

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.

June 1- 30, 2008

93:17 STOCK DOG RULES - Farm Trial.

Motion by Davenport.

I move the following motion. Originally it had attachments but I have incorporated them into the text of the motion.

I would suggest that you read it now and if you have concerns, etc. - state them now so maybe we can get this approved in the June voting.

Approve: Baker, Bryant, Caldwell, deJong, Hardin, Holmes, Kelly, Kissman, May, Pechka-King, Shope, Silveira, Warren Non-voting: Silveira. The motion is approved.

Motion by: Warren, Second by: Bryant

I move to put the Farm Trial Dog Stockdog Program into effect 30 days after it appears in the Aussie Times. Attached are the Farm Trial Stockdog Program and Farm Dog Trial Score Sheet.

Comments: This has been a long time coming. A lot of work has gone into it. Time to start using it.

CHAPTER 11: Farm Trial Dog Stockdog Program

Section 1 - Purpose and Objective

The Farm Trial program provides a variable chore oriented venue in which to display the Australian Shepherd's practical skills as an all around stockdog.

Section 2 - Eligibility

The Farm Trial Program is open to all herding breeds or crossbreds of those breeds listed in Eligible Herding Breeds Appendix. To be eligible for certification, entrants other than ASCA-Registered Australian Shepherds must have an ASCA Registration Tracking Number. (See: HERDING BREEDS OTHER THAN AUSTRALIAN SHEPHERDS)

Section 3 - Livestock

1. Classes of livestock will be cattle, sheep/goats, and/or fowl. Cattle will have the designation (c), sheep/goats will have the designation (s), fowl which includes ducks, chickens, geese and turkeys will have the designation (d).

Multiple classes of stock may be used in the course design. The designation (m) will be used to indicate the dog worked multiple classes of stock in a single course. If multiple classes of stock are used they must not be mixed but worked independently.

2. There must be a minimum of 5 head of stock used in all aspects of the course.
3. The number of runs allowed per head of stock will be a maximum of three (3) per day.
4. After a group of stock has run the course, they are required to rest at least 1 run before being used in any portion of the course again.
5. Maximum runs allowed per trial will be determined by length of run, number of stock available and rules governing time and number of runs a judge can judge per day.

Section 4 - Farm Trial Divisions

1. There are two Farm Trial Divisions, Open and Advanced. All dogs, whether competing for certification or not, must enter in the Open Division and progress through Advanced. Titles are earned in a division when two (2) qualifying scores are received from two different courses under two different judges in each division and class AND when official notice is received from the ASCA Business Office.

After receiving two (2) qualifying scores in a division, regardless of whether the certificate has or has not been received from the ASCA Business Office, the dog may continue to compete in that division for up to sixty (60) days OR may move up immediately to the next division in the same class of stock.

2. The host organization is required to offer the following divisions without priority to any division:

a. Open Farm Trial Dog (OFTD) is for dogs six (6) months of age or older on the day of the trial that have not earned an Open or Advanced Farm Dog Title for the class entered. Any dog that has received two (2) qualifying scores in the Open Division may continue to compete in this division for up to a sixty (60) day period after earning the second qualifying score regardless of whether the certificate has or has not been received. Prizes and placements are still awarded during this sixty (60) day period.

Note: In the open divisions, once a dog has earned two (2) qualifying scores in the division you may choose to move up to the next division immediately in that class of stock or you may choose to stay in that division for up to sixty (60) days and compete for points, placements and awards.

b. Advanced Farm Trial Dog (AFTD) is for dogs that have been certified or have qualified for Open Farm Trial Dog for the class being entered. Any dog certified Advanced Farm Trial Dog may continue to compete in the Advanced Farm Trial Dog division for that class.

Section 5 - The Farm Trial Course

1. Required Tasks

Because of the varying setups of farms around the country, no two farm trial courses will necessarily be the same. Each course should be designed to showcase the working

ability of the Australian Shepherd in the day to day tasks that happen on many farms. The course should not be overly complicated and should try to represent practical work type situations where a dog needs to move stock in an efficient and stress-free manner.

The course designer must take into account the increased difficulty for each division (OFTD, AFTD) when developing the course. Ways to increase difficulty can include, but are not limited to, length of gather, sorts of marked animals, advanced pen/chute work, handler lines, use of drives, use of task(s) that are specific to a division, etc...

The following are the minimum tasks required for an ASCA Farm Trial setup.

- a. Pen Work: Minimum of two pens needed. The work will include, but is not limited to, moving the stock from one pen to another before and after sort and/or chute work. The dog should work primarily on its own in the pens.
- b. Sorting: At least one sort is required during the course regardless of division. A sort of at least 3 marked animals is required. The work required includes the sorting of the animals and moving them to a separate pen and/or holding them in a designated area. A drafting race may be used. The dog and handler may work together during sorting.
- c. Chute Work: The stock must be put into the chute, moved through the chute, and out of it. The chute must restrict the forward movement of the livestock in such a way as to funnel down to manageable numbers to doctor or load a trailer or squeeze. The dog and handler may work together during the chute work. Chute work will include using, but not limited to, either a loading chute, or a chute leading up to a squeeze, sorting gate or drafting race. Depending on the facility, other chute type situations may be used with approval of the Stock Dog Committee.
- d. Gather: Minimum area must be large enough for a 150 foot gather (Sheep/Cattle), 75 foot gather for Poultry. This minimum gather is the distance between dog and stock. In the Open Class, the handler may help their dog by positioning themselves up to 1/2 the distance between the dog and stock. In the Advanced Class, the handler stays at the specified point.
- e. Location Specific Task(s): Along with the 4 mandatory tasks, 2 other tasks that are specific to the Course location are used.

A list of suggested tasks is listed below. These tasks have been approved by the Stock Dog Committee to fulfill this requirement. Other tasks, which are not listed below, may be used with approval from the Stock Dog Committee.

Footbath simulation
Loading into Trailer
Barn work
Blind Gather
Natural Obstacles/Bridge
Hold at designated area
Removal of halter/ribbon/collar
Field work (1 acre to no larger than 5 acres)
Scale (weigh stock)

Each required task must be attempted during the course of the trial however, depending on design of the course, there may be situations where the task must be completed in order to continue. These situations must be clearly described in the flyer for the trial. During any task, time will be called for overworking stock.

2. Time:

The minimum time required for a Farm Trial Dog Course is 10 minutes. A Farm Trial Course should mimic real work and be designed to move stock in an easy and efficient manner. There should be adequate time allotted to each course depending on its task, Class and/or Division. When running the course, each handler will be given a 3 minute warning before their time is expired. If the maximum time for the course is 20 minutes or longer a 10 minute warning should also be given.

3. Using multiple classes of livestock within the course:

The "m" in FTDm indicates acceptable work on a Farm Trial course which involved work with more than one class of livestock. For example: sheep or goats/cattle, poultry/cattle, or poultry/sheep or goats. Safety for all participants (including livestock) should be paramount when designing the course with multiple classes of livestock. Different classes of stock must not be mixed together.

Section 6 - Judging and Scoring

1. Only ASCA approved judges may be used at an ASCA sanctioned Farm Dog Trial.
2. If more than one Judge is used at any trial their scores will be averaged to determine trial placing.
3. It is the Judge's responsibility to see that the course complies with the trial sanctioning and the stock meet the minimum requirements needed to put on a quality Farm Trial.
4. Score sheet (see Appendix - Farm Trial Score Sheet):

The total number of points available is 130 for Open/Advanced, broken down as follows:

Pen Work: 25 points
Sort Work: 25 points
Chute Work: 25 points
Gather Work: 25 of total points
Location Specific Task: 15 points each

Ties are broken by the score on a specified task(s). This task(s) must be specified on the score sheet and premium.

5. Qualifying Score:

Open and Advanced Farm Trial Dogs must earn 70% or more of the total points (91/130).

6. Judging Criteria -

- a. **Task:** The main objective in ranch and farm work is to get the job done in the most efficient and stress-free manner possible. Moving the stock with little or no weight loss, stress or injury is the purpose of using stockdogs. The bulk of the score earned by the dog should be for the work accomplished during each task.
- b. **Attitude, Obedience, Power, and Teamwork:** All of these are necessary ingredients that go towards making an effective ranch or farm dog and should be considered when scoring each dog.
- c. **Qualifying Performance:** A qualifying score must never be awarded to a dog whose performance has not met the minimum requirements. In deciding whether a dog's performance warrants a qualifying score, the Judge shall consider whether the awarding of any working title would be justified. The Judge must not give a qualifying score for a run if that qualification would not be representative of this sport and was not an example of efficiently handling livestock with a minimal amount of stress.

Section 7 - Sanctioning Requirements

1. A Farm Trial Course must be approved by the Stock Dog Committee. The sanctioning request must be received by the ASCA Business Office at least 60 days prior to the trial date. The Business Office will forward the request to the Stock Dog Committee, who will review and return it to the ASCA Business Office at least 45 days prior to the trial date.
2. The Stock Dog Committee will be responsible for approving all ASCA Sanctioned Farm Trials according to the minimum standards described in Section 5.
3. In addition to a completed ASCA Farm Trial Dog Sanctioning Form, the following is required.
 - a. A complete description of the course and the order in which the tasks must be performed for each division (OFTD, AFTD)
 - b. A complete diagram of the course which includes the pens, chute, sorting area, gather layout, natural obstacles, and any additional tasks
 - c. The size of the chutes, pens, gates, and gather areas.
 - d. A copy of the flyer for the trial. The flyer must contain the following information:
 - i. Host Club, location and date(s) of trial(s)
 - ii. Course Director and ASCA Judge(s) name
 - iii. Course description for each division
 - iv. Diagram of the course
 - v. Maximum time for each division
 - vi. Warning times
 - vii. What task(s) score is used for tie-breaking
 - viii. Points for each task
 - ix. When bitches in heat can run
 - x. Maximum number of runs

- xi. When run order is drawn
- xii. Type of stock
- xiii. Pre-entry opening and closing dates
- xiv. Any other additional affiliate rules regarding entries.

e. Sanctioning fee.

4. Once approved by the Stock Dog Committee all paperwork will be forwarded to the ASCA Business Office to be processed.

Section 8- Regulations

All other rules and regulations listed in the ASCA Stockdog rules will be enforced for the Farm Trial Dog Program where applicable.

FARM TRIAL PROGRAM SCORESHEET (note from liaison - the formatting of this scoresheet is correct when an attachment which is what will go to the Business Office once passed)

AUSTRALIAN SHEPHERD CLUB OF AMERICA, INC.® ENTRY # _____

FARM TRIAL PROGRAM

OFFICIAL JUDGING SCORE SHEET TIME _____

AUSSIE _____ OPEN _____

OTHER BREED _____ ADVANCED _____

CATTLE _____ SHEEP _____ DUCKS _____ MIXED _____

FILL IN EVERY BLANK OR WRITE NO IN THE SPACES BELOW

PEN WORK (MINIMUM OF 2 PENS) 25 _____

COMMENTS: _____

SORTING (MINIMUM OF 1 SORT WITH MARKED ANIMALS) 25 _____

COMMENTS: _____

CHUTE WORK 25 _____

COMMENTS: _____

GATHER (HANDLER RESTRICTIONS REQUIRED) 25 _____

COMMENTS: _____

ADDITIONAL TASK 1 15 _____

COMMENTS: _____

ADDITIONAL TASK 2 15 _____

COMMENTS: _____
 TOTAL 130 _____

JUDGES SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____
LOCATION _____

Directors voting: Approve: Unanimous. Motion is approved.

93:19 BOARD POLICIES - Treasurer-Auditor relationship.

Motion by McNamara, seconded by MacRoberts.

I move the following:

Add to section 20, the following:

The Treasurer shall review all audit-related questions and statements Treasurer must approve of the documents in writing prior to publication of the final report and management letter.

Comment: Our accountant advised us that according to new laws, we need this in our official policy and Treasurer duties. The office manager has been providing me with the auditor's questions and her responses this year and this is also a great way to keep the Treasurer abreast of procedures.

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

TREASURER FILE - QUICKEN

Motion by McNamara, seconded by MacRoberts.

I move the following:

ASCA purchase a Treasurer's copy of Quicken 2008 software for not more than \$100. The software and license shall be kept at the Business Office and supplied to incoming Treasurers upon election. Outgoing Treasurers will supply the database and password information for use and uninstall the software on their system.

Comment: Quicken has become a very useful tool in overseeing ASCA's financial holdings. I have been downloading statements from Wells Fargo and am current almost to the day on all our accounts with Wells Fargo. Enabling future Treasurers to continue downloading statements and entering checks (displayed on the website) will help ensure the Treasurer stays abreast of spending and income, past and present financial patterns, and provide much-needed oversight of Business Office cashflow. Using the software is very simple and can produce simple charts and comparisons as needed. It simplifies the Treasurer's job for a very small investment.

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

99:02 HALL OF FAME COMMITTEE - HOF Program.

Motion by DeChant.

I move the Board of Directors approve the following Motion from the HOFX Committee:

Anne Shope moves and Cheryl Padgett seconds that the following language be placed immediately prior to Section One in the Rulebook (which section is copied directly below

for reference purposes):

- 1) ASCA gives credit to any breeder or cobreeders of record on Australian Shepherds that have acquired HOF titles as named in Section One below.
- 2) Prior to applying for HOF the breeder must be in good standing, and the kennel name must be registered and current in renewal. No further renewal of kennel name is required for any kennel awarded HOF.
- 3) Upon dissolution of a HOF kennel partnership:
 - a) The HOF kennel remains with the owner given custody of the kennel name.
 - b) Any partner applying for a new kennel name may utilize the HOF title credits on dogs they are listed as breeder/co-breeder for their new kennel. This utilization may be used only once in a member's lifetime.

FROM THE RULEBOOK:

KENNEL HALL OF FAME REQUIREMENTS

(If motion 2008-1 is approved, this is the spot for the language in that Motion)

SECTION ONE: BREEDER and/or KENNEL REQUIREMENTS

GRANDFATHER CLAUSE: Any allowed titles earned towards HOF Requirements prior to 1/1/03 will count towards HOF requirements after 1/1/03. Any allowed titles earned after 1/1/03 must be earned under the new HOF requirements. ASCA recognizes the kennels/breeders who have produced titled Australian Shepherds that have met the HOF requirements as set forth below.

A. Qualifying titles counting toward a Kennel/Breeder's Hall of Fame are as follows:

1. Agility: RS-O (Regular Standard Open) or RV-O (Regular Veterans Open) or RJ-O (Regular Junior Open) (only one of these per Australian Shepherd to count)
2. Obedience: CDX (companion dog excellent)
3. Tracking: TD (tracking dog)
4. Stockdog: ATDd (advanced trial dog ducks) and/or OTDs (open trial dog sheep) and/or OTDc (open trial dog cattle).
5. Conformation: CH (conformation champion), A-CH (altered conformation champion)

B. A Kennel/Breeder must have accrued twenty (20) qualifying titles on their progeny as follows:

1. Ten (10) stockdog and conformation titles, with a minimum of three (3) in each, and

2. The remaining Ten (10) in any category named in A.1-5 above.

Motion passes via majority vote. For: Chris Davies, Anneke De Jong, Sharon Elkins, Gina Larson, Robin McNeill, Dorothy Montano, Cheryl Padgett, Anne Shope Against: Cheri Preciado (voted against verbage)

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

93:17 STOCK DOG RULES - Ch. 4, Sec. 4, Judge's Score Sheets.

Motion by Davenport.

I move the following from the Stock Dog Committee:

Approve: Baker, Bryant, Caldwell, de Jong, Hardin, Holmes, Kelly, Kissman, May, Pechka-King, Shope, Warren Non-voting: Silveira

The motion is carried.

Motion by Bryant, second by Warren.

I move that Chapter 4, Section 4 of the rule book be replaced with the following:

SECTION 4 - JUDGE'S SCORE SHEETS

1. Scoring - The Trial Judge(s) is required to complete the ASCA Official Trial Judging Score sheet in its entirety. All Judge's corrections shall be initialed by the Judge. The scorekeeper shall separate the score sheet and return the original (white) copy to the Business Office. The second copy (yellow) will be distributed to the contestants.
2. Distribution of Copies - All contestants shall receive a copy of their score sheet(s) at the trial. The original score sheet will become the property of ASCA for official use in the certification of dogs.
3. Course Points must be awarded for the number or % of stock completing an obstacle regardless of how the dog does it.
4. The scoring for the "Dogs Ability to Control Livestock" sections of the run will be for the manner in which a dog controls his stock so that they will go through an obstacle AND the teamwork apparent between dog and handler, the dogs training, its' instinct, power, savvy and the workability of the livestock.
5. Control points must be given for all portions of the course that the dog accomplished and/or attempted. If a dog demonstrates control while attempting an obstacle that is not completed, even if time expires during the attempt, then the Judge shall award control points for the partial work accomplished on that obstacle.
6. The course obstacles must be attempted and/or accomplished in the proper sequence.

7. Judges may ask the scorekeepers to fill out score sheets for them during the run.

Notes:

Many of us on the committee believe that the rule as currently written is clear. But with the seemingly regular occurrences at Finals, it seems as though a clarification is in order.

I split 4.4 into 3 paragraphs, because they each have a separate and important point to make.

4.1, 4.2, and 4.3 are unchanged, but I have included them so that we can evaluate the enter section. 4.7 as it appears in this motion is unchanged except for its renumbering (previously 4.5).

I think that this makes it clear that if a dog shows control for partial work on an obstacle, the work should receive points, even if time expires. I also think that this wording does allow for a zero score *only* if no control is demonstrated during an incomplete obstacle

Directors voting: Approve: Unanimous. Motion is approved.

96:17 JUNIOR SHOWMANSHIP - Year End Awards

Motion by McNamara, seconded by Berryessa.

I move the following:

Change the following in the Junior Rulebook (Year End Awards – Junior Service Awards) from:

Letters regarding the accomplishments and service of the junior must come from someone other than the Junior and/or their family. Letters must describe how the Junior has contributed to the dog community and cite specific examples of individual sportsmanship.

To:

Letters of nomination should describe the Junior's service, accomplishments, and sportsmanship specifically in the Australian Shepherd community - as well as within the Junior's education system and the greater community - citing specific examples. Nominations must come from someone other than the Junior and/or his/her family.

And from:

One Junior will be chosen, based on the criteria set forth, to receive this award at the ASCA(R) National Specialty banquet. The chosen letter will be read at the banquet in honor of the recipient.

To:

The winner will be chosen based on their service and sportsmanship at the Nationals Board Meeting. The winner's nomination letter will be read at the awards banquet for ASCA's National Specialty and be published in the Aussie Times.

Comment: There has been some confusion as to what to include in nomination letters and the award procedure itself needed some clarification.

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

MISCELLANEOUS - Gossip - Bulletin Board (Reconsideration)

Motion by Stevens, seconded by Gann.

I move to approve the following:

Since this is the last day to put in motions and it seems some are getting cold feet about the cross-bred issue I feel that there needs to be an official vote so the membership will know what is going on and who is trying to do something about this issue. At our Spring board meeting after all the e-mails were passed around and Russ Ford had made his talk I read the statement listed below. There was some discussion and there was a consensus at that time by the Board for Ann to put this in The Bulletin Board starting with the July-Aug. issue of the Aussie Times and to run in each issue of the bulletin board of the Aussie Times until further notice. So therefore the motion is listed below and upon passing will be in each issue of The Aussie Times listed in The Bulletin Board.

ASCA and the ASCA Board of Directors do hereby request the ASCA membership afford all ASCA registered Australian Shepherds the honor due them by this registration. All registrations done by ASCA have met the criteria set forth by the Registry and are accordingly assigned. Therefore, the ASCA membership should refrain from derogatory comments related to the ancestry of ASCA registered Australian Shepherds. To do so would be a reflection upon the integrity of the ASCA Registry and will not be tolerated.

Comment-- This is to be ASCA's official statement about the cross-bred issue at this time and may be changed or amended in the future by the ASCA Board. The cross-bred issue is hurting ASCA in many ways, bottom line it affects ASCA financially.

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

93:19 BOARD POLICIES - 22.3 Approved ASCA Vendors.

Motion by Berryessa, seconded by DeChant.

I move we add to the ASCA policy book number 22.3 Approved ASCA Vendors: ASCA will provide a free listing of all approved ASCA vendors on its website with their contact information.

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

93:17 STOCK DOG RULES - Finals Judges. (Reconsideration)

Motion by Davenport.

I move the following SDC motion:

Approve: Baker, Bryant, Caldwell, de Jong, Hardin, Holmes, Kelly, Kissman, May, Pechka-King, Shope, Warren. Non-voting: Silveira. Motion is carried.

+++++

Motion by Warren, second by Bryant.
Last day to vote is March 22.

I move to add the three documents attached for the selection of Finals Judges to the Stockdog Rulebook Appendix. (one is attached as a spreadsheet)

Comments:

Seems somewhere along the way the process of how to select Finals Judges was lost. We went through this process last year it seemed to work OK. Now it needs to become part of the rulebook. I made some minor changes to what I originally sent you. I took out my comments and reworded the last sentence of Step 3 #1 dealing with ties. The Business Office can supply the Appendix number.

COVER LETTER FINALS JUDGES

Dear SDC Members,

Once again it is time for the Stockdog Committee to recommend judges for the National Stockdog Finals to the National Host Club. There will be a minimum of six judges recommended to the Host Club and the Host Club will make the final determination of which four judges will be used. The attached questionnaires are a result of the established Procedures for Choosing Finals Judges and have been devised to help in making these recommendations. None of these questions are meant to exclude any judge from being considered as a prospective Finals Judge. They are simply a method, instituted by the Stockdog Committee to choose judges who will be recommended irrespective of the answers.

All judges that have returned an acceptance letter and questionnaire must be ranked from first choice through as many as have returned their questionnaires. If only a partial list is received the list will be returned to the SDC member to complete. If only a partial list is received by a SDC member by deadline it will not be considered complete and will not be used as it skews the end results.

Also attached is the process for selecting Finals Judges and a Finals Judges Work Sheet. This work sheet is just an aid in determining ranking and does not have to be returned to the SDC. There is no set standard for filling out the work sheet. See Chapter 11 Section 7: Selection of Finals Judges for more information.

Return by _____

PROCESS FOR SELECTION OF FINALS JUDGES

STEP ONE:

1. Business office will send a letter and questionnaire to all ASCA Stockdog judges by January of the year preceding the next Finals (example: the letter will go out by January 2008 for the 2009 Finals) with a 90 day deadline for return of acceptance and questionnaire to the Business Office.

2. The cover letter must include dates and place of Finals to be judged.
3. Business Office will then send all questionnaires received to the SDC Chair for distribution.

STEP TWO:

1. The SDC Chair will send out a cover letter and questionnaires that were returned by all the Stockdog Judges willing to judge the Stockdog Finals.
2. The cover letter will include the following:
 - a. The questionnaires from all judges that have returned an acceptance letter.
 - b. The Finals Judges Work Sheet which will include the judge's name filled in by the SDC Chair. This is just an aid in determining ranking. There is no set standard for filling out the work sheet.
 - c. Where to find information on Finals Judges in the rule book.
 - d. Deadline for return of individuals SDC members ranking of judges.
 - e. SDC members must rank all of the judges from #1 through as many have accepted the invitation to judge.

STEP THREE:

1. The Chair will then take all the ranking information and put it on the Judges Ranking Information Work Sheet, add the results and determine the ranking of the judges. The ranking of the judges is determined by adding all SDC members individual ranking for each judge giving each judge their total score. The lowest score to the highest score determines the six judges that will be sent to the host club. A copy of this work sheet must go out to the entire SDC. The Chair will then send the top six ranked judges on to the host club. If there is a tie for the sixth ranked judge then as many judges who receive the same score will be sent on to the Host Club.
3. The Host Club must contact all available judges provided by the SDC until they come up with four that accept the judging assignments. If less than four are available from the list provided by the SDC the Host will then contact the SD Chair for the next available judge until four have accepted the assignment.
4. An alternate judge may also be asked to judge finals but also must come from the list of provided by the SDC.

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

98:15 OBEDIENCE COMMITTEE - Finals.

Motion by Hellmeister.

I move to accept the following recommendation of the Obedience committee:

Motion by Burlingame, second by White.

Voting: YES: Case, Sidwell, Franks, Watson, White, Stoddart, Burlingame, Alexander, Bettis, Hines, Uran, Waller, and Reschenthaler NO: Walter. Non-voting: none.

I move to clarify the rule governing the ability to continue to compete in Open while still being eligible to compete in Novice at the Finals.

Chapter 10, section 3, subsection 3:

Change this subsection from:

3: Eligible obedience categories are: Novice, Open, Utility and Super Dog. Novice dogs may have two (2) legs in Open and still be eligible for Novice Competition.

TO:

"3: Eligible obedience categories are: Novice, Open, Utility, and Super Dog. Novice dogs will be allowed to earn their Open title AFTER May 31st and still be eligible for the Novice division for which they qualified during the year in question. If the Novice dog earns its Open title on or before May 31st, the Novice scores will be void and the Open scores will be used to calculate eligibility to qualify for the Finals in the Open division."

REASON: The committee has received multiple requests for this change as people want to be allowed to continue showing their dogs in the higher classes between the May 31 deadline and the late fall dates of the Finals competition. The committee sees no justifiable reason why these people should not be allowed to do so.

Directors voting: Approve: Unanimous. Motion is approved.

08:04 ELECTION CALENDAR - TIMES publishing issue.

Motion by McNamara, seconded by DeChant.

I move the following:

Change ASCA's Election Calendar section c from:

c. March 1 – Postmark deadline to file candidate's completed Candidate Inquiry with the Business Office for publication in the May/June Aussie Times. Failure to submit completed Inquiry will result in prospective candidate's disqualification for that election year.

to:

c. March 1 - Deadline to electronically submit candidate's completed Candidate Inquiry to the Business Office for publication in the May/June Aussie Times. Failure to submit completed Inquiry will result in prospective candidate's disqualification for that election year.

Comment: There was a lot of extraneous publication done this year with the new format. We need to change this. The best way to do it is electronically and since Board members are required to be computer literate and have email, this should not be an unreasonable requirement. The Candidate Inquiry form shall be changed by maker of the motion and Candidate Inquiries shall be formatted by the Business Office prior to submitting to the Aussie Times editor with questions listed and all candidate responses listed below each question in alphabetical order.

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

98:15 OBEDIENCE COMMITTEE - Sec. 2, Sub-Novice Class.

Motion by Hellmeister.

I move to accept the following recommendation of the Obedience committee:

Motion by Sidwell, second by White.
Committee voting: Unanimously in favor.

Add the following sentence to the Sub-Novice class rules:

SECTION 2: Sub-Novice Class

The Sub-Novice Class shall be for dogs not less than six (6) months of age that have not been certified by a judge to have received a Qualifying score towards a C.D. title prior to the closing of entries.

The rest of the paragraph will remain the same.

Reason: There have been a few folks pushing the envelope and entering pups as young as 12 weeks in sub novice. The 6 month rule is very hard to find at the front of the rule book. We would like it included in the sub-novice rule to clarify the matter.

Effective date: January 1, 2009

Directors voting: Approve: Unanimous. Motion is approved.

06:09 NATIONALS COMMITTEE - Mission statement.

Motion by MacRoberts.

I move that this be adopted as the Mission Statement for the Nationals Committee.

Motion by Dolan, second Morgan

For: Unanimous (Dolan, Morgan, Reschenthaler, Kontos)

Mission Statement

"It is the short term mission of this committee to generate a concise, organized, authoritative set of rules for organizing and conducting the annual ASCA National Specialty and attendant ASCA Finals events. It is the primary responsibility of this Committee to point out any inconsistencies between the Nationals Rules and the individual event program rules and assist in the resolution of those issues. This Committee is also tasked with researching and assisting in the approval of methods of standardization in Nationals hosting and preparation whenever and wherever possible. When assembled the rules shall be presented to the ASCA Board of Directors for approval and implementation.

The continuing mission of the committee is to serve as trusted advisor providing accurate information to the host club for each National Specialty, maintaining factual information of past National Specialties, and assisting host clubs in the decision making process prior to submitting a bid for a National Specialty."

Directors voting: Approve: Unanimous. Motion is approved.

98:15 OBEDIENCE COMMITTEE - Chapter 4, 5, & 6.

Motion by Hellmeister.

I move to accept the following motion from the Obedience committee:

Motion by Uran, second by White.

Yes: Waller, Case, Franks, Watson, White, Stoddart, Uran, Walter, Bettis, and Reschenthaler. No: Sidwell, Burlingame, and Alexander. Nonvoting: none

I make a motion to make the following additions to the obedience rulebook.

Reason: Introduce veteran jump heights and the opportunity for teams to obtain/finish titles with healthy veteran dogs.

Effective date: January 1, 2009

VETERAN ASCA OBEDIENCE

CHAPTER 4: OPEN

Add new SECTION 3: Open Veteran Class

The Open Veteran Class will be for any dog seven (7) years and older that has won the title CD from ASCA or other registry, but this class shall NOT be mandatory for dogs aged seven (7) years and older. The Veteran Class shall not be eligible for High in Trial or High Combined Awards. A dog may be transferred from the regular class into Veteran Class and legs obtained in the regular classes may be applied toward a Veteran title. Veteran legs may NOT be applied toward a regular class title.

A dog may continue to be shown in this class indefinitely after winning a CDX or CDX-V or UD or UD-V title from ASCA or CDX or UD from another registry. A person may handle more than one (1) dog in this class, but each dog must have a separate handler for the group exercises when judged in the same group. No dog may be entered in both Open Veteran Class and either Open A or B and any one (1) trial.

Old section 3 becomes **SECTION 4: Open Exercises and Scores**

The entire section remains the same

Old section 4 becomes **SECTION 5: C.D.X. TITLE**

Add: **Section 5 B: C.D.X.-V TITLE**

ASCA will issue a Companion Dog Excellent – Veteran (CDX-V) certificate to a dog with an ASCA registration or a tracking number, and will permit the use of the CDX-V after its name when it has received three (3) qualifying scores awarded by at least two (2) judges. A dog may earn a qualifying score even if it is the only dog participating in the Open Group Exercises.

Old section 5 becomes **SECTION 6: Heel Free and Figure Eight, Performance and Scoring**

Entire section remains the same

Old section 6 becomes **SECTION 7: Drop on Recall**

Entire section remains the same.

Old section 7 becomes **SECTION 8: Drop on Recall, Scoring**

Entire section remains the same.

Old section 8 becomes **SECTION 9: Retrieve on the Flat**

Entire section remains the same.

Old section 9 becomes **SECTION 10: Retrieve on the Flat, Scoring**

Old section 10 becomes **SECTION 11: Retrieve Over High Jump**

Paragraphs one through three remain the same.

Add at end of paragraph # 4: Dogs entered in Open Veteran's class will jump 4 inches (4 ") less than the height specified for their breed in regular classes, with no dog jumping lower than 4 inches (4"). The broad jump shall be set at a distance equal to twice the height of the high jump.

The remainder of the section remains the same.

Old section 11 becomes: **SECTION 12: Retrieve Over High Jump, Scoring**

Entire section remains the same

Old section 12 becomes: **SECTION 13: Broad Jump**

Entire section remains the same

Old section 13 becomes **SECTION 14: Broad Jump, Scoring**

Entire section remains the same.

Old section 14 becomes **SECTION 15: Open Group Exercises, Performance and Scoring**

CHAPTER 5 UTILITY

SECTION 1: Utility class

Add at end of first paragraph: Utility Veteran Class shall be for any dog aged seven (7) years or older that has won the C.D.X. or C.D.X.-V or UD or UD-V title from ASCA or a

UD from another registry. This class shall NOT be mandatory for dogs aged seven (7) years or older. A dog who has earned a CDX or UD in the regular ASCA classes may transfer to the Veteran class. Legs earned from the regular ASCA Utility classes may be applied to a UD-V title, but Veteran legs earned may not be applied toward a regular class title. Veteran classes are not eligible for High in Trial or High Combined awards. A dog may be handled indefinitely in this class.

SECTION 2 Division of Utility Class

Entire section remains the same

SECTION 3: Remains the same

SECTION 4: U.D. Title

Add after first paragraph: **SECTION 4 B: UD-V TITLE:**

ASCA will issue a Utility Dog Veteran (UD-V) certificate to a dog with an ASCA registration or a tracking number, and will permit the use of the UD-V after its name, when it has received three (3) qualifying scores awarded by at least two (2) judges. A dog may earn a qualifying score even if it is the only dog competing.

SECTION 5 THROUGH 14 Remain the same.

CHAPTER 6: UDX TITLE

Add after first paragraph: **6 B: UDX-V TITLE:** ASCA will issue a Utility Dog Excellent Veteran (UDX - V) certificate for each registered dog or dog with a tracking number and permit the use of the letters UDX-V after the name of each dog that is certified as receiving at least ten (10) qualifying scores in both Open Veteran Class and Utility Veteran classes at the same ASCA sanctioned obedience trial (A qualifying score in Open and Utility = 1 UDX leg). Dogs may not earn legs toward an ASCA UDX-V title until the dog has earned the ASCA title of Utility Dog or Utility Dog Veteran. If a dog is transferred to the Veteran classes, legs earned in regular Utility and Open classes may be applied to the Veteran's UDX title. Legs earned in the Veteran's program may not be applied to regular titles.

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

MISCELLANEOUS - Microphone for Voice Recording of GMM Minutes.

Motion by DeChant, seconded by Aufox

I move that the ASCA Office Manager purchase the Microphone and USB cable using the information below at a cost of \$309 plus shipping and tax. This will be shipped to Jo Kimes who will then try to use it with the current ASCA tape recorder. For now, this will be used with the tape recorder, but purchasing the USB cable will allow it to be used with a lap top in the future if desired. This will become part of the ASCA equipment that is transported to the Nationals each year by the Office.

Comment: We have always needed more than one microphone for our Membership and

Affiliate Meetings and this appears to be a solution with just one new piece of equipment.

<http://www.acousticmagic.com/>

Voice Tracker Array Microphone

Code: **101** Price: **\$249.00**

Shipping Weight: **4.00** pounds

The Voice Tracker Desktop Array Microphone contains 8 separate microphones that work together to form a "listening beam" focused on the talker. The listening beam creates spatial filtering, causing outstanding signal to noise ratios. The beam automatically and electronically steers to new talker making the Voice Tracker ideal for recording large groups as well as individuals. The output is through a 3.5 mm jack, at line level (10X mic level). The Voice Tracker comes with a wall power converter for USA voltage/plug.

USB Adapter

Code: **102** Price: **\$60.00**

Shipping Weight: **1.00** pounds

The USB adapter is a specially modified VXI USB duplex (two way) adapter that reduces the Voice Tracker's output from Line Level to Mic level as well as digitizing the audio in USB format. The USB adapter is especially useful for computers with poor soundcards, or soundcards that do not have a line level input. The USB adapter can be used with computers that have no soundcard.

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

03:05 STANDING EDUCATION COMMITTEE - Flyer.

Motion by Berryessa.

I move to approve the following motion from the Education Committee. This motion was approved towards the beginning of the month, but I had to double check which file was the finished version of the flyer. Michelle

Approve: Bell; Hollen; Gravette; Marks; Morley; Reedy; Silveira; Stephenson.
Disapprove: none. Nonvoting: none.

Motion by Kay Marks, seconded by Chris Reedy:

I move that the agility flyer developed by Marcy Rauch, in both color and black and white, be approved for distribution as a handout, for publication in Clean Run magazine (<http://www.cleanrun.com/>) as a full page color ad in the first issue available after approval, and as a full page black and white ad in The Match Show Bulletin (<http://www.matchshowbulletin.com/>) in the first available issue after approval

Clean Run has a huge circulation, so the ad will reach a large number of agility competitors. Size of the ad is 8.125"x10.875" at a one-time cost of \$800.00

The Match Show Bulletin is a monthly publication covering all events in the northeastern US, from Canada to the Carolinas. The MSB has a circulation of around 2500, with some subscriptions going to training clubs for all their members to use, and is

considered the source of info for all sorts of canine events in the NE. It is a black and white medium, with the full page size 6.5"x 9", at a one-time cost of \$360.00.

Total expense for these two ads would be \$1160.00.

Comments: Marcy Rauch, who developed the flyer for ASCA's use, is in advertising and will make sure that any and all specific criteria for each publication are met. Time to get the word out for ASCA agility!

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

McNamara - Letter of Dissent (to be reported with results and minutes):

While I applaud the professional and eye-catching work of the education committee, I felt that this promotion was too little and too late. Ad campaigns are more effective over a period of time (rather than a one-shot expenditure in one issue, we could have run smaller ads and branded ourselves over the course of a year, for example) and submission to the Match Show bulletin seemed like an extraneous expenditure (it is not nearly as widely read as Clean Run). Moreover, the general feeling from the agility committee, when I consulted them about this ad, was that while we certainly want to promote other-breed participation in agility, that ship has sailed in terms of the effectiveness of the ad - we needed this a few years ago after the break with NADAC. ASCA agility seems to be finding its own niche without advertising and the investment in this ad is more than likely not going to pay for itself (not that we have a way to determine this). I think promotions should be more concerted and trackable for return on investment.

MISCELLANEOUS - General Membership Meeting Minutes.

Motion by DeChant, seconded by Aufox.

I move that the official ASCA minutes from the General Membership Meeting, held each year, be highlighted minutes of the meeting covering the topics of discussion. The Meetings will continue to be taped as a reference for the Secretary to use when transcribing the minutes and there will be no attempt to create word for word minutes of these meeting. The tapes will be sent to the office for historical purposes only. This will become the official policy regarding minutes and will be put into the ASCA Policy book in Section 24 under Miscellaneous Stuff as Item B. General Membership Meeting Minutes.

Comment: There has been an expectation by a few members that minutes of the Membership Meeting will be word for word. This will create an official policy regarding Minutes.

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

Approved:

Appointed Tenley Dexter to the Nationals Committee.

Approved Emergency Motion re voting on Breeder Judges

Approved:

Non Regular Breeder Judge

Carmen Atkinson, 42711 32nd St West, Lancaster, CA 93536 (661) 400-0424

Kelly Bonilla, 5146 Haverford Rd, Harrisburg, PA 17109 (717) 512-0430

Trisha Herring, 698 Vinson Rd, Fort Valley, GA 31030 (478) 825-2384

J. Kelsey Jones, PO Box 40, Pine City, NY 14871 (607) 734-2838

Provisional Breeder Judge

Laurie Atkinson, PO Box 901363, Palmdale, CA 93590 (661) 256-6562

Judge # 4533

Kerry Kirtley, 1515 Devore Rd, Devore, CA 92407 (909) 887-1959

Judge # 4550

Breeder Judge

Wendy Summers, 19775 Sakala Rd, Ramah, CO 80832 (719) 347-2204

Judge # 3623

Senior Breeder Judge

Erica Peters-Pruitt, PO Box 586, Littlerock, CA 93543 (661) 944-0324

Judge # 4278

Glenda Stephenson, 63 Anderson Ave NE, Palm Bay, FL 32907, (321) 243-9072

Judge # 3911