

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.

December 1 – December 31, 2007

97:14 DNA & GENETICS COMMITTEE - Name Change.

Motion by Davenport.

I move the following motion from the DNA Committee:

Motion by Jamie Burns, Second by Devona Myrick

I move that the name for the ASCA DNA & Genetics committee be changed to ASCA DNA committee.

Comments: This committee rarely deals with any issues other than DNA, and suggest that a secondary committee be deemed appropriate for those needs.

Approve: Marilyn, Lori, Carol M., Jamie, Linda, Liz, Sandra, Mary, Tanya, Carol H., Devona, Trish, Laura, Joan Disapprove: Mark

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

04:05 AGILITY COMMITTEE - Sec. 2.1.2.

Motion by McNamara

I move the following:

Motion by Sue Graham, 2nd by Art Scott. The results were 8 Yes, 1 No & 1 non-voting.

Section 2.1.2 - Trial Premium

Add item 16. A copy of the current Service Membership and Tracking Number Application (not required for the ASCA Nationals and pre/post trial premiums).

Rationale: the only mention of this requirement is hidden in section 2.6.2 and it should also be included in the checklist listed under Trial Premium.

Section 2.3 - Jump Height Tables

Change the Jr. Handler Division sections as follows:

Jr. Handler Division Small Dogs Withers 11" & Under Jump 8" or 4" inches

Small Dogs Withers >11" & < 14" Jump 12" or 8"

Medium Dogs Withers >14" & < 18" Jump 16" or 12"

Large Dogs Withers >18" and < 20" Jump 20" or 16"

Large Dogs Withers >20" jump in the 20+" or 16"+ class (may jump 24")

Rationale: when we changed Chapter 3 to allow Jr. Handlers to jump at their standard jump height or take the 4" height exemption, we neglected to change the jump height chart in Chapter 2.

Section 2.3 - Jump Height Tables

Insert [Skye Terriers (8")] to the list of jump height exempt dogs.

Section 8.4 - Fees

Paragraph 1. Remove final sentence: When all expenses have been met any additional monies will be used for funding the next year's Finals.

Appendix A Section 4 - Hurdles/Jumps

Insert a new paragraph at the beginning of the section:

Construction of jumps and hurdles must take the safety of the handler and dog into consideration at all times. Materials should be free from sharp edges and maintained to ensure stability and safety. Jump cups may not protrude from the jump supports more than 1 1/2" and nails, bolts and/or screws may not be used to support the jump bars.

Below is the current wording for Non-winged hurdles/jumps:

Non-Winged Hurdles/Jumps: All jumps are to be 4' to 5' wide with uprights a minimum of 32" high and adjustable for all ASCA jump heights (8", 12", 16", 20" and 24"). Two bars may be crossed to form an "X" for the 4" jump height. Bars must be easily displaceable, may be made of wood, plastic or PVC and shall be striped for visibility. [Jump supports may be constructed of any solid material. A minimum of two bars per jump is required.] The jump bars should have an outside diameter of 1 1/4" (e.g., 1" inside diameter Schedule 40 PVC).

Replace the 4th & 5th sentence [in brackets] with: Jump bar cups/supports may be constructed of any solid material that does not protrude more than 1 1/2" from the horizontal jump supports. The jump bar cups/supports should allow the jump bar to be easily displaced when knocked by the dog. Screws, bolts and nails may not be used as jump bar supports. All hurdles/jumps will have two bars except the double bar hurdle which will have four bars.

Rationale: it was brought to the committee's attention that a trial had equipment with nails or screws that supported the jump bars. Although the above may be a little repetitious, it should be clear to the trial committees that the dog's safety is a concern to all.

Section 4.1.4 - Scoring - Obstacle Faults

Add item (G) Crossing Finish Line before Completing Final Obstacle - 20 Faults (Regular and Jumpers Classes)

A dog will be assessed a twenty (20) fault penalty if the dogs skips or bypasses the final obstacle on the course and crosses the finish line. If electronic timers are used and the final jump is the finish line then any dog bypassing the final jump will be assessed twenty (20) faults. If manual timing is used and the start/finish line is set back from the first and last obstacle then the dog may be called back to jump the final jump without being assessed twenty (20) faults IF the dog does NOT cross the finish line before completing the final obstacle.

Rationale: this is one of those 'rules' that was never put in the rulebook and we need to clarify that once a dog is on approach to the final obstacle and crosses the finish line, the run is over.

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

04:15 ASCA BUSINESS OFFICE - Accounting consultant

Motion by Aufox, seconded by DeChant.

I move the following:

ASCA shall request a quotation from its auditors to develop a scope of work (project outline and content) to revamp our accounting process and systems to be utilized in the development of a request for quotation for consultants to implement such a project. The scope of work should allow for the use of non computerized methods as well as the use of pre-existing software packages.

Upon receipt of the quotation from our accountants it will be reviewed by the Board. If accepted by the Board, our auditors will be issued a purchase order for the job.

If the purchase order is issued, the Board will review the scope of work developed by our accountants and determine if it wants to process with all or part of the scope of work or stop. If then the Board decides to implement the project after reviewing the scope a request for quotation will be issued. The responsive quotes will be review by the Treasurer, office manager and any other individuals appointed by the Board.

The process shall be overseen by the Treasurer who will provide updates to the Board.

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

**97:14 DNA & GENETICS COMMITTEE - EMERGENCY
EMERGENCY MOTION EMERGENCY MOTION**

Motion by Davenport.

I move the following motion from the DNA Committee

Motion by Lori, Second by Linda

I move to send the letter written by Linda Gray, with the subject of "Seminal DNA" Testing," as Co-liaison to Therion, to the ASCA Board of Directors from the DNA Committee, as approved by the Committee.

Comments: This is being done as an emergency motion in order to expedite the approval by the BOD to be in place when the two committee members go to collect their dogs next month. The letter is included below signed this time by myself as Chair of the Committee.

ASCA Board of Directors,

Regarding the below Registry Rule:

Any ASCA® registered male from whom semen is collected and frozen on or after January 1, 1999, for future use in breeding, must be DNA profiled through ASCA®'s current lab at that time. Litter applications which indicate the use of frozen semen from males who were not DNA profiled prior to death will require:

1. Return of the male's ASCA® Registration Certificate indicating a date of death earlier than January 1, 1999;
and
2. A letter from the storer of the semen indicating the semen was collected and frozen prior to January 1, 1999.

The DNA Committee has been discussing using semen left in the tip of a syringe after

insemination to DNA a male who had semen collected before 1999 and was not DNA'd through the ASCA Lab at the time of collection or a male who is deceased and whose owner has frozen semen stored.

I asked Will Gergits about using semen, he replied: "We do not know nor can we find anyone to confirm whether the cards designed for blood or buccal swabs will fix semen and protect the DNA. The only thing we can do is try.... So have one/several of your members place a few drops of semen (what could normally be spared upon collection/use for AI) on some collection cards and submit them to us. Have the collectors/senders alert us, please."

I have at least two committee members who are going to collect their dog next month and are willing to participate by sending in a card to Therion for testing. One will be a dog already profiled by Therion and one will be a dog who was profiled by ImmGen. There will be no charge to ASCA for the collection.

Being able to use leftover semen to DNA profile a deceased sire should please a lot of ASCA members who do not want to part with a whole straw of their deceased sire's semen.

I would like board approval to proceed with the semen testing at Therion. We would require two blood cards and processing for two dogs, approximately \$70.00.

Committee vote results: Approve: Unanimous

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

**97:14 DNA & GENETICS COMMITTEE - New Committee
EMERGENCY MOTION EMERGENCY MOTION**

Motion by DeChant, seconded by Aufox.

Emergency Motion due to the fact that a vote being held by December 21 could allow ASCA to advertise the need for Committee Members in the next issue of the *Aussie Times* so that applications can be sought in the Bulletin Board and on the ASCA Web Site so that the Committee can be appointed and started at the Spring Board Meeting.

I move the ASCA Board create a Genetics & Health Committee. This committee would take on the responsibilities of informing the ASCA membership of any and all genetic and health issues that affect our breed's future.

Comment: I think this recommendation from the DNA & Genetics Committee that the Board start a new Committee is an idea whose time has come, since the Committee wishes to change its name to the DNA Committee to only deal with ASCA's Parentage Verification DNA program. ASCA needs to have a Committee that will maintain awareness for ASCA of new and ongoing genetics research and that will educate ASCA and ASCA Members on research that either involves or could involve Australian Shepherds. This Committee can work together with other Australian Shepherd Genetics organizations such as ASHGI and Toby's Foundation and USASA Foundation and can advise the ASCA Foundation of worthy genetics research for which the Foundation can raise funds.

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

Approved:

ASCA Breeder Judges - Next Level

Non Regular Breeder Judge - Tracy Bennett, 132 Sewell Rd, Elko, GA 31025, (478) 987-9670

Breeder Judges

Sheila Hall, 13000 Jacobson Rd, Manor, TX 78653, (512) 281-5295, Judge #3798

Debbie Reneau, PO Box 2899, Weatherford, TX 76086, (817) 598-8636, Judge #4198

Senior Breeder Judge

Lisa C. Bell, 855 Trosper Rd #108-314, Tumwater, WA 98512, (360) 943-1142, Judge # 3275

Jr. Showmanship Judge - Leslie Creelman, 559-909-0465

ASCA Agility Judges - Denise and Keith Van Housen.

Appointed:

Rally Committee Members

Virginia Lohse, Florida, Region 5

Shirley Novotnik, Maryland, Region 6

Disapproved:

Denied a request to change the DOB on litter 77246 based on no evidence that any mistake took place by the litter owner or the Business Office.