing, I would like to send a special thank you to my Committee Members for their support of the Agility Program and their willingness to express their opinions in a civil manner, which sometimes isn’t always easy. Thank you to Alison Bryant for being our Liaison for the last two years. We have a few new Members this year. We would like to welcome returning Member Pete Dolan, Allison Bryant will rejoin us, we have a new Region 7 Member, Justina Woodlarski. Thanks, guys!”

ARPH – No ARPH Report

ASCABSRC Report - Ann B. DeChant, Liaison
“I will read this report from Chair, Terry Martin.”

“The Breed Standard Review Committee has submitted our final suggested revisions to the ASCA Board of Directors. Per the ASCA ByLaws the Standard can not be changed in any way without the Board unanimously approving any changes to go to the Membership for a vote. Changes require a 2/3 majority approval from the voting Membership. The Board and the Committee agreed at the 2006 Board Meeting that this document should be voted on section by section with an approval or disapproval for each section. It is now with the Board for their review and their decision.”

“The Committee has submitted brief explanation of suggested clarifications but would be glad to discuss and/or explain these further. If you have any questions for the Committee regarding the reasons please send them to Terry Martin, Committee Chair at slashv@htcomp.net for distribution to the Committee. After six years of review the Committee feels the document addresses areas of confusion and misconception without changing the intent of the original document in any way.”

“You will be able to see these changes as they are currently proposed on the website. I don’t know if they are there yet, but they will be soon. They also be in the next upcoming issue of the *Aussie Times* in the BSRC Report.”

“The Committee Members are:

Linda Bell, Sandy Cornwell, Kim Cochran, Ernie Hartnagle, Shelly Hollen, Terry Martin, Kristin McNamara, Sunday Miles, and Cheri Preciado, and our liaison is Ann DeChant.”
While this was not read at the Meeting, it is included here as part of the Committee report.
ASCABSRC Breed Standard Recommended Revisions September 2007

First and foremost, the Australian Shepherd is a true working stockdog, and anything that detracts from his usefulness as such is undesirable. The most important breed characteristics are overall moderation in size and bone, balance with correct proportions, and sound movement.

GENERAL APPEARANCE: The Australian Shepherd is a well-balanced dog of medium size and bone. He is attentive and animated, showing strength and stamina combined with unusual agility. Slightly longer than tall, he has a coat of moderate length and coarseness with coloring that offers variety and individuality in each specimen. An identifying characteristic is his natural or docked bobtail. In each sex, masculinity or femininity is well defined.

*****No change*

CHARACTER: The Australian Shepherd is primarily a working dog of strong herding and guardian instincts. He is an intelligent, exceptional companion. He is versatile and easily trained: performing his assigned tasks with great style and enthusiasm. He is reserved with strangers but does not exhibit shyness. This unusually versatile stockdog works upright and close, with the power and quickness to control difficult cattle as well as the ability to move sheep without unnecessary roughness. Although an aggressive, authoritative worker, viciousness toward people or animals is intolerable.

**** *Reasons: The original description was accurate and left unchanged. A clarification was felt to be necessary because the Australian Shepherd is often judged by individuals who have never seen a stockdog work. Their experience leads them to identify "herding" with structure found in such breeds as the Old English Sheepdog, the Corgi, the Sheltie, and other breeds who physically have not been bred for the tasks expected of an Australian Shepherd. A sentence was added to clarify just what kind of work this specific breed needs to be both physically and mentally capable of doing.*

HEAD: The head is a reflection of the overall moderation needed in a stock dog and is structured to provide maximum protection from injury when working livestock. The head is clean-cut, strong, dry, and in proportion to the body. Lips are close fitting, meeting at the mouth line with only a slight overlap. The top skull is flat to slightly rounded; its length and width each equal to the length of the muzzle. The muzzle is of medium width and depth and tapers gradually to a rounded tip, without appearing heavy, square, or snipy. The topline of the muzzle and top skull appear close to parallel with the top skull slanting very slightly toward the muzzle. The stop is moderate but well defined.

**** *Reasons: The new version contains some grammar changes. There is also clarification of WHY the head is shaped as it is for the job the breed is designed to do. The reference to "dry" has been understood by some to mean loose lips, while the glossary description means "without wrinkles". Clarification of the muzzle without changing the original description was done in order to emphasize that it should not be overdone or overly fine. The describing of the topline of the muzzle are a clarification based on a statement (and study of real dogs) in the original 1977 Annotations. Since there is now another Standard for the Australian Shepherd (AKC) stating that these planes are parallel, it was felt that ASCA should heed the advice of the original ASCA authors who stated in the 1977 Annotations, "It might be noted that in some other breeds where*

definite proportions were not stipulated, one of the first things to be changed as the breeds evolved was the head."

The original authors further stated:

"Several of the Affiliate Clubs' initial proposals specified the toplines of muzzle and topskull to lie on parallel planes. Upon close examination, one finds this to be untrue. Due to the slight tapering of the muzzle, the toplines of these two features are set slightly obliquely. If one examines the heads of the breeds whose standards call for parallel planes, most notably setters and pointers, one also finds they call for a square, blunt muzzle with a prominent brow and fairly abrupt stop, which help to create the appearance of parallel planes."

TEETH: A full complement (42) of strong white teeth meet in a scissors bite. Anything other than a scissors bite is considered a fault. Teeth broken or missing by accident are not penalized. All other missing teeth should be faulted with the severity increasing with the number that are missing. DISQUALIFICATIONS: Undershot bite. Overshot bite exceeding 1/8 inch.

*****Reasons: There are a few punctuation changes for clarification. The Standard has always required a "full complement" of teeth, but missing teeth have become an increasing problem in the breed. Thus the "full complement" has been further clarified by stating the correct number of teeth for a canine. Since wry (crooked) bites are undesirable for a canine, the wording about an even bite was revised to fault any bite other than the correct scissors bite.*

EYES: The eyes are very expressive, showing attentiveness and intelligence. They are clear, almond-shaped, of moderate size, and set a little obliquely, neither prominent nor sunken. The pupils are dark, well defined, and perfectly positioned. Color is brown, blue, amber; or any variation or combination, including flecks and marbling. All eye colors are acceptable in combination with all coat colors. FAULTS: Round eyes; loose lower lids.

*****Reasons: The fact that all eye colors are acceptable with all colors is clarified. Both loose lower lids and round eyes are faulted as a serious deviation from the ideal of almond shaped eyes. Loose lower lids can collect debris, as well as encourage tearing, and are most often found in conjunction with a round shaped eye. Round eyes are more likely to protrude and are common in breeds who are prone to injury resulting in the eye coming out of the socket.*

EARS: The ears, set high on the side of the head, are triangular, of moderate size and slightly rounded at the tip. The tip of the ear reaches to, but no further than, the inside corner of the nearest eye. At full attention, they should lift from one-quarter (1/4) to one-half (1/2) above the base and break forward. Severe Faults: Oversized; no lift from the base; lowset; prick.

*****Reasons: Clarification that the measurement to the inside corner of the eye is the ideal. Rewording of description of where the ear breaks which does not change the meaning but emphasizes the fact that the ear should have lift. Adhering to the original Australian Shepherd ideal ear described as breaking slightly forward, this was not*

changed. The previous severe fault of hound ears is defined since there is no glossary definition of a hound ear.

NECK AND BODY: The neck is firm, clean, and in proportion to the body. It is of medium length and slightly arched at the crest, setting well into the shoulders. The body is firm and muscular. The topline appears level at a natural four-square stance. The bottom line carries well back with a moderate tuck-up. The chest is deep and strong with ribs well sprung. The loin is strong and broad when viewed from the top. The croup is moderately sloping, the ideal being thirty (30) degrees from the horizontal. Tail is straight, not to exceed four (4) inches, natural bobtail or docked.

*****No change except for a sentence switch to follow the lines of the dog.*

FOREQUARTERS: The shoulder blades (scapula) are well laid back, with the upper arm (humerus) slightly longer than the shoulder blade. The forelegs are straight and strong, perpendicular to the ground, with moderate bone. The point of the elbow is set under the withers and is equidistant from the withers to the ground. Pasterns are short, thick, and strong, but still flexible, showing a slight angle when viewed from the side. Feet are oval shaped, compact, with close knit, well-arched toes. Pads are thick and resilient; nails short and strong. Dewclaws may be removed.

*****Reasons: The reference to measuring two fingers width was removed because it is not an equal measurement for a 23" dog and an 18" bitch. The forty-five (45) degree angle was removed because it has been established that this is not a realistic angle for a dog. The statement regarding the scapula and humerus were added for accuracy. The reference to "powerful" legs was changed to "strong" since the word powerful may give the impression of heavy bone. The addition of "moderate bone" was to reinforce that this is a moderate breed that should not be fine boned nor should it have massive bone for its size.*

HINDQUARTERS: Width of hindquarters is approximately equal to the width of the forequarters at the shoulders. The angulation of the pelvis and upper thigh (femur) corresponds to the angulation of the shoulder blade and upper arm. Stifles are clearly defined; hock joints moderately bent. The metatarsi are short, perpendicular to the ground, and parallel to each other when viewed from the rear. Feet are oval shaped, compact, with close-knit, well-arched toes. Pads are thick and resilient; nails short and strong. Rear dewclaws are removed.

*****Reasons: The statement of an approximate right angle was removed for accuracy.*

COAT: The coat is of medium length and texture, straight to slightly wavy, and weather resistant. The undercoat can vary in quantity with climate and is softer than the outer coat. Hair is short and smooth on the head, outside of ears, front of forelegs, and below the hocks. Backs of forelegs are moderately feathered and breeches are moderately full. There is a moderate mane and frill, more pronounced in dogs than bitches. The Australian Shepherd is a working dog and is to be shown with a natural coat. Trimming of the feet, ears, and front and rear pasterns is permissible. Whiskers are not trimmed. Severe Faults: Non-typical coats such as excessively long; overabundant/profuse; curly; smooth (short hair)

*****Reasons: Reworded the beginning sentences for better flow. Clarified just what is undercoat. Mentioned acceptable grooming to highlight that the breed should be shown naturally (especially regarding whisker trimming). Non typical coats are clarified by defining what is non-typical for the Australian Shepherd.*

COLOR: All colors are strong, clear, and rich. The recognized colors are solid black, blue merle, solid red/liver, and red/liver merle; all with or without white markings and/or tan (copper) points with no order of preference. Blacks and blue merles have a base color of jet black; reds and red merles have a base color from dark/rich red to liver (dark reddish brown). Merling is a lighter shade of the base color. The blue merle and black have black pigmentation on nose, lips, and eye-rims; the red/liver merle and red/liver have liver pigmentation on nose, lips, and eye-rims. The nose must be fully pigmented. (Small unpigmented areas are not faulted on dogs under one year of age.) White on the ear or touching the eye, and/or pink on the nose and/or eye rims must each be faulted in proportion to the amount present. White and/or copper trim is never required. When white trim is present it should not appear as the dominant overall color and must be restricted to the following locations:

On the head: White trim, when present, may appear on the muzzle, the cheeks, between the eyes, the topskull, or a combination of all. The head is dominated by a color other than white. The ears and the area around the eyes must each be completely surrounded and covered by a color other than white.

On the body: White, when present, may appear on the neck and forequarters, although the white hairline on the neck must not extend into the body beyond the point of withers, and when present on the forequarters may not extend into the body (the area between withers and tail, on sides between elbows and back of hindquarters). White trim may appear on the underside of the chest, the belly, and on the hind legs but must not extend onto the side or flank.

DISQUALIFICATIONS: Any color other than the four recognized colors. When the entire base color on solids or merles appears so weak that the color cannot be recognized as red/liver or black, it is considered a non-recognized color. White on the body (the area between withers and tail, on sides between elbows and back of hindquarters) whether it appears as splash(es), isolated spot(s), patch(es), or an extension from trim. A completely unpigmented (pink) nose.

*****Reasons: :The original authors of the 1977 Standard said it best when they wrote in the Annotations: "The combination of breed character and soundness perhaps has a stronger influence in this section than any other. The requirement for color over the eyes and exclusion of white areas on the body other than trim is necessitated by the semi-lethal factors associated with the presence of two merling genes (double or homozygous merles). Simultaneously, this description eliminates the pattern white (piebald), which is not necessarily unsound, but detracts drastically from breed character".*

In this breed, color is not just to describe breed character but can have serious health implications which made it important to make this complex section very clear. The original wording of strong, clear, and rich is clarified as well as a clarification of merling. Butterfly nose is described by defining desirable pigment which can be a health issue. Location of white on the head is specified based on original intent of the 1977 Standard combined with more recent scientific research. We now know that there is an increased incidence of deafness when white appears on and around the ears in our breed and others.

The wording of the 1977 Standard which only addressed the white at the point of the withers is made clear since it could be misinterpreted to allow white extending into the body from the forequarters. Areas where white should not exist on the body is defined while allowing the normal pattern of white underneath the dog and on the legs. Body is clearly defined. There has been discussion of whether or not stifle white is allowable, but it is not addressed in the 1977

Standard and is not an indication of homozygous merling as long as it does not extend into the body.

Disqualification have not changed but have been clarified. Non recognized colors have been clarified with a description of an extreme dilute. The original wording of "white body splashes" which was often misinterpreted has been clarified as well as describing again just what part of the dog is considered "body". The often misunderstood term "dudley nose" has been defined.

GAIT: Sound movement is essential to the breed function, which requires speed, endurance, and quickness. The trot must be smooth, free, and easy, exhibiting agility of movement with a well balanced, ground-covering natural stride. As speed increases, both front and rear feet converge equally toward the centerline of gravity beneath the body. The topline remains firm and level. Gait faults shall be penalized according to the degree of deviation from the ideal.

*****Reasons: Added explanation of why gait is so important for this breed along with clarifying that this section describes the dog at a trot. The word "equally" is added to emphasize that both front and rear feet should converge the same for proper balance, and the centerline of gravity is defined.*

SIZE: Preferred height at the withers for males is 20 to 23 inches, and for females is 18 to 21 inches. Quality, however, is not to be sacrificed in favor of size.

*****No change*

OTHER DISQUALIFICATIONS: Monorchidism and cryptorchidism.

Conformation Committee: Glenda Stephenson reported for Chair Wendy Summers.

The 2006 - 2007 session of the Conformation Committee resulted in several Rules that were of great importance to Affiliates and Club Members.

The Committee was advised of issues that caused Affiliates to be unable to secure Conformation Judges in time for the sanctioning paperwork to be submitted in time for sanctioning.

SECTION 3.10 in Chapter 3 was added so that a Club may file an Extension Request. This is done on the same form as the Judge Extension Request form. This may be found on the ASCA website.

Last year, some Affiliates had situations where their Point Schedule had been reported to them in error. The Conformation Committee stepped up to the plate and submitted an Emergency Motion to the Board so that the Clubs may continue on their previous year's point schedule until the following year. Further working on the point system, Janet White and the Committee revised the Point Schedule to be calculated by the total of number of dogs shown divided by the total number of shows held for each Club. Champions of Record were no longer included in the total number of dogs. Chapter 12, Section 12.6 describes the calculation of the Point Schedule for all Affiliate Clubs.

With some Affiliates reporting poor sportsman-like behavior and abuse of dogs on their grounds, the Committee worked on two sections which were approved by the Board:

SECTION 1.10 Abuse of Dogs: Show Committees will investigate any reports of dog abuse or severe disciplining of dogs on the grounds AND THEN

SECTION 1.11 Exhibitor Conduct: which deals with foul or abusive language, yelling at exhibitors or Judges, disorderly conduct, and/or poor sportsmanship.

Violations of each of these sections shall be disciplined in accordance with Chapter 11 and the ASCA Dispute Rules and Discipline Guidelines.

In tightening up the Rules regarding Judges and their conduct, the Committee submitted to the BOD, and was subsequently approved: SECTION 7.6: Which governs what dogs that a Judge may not pass judgment on.

Expanding the Rules in CHAPTER 9: CONDITIONS OF DOGS AFFECTING ELIGIBILITY the Committee added a section on dogs that are entered in the Intact Program. Dogs that have had a had a vasectomy, will be disqualified. HOWEVER, a male that has had a vasectomy may be entered as the Stud Dog in the Stud Dog Class, or other Non-Regular classes, or in the Altered Conformation Program.

FINALLY, the Committee worked very diligently, with the leadership of Peter Kontos, on the Conformation Finals which is our addition of Chapter 15. It is a very intricate and fabulous system describing the event, its Rules and procedures. As ASCA has Finals for the performance events, it is without a doubt that the Conformation venue needs its own Finals system to showcase the Top 30 of Altered and Intact Conformation dogs. This spectacular event will be implemented at the 2008 Nationals!!

Our Committee will be working on topics that will be of interest to the fancy, and hopefully be able to assist Affiliates and Members alike on projects that are brought before the Committee.

Our Committee wishes to thank Wendy Summers, our Chairperson for her support with the 2006 – 2007 Committee. Welcome David Clayton and Heather Heron to the Conformation Committee.

DNA & Genetics Committee – Ann B. DeChant, Liaison

“I am now Chris Reedy, DNA & Genetics Committee Chair.” The following was read:

ASCA's DNA Parentage Verification Program is back on track after some months of difficulty. Owners are now able to have a certificate in hand from the Business Office in about 6 weeks from date of sample submission. Please remember to include a copy of the dog's ASCA registration paper with your DNA paperwork. This makes it easier for the lab in case they have trouble reading someone's handwriting.

The Business Office has located a source for cheek (buccal) swabs and we are very excited to announce that as a sample option. Cheek swabs can be done on puppies that have been weaned and do not require a trip to the vet. Whole blood is still the best sample because it yields the greatest amount of material. While cheek swabs are a wonderful option for ASCA Members, be cautioned that if there are not enough cells on the swab to run a test, a blood sample will be required.

The Committee came up with a list of instructions for host Clubs wanting to sponsor a blood draw at their event. This was one year that no one from the DNA Committee could be present for the draw so we created a checklist for situations like this. Special thanks to Cindy King and

Sheila Dolan for putting together this year's blood draw! And thank you to all the volunteers who helped!

Please welcome new Chair Lori Middleton and new Liaison Chris Davenport. Both will do an outstanding job in their new positions. The DNA Committee is always looking for individuals interested in serving as Members of the Committee. Please send a resume to Jo Kimes if you are interested.

As outgoing Chair, I would like to thank the Committee for all of their hard work this year and Ann DeChant, our Liaison, for her support. I have enjoyed being a part of such a groundbreaking program. Respectfully, Chris Reedy

MacRoberts: In case any of you missed it, Cheek Swabs are available!

Education Committee – Kay Marks, Committee Member reported for Chair Lisa Cameron Bell. “The Education Committee continues an effort to support the broad subject of education while focusing on individual aspects to serve the ASCA® Membership, ASCA® awareness, and visitors to the ASCA® website or the world of Australian Shepherds. The Committee is dividing into smaller projects for individual research that will be reported back to the Committee for discussion and follow up. We have begun to develop a Health Education SubCommittee which will address the educational articles on the ASCA® website, review and revise these articles, and designate suggested changes for updates. There is work on a proposal for a rotational advertising awareness campaign which would focus the venues in same fashion and timeline is the *Aussie Times* to highlight these venues, Stock, Agility, Obedience, Conformation, Juniors, and Tracking in periodicals and resources that are specific to these activities. Specific efforts have begun to address Judge education for Conformation Judges and those seeking to learn more about the Breed. We continue to review the website articles and currently we are working on a website listing for educational links and associated informational internet sites. We welcome input from the Membership with regard to what educational aspects and topics they feel need addressing and questions or suggestions how better to serve the Membership’s need with regard to Breed and ASCA® information. We continue to accept resumes and invite Membership Communication.” Lisa Cameron Bell

Kay further said: “And I will say, I’m on the Committee so we’ve been working on ads for *Clean Run*, and the local *Match Show Bulletin* and we’d like to get some sort of an ad that says ASCA® performance Events are for every dog, not just for Aussies so we can get those Service Numbers and get more other breeds involved in ASCA® Agility and Obedience. If any of you have local publications in your area, email Lisa or any Committee Members with those publications so we can get the information out there. Thank you!”

HALL OF FAME – Ann B. DeChant, Liaison

“Anne Shope is who I am now.” The following was read:

The Committee has published the Hall of Fame Excellent questionnaire in the Oct/Sept 2007 *Aussie Times*. In addition, the questionnaire was made available on the Aussie-L, ASCA-L and Herders-L. This questionnaire can also be emailed to any individual upon request. Deadline to respond is November 1, 2007. The Committee hopes you will each take the time to read the questionnaire and respond.

Please be advised the Hall of Fame Excellent was approved by the Board. The Committee wanted feedback prior to putting out a ballot for the Membership's approval. In addition

utilization of the questionnaire allowed the Committee to give feedback to the Members of ASCA on the development and reasons therefore on each section of the Hall of Fame Excellent.

Reiterating, those of you who haven't seen the Hall of Fame Excellent questionnaire are directed to your Sept/Oct Aussie Times. The HOFX questionnaire can be found in the Committee Reports section. The HOFX will not be effective until it has gone to the Membership in the form of a ballot. At this time, a ballot has not yet been formulated or scheduled.

The MVA/HOF/VCH/PCH Rulebook has been updated and the up-to-date version is now on line and available from the ASCA Office upon request.

Thank you for the feedback thus far on the HOFX. We look forward to hearing from many more of you. As always, we welcome your questions and/or comments. Should any of you wish to join this Committee, please send your resume to Jo Kimes at her email address.

Anne Shope, HOF Chair

Junior Committee – No report

MVA – No Report

Obedience Committee Report - given by Nancy Watson
Chairperson - Janet White, Board Liaison - Peter Hellmeister

“The Obedience Committee has worked on various motions this past year. We have changed the Obedience Rules to allow deaf dogs to compete, it is now clearer in the Rules how to award prizes in a split class. We also clarified that only ASCA® Members may qualify for the Obedience Finals.”

“A fun addition to our Obedience program is the Wildcard class. This class is a nonregular class in which the exhibitor and dog can drop one chosen exercise from any of the regular classes (Utility, Open, or Novice). For example, an exhibitor can trial in Wildcard utility and elect not to do the metal article exercise. The exhibitor can attempt the exercise or omit it altogether. Regardless, the Judge awards full points for the dropped exercise. The Judge must be informed prior to the run as to which exercise is to be dropped. They don't have to drop any part of the class, but they can. They must inform that Judge prior to their run. These Wildcard classes are so fun and much appreciated by exhibitors! There have been trials where the Obedience entry has literally doubled thanks to the addition of these classes. Please think of including them in your next Obedience trial and contact the Obedience Committee if you have any questions.”

“The biggest change is the addition of Utility B and Open B mixed exercises. This change takes effect January 1, 2008, and we all need your help to spread the word. The motions can be viewed in recent *Aussie Times* issues and on the ASCA website. Jean Miller and the office staff will begin to include the various orders for Utility and Open in sanctioning paperwork for all shows after January 1, 2008. (The various orders also appear on the ASCA web site.) We have also adjusted the Obedience Finals to reflect these changes. We are excited about these mixed exercises and we do hope our changes in the past year will help to entice more exhibitors to ASCA® Obedience Trials.”

“Another recent addition is the creation of Obedience Judge Worksheets with the ASCA logo on them. We have worksheets for all the classes, and they will soon be available on the ASCA web site. These worksheets should be provided for ASCA® Obedience Judges at trials and we can include a copy of each one in sanctioning paperwork if needed.”

Number of Shows
Yearly Title Report for Obedience

6/1/2006 thru 5/31/2007

OBEDIENCE (number of shows) 325
Titles Received - Aussies
177 CD, 48 CDX, 2 OTCH, 16 UD, 3 UDX
Titles Received - Other Breeds
201 CD, 58 CDX, 9 OTCH, 23 UD, 3 UDX

Number of Dogs Competing

OBEDIENCE 1008

As for our group, the Board of Directors recently approved new Members to the ASCA® Obedience Committee. We could still use a Member from Region 7 if anyone is interested. Please submit resumes at any time of the year to Jo Kimes, ASCA's Executive Secretary.

In closing, please reMember that all your ASCA® Committees are run by volunteers, and we certainly are not perfect. If you have any ideas, corrections, or if you see any inconsistencies in the Obedience Rulebook, please let our chairperson know. Her e-mail address is in every *Aussie Times* as well as on the ASCA website on the Committee page. We need you to help us make the ASCA Obedience Program better and better. Thank you.

Nancy Watson, ASCA Obedience Judge
She was asked about Committee opening. She answered that Region 7 needed Members.

Rally Committee – Kay Marks

“Current Members: Sharon Elkins, Lori Fausett, Jeri Long, Cheryl Mallonee, Robin McNeill, Cheri Preciado, Rebecca Smith, Kay Marks”

“As with any new program that starts from the ground up, developing Rally for ASCA is a challenging task. After a bumpy start last fall and some slow going at times since then, we have approved Judges' qualifications, have a good start on the Rules, and most exciting of all, some signs!! The sign subcommittee, headed up by Robin and consisting of Sharon, Jeri and most recently, Lori, has done a fine job of creating signs that will be unique to ASCA. We have approved six signs and descriptions. Kay showed some signs. We are working on several new levels as well.”

“Many thanks to Ally Bryant for her help and guidance. She's been a great liaison. We welcome Ann DeChant as new Liaison and look forward to working with her.”

“As always, please contact any of the Committee Members or myself with any comments, questions or suggestions. We welcome your input!”

Kay Marks

Jeri Long, thanks again for doing a fine job assisting with the questions after the report. We'll be glad to answer any questions if there are any.

Chris Caldwell asked, What is Rally? Jeri Long came up to explain. Long: "If you take basic Obedience and combine it with Agility, you have Rally. It is a Station system with about 12 Stations in Novice. If you take your dog into Novice, you will proceed through the stations where signs tell you what to do with your dog. You go in with your dog and a sign will tell you to start your dog with 270° right, back up and call your dog, things like that. It tells you what to do at every station. It changes like Agility does so its not that left turn all the time like you are doing Obedience. It combines it and is more interesting. For those of you who can't run in Agility or that want things to be a little calmer, AKC says Rally is a precursor to Obedience. Those who have taken it to the higher level think it's more fun. And the fun part is that you can talk to your dog the whole time. You can talk to them and encourage them through the whole course until you get to the higher levels. It's more fun! The Judges want to see you and your dog having fun."

Another question was asked: When are we going to have it? Kay stated that she can't really answer it. They are working on this as hard and as fast as they can. They are busy and it comes in spurts, but they are working it through. Questions about Judges: There has been a long discussions about it. They have Judges qualifications, but they know they won't have ASCA® Judges when they first get going, so they will have to approve Judges from other venues who have titled dogs in Rally. You title Rally in another venue and apply to Judge ASCA® Rally. Another question is will it count for MVA or HOF? They don't know. They need to get it up and running first, before any other decisions are made.

More questions were asked about Judge's qualifications, one was about the name of the Program: Rally is it so far for the name as they found out Rally is not copyrighted so they can use that, and it seems the best of all they have considered. The Judge's qualifications are a combination of other venues and Rally titles earned in another venue. You could have a CDX in Obedience and a Rally title in another venue and that could be one combination. None of the Committee Members had that part committed to memory. Kay suggested that questions like this be directed to her by email. More discussion was held about ASCA® Rally Judges. It was suggested that ASCA® encourage ASCA® Obedience Judges to become ASCA® Rally Judges. Kay answered that the Obedience Judges would have to want to be Rally Judges. Kay was asked to have Rally information posted on the website, and Kay said they would put up what they could.

Kay thanked Ally as Liaison and welcomed Ann DeChant as their new Liaison.

Stock Dog Committee – Mike Bryant, Chair
The year in review

Here are some numbers from the past year's trialing season:
Number of stockdog trials: 116 (16 of those were ranch trials).
Number of titles awarded to Aussies: 1144 (70 were WTCHs).
Number of titles awarded to other breeds: 780 (23 were WTCHs).

Judges:

The SDC approved the promotion of Provisional Stock Dog Judges Steve Shope from New Mexico and Maxine Schvaneveldt from Idaho to full Stock Dog Judges. The Committee also has

accepted Mike Tremblay from California and Mike Bryant from Georgia as Apprentice Stock Dog Judges.

Rule changes:

During the past year the SDC did not make any rule changes that directly affect competition. However some rule changes were made that will affect host Clubs.

5.7 Discrimination – The SDC added a rule that prohibits a host Club from charging contestants extra fees to be eligible for awards and prizes.

11.7.2 Finals Judges selection – There was an inconsistency in the wording dealing with the host Clubs' selection procedure. It was clarified.

4.16 Emergency Judges – The SDC added a rule that prohibits an emergency Judge from judging a trial in which he is competing or in which he owns a dog that is competing.

Two Important Documents

The SDC will be publishing two important documents in the upcoming November-December issue of the *Aussie Times*.

First, at the request of our Board of Directors, the SDC has developed an educational document on the Working Description. It is composed of a set of Frequently Asked Questions and answers. Its purpose is to present the intent and benefits of the Working Description.

The second item deals with the development of a new Farm Trial component of our program. Last year we formed a subCommittee to work with a proposal brought to us by a group of ASCA stockdog contestants. The proposal describes a new type of stock dog trial similar to our Ranch Trial, but conducted in smaller areas with fewer head of livestock. The subCommittee recently released a first draft with their proposed changes. I have included the full text of this document in the next SDC Report.

Committee Members

During the Nationals of odd-numbered years, contestant Members to the SDC are appointed to two-year terms. This year, all current contestant Members except one will be returning to serve for another two-year term. Cathe Walker, from Region 2, has been on the SDC for quite a few years, and she decided that it is time for her to step down. Cathe has made enormous contributions to the SDC, including editing our Rule Book, building an index for the Rule Book, reorganizing our Trialing Guidelines, and writing questions for our Judge's Tests. On behalf of the SDC, I would like to thank Cathe for all of her hard work and her dedication to the working Aussie. Sherry Baker will be the new contestant Member from Region 2.

So for the next year, this will be the SDC roster:

Contestants (one from each region):

Sherry Baker, California, Region 2
Chris Caldwell, Washington, Region 1
Anneke de Jong, The Netherlands, Region 7

Joan Holmes, Alberta, Canada, Region 3
Sue Kelly, Michigan, Region 4
Melinda May, Texas, Region 5
Bill Pechka-King, Connecticut, Region 6

Judges (selected at-large):

Rick Hardin, Colorado
Preston Kissman, Oklahoma
Steve Shope, New Mexico
Ken Silveira, Oregon
Kathy Warren, California

On behalf of the SDC, I would also like to thank Maarten Walter for working with us as our liaison for this past year. His term as a Member of ASCA's Board of Directors ends tonight, and so the SDC is in the midst of selecting a new liaison to work with us this coming year.

Finally, on behalf of the SDC, I would like to thank all ASCA Members who have contributed their ideas. We welcome our Members continued involvement, contributions, and comments on any Stockdog Program issue. Remember that we have available to all ASCA Members an electronic newsletter that is a compilation of all non-confidential Committee discussions. We also offer an email list for sending feedback to the Committee. Instructions on how to subscribe to these services can be found in every SDC Report in the *Aussie Times*.

Rachel Vest asked: SDC Meeting was held earlier this week, and an idea was to put together packets of information so that Judge's seminars could be held around the country. If you are interested in working on this with the list Mike already has, let Mike know.

Tracking Committee – Celeste Kelly, Chair

Celeste began by saying goodbye to long-time Liaison, Linda Gray and welcoming Michelle Berryessa as new Liaison. She wants to thank Committee Members who are leaving, Deb St. Jacques, Judy Whitacre from Florida, Jane Palmer, and welcomed new Members, Renee D'Sourcy from Wisconsin, Margaret Abrahamson from New York, Meghan Rosenstengel from Michigan is returning.

We have reworked out Charts and a couple of things for the Office, our sanctioning form, we also have a new Judge's application Form and a provisional Judges program so that we can have Provisional Judges judging with Regular Judges so that they can learn the nuts and bolts of judging Tracking. We are also working really hard and we really want your feedback. We are trying to figure out how to expand this program and make it more available and more apparent to everybody. One of the ideas being floated is having an Urban TD, in an environment like this we could have a Urban test that would not be a field test, where we could use terrain like this so that everyone could see what happens with a Tracking Dog when it's working on a track. We will be sending out a survey on ASCA®-L. Anybody who has got input for us, we really hope you will complete it and send it back to us. We are short Committee Members and we have no one now in the Florida or Texas areas. We are short three Members, and we would love to have someone on the Committee from Canada and Europe so that we can have input from Tracking programs that are different from what we see in the US.

MacRoberts: Two announcements...we do not have a quorum and if you have not received your travel mug and luggage tag for ASCA®'s Anniversary, they will be available at the end of

the meeting on your way out.

He opened to floor to New Business:

Ally Bryant gave an update on ASCA®'s Foundation donation for Epilepsy Research. "At last year's Nationals, there was an Agility Trial that was a fundraiser for Epilepsy Research which raised about \$7000, with other donations to the ASCA® Foundation, ASCA® ended up sending about \$14,000 to the University of Missouri for an Epilepsy Study. The good news is that they have chosen two families that they have decided are good representatives as far as their family tree to run a study on, and I got a call from my contact at the U of Missouri with a report that they sent 64 samples on dogs to Finland. They have a large computer in Finland that they use to run DNA test and looking for commonalities on affected dogs. It will take about a month to run the tests and analyze the data and they might know something as to whether it is simple recessive, polygenic, or just more information about how Epilepsy is represented in our breed. They will send the results to the U of Mo, and I don't think this will be the end all solution, it may be that it needs further analysis if it's polygenic, they may need more samples in affected families, so they did say to continue to send in more samples on affected dogs and their families. We are making progress, and the money has been spent on analysis."

Leah Swatko thanked those who worked on ASCA® Foreign Registry program. There are still a few bugs that need to be worked out on it. But she hopes that she will have the first few dogs that will be registered through that program. They are deserving dogs, and they will contribute to the general ASCA® Gene Pool and, "I think it is beneficial to all of us. I'd like to see it made a little easier for people to comprehend and get through it."

Glenda Stephenson took the mic and asked a question, "How many parents have dogs with their children's name as co-owner? Please raise your hand. Did you know they can't? Just recently, I sent in a registration paper and it came back, error. I looked at it, and it had my husband's name on it. So when I sent the papers back, I asked to have my daughter's name put on it. My daughter didn't have a Membership Number, however, my husband and I have a family Membership, which there is no such thing as either. I was told that my daughter had to have a Membership number in order to not pay a non-Membership fee. So, to which at the time the papers went through, she was seven years old and was not eligible for any of our Membership applications that we have right now. I do have my papers now, so I'm not complaining about that. What I do have a problem with is someday my daughter, if she wants to be a Judge, she has to be the owner/breeder/handler of that dog, and also in our Junior Rulebook, and I'm quoting, Section 8. To earn points in the Junior Program the youth must own or co-own the dog or must be the owners or co-owners of the family Members. But. I still do have a problem because, my daughter wants to have her name...she feeds the dog and scoops the poop, she gives them a bath and when the puppies are born, she is out there cleaning the pen. She deserves her name on the papers. I have always submitted the application with my name as the owner and my daughter as the co-owner, and I sign her name as the minor child. So, I am denoting that she is a minor on the legal document. Please fix it. She wants her name on the papers. And everyone else out there who is hauling dogs for the Junior Program. They deserve recognition.

MacRoberts: Agreed. Thanks Glenda, and it is something we are working on primarily because, you alerted us to the problem. Thank you!

Deb St. Jacques: My daughter Renee was working toward her ATCH with her dog when she was a Junior. Once she aged out, she lost all of her points earned on that dog and he has to go back to Novice. She is in college now and can't seem to get anymore points on his ATCH. Patrick said that the Agility Committee is aware of the problem and they will be addressing this.

Roger Stevens asked about the Bylaws and when they will be published.

Patrick MacRoberts: "We will be bringing the Bylaws to the Membership in the next *Aussie Times*, not the next issue, but the one after that. The new Bylaws will be published. We are looking for comments. Instructions will be published along with the Bylaws, so read through those things. If there are any issues, please get it to us. We are looking at a 2009, or 2010 ballot item to get those things through. Your input is essential to get that done."

Tenley Dexter asked a question and Patrick restated her question. "Are they going to be voted on piecemeal or all in one document? How we will vote on them is not yet decided. Let us know how you want to vote on them. They haven't even been passed by the Board. We have to pass them before they can go you for votes."

Rachel Vest: "There has been a lot of talk on the list about mandatory DNA. We are just wondering what the Board has decided about mandatory DNA at this time, because we are concerned with the loss of Membership and the loss of dogs being registered, there might be extremely detrimental to ASCA® to go to mandatory DNA at this time." MacRoberts: "There were two motions to push forward with Mandatory DNA, and I believe both of those Motions were defeated last month. The DNA Committee was asked to do more education work for the Membership, and we will revisit that issue at a later time."

Motion to close the Meeting by Michelle Berryessa and was seconded by many. The Meeting was adjourned at about 8:26 p.m. with Anniversary cake and freebies at the back.

Respectfully submitted,



Ann B. DeChant,
ASCA® Secretary