

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.

February 28, 2006

04:05 AGILITY COMMITTEE - Gamblers Class

Motion by Bryant.

I move to accept the following recommendation from the agility committee:

Notes - the time change in gamblers will ease the confusion for the timer who will no longer have to worry about whether a dog has 40 or 45 seconds in the opening period of gamblers.

Ron voted 'no' on the motion as he felt the opening sequence point requirements should be adjusted for the small dogs now that they are losing 5 seconds.

Section 5.2.1 Course Time - Gamblers Class

Remove the second sentence that currently reads: The time given for the point accumulation period shall be forty (40) seconds for the Large Dogs and forty-five (45) for the Small and Medium Dogs.

Replace with: The time given for the point accumulation period shall be forty (40) seconds for all dogs.

Section 5.2.3 Certification Requirements - Gamblers Class

First, second paragraph begins with: At the end of the first 40/45 second point accumulation period....

Replace with: At the end of the first forty (40) second point accumulation period.

This motion has passed with the following votes: 9 'yes' votes from Sue Graham, Lisa Dawson, Lisa Kurcharski, Pamela Bryant Meeks, Art Scott, Margaret Meleski, Dianne McCormick, Kristi Cetrulo, Andrea Hoffman, 1 'nonvoting' from Pam Smith, 1 'no' vote from Ron Schumann (verbal).

Directors voting: Approve: Unanimous. Motion is approved.

04:05 AGILITY COMMITTEE-Trial Workers

Motion by Bryant.

I move to accept the following motion from the agility committee.

Rational: This will assist the Trial Chair Persons and Trial Secretaries in planning a trial. If approved, this section shall also be inserted into the Trial Handbook.

Motion 06-2006 - Trial Workers - Insert the following section:

2.1.5 Trial Workers

In addition to the Trial Officials listed in Section 2.1.4, additional workers are required to help the

run the trial. The following positions may be required, some jobs may be combined, where appropriate, when there is a shortage of volunteer help.

1. Gate Steward. The gate steward is responsible for keeping the trial running smoothly by keeping the dogs entered in each class in order, ready to run, and on the start line when required. The gate steward shall be provided with a running order of dogs entered by the trial secretary. The gate steward shall try to have three dogs in order and prepared to enter the ring.

2. Leash Runner. The leash runner should obtain the leash and, if worn, the collar from the handler and place it in a convenient place near the finish line.

3. Timer. The timer shall be the official timekeeper for each class offered at the trial. The timer is responsible for timing each dog's performance, using a stop watch or electronic timing device, and keeping an accurate and consistent accounting of the timekeeping for the class. The timer is also responsible for acknowledging when the dog and handler should start their run. Timers will preferably time the entire class, if that is not possible, they must complete the entire jump height.

4. Scribe. There shall be a designated scribe for each class offered at the trial. The scribe's job shall be to closely observe the judge during each dog's performance and to mark any faults signaled by the judge. Sheets for marking faults shall be provided to the scribe by the trial secretary. Prior to the running of the class, the scribe should work with the gate steward to insure the score sheets are in the correct running order.

5. Ring Stewards/Jump Setters. At least two people (per class) should be assigned to the ring steward/jump setter positions. They are responsible for helping reset the course, changing jump heights, straightening the closed tunnel after each dog's run, and resetting any displaced bars that may occur during each dog's run.

6. Course Builders. Course builders assist the chief course builder. They are responsible for helping move equipment and set the courses between classes.

7. Scribe Sheet Runner. The Scribe Sheet Runner will pick up the marked scribe sheets from the scribe and deliver them to the score table.

Ally - this motion has passed with the following votes: 10 yes votes from Sue Graham, Lisa Dawson, Lisa Kurcharski, Pamela Bryant Meeks, Ron Schumann (verbal), Art Scott, Margaret Meleski, Dianne McCormick, Kristi Cetrulo, Andrea Hoffman, 1 nonvoting, Pam Smith.

Directors voting: Approve: Unanimous. Motion is approved.

04:05 AGILITY COMMITTEE - Sec. 2.1.2.

Motion by Bryant.

I move to accept the following recommendation from the agility committee.

Effective June 1, 2006, this motion will clarify a couple of missing items in **Section 2.1.2. Trial Schedule**

Motion 04-2006:

Item #1: remove the word '**schedule**' in the heading and change it to read:

Section 2.1.2 Trial Premium

Item #2: First paragraph, second sentence, delete the word **'list'** so the second sentence reads: Affiliates must publish an Agility Trial Premium at least six (6) weeks in advance of the proposed trial date.

Item #3: First paragraph, remove third sentence and replace with: A copy of the premium shall be sent to the ASCA office (along with the sanctioning paperwork) and to the judge(s) who is/are to officiate.

Item #4: Change the description for item 9 to: A listing of the individual obstacles, including the type of contacts (slatted or slatless), which will be available for use at the trial.

This motion has passed with the following votes: 10 yes votes from Sue Graham, Lisa Dawson, Lisa Kurcharski, Pamela Bryant Meeks, Ron Schumann (verbal), Art Scott, Margaret Meleski, Dianne McCormick, Kristi Cetrulo, Andrea Hoffman, 1 nonvoting, Pam Smith.

Directors voting: Approve: Unanimous. Motion is approved.

04:05 AGILITY COMMITTEE - App 1, Sec 1 - 4

Motion by Bryant.

I move to change the agility rules as recommended by the agility committee below:

Rational on the proposed changes to Appendix A: the wider dog walk and teeter ramps will provide safer footing for the dogs and is consistent with many other agility venues. The other changes will allow affiliates to obtain a wide range of equipment from clubs from other agility venues.

Effective June 1, 2006:

Appendix A

Section 1 - Contact Obstacles

Third paragraph; delete "Rubber matting or carpeting is not allowed on contact obstacles."

Insert, "Rubber covering on contact obstacles, as approved by NADAC, is allowed as long as equipment meets ASCA specifications in all other respects."

Table of contact equipment. Change the ramp width of the Dog Walk and Teeter from 9 ¼" - 12" to, 12" plus or minus 1" for both obstacles.

Change the note following the Table by inserting the following sentence at the end,

"Additionally, a dog walk with 8' ramps should have an 8' center ramp and a dog walk with 12' ramps should have a 12' center ramp."

Section 3 - Tunnels

Closed Tunnel: Change second sentence from "The rigid opening shall be no more than 36" in length and shall have a minimum of 22" inside diameter in height." To, "The rigid opening shall be 30" to 36" in length and shall have a minimum of 22" inside diameter."

Section 4 - Hurdles/Jumps

Tire Jump. Change first sentence from "Tire jump can be constructed several different ways as follows:" to "Tire jump can be constructed two different ways as follows:"

Paragraph A. After first sentence, insert the following, "The inside diameter of the "tire" shall be

18" to 24".

Paragraph B. Change the second sentence from "The inner diameter of the tire should be 24 inches plus or minus one inch and the tire wall should be 3 to 8 inches thick." To "The inside diameter of the "tire" should be 18" to 24". The "tire" should be constructed of material with a 4" to 8" diameter."

Directors voting: Approve: Unanimous. Motion is approved.

04:05 AGILITY COMM -Trial Officials Final

Motion by Bryant.

I move to accept the following from the agility committee:

Effective June 1, 2006, this motion will better describe the Trial Officials needed to run an Agility Trial. The Trial Handbook will also need to include these changes.

Section 2.1.4 Trial Officials

First paragraph reads:

Every ASCA sanctioned Agility Trial shall have the following officials:

1. **An ASCA Approved Agility Judge(s). (See also Chapter 7 and Appendix C)** The Agility trial shall be officiated by one or more judges from the ASCA Approved Agility Judges list. The judge shall be responsible for finalizing each course before judging begins for each class. The judge shall be responsible for inspecting the equipment and verifying that it meets ASCA specifications and that the equipment is in safe condition for the trial. The judge is solely responsible for signaling faults, for establishing the Standard Course Time and **for validating the final results to be submitted by the Show Committee to ASCA.** The judge shall make all **final** decisions as to the measurements of the dogs entered. ALL DECISIONS OF THE JUDGE SHALL BE FINAL.

Suggested changes:

Delete the second clause of the fourth sentence and change the sentence to read: The judge is solely responsible for signaling faults and establishing the Standard Course Time. Insert the word "final" before decision in the second to last/fifth sentence.

Delete paragraph #2 as a timekeeper is really a worker assigned to an individual class.

Delete paragraph #3 as a scribe is really a worker assigned to an individual class.

Renumber paragraph #4 (Show Secretary) and make it paragraph #2. Delete the paragraph in parenthesis as well as the second to last sentence.

Insert a new paragraph #3 (Trial Chair) and list the duties as follows:

3. **Trial Chair.** The Trial Chair is head of the organizing committee and is responsible for the supervision of the correct functioning of the trial, thus must be on the grounds during the agility trial. Any disputes should be brought to the Trial Chair. Exhibitor check in and the measuring of dogs should be coordinated by the Trial Chair who will be in communication with the judges if any measuring discrepancies occur. The Trial Chair should be responsible for ensuring that the

agility equipment is in good working condition.

Delete paragraph #5 and assign the check in duties to the trial chair (see above).

Delete paragraph #6 as the gate steward is a class worker.

Renumber paragraph #7 (Table Stewards), rename it Chief Score Keeper and renumber it paragraph #4. Change the paragraph to read:

4. Chief Score Keeper. The Chief Score Keeper and assigned score table stewards shall be responsible for recording each dog's score into the official catalogs. After the scribe marks any faults for each run onto the scribe sheet, the actual time from the timekeeper's stop watch is recorded on the scribe sheet and the sheet is then turned over to the Chief Score Keeper table where they will convert the timekeeper's stopwatch reading from minutes and seconds over to a total number of seconds. The score table shall also calculate the number of time faults, course faults, total faults for each run in the regular and jumpers classes and the total number of points earned for each dog in the gamblers classes. The score table stewards shall calculate the class placements for each jump height and record all qualifying rounds on the appropriate forms. The score table stewards are responsible for ensuring that the course distances and standard course times are recorded for each class. The Chief Score Keeper shall sign the ASCA form certifying that the scores for the trial were verified and correct.

Delete paragraph #8 (Ring Steward). Make a new paragraph #5 "Chief Ring Steward" and list the following:

5. Chief Ring Steward. The duties of the Chief Ring Steward are to assign workers for each class and to ensure that those positions are filled when the class is ready to start so as to not delay the trial. Suggested class workers are: Gate Steward, Timer, Scribe, Leash Runner, Scribe Runner, Pole Setters (at least 2) and Score Table assistants.

Delete paragraph #9. Insert the following as paragraph #6.

6. Chief Course Builder. The Chief Course Builder is responsible for directing the course builders. He/she should insure that the course is set as closely as possible to the design submitted by the judge without making personal interpretations or changes without explicit permission from the judge.

The voting has ended and the final results are: 10 yes votes (1 verbal from Ron), 1 nonvoting (Pam Smith).

Directors voting: Approve: Unanimous. Motion is approved.

04:05 AGILITY COMMITTEE - Appendix B

Motion by Bryant.

I move to accept the following motion from the agility committee.

Effective June 1, 2006, replace the existing Appendix B with the following:

APPENDIX B

AGILITY MERIT PROGRAM

There will be two separate Agility Merit programs. One merit program will be for ASCA

registered Australian Shepherds (Australian Shepherd Agility Merit Program). The other merit program (Other Breed Agility Merit Program) will be for all dogs of any breed (including mixed breeds), excluding registered Australian Shepherds, with an ASCA tracking number, competing in ASCA agility.

1. Merit points can come from any level, any division and any of the three titling classes (Regular, Jumpers and Gamblers.)
2. For both Agility Merit Programs, there will be nine Merit lists: one for Regular, one for Jumpers and one for Gamblers, within each level, Novice, Open, Elite. The divisions will be grouped together for each class/level. (i.e. The elite regular merit points can come from the Standard, Veterans or Juniors division.)
3. Points will be earned by earning a qualifying score in the class. A ten (10) point qualifying score will earn one (1) point, a five (5) point qualifying score will earn 1/2 point. The points will only count towards the merit list for the class and level they were earned in. (Points do not transfer.)
4. Dogs can stay at a level and earn points indefinitely.
5. The program will run from June 1st to May 31st of the following year.
6. Current standings for both Merit Programs will be published on the ASCA web page and updated every two months. Current standings for the Australian Shepherd Merit Program will be published in the *Aussie Times*.
7. Certificates of Merit will be awarded at the end of the merit year to the top 10 dogs on each merit list.

This motion has passed. The voting was as follows: 'Yes to Other Breed Merit List' votes were received from Kristi Cetrulo, Lisa Dawson, Lisa Kurcharski, Art Scott, Pamela Bryant Meeks, Margaret Meleski & Dianne McCormick. Sue Graham and Andrea Hoffmann voted 'No' on this motion and would prefer to have Aussies included in an All-Breed Merit list as well on the current Merit Program lists. Non voting members were: Ron Schumann and Pam Smith.

Directors voting: Approve: Aufox, Bryant & Hellmeister. Disapproved: DeChant, Gray, Davenport, Berryessa & Walter. Abstain: Stevens. Motion is disapproved.

00:15 BSRC - Comments

Motion by DeChant.

I move that the following motion from the BSRC be approved:

Motion by Terry Martin seconded by Sandy Cornwell.

I move that the ASCA BSRC request from the ASCA Board of Directors that each BOD member individually send their comments, concerns, and opinions of each section of the recent revisions to the committee. The committee will use this information to possibly further revise, to explain areas of concern, and to know whether there is general Board approval or disapproval of the proposed revisions. The committee needs interaction with the board to know whether the work is viable as it stands. These section by section comments along with membership input will be helpful in writing annotations. Comments on the sections need not be all sent at one time to speed up the process.

Approve: Kristin M., Sandy C., Kim C., Terry M., Sunday M., Cheri P, Linda B, Shelly H. Non voting Ernie H.

Directors voting: Approve: DeChant, Bryant, Berryessa & Stevens. Disapprove: Aufox, Gray, Davenport, Hellmeister & Walter. Motion is disapproved.

00:20 REGISTRY RULES - DNA Sampling

Motion by DeChant.

I moved to approve the following Motion from the DNA & Genetics Committee to amend Section 2.2.1 of the Registry Rules.

Motion by Lori, second by Devona.

I move to amend Section 2.2.1 of the Registry Rules to read as follows:

Section 2.2.1 - Monthly Random DNA Sampling

Once a month the ASCA Registrar will choose by lottery a date on which a litter registration will be randomly selected for sampling. On that day, the first litter registration received by the Office will be DNA sampled. [The registration of the selected litter will be held until the DNA samples of the sire, dam and one pup from the litter are submitted by the owner(s) and parentage is confirmed by ASCA's approved lab. The costs for the kits and tests (at most three) will be paid for by ASCA.] Detailed description of the lottery procedure is available on request from the ASCA Business Office along with the complete procedures for the monthly sampling. (Added wording is in brackets [].)

Liaison Note: The Committee intends for the brackets to be removed if the Motion is approved. See below for current wording.

Comments: The ASCA Business Office has always handled the Random Policy in the above manner. However, the committee feels this should be put into the RR so there is consistency. Since this is not a voluntary DNA sampling, registration should not be issued until parentage verification has been confirmed.

Current wording is:

Section 2.2.1 – Monthly Random DNA Sampling

Once a month the ASCA Registrar will choose by lottery a date on which a litter will be randomly selected for sampling. On that day, the first litter registration received by the Office will be DNA sampled. Detailed description of the lottery procedure is available on request from the ASCA Business Office along with the complete procedures for the monthly sampling.

Committee votes: Yes: Chris, Sandra, Kelli, Lori, Laura, Kim, Marilyn, Joan, Liz, Devona
Directors voting: Approve: Aufox, DeChant, Gray, Bryant, Davenport, Hellmeister, Berryessa & Walter. Disapprove: Stevens. Motion is approved.

Re: 99:10 TRACKING COMMITTEE - Sec. 1.8

Motion by Gray.

I move to approve the following:

I, Meghan Rosenstengel, move, seconded by Celeste Kelly, that we delete these words from Section 1.8 in the Tracking Regulations: "or deaf" in the first line and the last sentence, "Deaf means without useful hearing".

The new rule would read:

Section 1.8:

Disqualification and Ineligibility.

A dog that is blind or that has been changed in appearance by artificial means (except for such changes as are customarily approved for its breed) may not compete in any Tracking Test/TD or TDX, and must be disqualified. Blind means without useful vision.

Voting in favor: Celeste Kelly, Meghan Rosenstengel, Judy Whittaker, Deb St. Jacques, Susan Schroeder, Craig Bohren, Ralph Swingle, and Angela Rector. Voting opposed: none.
Abstaining: Anne Hershey Non-voting: Jane Palmer

Directors voting: Approve: Unanimous. Motion is approved.

98:15 OBEDIENCE COMMITTEE - Rally Program

Motion by Hellmeister, seconded by Walter.

I move to install a standing committee whose primary function is to establish and maintain a rally type obedience program for ASCA.

Comment: The motion is based on a recommendation of the Obedience Committee so that they can focus on the ongoing program.

Directors voting: Approve: Unanimous. Motion is approved.

00:20 REGISTRY RULES- Policy 18.4 Procedure to Select a Monthly DNA Sample

Motion by Gray, seconded by Walter.

I move to revise Policy 18.4 as follows:

Policy 18.4 Procedure to Select a Monthly DNA Sampling

- a. On the first workday of each month, the first order of business handled by the Registrar will be to select the date for that month's DNA litter sampling. The sample will be blood tubes for litters selected in countries where blood tubes can be shipped to the USA and blood cards for those countries who cannot ship blood tubes (due to shipping regulations) to the USA.
- b. The Registrar will prepare sequentially numbered slips of paper corresponding to the working days of that month.
- c. The Registrar will choose one slip of paper at random.
- d. The number drawn will indicate the work day a litter registration will be pulled for DNA sampling. This number will be known only by the Registrar and the Business Office Manager.
- e. On the date assigned, the first litter registration received by the Registrar will be DNA profiled.
- f. The registration of the selected litter will be held until parentage is confirmed by ASCA's approved lab.

Additional Instructions:

- a. The Business Office will send a copy of this Policy by e-mail, fax or mailed to anyone who requests an explanation of this procedure.

- b. The fee to DNA profile the sire, dam and one puppy will be paid for by ASCA. (Note: If neither parent is in the database, both parents and one puppy will be profiled. If one parent is already in the database, the other parent and one puppy will be profiled. If both parents are in the database, only the puppy will be profiled.)
- c. ASCA will reimburse reasonable veterinary fees charged to collect the blood. The only fees ASCA will reimburse are the actual cost of the blood draw for each animal and the charge for an office visit, if the sole purpose of the office visit was to have the blood draw done for the DNA sampling.
- d. To be reimbursed for reasonable veterinary fees, the itemized receipt from the Veterinarian must be sent to the ASCA Office Manager.
- e. If the fees appear reasonable, the Office Manager will reimburse the bill from the office account. If the fees are not reasonable or if there are other problems, the bill will be submitted to the ASCA Board of Directors for approval.
- f. The breeder may choose any puppy in the selected litter to be DNA profiled. This includes any puppy retained by the breeder.
- g. If the selected puppy's profile comes back with one parent (or both) excluded, the entire litter must be profiled at the litter owner's expense. Individual registration papers will be held until the results of the entire litter is received with the correct parent(s) confirmed.
- h. If any parent (or both) is excluded Section 2.2.7 of the Registry Rules, (ASCA DNA Corrective Measures) must be followed.

Policy 117 effective 1/1/97 revised 2/06

Comment:

Old policy provided for your convenience.

18.4 Procedure to Select a Monthly DNA Sampling

- a. On the first workday of each month, the first order of business handled by the Registrar will be to select the date for that month's DNA litter sampling.
- b. The Registrar will prepare sequentially numbered slips of paper corresponding to the working days of that month.
- c. The Registrar will randomly choose one slip of paper.
- d. The number drawn will indicate the work day that a litter registration will be pulled for DNA sampling. This number will be kept secret and will be known only by the Registrar and the Business Office Manager.
- e. On the date assigned, the first litter registration received by the Registrar will be DNA sampled.

Additional Instructions:

- a. The Registrar will mail or FAX to anyone who requests an explanation of this procedure, a copy of this directive. This will hopefully prevent lengthy telephone conversations.
- b. The fee to DNA test the litter will be paid by ASCA.
- c. ASCA will reimburse reasonable veterinary fees charged to collect the blood.

d. The only fees that will be reimbursed are the actual cost of the blood draw for each animal and the charge for an office visit, if the sole purpose of the office visit was to have the blood draw done for the DNA sampling.

e. To be reimbursed for reasonable veterinary fees, you must send an itemized receipt from the veterinarian to the ASCA Business Office Manager at the Business Office.

f. If the fees appear reasonable, the Office Manager will reimburse the bill out of the office account. If the fees are not reasonable or if there is any other problem, the bill will be submitted to the ASCA Board of Directors for approval.

g. The breeder may choose any puppy in the selected litter to be DNA sampled. This includes any puppies retained by the breeder. Policy 117 effective 1/1/97.

Directors voting: Approve: Aufox, DeChant, Gray, Bryant, Davenport, Hellmeister & Berryessa.
Disapprove: Walter & Stevens. Motion is approved.

Approved:

- Approved sending a complaint against a Judge to the Stockdog Committee
- Approved the Affiliate Application for the BRANDYWINE VALLEY ASC
- Approved the amended Affiliate Bylaws of the ASC of Michigan
- Approved revoking an LEP registration due to the parents listed on this dog's LEP application have been confirmed by NSDR as registered as Miniature Australian Shepherds
- Approved sending a letter the Club and Secretary of the Club who accepted and unregistered dog's entry and placing a letter of reprimand in the file of the Club and the Show Secretary. (A letter of reprimand has no penalty assigned to it, but will alert the Business Office and subsequently the ASCA Board of Directors if this rule is violated again.)
- Approved sending a request for the following information regarding a request for reinstatement:
 1. A statement from the owner detailing what steps have been taken to prevent a bite from occurring again in the ASCA show ring.
 2. A statement from the Judge with more details as to the circumstances and details surrounding the bite.

Denied or Dismissed:

- Denied a Hardship Appeal
- Denied an Appeal for points earned by a dog who had not received its registration number prior to showing based on Section 9.12: ALL AUSTRALIAN SHEPHERDS SIX MONTHS AND OLDER MUST HAVE AN ASCA INDIVIDUAL REGISTRATION NUMBER TO COMPETE IN ASCA SANCTIONED EVENTS. THIS INCLUDES ALL AREAS OF COMPETITION. No dog may receive championship points without an ASCA individual registration number. Photo copies of the registration papers or originals must be presented to Show Secretary upon request, when entering ASCA sanctioned events.
- Dismissed a complaint due to the fact that:
 1. The proper fee not being sent with the form.
 2. The exact rule violation was not filled out on the form.