

Secretary's Report

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

January 1 – January 31, 2008

04:05 AGILITY COMMITTEE - Multiple Judges

Motion by McNamara.

I move the following from the Agility Committee:

Motion by Ally, 2nd from Art. It passed with 4 members voting 'yes', 3 voting 'no' and 3 'abstain'.

Add section 7.3 Judge Restrictions and renumber the remaining sections in that chapter.

Section 7.3 Judge Restrictions

Judges may not compete in any classes (class and level) in which they are officiating. However, a judge may compete in a trial in which he is officiating with the following restrictions:

1. The judge must complete judging of all assigned runs for a day prior to competing that particular day. Or a judge must compete in all runs a day prior to judging for that particular day. The judge may not judge runs, take a break to compete and then judge more runs in one day.
2. The judge and/or any dogs owned or handled by the judge shall not be eligible for any High In Trial awards for any days while judging, or any High Combined or weekend awards for the trial they are judging.

Rationale: This motion is to address some concerns of how it looks when a judge leaves their ring to go run a dog in other rings. While it usually works pretty well, we don't want the appearance of impropriety.

Directors voting: Approve: Hellmeister, McNamara, DeChant, Aufox, Berryessa & Davenport. Disapprove: MacRoberts. Abstain: Gann & Stevens. Motion is approved.

98:15 OBEDIENCE COMMITTEE - Ch. 1, Sec. 2.

Motion by Hellmeister.

[I move to accept the following recommendation of the OB committee, effective 6/1/08:](#)

Motion by Burlingame, second by White:

Chapter 1, Section 2 subsection 2.1 -

Replace the last two (2) sentences with the following: "Novice, Open and Utility classes will be divided into "A" and "B". The Novice "A" and "B" classes and Open "A" and "B" classes may, at the judges discretion, be combined for group exercises. The rest of subsection 2.1 will remain the same. Additionally, the "Reason" listed at the end of subsection 2.2 should be removed - those reasons are only listed in our motions to the board so they understand why we are asking

for the changes. REASON: To bring this section into line with the rest of the rules now that it is required for the Utility class to be divided into "A" and "B".

Committee voting: unanimous approval

Directors voting: Approve: Unanimous. Motion is approved.

98:15 OBEDIENCE COMMITTEE - Ch. 3.

Motion by Hellmeister.

I move to accept the following recommendation of the OB committee, effective 6/1/08

I move the following changes be entered in the Obedience rulebook

Rational: These changes will clearly define permitted off-lead hand and arm positions for ASCA®.

Re: Revision # 3 Arm and hand positions for off leash heeling

CHAPTER 2 Regulations for Performance and Judging

Section 19: Hands

Paragraph 1: add after sentence # 2: In exercises in which the dog is required to heel off leash (free), one of the options below must be followed: (1) The handler's arms and hands shall move naturally at their sides while in motion and hang naturally at their sides when stopped, or (2) the handler's right hand and arm shall move naturally at their side while their left hand shall be held against and centered in front of the body in the area of the waist. The left forearm shall be carried, as much as possible, against the body. The rest of the 1st paragraph remains the same.

Paragraph # 2 remains the same.

CHAPTER 3: NOVICE

Section 5: Heel On Leash and Figure Eight

Paragraph 1 and 2 remain unchanged.

Paragraph # 3: Delete current sentence # 1 and replace sentence # 1 with: The leash may be held in either hand or both hands, providing the hands are held in the positions specified in Chapter 2, section 19. The rest of paragraph # 3 remains unchanged.

Paragraph 4 and 5 remain unchanged.

Section 6: Heel on Leash & Figure Eight, Scoring

Paragraph # 3, add the following: Substantial or minor deductions shall be made for hand and arm positions that deviate from those allowed in Chapter 2, Section 19, Hands.

Paragraph # 4 remains the same.

Section 9: Heel Free, performance and Scoring

Add as second sentence: For permitted arm and hand positions, see Chapter 2, section 19

Hands. Last sentence remains the same CHAPTER 4: OPEN Section 5: Heel Free and Figure Eight Performance and Scoring

Committee voting: Yes: Sandy, Victoria, Nancy, Mary, Laura, Kim, Cindy, Lynn, Mary Ann
Disapproved: Janet, Mirjam, and Diane

Directors voting: Approve: McNamara, Hellmeister, Aufox, Davenport, MacRoberts DeChant and Berryessa. Abstain: Stevens & Gann. Motion is approved.

98:15 OBEDIENCE COMMITTEE - Ch. 9.

Motion by Hellmeister.

[I move to accept the following recommendation from the OB committee, effective date 6/1/08](#)

Motion by Burlingame, second by White:

Chapter 9: Honorary Titles. Please replace this chapter with the following The title of Honor Dog will be accorded to any ASCA registered Australian Shepherd who receives a score of 195 or better in the first three (3) attempts toward any obedience title. Each team will be acknowledged for their achievement with their name and a picture in the Aussie Times. Reason: To clarify that the title of Honor dog should not be awarded to a team that might flunk one of their first three attempts at a title. This award is meant for teams that qualify and obtain the needed scores in the first three trials they show in.

Committee vote: Unanimous approval

Directors voting: Approve: Unanimous. Motion is approved.

04:05 AGILITY COMMITTEE - New Section 4.1.4.

Motion by McNamara.

I move the following:

Motion by Ally, 2nd by Art. This motion passed with 6 yes votes (Sue, Ally, Art, Pete, Pamela & Andrea) and 4 no votes (Margaret, Cynthia, Lisa & Justyna). Effective date would be June 1, 2008.

Add a new section called 'Section 4.1.4 Scoring - Obstacle Faults' (H)

Re-attempting an obstacle - Elimination If the handler elects to re-attempt an obstacle after earning a 'failure to complete' penalty (on that obstacle) and/or does not continue on after instructed by the judge, the judge shall eliminate the team (on the basis of training) and they will have standard course time (SCT) to finish the run.

Directors voting: Approve: Hellmeister, Aufox, Gann, Davenport, MacRoberts & DeChant.
Disapprove: McNamara & Stevens. Abstain: Berryessa. Motion is approved.

00:15 BREED STANDARD REVIEW COMMITTEE - Motion to approve Proposed Revisions. Motion by DeChant.

Subject: Breed Standard Review Committee Motion to approve Proposed Revisions
To The ASCA Board,

In addition to having the proposed revisions in the November Aussie Times, the document has been on the website since right after the Nationals. In October the link was announced on all of the Australian Shepherd internet lists that we are aware of with permission to cross post. To date the committee has received nine comments. Three were simply complimenting the work with no specifics. Two were addressing ears and there was a discussion on the judge's list between half a dozen individuals on this section. Basically those who discussed the section appear to think that there is no problem in the breed with oversized ears. One comment received was about mentioning grooming, one wanted more detail in the color section, and two were pertaining to the forequarter section. Of those two, one was non specific and the other one was asking for clarification, and we received no further discussion after an explanation was sent. All were answered with further explanation.

At this time since we are not receiving any objections from the membership, we have made the attached motion for this to be given to the membership for a vote.

Thank you very much,
Breed Standard Review Committee

Breed Standard Proposed Revisions
Motion: DeChant

I move that the Board of Directors go through this proposal and vote on each section keeping in mind that this is going to be presented to the Membership section by section and that a section must be unanimously approved by the Board for it to go to the Membership. Each section has a "C" which can be used to provide feedback to the Committee so that if there is a small change, it could be made and then considered again.

I hope this makes sense, if not, please ask. Ann

The following motion was approved by Sandy Cornwell, Sunday Miles, Kim Cochran, Terry Martin, Shelly Hollen, Kristin McNamara, Cheri Preciado, Linda Bell. Non voting: Ernie Hartnagle

I move to request that the Board of Directors approve the following sections of the proposed revisions to the ASCA Breed Standard, and if the Board supports a section unanimously that it be sent to the Membership as a ballot question in the 2008 ASCA Election.

Proposed two new sentences to be placed at the top of the Standard:

*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.*

Addition of new introductory wording:

A. Approved: DeChant, Gann, Davenport, McNamara, Berryessa

Disapproved: Stevens

B. Doesn't need to be changed from the original: [MacRoberts](#)

C. Needs to be changed and here is how it needs to be changed (please use strike outs for words to be removed and underlines for words to be added) [Aufox and Hellmeister](#): Eliminate the word "true". It is pretentious, egotistical and not correct. There are other working stockdogs

| - a Border Collie is an example.

Section #1 Original Below same as Proposed – no change

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.

GENERAL APPEARANCE

A. Approved: DeChant, Gann, Davenport, McNamara, Aufox, Hellmeister, Berryessa

Disapproved: Stevens

B. Doesn't need to be changed from the original: [MacRoberts](#)

C. Needs to be changed and here is how it needs to be changed (please use strike outs for words to be removed and underlines for words to be added) _____

Section #2 Original:

CHARACTER

: The Australian Shepherd is intelligent, primarily a working dog of strong herding and guardian instincts. He is an 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. Although an aggressive, authoritative worker, viciousness toward people or animals is intolerable.

Proposed:

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.*

CHARACTER:

A. Approved: DeChant, Gann, Davenport, McNamara,

Disapproved: Stevens

B. Doesn't need to be changed from the original _____

C. Needs to be changed and here is how it needs to be changed (please use strike outs for words to be removed and underlines for words to be added))_Aufox and Hellmeister: Again the use of a superlative is inappropriate in this context. MacRoberts: Delete the word "unusually" Berryessa: This unusually versatile stockdog works with an upright style, working close to the stock, but capable of working at a distance as needed and close, with the power and quickness to control difficult cattle as well as the ability to move sheep without unnecessary roughness.

Section # 3 Original:

HEAD

Clean-cut, strong, dry and in proportion to the body. The topskull is flat to slightly rounded, its length and width each equal to the length of the muzzle which is in balance and proportioned to the rest of the head. The muzzle tapers slightly to a rounded tip. The stop is moderate but well-defined.

Proposed:

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 topskull 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 toplines of the muzzle and topskull appear close to parallel with the topskull 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 toplines 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."

HEAD:

A. Approved: DeChant, Gann, Davenport, McNamara, Aufox, Hellmeister, MacRoberts, Berryessa

Disapproved: Stevens

- B. Doesn't need to be changed from the original _____
C. Needs to be changed and here is how it needs to be changed (please use strike outs for words to be removed and underlines for words to be added) _____

Section #3a Original:

(A) TEETH; A full compliment of strong, white teeth meet in a scissors bite. An even bite is a fault. Teeth broken or missing by accident are not penalized.

Disqualifications: Undershot bites, overshot bite exceeding 1/8 inches.

Proposed:

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.*

TEETH

A. Approved: DeChant, Gann, Davenport, McNamara, Aufox, Hellmeister, MacRoberts, Berryessa

Disapproved: Stevens

B. Doesn't need to be changed from the original _____

C. Needs to be changed and here is how it needs to be changed (please use strike outs for words to be removed and underlines for words to be added) _____

Section #3b Original:

(B EYES: Very expressive, showing attentiveness and intelligence. Clear, almond-shaped, and of moderate size, set a little obliquely, neither prominent nor sunken, with pupils dark, well-defined and perfectly positioned. Color is brown, blue, amber, or any variation or combination including flecks and marbling.

Proposed:

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.*

EYES

A. Approved: DeChant, Gann, Davenport, McNamara, Aufox, Hellmeister, Berryessa

Disapproved: Stevens

B. Doesn't need to be changed from the original _____

C. Needs to be changed and here is how it needs to be changed (please use strike outs for words to be removed and underlines for words to be added) : *MacRoberts: Remove the faults cited. Unless they are severe faults or issues prevalent in what we're seeing in the ring, I feel that should be reserved to the judgement of the judge. Accompany this document with a revised version of the "Annotations".*

Section #3c Original:

(C) EARS: Set on high at the side of the head, triangular and slightly rounded at the tip, of moderate size with length measured by bringing the tip of the ear around to the inside corner of the eye. The ears at full attention, break slightly forward and over from one-quarter (1/4) to one-half (1/2) above the base. Prick ears and hound type ears are severe faults.

Proposed:

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 slightly 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.*

EARS

A. Approved: DeChant, Gann, Davenport, McNamara, Aufox, Hellmeister, MacRoberts,

Berryessa

Disapproved: Stevens

B. Doesn't need to be changed from the original _____

C. Needs to be changed and here is how it needs to be changed (please use strike outs for words to be removed and underlines for words to be added) _____

Section #4 Original:

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 chest is deep and strong with ribs well-sprung. The loin is strong and broad when viewed from the top. The bottom line carries well back with a moderate tuck-up. 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.

Proposed:

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.*

NECK AND BODY

A. Approved: DeChant, Gann, Davenport, McNamara, Aufox, Hellmeister, Berryessa

Disapproved: Stevens

B. Doesn't need to be changed from the original: [MacRoberts](#)

C. Needs to be changed and here is how it needs to be changed (please use strike outs for words to be removed and underlines for words to be added) _____

Section #5 Original:

FOREQUARTERS: The shoulder blades (scapula) are long and flat, close set at the withers, approximately two fingers width at a natural stance and are well laid back at an angle approximately forth-five (45) degrees to the ground. The upper arm (humerus) is attached at an approximate right angle to the shoulder line with the forelegs dropping straight and perpendicular to the ground. The elbow joint is equidistant from the ground to the withers. The legs are straight and powerful. 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.

Proposed:

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.

FOREQUARTERS

A. Approved: DeChant, Gann, Davenport, Aufox, Hellmeister, Berryessa
Disapproved: Stevens

B. Doesn't need to be changed from the original _____

C. Needs to be changed and here is how it needs to be changed (please use strike outs for words to be removed and underlines for words to be added) **McNamara: FOREQUARTERS:** The shoulder blades (scapula) are well laid back, approximating forty-five (45) degrees when viewed from the side, 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.

MacRoberts: ___ I don't like this rewrite—as it doesn't give any "rules of thumb" for relative measures or an idea of what angulation is appropriate for our breed. The old version, even though it was wrong, tried to.

Section #6 Original:

HINDQUARTERS: Width of hindquarters 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 forming an approximate right angle. 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.

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.

HINDQUARTERS

A. Approved: DeChant, Gann, Davenport, McNamara, Aufox, Hellmeister, Berryessa
Disapproved: Stevens

B. Doesn't need to be changed from the original _____

C. Needs to be changed and here is how it needs to be changed (please use strike outs for words to be removed and underlines for words to be added) **MacRoberts:** Again, rather than

giving “approximate” measures, they’ve been removed because they “weren’t right”. It seems to me that we’d be better off leaving it as-is rather than opening the doors to “balanced” but “equally overangulated” dogs. How are you planning to keep that from happening? Is there a companion document?

Section #7 Original:

COAT: Of medium texture, straight to slightly wavy, weather resistant, of moderate length with an undercoat. The quantity of undercoat varies with climate. Hair is short and smooth on the head, outside of ears, front of forelegs and below the hocks. Backs of forelegs are moderately feathered; breeches are moderately full. There is a moderate mane and frill, more pronounced in dogs than bitches. Non-typical coats are severe faults.

Proposed:

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.*

COAT

A. Approved: DeChant, Gann, Davenport, Aufox, Hellmeister, MacRoberts

Disapproved: Stevens

B. Doesn't need to be changed from the original _____

C. Needs to be changed and here is how it needs to be changed (please use strike outs for words to be removed and underlines for words to be added) McNamara: 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)

Berryessa: Whiskers may be left ~~are not~~ untrimmed.

In reality, I don't think this should be in the coat section, it would be better placed in the Head section.

Section #8 Original:

COLOR: All colors are strong, clear and rich. The recognized colors are blue merle, red (liver) merle, solid black, and solid red (liver) all with or without white markings and/or tan (copper) points with no order of preference. The blue merle and black have black pigmentation on nose, lips and eye-rims. Reds and red merles have liver pigmentation on nose, lips and eye rims. Butterfly nose should not be faulted under one year of age. On all colors the areas surrounding the ears and eyes are dominated by color other than white. The hairline of a white collar does not exceed the point of the withers.

Disqualifications: Other than recognized colors. White body splashes Dudley nose.

Proposed:

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.

COLOR

A. Approved: Gann, Davenport, McNamara, Aufox, Hellmeister

Disapproved: Stevens

B. Doesn't need to be changed from the original _____

C. Needs to be changed and here is how it needs to be changed (please use strike outs for words to be removed and underlines for words to be added)

DeChant: On the body: White is a trim color only and, when present, may appear on the neck as a collar with bib (not as a cape), and forequarters, although the white hairline on the neck must not extend into the body beyond the point of withers. Color on the shoulders is the ideal, but and when present on the forequarters, white 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 appearing as a fringe along the underline, on the hind legs up to the tarsus (hock joint), and as a thin line along the bend of stifle, but this trim must not extend onto the side or flank.

MacRoberts: *Can you make it less wordy? We *aren't* a "color" breed—and this has taken a life of its own. Much of this could be covered in a companion document. White is allowable to a certain level, and that level must be defined—however, it shouldn't become the whole section. The DQ portion describes much more consisely what you're trying to say in "On the head" "On the body". Pick one. Delete the definition of "Merling".*

Berryessa: *I'm not sure just what wording would complete this work, but I am concerned about the comment "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." Just what defines the line between underside of chest and side? Many dogs have a finger of white that extends from the underside of the chest up a short distance. I don't think this has ever been traced to health problems, but is a normal in our breed.*

Section #9 Original:

GAIT: Smooth, free and easy; exhibiting agility of movement with a well-balanced, ground covering stride. Fore and hind legs move straight and parallel with the center line of the body, as speed increases, the feet, both front and rear, converge toward the center line of gravity of the dog, while the topline remains firm and level.

Proposed:

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.*

GAIT

A. Approved: DeChant, Gann, Davenport, McNamara, Aufox, Hellmeister, Berryessa

Disapproved: Stevens

B. Doesn't need to be changed from the original _____

C. Needs to be changed and here is how it needs to be changed (please use strike outs for words to be removed and underlines for words to be added) *MacRoberts: ___ I approve, but I'd hesitate to put in the last sentence and if you must keep it, use the word "faulted" (as you have done in the other similar sentences) instead of "penalized"._*

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*

SIZE

A. Approved: DeChant, Gann, Davenport, McNamara, Aufox, Hellmeister, Berryessa

Disapproved: Stevens

B. Doesn't need to be changed from the original *MacRoberts*

C. Needs to be changed and here is how it needs to be changed (please use strike outs for words to be removed and underlines for words to be added) _____

OTHER DISQUALIFICATIONS: Monorchidism and cryptorchidism.

Approved:

Appointing to the Rally Committee: Janice Dearth, Region 3, and Corey Norman, Region 4
Changing registered litter #78619 by replacing a recorded red merle male with a red merle female.

Retaining ASCA®'s ATTORNEY - Chuck Carnese for 2008

Allowing ASCA EMPLOYEES to add their spouses to ASCA®'s Dental Insurance policy at their expense

Fining Delta ASF for a violation of Section 7.14 of the Show Rules and Regulations, "No judging shall occur at any show prior to the time specified in the judging schedule"

