

ASCA® 2008 General Membership Meeting
November 13, 2008
2008 ASCA® National Specialty
South Point Hotel and Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada

Attendance: (Those who signed the attendance sheet that was circulated.) Will Gergits, Therion International, Boyce and Sherry Baker, Marsha Westerman, Carol T. McLaughlin, DVM, Jean A. Miller, Trish Alexander, Lynn Fremuth, Marilee Mansir, Donna Armstrong, Robbi Norman, Tanya Barker, Lori Middleton, Heidi Erland, Regina Lee Gravette, Ronnie Bates, Glenda Stephenson, Bill Dakin, C.A. Sharp, Linda Gray, Katrina Anderson, Melissa Lamoureaux, Janice Dearth, Cheri Preciado, Lisa Cozard, Melinda Gann, Heidi Mobley, Stephanie Shope McDaniel, Karen Boyes, Joyce Lofke, Margaret Gullede, Janelle Farkas, Sharon Farkas, Katie van de Sandt, Bonnie Heitz, Cynthia Clark, Mona Nichols, Maralise Howze, Tom D'Abo, Nancy D'Abo, Joy Wikoff, Jack Wikoff, Deborah Marlun, Mary Hellmeister, Wendy Finsterwald, Maury Finsterwald, Sandra Penn, M. Baker, Kristin Niemeyer-Baker, Nikki Heep, Mike Black, Sherry Butler, Judy Boone, Amy Bradley, Maxine Schvaneveldt, Rick Hardin, Sue Scott, Jan Wesen, Cynthia Taylor, Barbara Peters, Stu Marlin, Pat Lambeth, Denise Sharp

There was not a quorum.

Jerry Aufox called the meeting to order and introduced Directors who were in attendance: Mark Westerman, Rick Gann, Pete Dolan, Michelle Berryessa, Jo Kimes, Jerry Aufox, Ann DeChant, Peter Hellmeister, Patrick MacRoberts, Kristin McNamara. Absent were Chris Davenport and Roger Stevens, who had both returned home.

Treasurer's Report - Kristin McNamara

As you may or may not be aware, ASCA® was in some dire financial straits for a bit following upheaval at the business office, but I'm happy to report that despite the bleak economic outlook this year, ASCA®'s had a strong fiscal showing.

This time last year, we were looking at a \$30,000 loss. In 12 months, we made \$90,000 and are now in the black \$60,000. Further good news, as of the close of the third quarter, our balance sheet (which includes investments and liabilities) shows the club is worth \$517,000, which is a 12% increase from last year. A lot of this is due to the business office's stabilization.

With regard to income, the club's main sources of revenue are the Aussie Times (20%), membership (20%), and the registry (35%). Member services and programs cost the club the most, about 15 and 25% respectively. Agility is the club's biggest program, followed by Conformation.

The Board has approved projections for 2009, and we'll have that published in the Times with a detailed explanation of what it means. We anticipate remaining in the black, but intend to invest money toward advertising, education, and software development that should impact us in financially positive ways for years to come. This includes online payment and results submission.

Finals costs seem to be an item of interest to the general membership. With the changes to the Stockdog finals approved and implemented in 2010, the Board has sent a directive to the Stockdog Committee to consider raising the entry fees. Current entry costs are \$40/class.

Anne: I think she meant 2009 which is when the new format starts at \$50 per stock entry fee
Does anyone have any questions?

Well, that concludes my report. Thank you.

Jerry Aufox: I'd like to for our next order of business give our thanks and appreciation for the years of service of our two outgoing Board Members, Ann DeChant, ladies first. Since we are in the black, we can present a plaque. I would like to present to you a plaque with our appreciation for your years of service as Secretary to the Australian Shepherd Club of America and your services from 2001 to 2008. Ann: Thank you!

Jerry: Peter Hellmeister if you would be so kind as to accept this plaque as a thank you for your services as a Director from 2002 to 2008.

Next order of business is our Committee Reports:

Agility Report – Sue Graham

Thank everyone who helped with the Trials this week.

The past year, I'm please to report that the last year, the ASCA[®] Agility Trial in 2008 are multiplying and there have been 254 trial dates, and over 2000 dogs have competed in program for the ASCA[®] year through June 2008. We've got lots of other breeds in the program as well. The Committee has worked really hard this year and has come up with a new judges program. Basically, what we are doing now it that all Judges coming into program will be under supervision. Our current course reviewers will be our supervisors. We hope that ASCA[®] competitors in ASCA[®] Agility will apply to become Judges. They will have to be supervised for two trials and then will become ASCA[®] Judges.

I thought of one more thing that I'd like to address because it is a pet peeve for some of the members here, so if you see me this week, I'd like your input. It's about the outside licensing program. I've been approached by many Agility Clubs who want to put on trials, but they are not ASCA[®] Affiliates. Some ASCA[®] Affiliates have no problem signing the forms to allow them sanctioning. But sometimes, they approach local Affiliates to ask to work with them, and they are turned down. I'd love to get these other clubs who have the facilities, the equipment, and the manpower to be able to have ASCA[®] Agility. I have a draft of the program that was sent to the Board I can show anyone that wants to look at it. Let me know your thoughts and why you think it's a good or bad idea. Does anyone have any questions? There were none.

ARPH Report. – Kristin McNamara, Liaison

So far in 2008, ARPH has taken in and placed over 600 dogs. Our feeling is that the economy is playing a part as evidenced by the increased numbers of people asking for assistance. We are keeping our eyes and ears open to jobless people in need of help with their pet. At the same time we are communicating the need for volunteers to help out. We have over 400 volunteers in the United States and Canada. Our finances have remained stable thanks to our dedicated volunteers and their efforts seeking discounts for rescue from vets and their diligent fundraising to cover extraordinary medical expenses for dogs in their care. ARPH has also received some nice donations from people who are loyal to the breed and supportive of their efforts.

The ARPH (?) Board approved the reimbursement of additional items, including a collar and microchip for each dog. We removed the cap for heartworm treatment. We want all the rescued Aussies to be safe, healthy and a good representation of the breed.

We have further streamlined the record requirements, and our recently recreated Paperwork Committee has done a wonderful job of improving the adoption application and the expense report used by the Representatives. The committee is hard at work updating all of ARPH's forms.

The long-awaited book, "For the Love of an Australian Shepherd" is now available, and is a best seller! ARPH thanks all the people who shared their stories, as well as Beth Alden for compiling them and Chuck May for doing the editing. ARPH's much-anticipated 2009 Rescue Calendar is also now available for purchase on our website and E-Bay store.

Keith Sturgess stepped down as President, and Pamela Leach assumed that position at the annual Board meeting in July. The Board is looking for new members, and solicitations have gone out to all our volunteers.

Again, this year, ARPH wishes to thank ASCA[®] for its continued support, and we thank Kristin McNamara for being ARPH's liaison to ASCA[®].

Respectfully,
Pamela Leach, President
ARPH, Inc.

Conformation Committee – Glenda Stephenson, Chair

Good afternoon ladies and gentleman.

My name is Glenda Stephenson, I am the chairman of the Conformation Committee.

This year we have been working diligently on several topics of interest to the conformation exhibitors, judges and show committees.

Our main objective has been working on the judge's approval system and the judge's written test. We are 99.9 % completed on the judge's test, with just a few tweaks to finish on this test. Previously, scenarios and junior showmanship questions were not included on the test. The committee felt that these were important issues that judges be familiar with.

For our next session, we will be working on:

- The point system: Tabulation of dogs exhibited on the averaging system is still to be utilized, but the amount of dogs for each point progression is being visited and recalculated.
- Adding a rule that only dogs that have regular ASCA[®] registration papers may compete at ASCA[®] Nationals, at Specialties, and any conformation events.
- Discuss and work on a rule that Australian Shepherd puppies that are not ASCA[®] registered or ASCA[®] registerable in the Non-Regular Puppy classes.
- We are also in the process of affirming that the Altered rules are in compliance with the Intact rules, specifically with the levels of judges that are approved to judge classes at Nationals Specialties.
- Judges Code of Ethics and revamping them as rules, making them enforceable.
- Correcting errors in the Altered Conformation portion of the rule book, regarding judges, descriptions and explanations.
- The committee will be requesting to the Board that the Judges Conduct Reports are to be sent to a newly formed position that would be able to review the forms and be able to

act on them in such a manner that a positive action can be taken and maintain confidentiality.

- Announcing that a new Disqualified Dog form will be included in the show sanctioning packets. These forms are to be used for ALL venues and can be duplicated.
- The chapter of the show and rulebook regarding Ring Stewards will be elaborated upon. With the addition of more rules, duties, and explanations. A separate sheet regarding Stewarding Guidelines will be developed so that it could be added into the show packet.

A section in the Rulebook will be developed for Exhibitor Guidelines and rules.

We are eagerly anticipating the input from the membership on rules that need to be updated or clarified. We would like to remind the members to please direct any questions or suggestions to the Conformation Committee Chairperson. My contact information is in the Aussie Times. Without the knowledge of any problems, we cannot work on them.

Thank you for your time.

Jerry, said, Thank you Glenda.

2008 National Meeting DNA Committee Report – Lori Middleton, Chair

From November 1, 2007 to October 31, 2008:

DNA CP's 597 DNA VP's 693

The trend is now turning towards getting more DNA-VPs than DNA-CPs due to more breeders DNAing their breeding dogs.

Total number of CPs in ASCA®'s database 6,134

Total number VPs in ASCA®'s database 3,613

As a reminder for everyone on the meanings of "CP" and "VP", they are as follows:

"CP" stands for Certified Profiled. This is given to any dog that has been DNA profiled with an ASCA® approved lab that does NOT have both of its parents profiled.

"VP" stands for Verified Parentage. This is given to any dog that has been DNA profiled with an ASCA approved lab, and both of its parents have been profiled with an ASCA® approved lab. This dog's profile has been compared to both of its parents' profiles, and qualifies as the offspring of its parents.

With European dogs tested with Certagen, whose parents have been tested at Therion in the US, the procedure will be slightly altered. The owner will be issued a DNA-CP Certificate. The DNA-CP Certificate will include a letter from the Business Office stating if they would like Therion to adjust and compare their dog's profile with the parents' profiles, on file with Therion, to return the DNA-CP certificate to the Business Office with \$10 and a new DNA-VP certificate will be issued once the comparison has been done.

Early in the year a DNA poll was sent out to a few of the Aussie discussionlists. Some of the responses received showed a lack of knowledge, not only about DNA, but also on what benefits DNA contributes to your dogs and breeding programs. The DNA Committee came forth with a

variety of educational material in the form of articles, short stories/scenarios titled "Case Solved," and a question and answer format.

We began the year as the "DNA and Genetics Committee" and are ending it as the "DNA Committee." After a lengthy discussion we asked the board to create a separate committee for Health and Genetics to provide the membership with information regarding health and genetic issues so our committee could concentrate on DNA policy and procedure.

During the course of this past year we tested fresh semen dropped onto blood cards and found the results from the lab to be reliable. So this is an option in a pinch. (Laughter)

We are still looking to test semen that has been frozen for a period of time. If anyone out there is planning a breeding with stored frozen semen and would be willing to be a test case for us, please contact Jean at the Business Office so we can get you hooked up with the right materials and instructions.

Pedigrees corrected through DNA testing are now being published in the Aussie Times. Keep your eyes peeled for these corrections

We are pleased to announce the number of litters in the popular sire/dam rules have been lowered to 2 litters (down from 3 litters). This means any dog/bitch producing their 2nd litter must have been DNA profiled by an ASCA[®] approved lab prior to their second litter being registered. This rule becomes effective January 1, 2010.

Additionally the BOD approved the Committee's November motion to implement DNA profiling for all breeding dogs and bitches prior to the registration of their first litter effective January 1, 2011.

We are also pleased that cheek swabs are once again available as an option for DNA profiling. Be sure to follow the directions carefully. The price of the cheek swab kit is \$45. But remember...blood is always the best option.

For the upcoming year, Chris Davenport has graciously once again agreed to be our Committee liaison and our new Committee Chairperson is Devona Myrick. Thank you Devona for stepping up to the plate.

I would like to now introduce Will Gergits who is here from Therion International who would like to take a few minutes to speak to you and then he will take any technical questions you may have. Lori Middleton, DNA Committee Chairperson

Will Gergits – Therion International

Will Gergits introduced himself and said that his lab Therion International. "For the last several years, we been doing the DNA testing for your registry. I represent the entire Staff and we very, very much enjoyed working with your organization.

"Two things I would like to say, sometimes we have problems with samples. I know people are anxious because they need to get their puppies registered so they can get sold, etc., etc. It hurts us just as bad when we have problems, maybe not as much as it hurts you because you are anxious, but we don't like it when there are problems as we are scientists first and business people second. On that note I will wholeheartedly reiterate what Lori said. Make sure you follow directions on collecting samples as best as possible. Don't just stick the brush in there and get a little saliva on it and expect that you are going to get any DNA as you are not. You have to really scrape the cheeks. You have to get cells off the cheeks for us to get the DNA. We can't process the sample and we will have to ask you to resubmit the sample. So it's up to you

whether to use brushes. Blood is always better. Make sure you follow the directions. It will save you some time and effort.

“There is one more thing I want to say in regard to our turn around time. We try to get to the sample as soon as possible, but in order for us to keep the cost down for your organization, we bulk process, so we are not going to get three samples in the mail one day and then process. We wait until we get 45 samples and then process. So if we only get a few samples a day, then your samples may wait for a few weeks or a month if we aren’t getting samples. Now hopefully with your new rules, with DNA being required by one litter or before the first litter, we are going to see turn around time be faster. That is really all I’ve got to say. Thank you for inviting me here and for allowing me to speak to you.”

Education Committee - Regi Gravette, Member

Committee roster: Lisa Bell (chair); Regi Gravette; Mary Hellmeister; Kay Marks; Tricia Morley; Chris Reedy; Rhonda Silveira; Glenda Stephenson. We continue to accept resumes preferably from regions 3 and 7. BoD Liaison-Michelle Berryessa, DVM.

Best wishes go to Shelly Hollen as she leaves the Committee. Shelly was paramount in the creation of this committee when she was a Director. In turn we welcome our newest member, Mary Hellmeister.

Kay Marks spearheaded the project to create an agility flyer for printing to use as a promotional material available to affiliates and individuals. This flyer will be available via the ASCA website. This same flyer will be used in promotional advertising.

The Committee continues to review educational materials on the website and work to update information and create new information.

We are researching the creation of an information packet that would be available to affiliates and educational seminar presenters. This packet would contain articles relating to general ASCA information, general breed information and more specific related articles depending on the seminar or needs of the affiliate.

Current projects include:

- Creating multilingual forms along with explanations to describe and illustrate how to fill out these forms
- Cooperative efforts with the Conformation Committee for judges education and general educational seminar offerings
- Creating an article to define the Hardship versus the Foreign registry processes
- The above mentioned information packets for seminars
- Educational/promotional flyers

Please direct all membership comments, questions or concerns and to Lisa Bell, EC Chair, and we will attempt to address these issues relating to Education.

Are there any question? Donna Armstrong asked: Are the different seminars that are being put on being taped for future. Answer: The Education Committee hasn’t done any seminars yet. Donna: there are four seminars this week. Is the Committee or ASCA® taping them? Another Committee Member said that the Committee is just beginning

work on these seminars, which will have to be approved by each venue committee and will then have to be updated whenever the rules for that program change.

Hall of Fame Committee – Report provided by Chair Anne Shope and delivered by Ann DeChant, Liaison

The Committee has been quiet since HOFX passed, but work will kick back up after Nationals. We are currently in the process of electing a new chair. I'm stepping down, having served the past two years. Our Committee can use some more members. If you are interested, please send your resume to the ASCA[®] Office.

Please be advised that the HOF application was revised. The HOF and HOFX applications can both be found at the Forms link at the ASCA[®] website; they were uploaded November 5th - thanks to Heidi Mobley, our webmaster. These forms can also be mailed to you upon your request. HOFX information can be found in the Nov/Dec 2008 Aussie Times. The MVA/HOF Rulebook is in the process of being updated by the ASCA Office with the HOFX information and the HOF & HOFX applications. This is one of the busiest times of the year for the Office, so please be patient as they tend to things in priority order. If you have any questions with regard to qualifying for HOF or HOFX, or about completing the HOF or HOFX forms, please don't hesitate to contact a HOF Committee Member. Remember, HOF must be earned and awarded prior to putting in for HOFX. The Office informed me they have received some HOFX applications. Early congratulations to those of you who have achieved this breeding honor. In due course, all of us will know who you are and can applaud your achievements.

One of the topics of interest to this Committee is a Membership HOF. If you have input in this regard as to how to set this up, or criteria you'd like to see implemented to qualify, share your thoughts with any Committee member, please.

Anne Shope
HOF Chair

Health and Genetics – Chris Reedy, Chair sent the following report to the Liaison:

The Health and Genetics Committee was formed earlier this year after the Board realized there was a great need for a Committee devoted to the health issues that plague the Australian Shepherd breed. Our goal is to not only educate the members of ASCA, but anyone interested in the breed from buyers to breeders to veterinarians. We will be working with ASHGI and the DNA Committee to bring events to you such as the Health Screening opportunity that took place this week. We also look forward to providing a comprehensive addition to the ASCA website so up to date information on health issues can be obtained with little effort. Our hope is to work closely with the Education Committee to accomplish this task.

Thank you to Ann DeChant for being our very first Liaison and a big thank you to the members of our group that have provided input over these first months. We have a big job ahead of us so suggestions are always welcome. We are also in need of new members!

Bill Dakin, Member, reported at the Meeting:

First, I'd like to thank the Board and the DNA Committee for the starting of this Committee. Also for the show committee for helping to put together on the Health clinic with all of the tests that were offered. I would like to tell you about the results of the clinic. The Health Clinic was sponsored by ASCA[®] – H&G – DNA – the National Specialty Committee – and ASHGI.

Over 90 samples gathered:

Cancer research - 5

CHIC DNA Repository - 5 (The folks at the DNA blood draw were kind enough to draw for the CHIC DNA repository and the Cancer research project)

MDR1 - 32

HSF4 cataracts - 45

CEA - 2

PRA - 1

We were hoping for samples from Epi dogs, but none were brought in for the draw.

The Jax Memorial Raffle for cancer research brought in \$11,000

There will be a push in the Committee to educate the Breeders, non-breeders, and the general public on the Mission of the Committee. The Committee has been working on revisions to the Health and Genetics content for the ASCA[®] web site. The revisions are approximately 60% of the web content is complete and when we have it complete we will send it to Heidi for posting on the Website. But you know the last percentage of a project finish up takes the longest.

I am the only person from the Committee who is at this Nationals and the Committee is brand new. Suggestions from members are welcome for ways the H&G Committee can support them. Are there any questions?

Question: Were the tests for the AHT cataract test held at the Nationals? Answer: Bill said yes it was. Question: Another person inquired where the test would be offered other than at Nationals. Answer: Bill stated that you can order the test directly from AHT or you can do as a number of clubs are doing and organize a group of 20 to get the discounted rate. The Committee would like to get together a group of forms to make clinics easier to do so that it's a one stop shopping approach with a small clinic like we had at the Nationals.

Question: Is the AHT cataract test 100% accurate? Answer: **CA Sharp** was introduced to answer this question. CA is a President of ASHGI who partnered with ASCA[®] for the Health Clinic. She asked if the AHT test is what the question was about. "This is different test is different than the ones we've had before such as the test for MDR1, CEA, and PRA, where they were single gene traits. Cataracts are genetically complex. The mutation that has been found is not for every single cataract in the breed. However, a large majority of cataracts, the dogs that have the mutation do get cataracts. This is dominant with incomplete penetrance, which means there are other genes involved that cause the phenotype that you see in your dog. Not every dog that has this mutation will get a cataract, but most do. So a dog that comes with a copy of the mutation is not a dog that got cataracts as a younger dog, but it may get them in its lifetime. It's 100% accurate for identifying the mutation, but the mutation is not black and white. It's not telling you for sure what will happen with your dog. The majority of dogs with even one

copy of the mutation will at some point in their lives get cataracts. Does that answer your questions?"

Jerry said, Thanks CA.

Juniors Committee – Michelle Berryessa, Liaison, said that there is no report from the Committee, but the Junior Committee is being reformed. If you would like to be on the committee, please apply.

MVA Committee - Kristin McNamara, Liaison, reported that the MVA Committee has been inactive.

Obedience Committee Report: - Kristin McNamara, Liaison, reported for Janet White Chair.

ASCA[®] obedience numbers are down across the country. As a committee, we have been working on strategies that will help up encourage more participation and entries in an average affiliate obedience trial.

One thing we need to work on is the reinstatement of the ASCA[®] obedience judge's test. This test fell into a black hole and needs to be revamped according to the new rules and reinstated. That is a goal for summer, 2008.

Besides these specific things, the committee continues to strive to keep the sport of obedience safe and fun for all dogs and exhibitors. We address concerns including the safety of: group sits/downs and the broad jump.

Committee needs (this includes programming, financial support, or staffing):

- ASCA[®] – As far as programming, we need to be sure that the Honor Dog award is tracked correctly. We also need to be sure the computer program can recognize dogs that have earned a HIT but remain at the Novice level (which is not allowed per the current rules).
- *Membership* – We need input from the membership constantly. To this end, we have a yahoo group dedicated to ASCA[®] obedience rules discussions. This resource needs to be made public so that more interested parties may join.
- *Affiliates* – We also need input from affiliates as to how the new classes are going (Wild Card) as well as any ideas to create more entries for clubs.

Concerns or desires from the membership (please list current issues the membership has made known to your committee, whether you are taking action or not):

- Safety of the group exercises (long sits/downs).
- Safety of the current broad jump exercise.
- An inclusion of a veterans class for the Open and Utility level of ASCA[®] Obedience.
- Updating the current list of breeds able to jump at $\frac{3}{4}$ their height.

Yes, we are taking action on all of these concerns.

Plans for current year:

- The most immediate assignment is the reworking of the ASCA® obedience judges' test.
- We are also working on a titling class for veteran dogs at the Open and Utility level.
- Updating the current list of breeds able to jump at $\frac{3}{4}$ their height.
- We need to continue to look for and update the current rule book as contradictions or errors are found.

Plans for within 3 years:

- We will continue to promote the sport of obedience and keep it as safe and welcoming a program as possible.
- We will continue to watch the current discussions of the safety of the broad jump exercise and the group exercises as we discuss alternative assessments.

There have been 326 Obedience Shows, 132 CDs awarded, 47 CDX Titles, 5 OTCH Titles, 11 UD Titles and 1 UDX for Aussies. For Other Breeds we have 176 CD Titles, 52 CDX Titles, 5 OTCH Titles, 24 UD. 893 dogs took part in the program.

Nationals Committee – Pete Dolan, Member

We were formed after last year's Nationals we were a gang of four for a while and now we are a gang of six. We are working on two prongs one, a verse and chapter manual on how to do a Nationals formalizing what has been going on for a few years now with Affiliates who have hosted the Nationals, and we are taking a hard look at the rules trying to get them so that only the Nationals specific items are in there with lots of discussion as it relates to the manual. If you have any ideas or if you see things feel free to send them to Renee Reschenthaler who is our acting chair and Patrick is our Liaison. Working hard to make it easier, it will never be easy, for host clubs to put on a Nationals. It's become quite a production over the years. Anyway if you want to be on the Committee, we only have six so we have plenty of room.

Rally Committee - Janice Dearth, Member

The Rally committee has completed inserting "rally" into the ASCA® rules /regulations with some exceptions. Having discussed all of these, one at a time, we've compiled the changes, we (the committee) need to vote on. We are currently working on the signage for each class with explanations. When those are completed, we will vote on each and make corrections accordingly. The signs are approximately 65% completed. The main sections still not completed, are the judges' qualifications and explanation of each class offered, Novice, Advanced, Excellent, & Masters.

We, the committee, are aiming to submit a completed rally program to the BOD no later than April, 2009. We are hoping to be able to introduce Rally as a titling program at the Sept, 2009 ASCA® Nationals in CO. Prior to the beginning of titling Rally, we'll need to be able to

produce signs for the ASCA® clubs. All of this takes time and thus the Sept start date for Novice Rally titles at Nationals.

She did a survey for the Committee and it was for the Committee to see if we are on the right track. I'm happy to report, we are 100%.

There was a question about whether the signs will be available for people to use to practice. Janice said, "Yes, but they have to be approved by the Board along with the whole program. We thought we would see the goal at starting at the Nationals as it will be an All-Breed program, but if we start in Novice at the Nationals, only Australian Shepherds would be able to compete in Novice at the Nationals.

Question was asked about what Nationals it would first be offered at, and Janice said September 2009 in Greeley, Colorado.

Respectfully submitted:

Janice Dearth, Rally Committee Member, 2008

SDC Report - Rick Hardin took on reading the report from Ann's computer

Here are some numbers from the past year's trialing season:

Number of stockdog trials: 134 (17 of those were ranch trials) up from 116 last year.
Number of titles awarded to Aussies: 1250 (66 were WTCHs). Up from 1144 last year.
Number of titles awarded to other breeds: 809 (38 were WTCHs). Up from 780 last year.

Judges

The SDC approved the promotion to Provisional Stock Dog Judge for Mike Bryant from Georgia, Mike Tremblay from California, and Jan Wesen from Washington.

The SDC accepted Wayne Kirby from Georgia, Bob Myrick from New Mexico, Devona Myrick from New Mexico, and Robin Johnson-Garrett from Utah as Apprentice Stock Dog Judges.

Farm Trial

The committee approved the new Farm Trial classes. Farm Trial classes are similar to Ranch Trial classes, but they are conducted in smaller spaces with fewer head of stock. They also incorporate elements unique to each setting.

The first 2 Farm Trials were recently hosted on October 24 this year in Texas by SWASA and judged by Dana Mackenzie. By all accounts the trial was a success, and feedback from contestants and spectators were very positive. There was a report at the Judges Seminar on the Farm Trial and apparently it was a huge success.

Finals

In an attempt to make the qualifying process more competitive, the committee has increased the maximum number of entries in each class of stock from 20 to 40.

The first (elimination) round in each class will be run simultaneously on the first day. Each class will be judged by 2 judges, and their scores will be averaged. The top 10 dogs in each class will advance to rounds 2 and 3.

Rounds 2 and 3 will be conducted the same way it is done in our current format. They will be judged by 4 judges. The highest and lowest scores will be thrown out, and the remaining 2 scores will be averaged. The totals from rounds 1 and 2 will be added together.

Committee Members

During the Nationals of even-numbered years, judge members to the SDC are appointed to 2-year terms. This year 2 new judge members will be joining the committee, Lori Middleton from Michigan and Maxine Schvaneveldt from Idaho.

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

Contestants (one from each region):

Sherry Baker, California, Region 2
Chris Caldwell, Washington, Region 1
Anneke de Jong, The Netherlands, Region 7
Joan Holmes, Alberta, Canada, Region 3
Sue Kelly, Michigan, Region 4
Melinda May, Texas, Region 5
Bill Pechka-King, Connecticut, Region 6

Judges (selected at-large):

Rick Hardin, Colorado
Preston Kissman, Oklahoma
Lori Middleton, Michigan
Maxine Schvaneveldt, Idaho
Steve Shope, New Mexico

On behalf of the committee, I would like to thank outgoing members Ken Silviera and Kathy Warren for their service.

I am stepping down as chair this year. The committee has chosen Linda Mahoney from Michigan to be the new chair. Linda has experience both as a contestant member and as chair of the Stockdog Chair, and I am confident she will do a great job.

Chris Davenport from Vermont will continue to serve as the committee's liaison.

I would like to thank all of the people who have served with me on the SDC over the years. It has been an honor to work with all of you.

Finally, on behalf of the SDC, I would like to thank all ASCA® members who have contributed their ideas. We welcome our members continued involvement, contributions, and comments on any Stockdog Program issue. Remember that we have available to all ASCA members an electronic newsletter that is a compilation of all non-confidential committee discussions. We also offer an email list for sending feedback to the

committee. Instructions on how to subscribe to these services can be found in every SDC Report in the Aussie Times.

Strategic Planning Committee Report – Patrick MacRoberts

The committee was established in 2005 in a motion by Maarten Walter in 2005. "The Strategic Planning Committee will consist of three Board Members and up to three ASCA[®] members. The primary tasks of this committee will be to formulate and document a one to three year plan in the following areas: organizational finances; information technology; programs; Board and officer organizational structure and functions; business office structure and processing.

Further, the Strategic Planning Committee will provide a yearly document at the General Membership Meeting with clearly defined purposes, goals, objectives and priorities of the ASCA[®] organization; ensuring that the most effective use of resources is focused on key priorities, organizational improvements and providing a mechanism for measuring progress."

At the Nationals Meeting in 2007 in New Jersey the following members were placed on the committee by the Board: Patrick MacRoberts, Kristin McNamara and Peter Hellmeister. Since then, Maarten Walter and Ronnie Bates have been added to the committee.

The committee began the task by developing a document that describes ASCA's business and business priorities—the "ASCA[®] Business Plan". This plan is a "working document" at this time and describes—in broad terms—the business of ASCA[®], its structure, competition, programs, and competitors. It also contains a base market analysis for ASCA[®].

With an understanding of ASCA[®]'s market, the business priorities, and the operational structure of the club and Business Office, the committee approached the program committees and the business office to help identify the "three year plan" for each area of ASCA[®]. The resulting documentation was included in the business plan as developmental opportunities for each of the areas.

We are currently in the process of pulling the business documentation into two documents. First, we are going to have the "ASCA[®] Business Plan" this is the original document describing ASCA[®] and its place in the market. The second document is the "3-year" plan, which will outline, in detailed timelines, where we believe each of ASCA[®]'s programs are going.

For the next year, the Strategic Planning committee recommended the following areas of focus to the ASCA[®] Board.

1. Complete the Operational documentation for business processes in business office.
2. Develop a Financial process manual.
 - Perhaps this gets assigned to the 2nd VP to get done.
3. Enable online payments and additional charged services to be available over the web. This is where we will have Membership renewal, litter registrations, potentially individual registrations, trial/show results
4. Have Rally program implemented and in place for 2010 or earlier if possible.

The first two will help ASCA® streamline our business operations—resulting in faster delivery of service to our members. The third will enable us to deliver additional services online and is a key to helping reduce the work to host an ASCA show or trial. The last is a program that we believe will bring more membership— and more fun—into ASCA®.

The Board Appointed committee members for next year are: Kristin McNamara, Pete Dolan, Mark Westerman, Ronnie Bates, Maarten Walter and Peter Hellmeister.

Tracking Committee - Michelle Berryessa, Liaison, for Celeste Kelly, Tracking Committee Chair

With the date of the last test from last year listed in June, from June 07 to June 08, ASCA® has had 5 Tracking tests. During that time period there were 4 TDs and 3 TDXs earned by ASCA® registered dogs and 2 TD titles with dogs with Tracking Numbers. Also, there were three TDs earned at this year's Nationals. Three out of three passed.

We would like to thank all the clubs that have hosted tracking tests this year.

First big news, we will have a new tracking test in the Rules in January. This test will be much like the TD. It will be called TDU. If you pass this test, you can then go on to TDX, and you can also earn the TD title. This test's Rules will be nearly the same as the TD, but the different requirements will be: 3 to 4 turns, 20 percent on mixed surface other than the primary surface, and 350 to 400 yards in length. Please keep posted on this new test.

The Committee has also worked on the Nationals Rules for a Tracking test for the Nationals Rule Book, and meanwhile the Tracking Committee continues to work on updating rules and importing the pertinent show rules into the Tracking Rules. We are trying to have our Rules be stand-alone Rules which has been a Board directive. Right now we have a motion up for discussion to expand the Rules for Tracklayers. We appreciate any input that all Members have. The Tracking Committee will try to address your issues as soon as they get them. With the <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/TC-feedback/> you can be kept up to date on the Tracking motions going to the Board. This is not an interactive committee list but it can keep you up to date on the issues for the Committee.

We would like to thank the host club and especially Becky for all the work that was done to support this year's Tracking Test. There were many twists and turns but we still appreciate all the hard work and all the final details.

We would also like to say a great Thank you to a long time Tracking committee member who has left the Tracking committee this year. Ralph Swingle started the Tracking program in ASCA, has served many times as a National judge and continues to judge Tracking tests, plus has served many years on the Tracking committee. Thanks Ralph for your many years of your contributions. You will be missed.

We would also like to thank all of the current members of the committee for all of their hard work during the year. If you are here, stand up and take a bow! Craig Bohren, Meghan Rosenstengel, Jan Wesen, Margaret Abrahamson, Celeste Kelly, Becky Parker, Linda Gray, Betty Mueller, Angela Rector, Anne Hershey, Renea Dahms, Susan Schroeder, and our ever helpful liaison for next year, Michelle Berryessa!

Regards to all, Celeste Kelly, your Tracking Chair. Have a great Nationals.

Question: TDU that you are referring to, you said you can move from this to a TDX?

Answer: Yes, it's equivalent to a TD as far as moving to a TDX. You can get both, a TD, and a TDU and either one allows you to move to the TDX. Question: So would that be a qualifying Title for Hall of Fame? Answer: The Hall of Fame Committee will have to take that up.

Old Business:

Jerry: We don't have a Quorum. Does anyone have any issue to bring to the Board?

Question: What is the status of the Breed Standard? Answer: Ann DeChant answered that we have an Executive Committee that is working on that that is made up of Rick Gann, Patrick MacRoberts and me.

The first thing that we did is make sure that we addressed all the things that have to be changed. We are circulating our work for feedback to the Members of the Breed Standard Review Committee who indicated that they wish to work with us on this and several other people who may have been on the Committee in the past who volunteered to work on this. We have gotten a little bit of feedback from them.

Our discussions this week have been to work on a Breed Standard Revision to include the things that really have to be changed, that are wrong or not 100% clear, like color over the ears and eyes, to make it a little more clear as to what is acceptable. The other thing we are talking about is taking the work of the Committee and rolling that into another kind of document that would go with it. We haven't decided on what that would be called as when we discussed it with the Board, some of the Board Members didn't like the idea of calling it a limits doc. We have to work further on how that is going to be done. We value the work of the Committee that came before, and we want to move on and try to incorporate that in some way into an expanded document.

Question: Is there any timeline? Jerry: No, the Committee is working as hard as they can, but there is no set time.

Question: Can you tell me what year we had a quorum a Nationals Meeting? Jerry thought it was in Colorado, 1998. Can you tell many members it takes for a quorum? Jerry couldn't remember exactly, and Lynn Fremuth said 5% of the total Membership. Would there be a way to recalculate a quorum by figuring out how many people enter a Nationals and use a percentage of that. Jerry stated that the quorum requirement is covered in the Bylaws and would require a change. It is possible to change it, but it's very hard.

New Business:

Jerry Afox asked if there was any New Business.

Jerry stated that he would like to announce that at their Meetings here at the Nationals, the Board did vote to close the Hardship as of January 1, 2011. Just remember though that there is a Foreign procedure to allow dogs for foreign registries to get into our registry. You can go to our website to find out more about the Foreign Registry and that the dogs will have to be traced back to ASCA® dogs in three generations. January 1,

2011. Will you be advertising this outside of the Aussie Times? Yes, the Journal and other magazines. Question: There was a question about the three generations. You have to provide a three generation pedigree, but if you have to you can go back further. Please look at the exact Rules on the website to get them exactly right. Question: Was there a Membership vote in the last election. Jerry: Yes there was and at that time it narrowly passed for keeping it open. But at that time the Membership did not look at the Foreign procedure which does accomplish it but it does tighten up our registry and makes it a little bit more secure. Our Hardship rule says all you have to do is DNA the dog...not the parents or trace them to ASCA® at all. There was a lot of disagreement with this statement as you do have to DNA the parents unless they are not available.

Jerry: Please, our Foreign Registry Rules are a lot more complete and request a lot more information and do preserve our registry.

Jerry: Any other questions? Question: Do you have a deadline for submitting online results like clubs submitting show results. Jerry: We don't have a deadline. Patrick: Results are lower on the list right now. We don't have a deadline for that right now. We are going to work on Membership first, because it has one of the things that is a high load on the business office, then we are working on litters and then online results. That is the order that Business Office would like it to proceed.

Jerry: Any other questions? Question: I have a question for the Stockdog Committee. Are they working any on reducing liability for Course Directors or Affiliates for reporting results of Stockdog Trials. Jerry: Any questions with regard to course Director or judges score sheets that come to the attention of the Office are looked at with the objective of them being reconciled or explained. What you are referring to is what happened at this year's Nationals. In that case, we are talking about an individual who was course director and this will probably never happen again. As long as you act in good faith any errors will be corrected and there will be no penalties. Question: Are they looking at having the Judges send in the score sheets? Jerry: I don't know if the Stockdog Committee is. Remember the Judges used to submit the score sheets and weren't there problems? Yes. It took them a long time to get them in. Jerry: This is just like any other ASCA® event where the host club is responsible for the entries and the trial and the host club is the one who is responsible for getting the paperwork and submitting the results.

More questions: Can we have more detail about what has been going on here lately? Jerry: A Member was suspended for violating a rule for two years. Question: And if the same person is a Board Member or a Stockdog Judge? Jerry: The requirements are that Board Membership requires being a Member in good standing, and that requires a second step in the suspension. Question: There is a thirty-day period before the suspension begins, right? So in that time is that person still allowed to Judge Stockdog Trials? Jerry: He is a full member until the effective date. Question: That goes for being a Board Member as well. Jerry: For thirty-days; until it's effective.

Motion to adjourn is on the floor.

Question: I know for a fact that in the Conformation Rules as Judge doesn't have to be a Member of ASCA®. Jerry: There is a motion before the Stockdog committee to take care of that.

Motion to adjourn with a second.

Vote on the motion to adjourn.
The Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann B. DeChant
Board Secretary