Secretary’s Report
This report details the day to day activities of the ASCA Board of Directors. It includes issues brought before the Board of Directors and mail, fax, e-mail and/or telephone communications.

July 1 -31, 2010

Monday July 12, 2010
The July 12th, 2010 Board of Directors (BoD) meeting was called to order at 8:02 PM CDT by President Michelle Berryessa. Those attending via phone were: Rick Gann/Director, Pete Dolan/Secretary, Mark Westerman, Treasurer, Peter Hellmeister/First VP, Tenley Dexter/ Director, Rachel Vest/Second VP, Chris Davenport, Director and Mary Logue/Executive Secretary. Absent was Jerry Aufox, Director

1) Old Business
   a. Confirmation/Ratification of e-mail votes taken in June, 2010 (Berryessa): Motion by Hellmeister, second by Dolan; Approve: Berryessa, Hellmeister, Vest, Dolan, Davenport, Westerman, Dexter, Gann; Absent: Aufox; the motion is approved.
   b. Treasurer’s Report (Westerman): Latest semi-annual financial report sent out by Westerman didn’t include the June information, as it wasn’t received by the Treasurer. Dolan requested more information on program income and expenses. Program income with the exception of agility is down. Entries are also down compared to same time in 2009. All letters are signed on the financial audit. Books are looking good so far. Westerman will send the draft investment policy and financial procedures to Hellmeister to scan into pdf. Discussion in regards to the ad placed in the Aussie Times about the volunteer position for replacing Maarten Walter. Vest is concerned about the DNA program and would like to see the DNA “numbers”. A six (6) month comparison may be available by the end of the second week in July.
   c. Conformation Committee ignoring BoD directive (Hellmeister): Question: Is the BoD going to do anything about it? This issue references the motion by Gann affirming the Conformation Committee’s decision not to change rules about NRBJ being able to solicit assignments. Westerman commented about Spring BoD meeting discussion about this. At the Spring BoD meeting, the BoD directed the Conformation Committee to change their rules in regards to this issue. In response, the Conformation Committee has indicated that their rules don’t need to be changed.
   d. Judges Code of Ethics (COE) (Aufox): Aufox unavailable for discussion. The COE are guidelines not rules. The only remarks that have been received by the BoD have been negative comments. A judge should announce at a trial or show if there is a conflict of interest with a competitor. The BoD will put out a statement on ASCA-L and the webmaster will post Dolan’s side by side comparison.

Motion to adjourn: Dolan, second Westerman; Approve: Berryessa, Davenport, Gann, Dolan, Dexter, Vest, Hellmeister, Westerman; Absent: Aufox; Motion is approved. Meeting adjourned at 9:09 PM CDT
Next teleconference is scheduled for August 9th, 2010 at 8 PM CDT.

s/ Mary Logue 07/25/10
Executive Secretary Date of Approval

1:01 Director's Handbook: Changes to Section 2, ASCA Mission Statement
Motion by Dolan
Second by Dexter
I move to replace section 2 of the Director's Handbook which reads:
ASCA Mission Statement
The Australian Shepherd Club of America, in an effort to achieve the goals stated in the Bylaws, declares the following to be the Mission Statement for the Club:

The Australian Shepherd Club of America, is an independent, nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting the responsible breeding and registering of purebred ASCA Australian Shepherds and to do all in its power to bring their natural qualities to perfection.

The Australian Shepherd Club of America is dedicated to the preservation of the Australian Shepherd as an intelligent working dog of strong herding and guardian instincts. The Australian Shepherd Club of America strives to maintain its independent breed club registry and to lead in the adoption of technological developments to protect the integrity of the registry. Innovative programs showcasing the breed and providing expanded opportunities for competition are part of ASCA’s service to the breed.

Through education ASCA will promote an atmosphere of good sportsmanship, volunteerism, and responsibility for the breed and the breed image to the public. Using only the highest standards, ASCA’s registry, performance, and recognition programs will strive, through ASCA competition and participation, to showcase the versatility of the ASCA Australian Shepherd.

The Australian Shepherd Club of America serves its members and affiliated clubs through its Board of Directors. The Board of Directors’ duty to ASCA is to be an active protectionist regarding the future of the breed, the registry, and ASCA, and to preserve the ASCA Australian Shepherd as defined in the current Breed Standard.

with the following:

EMERGENCY MOTION 1:05 Judge's Code of Ethics - Rescind
Motion by Davenport
Second by Gann

I move to rescind the following Judge's Code of Ethics due to the effect it may have on the performance venues of ASCA and the judges of those venues. I asked for an emergency motion so that the Nationals and Finals will not be affected by the recently passed Judge's Code of Ethics.
Approve: Berryessa, Davenport, Gann, Westerman; Disapprove: Aufox, Dexter, Dolan, Hellmeister, Vest;
The motion is not approved.
Effective date: immediately upon vote results.

EMERGENCY MOTION 1:05 Judge's Code of Ethics - Implementation Date
Motion by Dolan
Second by Aufox

I move to change the Judge's Code of Ethics implementation date from "30 days after publication" to January 1, 2011.
Comment/Rationale: Changing the implementation date will remove any possibility that the COE might affect 2010 National Specialty and Finals entries. Also, the new implementation date allows time to evaluate and implement member/committee comments in an effort to improve the document. This is an emergency motion based on the President's ruling on the emergency motion to rescind.

Approve: Unanimous.
The motion is approved.

03:05 Education Committee: Obedience Flyers
Motion by Berryessa
I move we approve the 3 versions of the Obedience flyer as attached.

Approve: Unanimous.
The motion is approved.

04:04 Direct Conformation Committee to update requirements for show flyer/premium
Motion by Dexter
Second by Dolan
I move to task the Conformation Committee to define what information must be included in an Affiliates Conformation show flyer/premium, to include but not be limited to: judging order, names of judges, prizes, start times, ribbons, etc.

Comment/rationale: The show sanctioning form requires including a flyer/premium as part of the sanctioning request. However, the Business Office has no guide to determine what is required in the flyer/premium.

Approve: Aufox, Berryessa, Davenport, Dexter, Gann, Hellmeister, Vest; Disapprove: Westerman.
The motion is approved.

4:04 Conformation Committee: Reaffirmation of no solicitation
Motion by Gann
I move to approve the Motion of the Conformation Committee as a reaffirmation of the current policy of no solicitation.

YEA Ann DeChant, Peter Kontos, Gail Karamalegos, David Clayton, Glenda Stephenson, Regi Gravette, Nancy Pelletier, Liz Gibson, Debbie Martin, and Mary Hellmeister.
ABSTAIN: Becky Noe, Ronnie Bates
NON VOTING: Luc Goossens, Denise Creelman

To confirm the current rule that is in our Show Rules and Regulations under Judges Guidelines and Code of Ethics, which has currently its first sentence and paragraph to read:
SECTION ONE: Conformation Judge Code of Ethics
Official ASCA Guidelines/Code of Ethics for Conformation Judges
1. ASCA Judges are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with these Guidelines set forth by the Australian Shepherd Club Board of Directors. Failure to comply with these guidelines subjects a judge to possible disciplinary action by the ASCA Board of Directors, including the possible revocation of ASCA Judging privileges.
Which further states:
6. a. A judge or his family members should never solicit or promote assignments on the judge’s behalf.
b. Solicitation is the repeated contact and/or the use of influence, persuasion or coercion in an effort to obtain a judging assignment.
c. Promotion is a judge’s or their immediate family member’s attempt to sell or popularize the judge or their judging assignments through verbal or written advertising and/or publicity.

To maintain this section 6 in its entirety, and without changes. Notation: there is no need to specify the judges levels, as an ASCA Non Regular Judge is just that: an ASCA Judge, that has been tested, vetted, and approved by the board.

Furthermore, each member of this committee should/could state their reasons for their yea or nay vote. Comments from committee members below:

I believe that the “solicitation” should be limited to the individual’s contact information placed on the ASCA website (with the permission of the NR judge) stating that they are requesting assignments and their contact information. I also would like to acknowledge the overwhelming majority of current judges and membership that I talked to and are very much against any kind of solicitation of assignments for any level of conformation judge.

I do not think that Non Regular Judges or any Conformation judges should solicit for assignments. People who I talked to don't want that either. I am concerned that very hard feelings will result if a judge solicits an assignment and the club doesn't want to hire them. Clubs hire judges for Conformation and this turns the process around. I worry that since we have people who push the envelope on many of ASCA's Rules already due to there being no consequences that someone will threaten to sue ASCA if they don't get to move up in Judging overnight. It sounds silly, but is it? Stranger things have happened. By allowing Solicitation for one level of Conformation judge in order to avoid complaints against Non-Regular judges who are soliciting as I have been told, you are encouraging and rewarding more pushing of envelopes.

Ann

I also vote yes, and I agree with Dave's recommendation that it should be limited in that manner.

Gail

I vote yes, as I feel we should support the board request. I believe that the “solicitation” should be limited to the individual’s contact information placed on the ASCA website (with the permission of the NR judge) stating that they are requesting assignments and their contact information. I also would like to acknowledge the overwhelming majority of current judges and membership that I talked to and are very much against any kind of solicitation of assignments for any level of conformation judge.

Dave Clayton

I against solicitation in any form. So the way this motion is worded will vote yes. I have copied and pasted my reasons below:

My reasons are:
1) Approximately 95% of the breeders and judges I spoke to were against it. The judges felt that they made it through the NR procedures just fine without having solicitation. They felt it was a growing process for the newbie's.
2) Most of the judges asked me....why just the non-regular judges. That is not fair. If they get to do it, why not the rest of us?
3) I feel this could put a club in an awkward position. What if they received a solicitation from a new judge and DID NOT want to hire them. Could there be repercussions for that club?
4) What is to stop a non regular judge from soliciting provisional assignments? The way the board wants to word this directive, nothing could be done about it as they solicited the assignments while a non regular judge.
5) What is to stop other levels of our judges from solicitation? Right now the section about solicitation is ONLY in the Judges COE. It needs to be put in the rulebook section so the board could then act upon the problem in the correct manner.
Liz Gibson

Re: [ASCA_CC] VOTE: Solicitation ends 5/4/10
I also vote Yes
For many of the same reasons listed by many. I am totally against solicitation.

Nancy

I abstain…because it doesn’t bother me either way.

Becky Noe

Re: [ASCA_CC] Soliciting Vote
YES TO THE MOTION BUT NO TO SOLICITING.
OK then my NO vote stands as I submitted earlier as I dont think it’s ok on any level for the following reasons (many of which are the same reasons as Liz's and I believe, Ann's):
1) 100% of the breeders AND judges I spoke to were against it. The judges felt that they made it through the NR procedures just fine with out having solicitation. They felt it was a growing process for the newbies and that soliciting assignments was completely "off the wall" and they wanted to know "why is this trying to be implemented?".
2) Every person I asked, asked me….why just the non-regular judges. That is not fair. If they get to do it, why not the rest of us?
3) I feel this could put a club in an awkward position. What if they received a solicitation from a new judge and DID NOT want to hire them? Could there be repercussions for that club?
4) What is to stop a non regular judge from soliciting Provisional assignments? The way the board wants to word this directive, nothing could be done about it as they solicited the assignments while a Non-Regular Judge.
5) What is to stop other levels of our judges from solicitation? Right now the section about solicitation is ONLY in the Judges COE. It needs to be put in the rulebook section so the board could then act upon the problem in the correct manner.
6) Juniors judges aren’t able to solicit and their assignments are even more difficult to find, why should it be any different for any level in this venue?

Regi Gravette
I abstain.
I'm indifferent on this matter. Good points brought up for those voting no, but I think there are ways that this could work w/o allowing "direct" solicitation.

Ronnie Bates

I vote yes but think we need to specify where in the Rules it will be going with section no. etc.

Mary

Approve: Berryessa, Davenport, Hellmeister; Disapprove: Gann, Westerman; Abstain: Aufox, Dexter, Dolan, Vest.
The motion is approved.

10:04 Breeder Judge Move-ups
Motion by Berryessa

I move we accept the following Judge applicants.

The following persons have successfully satisfied all requirements at their current judge level and are now applying to become approved for the next level.
Approve: Unanimous.
The motion is approved.

10:31 Denial of appeal for hardship registration of Okley Dokley
Motion by Davenport
Second by Dolan

I move that Mr. Mays' appeal for hardship registry of Okley Dokley be denied due to not meeting the criteria for the registry rules in effect now.

Approve: Aufox, Berryessa, Davenport, Dexter, Dolan, Gann, Hellmeister, Westerman; Non-voting: Vest.
The motion is approved.

10:32 2010 National Specialty Honorees request
Motion by Dexter
Second by Dolan

I move to honor Dr. Robert and Lucille Kline base on the recommendation by the History Committee. Robert Kline (DVM)'s greatest contribution to the breed was as the Chairman of the committee that developed our current breed standard.

Motion by Jo Kimes
Seconded by Sunday Miles
I move to send the names of Dr. Robert and Lucille Kline and Ms. Marcia Hall Baines to the ASCA Board of Directors for consideration to be honored at the 2010 ASCA National Specialty for their contributions to the breed. Honoring any one or all of these people would be something they have most certainly earned.

Motion Approved.
Comment: If at all possible, financial assistance with plane fare and/or lodging would be appropriate and greatly appreciated.

Approve: Unanimous.
The motion is approved.
10:33 Response to Delta ASF in regards to their show flyer/premium
Motion by Dexter
Second by Dolan

I move that the Board of Directors send a letter to Delta ASF instructing the club to improve its future flyers/premiums to make them less confusing. Included in the letter are instructions to follow the flyer/premium as written.

Comment/Rationale: Delta ASF did not follow its own flyer and when questioned Ms. Harris stated that the flyer in use was confusing.

Approve: Berryessa, Davenport, Dexter, Dolan, Vest, Westerman; Disapprove: Aufox; Abstain: Gann, Hellmeister;
The motion is approved.

10:34 Agility Committee Tasking
Motion by Dolan
Second by Hellmeister

I move to task the Agility Committee to develop and recommend to the BoD changes to the Agility Rulebook in the following areas:

a. Provide amplifying language in the rulebook covering the calculation of SCT (judge options, etc), when SCT must be in place, and prohibiting "on the fly" SCT changes.
   b. Define and clarify the use of "No Time" and document the action taken to recover from a timer malfunction if the run had no course/handler faults.
   c. Develop a remedial training program for returning a suspended judge to active status.

The Agility Committee shall complete and present this material to the Board of Directors allowing the Board to vote during the November 2010 voting cycle.

Comment/Rationale: A judge is allowed to take several factors (environmental conditions, etc) into account when calculating SCT. There are no procedures to follow when this is done nor is there any requirement stating when the SCT must be in place (prior to running a class, during the running of a class, etc). Also, there is nothing specifically stating how "No Time" is used. By convention "No Time" is used when there is a timer malfunction or a run results in elimination. This needs to be specified.

Approve: Unanimous.
The motion is approved.

10:35 Gateway ASC Agility Qualification Removal
Motion by Dolan
Second by Hellmeister

I move to invalidate the following qualifications awarded by judge Pamela Bryant-Meeks at the Gateway ASC Agility Trial on Sunday May 16, 2010:
Standard Elite Regular ACh McMatt's Liberty Belle (N131113)
Standard Elite Regular Ch Wildvine's Bad 'n Blue (E127588)

Comment/Rationale: These qualifications were awarded improperly in that after earning a non-qualifying time, the judge changed the time to "No Time" and substituted Standard Course Time. This process does not conform to the Agility Rules.
Approve: Dexter, Dolan, Hellmeister; Disapprove: Aufox, Berryessa, Davenport, Gann, Vest; Abstain: Westerman.
The motion is not approved.

10:36 Removal as an Agility Course Reviewer
The Board of Directors removed Pamela Bryant-Meeks as an Agility Course Reviewer.

10:37 Agility Judge Move up: Chuck Klein
Motion by Berryessa

I move we approve Chuck Klein to be moved up to an unsupervised Agility Judge.

Approve: Unanimous.
The motion is approved.

10:39 Becky Parker Enterprises logo/trademark request
Motion: Gann
Second: Westerman

I move to approve Becky Parkers ASCA trademark request.

Approve: Unanimous.
The motion is approved.

96:02 SDC: Stock Dog DQ Policy - 3.7.2 through 3.7.5
Motion by Vest

I move to add the following update DQ Policy to the Stockdog Rule Book.

Rationale - To detail the steps necessary for the proper administration of the Disqualification of a dog in the Stockdog venue.

SDC Vote - 11 "Yes" votes and two non-votes (Harris and Hardin).

CHAPTER 3 SECTION 7 EXCUSED AND/OR DISQUALIFIED DOGS
(3.7.1 Excused Dogs remains the same)
3.7.2. Disqualified dogs: A dog may be disqualified for
a. attacks against livestock (see 3.7.3)
b. being excessively out of control (see 3.7.4)
c. attacks against a person or dog (see the ASCA Dog Aggression Policy, available from the ASCA Business Office, the ASCA website, and following the appendices in this rule book).

3.7.3. Disqualified for attacks against livestock. The Judge shall disqualify any dog that aggressively and viciously attacks, mauls, and/or deliberately causes injury to the livestock. Upon disqualification under this section, the Judge shall immediately stop the run and:
a. inspect the stock for injuries with the Course Director and handler present
b. write "DQ STOCK" across the score sheet and provide a brief (1 or 2 sentence) description of the incident in the comments area, also noting specific injuries done to the stock
c. in the presence of the Course Director, inform the handler that the dog is ineligible to compete again at that or any future ASCA Stockdog Trial or Inspection until the owner has been notified by ASCA that the dog's eligibility has been reinstated. (If the Course Director is the handler, another Host Club officer must be present.) The handler must be informed before the trial on that class of stock may continue.
d. submit a detailed report describing events immediately preceding the incident and the resulting injuries. The report shall be submitted to the Business Office within 14 days of the incident. The Business Office shall distribute this report to the Executive Secretary, Stockdog Committee Chairperson, Course Director, and the owner of the dog.

3.7.4. Disqualified for lack of control. The Judge shall disqualify any dog that is so out of control it cannot be caught even if no harm is done to the stock. Upon disqualification under this section, the Judge shall immediately stop the run and:

a. write "DQ CONTROL" across the score sheet and provide a brief (1 or 2 sentence) description of the incident in the comments area

b. in the presence of the Course Director, inform the handler that the dog is ineligible to compete again at that or any future ASCA Stockdog Trial or Inspection until the owner has been notified by ASCA that the dog's eligibility has been reinstated. (If the Course Director is the handler, another Host Club officer must be present.) The handler must be informed before the trial on that class of stock may continue.

c. submit a detailed report describing events immediately preceding the incident and the resulting injuries. The report shall be submitted to the Business Office within 14 days of the incident. The Business Office shall distribute this report to the Executive Secretary, Stockdog Committee Chairperson, Course Director, and the owner of the dog.

3.7.5. Reinstatement. A dog disqualified under section 3.7.3 or 3.7.4 may have its competition privileges reinstated only by approval of the Board of Directors. To request reinstatement, the owner of the disqualified dog must apply to the Stockdog Committee for a reinstatement inspection. The Stockdog Committee will assign someone to evaluate the dog in a neutral area a minimum of 100 by 200 feet. Upon completion of the evaluation by the inspector, the Stockdog Committee shall recommend a course of action to the Board of Directors, who shall notify the owner of its decision.

Approve: Dexter, Dolan, Hellmeister, Vest; Disapprove: Aufox, Berryessa, Davenport, Westerman; Abstain: Gann.

The motion is not approved.

99:10 Tracking Committee Motion 4-10
Note: This motion has been resubmitted to allow adequate time for membership comment.
Motion by Berryessa

Motion by Berryessa to approve the following:

This is Tracking committee motion 4-10. It has passed the committee. Here is the tally.
Voting in favor of this motion: Marja Teelgelbeckers, Celeste Kelly, Susan Schroeder, Becky Parker, Betty Mueller, Carol McQuade, Margaret Abrahamson, Jan Wesen, Renea Dahms. Abstain: Linda Gray, Not voting: Anne Hershey, and Maria Kremers.
Motion 4-10

I, Celeste Kelly move, and seconded by, Renea Dahms, that we add the number of passes behind each of the following titles, TD, TDU, and TDX, by changing the following sections, 3.3, 4.3, and 5.2 to read:

Section 3.3. The TD Title
ASCA will issue a Tracking Dog (TD) title to:
a) ASCA Registered Australian Shepherd dogs,
b) Australian Shepherd dogs with an ASCA LEP number,
c) any other dogs with an ASCA Office tracking number,
and will permit the use of the letters “TD” after the name of each dog that has passed an ASCA sanctioned Tracking Dog (TD) Test.
As soon as a dog has been certified by both Judges to have passed a Tracking Dog (TD) Test, it may be entered in either a Tracking Dog Urban (TDU) Test or a Tracking Dog Excellent (TDX) Test for which entries have not closed.

Any dog already holding an ASCA TD title may re-enter the same test without limit, however, Draw for Test Entry Rules apply. Dogs passing this test after earning the initial TD title will earn recognition for additional passes by receiving a title change as follows: TD2, TD3, TD4, etc.

Section 4.3, The Tracking Dog Urban (TDU) Title
ASCA will issue a Tracking Dog Urban (TDU) Title to:
- ASCA Registered Australian Shepherd dogs,
- Australian Shepherd dogs with an ASCA LEP number,
- any other dogs with an ASCA Office tracking number,
and will permit the use of the letters “TDU” after the name of each dog that has passed an ASCA sanctioned Tracking Dog Urban (TDU) Test.

As soon as a dog has been certified by both Judges to have passed a Tracking Dog Urban (TDU) Test, it may be entered in either a Tracking Dog (TD) Test or a Tracking Dog Excellent (TDX) Test for which entries have not closed.

Any dog already holding an ASCA TDU title may re-enter the same test without limit, however, Draw for Test Entry Rules apply. Dogs passing this test after earning the initial TDU title will earn recognition for additional passes by receiving a title change as follows: TDU2, TDU3, TDU4, etc.

Section 5.2 The TDX Title
ASCA will issue a Tracking Dog Excellent (TDX) Title to:
- ASCA Registered Australian Shepherd dogs,
- Australian Shepherd dogs with an ASCA LEP number,
- any other dogs with an ASCA Office tracking number,
and will permit the use of the letters “TDX” after the name of each dog that has passed an ASCA sanctioned Tracking Dog Excellent (TDX) Test.

Any dog already holding an ASCA TDX Title may re-enter the same test without limit, however, Draw for Test Entry Rules apply. Dogs passing this test after earning the initial TDX Title will earn recognition for additional passes by receiving a title change as follows: TDX2, TDX3, TDX4, etc.

Grandfather clause: Dogs who already hold any of the titles (TD, TDU, or TDX) will have that title counted, and the second time they pass at that level, the title will then be designated, TD2, etc.

Comments on the motion: A well trained tracking dog should be able to repeat passes at whatever level training has been accomplished. Since tracking is pass/fail, as long as the minimum requirement is met the dog passes. There is no numerical score to show a difference (i.e., 170 vs 200 in obedience). Multiple passes prove the dog's expertise without a doubt. Each test has different, weather, terrain, and scent conditions, etc.

Dogs who train tracking for live finds or evidence must keep their skills honed by regular work at whatever timeframe(s) they choose to work. Having the chance to continue to test, gives these dogs a chance to continue to proof their skills. For example, a dog who titles a TD on a Midwest prairie, can re-title in desert conditions, or in the more tropical and different grass conditions of Florida; or if it titles in the middle of summer in the lowlands by a river, it can proof that work in the late fall in the mountains. Every test is different, and every call to serve as a tracking dog is different. Tracking cannot be compared to any other ASCA performance event.

Folks should receive visible credit for their work. This numerical pass number will reward the team of dog and handler, and it will encourage folks to keep their dogs in ASCA Tracking instead of moving to another Club's programs.
We have been asked by the membership for this option. Tests with titled dogs seeking more PASSES will fill slots if the test entry is not completed by dogs who do not hold titles. This will help defray the cost of the test for the host club, and it should encourage more Tracking Tests to be held.

The Office told us this would neither be expensive nor difficult to do.

Tracking is a non-competitive sport. We need more ways to showcase our sport which is one that has real time value to mankind, and our sport needs to be more aligned with the other ASCA programs.

Here are how these sections read now:

**Section 3.3 The TD Title**

ASCA will issue a Tracking Dog Title to registered dogs, dogs with LEP, ILP numbers, and to dogs with an “ASCA Office tracking number” and will permit use of the letters "TD" after the name of each dog that has been certified by two Judges to have passed Affiliate’s Tracking (TD) Test.

As soon as a dog has been certified by the Judges to have passed an Affiliate’s Tracking (TD) Test, it may be entered in any Affiliate’s Tracking Dog Urban (TDU) Test or Affiliate Club’s Tracking Dog Excellent (TDX) Test for which the Entries have not closed.

The owner of a dog holding both the UD and TD titles may use the letters "UDT" after the name of the dog, signifying "Utility Dog Tracker." The owner of a dog holding both the UDX and TD titles may use the letters "UDXT" after the name of the dog, signifying "Utility Dog Excellent Tracker."

**Section 4.3 The TDU Title**

ASCA will issue a Tracking Dog Urban (TDU) Title to registered dogs, dogs with LEP, ILP numbers, and to dogs with an “ASCA Office tracking number” and will permit use of the letters “TDU” after the name of each dog that has been certified by two Judges to have passed an Affiliate’s Sanctioned Tracking Dog Urban (TDU) Test.

As soon as a dog has been certified by the Judges to have passed an Affiliate’s Tracking Dog Urban (TDU Test), it may be entered in any Affiliate’s Tracking Dog (TD) Test or Tracking Dog Excellent Test (TDX) for which the entries have not been closed.

The owner of a dog holding both the UD and TDU title may use the letters “UDTU” after the name of the dog, signifying “Utility Dog Tracker-Urban.” The owner of a dog holding both the UDX and TDU titles may use the letters, “UDXTU” after the name of the dog, signifying “Utility Dog Excellent Tracker-Urban.”

**Section 5.2. The TDX Title**

ASCA will issue a Tracking Dog Excellent Title Certificate to registered dogs, dogs with LEP or ILPs, and to dogs with an “ASCA Office tracking number”, and will permit use of the letter "TDX" after the name of each dog that has been certified by two Judges to have passed an Affiliate Club Tracking Dog Excellent (TDX) Test.

The owner of a dog holding both the “UD” and “TDX”. Titles may use the letters "UDTX" after the name of the dog, signifying "Utility Dog Tracker Excellent." The owner of a dog holding both the “UDX” and “TDX” Titles may use the letters "UDXTX" after the name of the dog, signifying "Utility Dog Excellent Tracker Excellent."

Comments during the official discussion:
I support this motion. Recognizing a handler’s willingness to support an unfilled test by exhibiting her titled dog to an additional pass is a good idea.
But I find the phrase: “…may re-enter the same test without limit,…” to be confusing. I would prefer this: “… may enter additional tests at the same level, however…”

Thanks,
Anne Hershey

Approve: Aufox, Berryessa, Davenport, Dexter, Dolan, Hellmeister, Vest, Westerman; Abstain: Gann.
The motion is approved.
**99:10 Tracking Committee Motion 5-10**

Note: This motion has been resubmitted to allow time for membership comment.

Motion by Berryessa to approve the following

This is Tracking committee Motion 5-10. It has passed the committee. Here is the tally.

Voting in favor of this motion are: Maria Teelgelbeckers, Betty Mueller, Susan Schroeder, Becky Parker, Carol McQuade, Margaret Abrahamson, Linda Gray, Jan Wesen, Celeste Kelly, and Renea Dahms. Not voting: Anne Hershey and Maria Kremers

Motion 5-10.

I, Maria Kremers move, seconded by Jan Wesen, to add to the Tracking Regulations a new chapter entitled: Chapter 6, The Master Tracker Title.

Comments:

The reason for this proposed Regulation change is to involve more people in the Tracking Program and award them with a special title recognizing their dogs' proficiency in Tracking with the designation of the title Master Tracker (MT).

Tracking is a sport indispensable to mankind. The proposed title of Master Tracker (MT) will give our tracking Australian Shepherds a chance to showcase their versatile talents so they can be equal in recognition to dogs in other ASCA performance events.

Respectfully submitted,
Maria Kremers

The new addition to the Regulations would read:

Chapter 6 The Master Tracker Title

ASCA will issue the title of Master Tracker (MT) to ASCA registered Australian Shepherds, dogs with LEP numbers, and to other dogs with an ASCA Office tracking number and will permit use of the letters "MT" after the name of each dog eligible for the title.

The title of Master Tracker (MT) will be awarded to dogs who have earned a higher level of achievement in tracking by passing a variety of Tracking Tests a number of times at ASCA sanctioned Tracking Tests.

The required nu

Section 6.1 Eligibility

To be eligible for the title Master Tracker (MT) a dog must successfully pass a minimum of:

3 Tracking Dog Tests (TD Section 3.3) or 3 Tracking Dog Urban Tests (TDU Section 4.3) or any combination of TDs and/or TDUs to total 3; plus a minimum pass of 2 Tracking Dog Excellent Tests (TDX Section 5.2)

Example: A dog may pass 2 TDUs and 1 TD and 2 TDXs or a dog may pass 3 TDs and 2 TDXs etc to earn the title of Master Tracker (MT).

A dog may earn the title of Master Tracker (MT) only once regardless of the number of passes beyond the minimum requirements.

Dogs who already hold the ASCA Tracking titles of TD, TDU and TDX will have those titles applied towards the Master Tracker (MT) title; however each dog must earn the required number of passes at each test level before the title of Master Tracker (MT) will be awarded.

The draw for entry applies. (See Section 1.20 The Draw for Test Entry(s) and Alternates List).

Comments during the Official discussion:

I am opposed to Motion #5-10, “The Master Tracker title” as written, because I believe it is a huge and unnecessary mistake to include multiples of TD/TDU titles in the REQUIREMENTS for the proposed Master
Tracker title would be extremely frustrating to exhibitors who aspire to the title. This is the problem: very few titling opportunities are offered in a single tracking test. Separate test tracks are plotted and run for each dog entered, and plotting and running each track requires a lot of space, work and expense. The maximum allowable entry for a TD Test is 12 dogs, the maximum for TDX is 6 dogs. For this reason our titling system is set up so that a tracking dog earns his TD title by passing just one test. Then, if the TD titled dog’s handler aspires to advanced level tracking, she trains the dog toward his TDX title. Conscientious exhibitors then give back to the sport by working for a few tests and helping to provide other teams an opportunity to title. Tracking is a cooperative sport in this way, as presently structured.

But if we adopt requirements for multiple titles at the basic skill level--- TD/TDU— handlers who already have titled their dogs will keep trying to enter their dogs in TD/TDU tests. They will be frustrated in these efforts because tracking test entry is determined by lottery, and untitled dogs are given preference in lotteries for test entry.

I do support awarding a Master Tracker title to dogs who pass multiple TDX tests. TDX is the advanced level, problem solving challenge in the sport. A dog who passes more than one TDX test clearly demonstrates unusual ability. Two tests would be enough, in my opinion. And still, it will be difficult for titled TDX dogs to enter a second test. I was able to title my red Aussie girl “Blaze” twice in TDX in the late ninety’s when our National Specialty Tracking Tests were not filling. But those days are long gone. Our 2009 National Specialty Tracking Test had TDX alternates waiting in the wings, and my local club’s February, 2010 TDX test also had several disappointed alternates. These exhibitors now are training for another year and hoping to get into PASA’s TDX test planned for February 2011.

Why are we even proposing requiring multiple TD/TDU’s for the Master Tracker title? For two reasons, if I understand the committee’s conversation correctly:

1. Host clubs want to fill their tests and the committee wants to encourage more people to get involved with the sport. I agree that requiring multiple TD/TDU’s is a possible short term fix for the problem of unfilled tests at the moment. But it won’t get more people involved--- quite the opposite: the same people will be wanting to title the same dog over and over again at the basic skill level. And if the ASCA program grows and TD/TDU tests start filling, this requirement will cause extreme frustration for trainers who aspire to a Master Tracking Dog Title because the entries for their previously titled dogs always will be placed at the end of the cue for test entry--- behind untitled dogs, and even behind uncertified dogs, since we now are allowing uncertified dogs to enter tests at the end of the cue (a big mistake IMO.) These trainers will have to maintain their dogs at test readiness for years without finding a test they can enter--- at the basic skill level, even after their dogs have fulfilled the multiple TDX requirement. Meanwhile these same trainers will not want to work for tests, because they will be trying to get into them. This requirement will create a losing situation for trainers and a losing situation for test workers--- a LOSE, LOSE situation for ASCA Tracking.

2. Some committee members believe that requiring multiple TD/TDU titles for the Master Tracker titles will serve to make the titling structure of ASCA Tracking comparable to the titling structures of other ASCA performance sports. They see that Agility, for instance, requires two or three legs to title at each class level, so they think Tracking should require two or three legs at each class level also. Tracking is structured differently, though in some respects it already requires two passing performances, and passing performances under a total of three judges. The dog achieves his title for basic skills in a two stage process: stage one is passing a judge’s certification for test entry, and stage two is passing a TD/TDU test judged by two judges. The decision of both judges is required to pass the dog. The decision of one judge can fail the dog.

In actual fact, in order to be comparable to the ATCH in Agility, the Master Tracker title should require multiple titles at the advanced level, not at the basic skill level. TDX is the only advanced title available in ASCA Tracking at the moment, so a Master Tracker should achieve at least two TDX’s. Please note that the ATCH in Agility does not require multiple titles at the Novice and Open levels--- only at the advanced Elite level. Obedience Trials Championships require multiple titling at both the Open and Utility levels because the Open and Utility exercises are different--- but multiple titles at the Novice level are not required in Obedience. It will be difficult enough for a trainer to title her dog multiple times in TDX, because untitled dogs get preference in the draw for TDX test entry, just as they do for TD/TDU entry. But host clubs can respond to expanded needs in two ways: by offering more TDX tests or by offering combined TD/TDU and TDX tests and
then substituting tracks from one level to another if one of the classes does not fill and another class is oversubscribed.

Thanks,
Anne Hershey

Approve: Berryessa, Davenport, Dexter, Dolan, Hellmeister, Vest, Westerman; Disapprove: Aufox; Abstain: Gann.
The motion is approved.

Submitted,

Pete Dolan
ASCA Secretary
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