

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. April 1-30, 2011

No April Teleconference.

1:13: LEP Committee

Motion by Dolan, Second by Vest

I move to reappoint Ann DeChant, Janet Kelly, and Melissa Borde to the LEP Committee.

Comment: Appointment/reappointment is required every two years.

Approve: Unanimous. *The motion is approved.*

1:13 Hardship/LEP Committee LEP Registry Rule & Form Update

Motion by Vest, Second by Clayton; We move to approve the updated Limited Exhibition Privileges (LEP) Registry Rule, to include the updated Limited Exhibition Privileges (LEP) Application Form.

Impact - To insure proper documentation of dogs registered under Limited Exhibition Privileges (LEP) Registry Rule and to update the Limited Exhibition Privileges (LEP) application in conjunction with updated LEP Registry Rule.

Effective date: This motion will go into effect 30 days after publication in the Aussie Times.

Current Rule:

1.6 LEP Registration

- A. The Limited Exhibition Privileges registration is open to dogs who appear to be purebred Australian Shepherds.
- B. Dogs who or whose parent(s) are registered as other breeds are not eligible for LEP registration.
- C. The LEP application can be found on the ASCA website.
- D. In addition to submitting an application, the following items must be included with the LEP application. Failure to submit all the items together will result in the application being returned.
 - 1. Three color photos (full body left side, full body right side and full front view). Photos must be clear, no Polaroid or digitally altered photos are acceptable.
 - 2. Any pedigree information or copy of registration papers.
 - 3. Copy of a spay/neuter certificate with Veterinarian signature.
 - 4. Appropriate fees.
- E. Dog must be 6 months of age or older at time of application.
- F. An appeal of an LEP application must be made to the ASCA Board of Directors.

Suggested change:

1.6 LEP Registration

- A. The Limited Exhibition Privileges registration is open to dogs who appear to be purebred Australian Shepherds.
- B. Dogs who or whose parent(s) are registered as other breeds are not eligible for LEP registration.
- C. The LEP application is available on the ASCA website. Application must be complete. Incomplete forms will be rejected.
- D. Include the following with this application:
 - a. Three clear color photos of the dog: full body right side, full body left side, and full front view. Digitally altered photos are not accepted.
 - b. Copies of any pedigree information, and/or other registry/club/organization registration/recording papers.
 - c. Copy of spay/neuter certificate with Veterinarian signature. *Note: If the dog was spayed/neutered prior to the applicant's ownership, provide a signed Veterinarian statement attesting the dog has been spayed/neutered.*

- d. Payment in full of the appropriate fee.
 - E. Dog must be 6 months of age or older at time of application.
 - F. Applicant Owner and all Co-owners must read, sign and date the Terms of Acceptance.
 - G. LEP dogs may compete for certification and titles as ASCA Australian Shepherds in eligible ASCA performance programs.
 - H. An appeal of a rejected LEP application must be made to the ASCA Board of Directors.
- Application Fees:** (*Applicant and co-owner(s) must be an ASCA member to register a dog*)
Approve: Berryessa, Dolan, Clayton, Dexter, Bates, Ford, Westerman, Vest; Non-voting: Hellmeister.
The motion is approved.

3:21 DNA Committee: Develop backup Plan for DNA testing

Motion by Ford, Second Dexter

The ASCA Board directs the DNA Committee to investigate qualified labs capable of using ASCA's DNA markers.

Reason: ASCA needs to confirm which DNA labs are available to test ASCA registered Australian Shepherds in the future if needed.

Approve: Unanimous. *The motion is approved.*

4:04 Conformation Committee: Motion # 17 Approved Breeder Judge Requirements and Procedure changes.

Motion by Berryessa: I move we accept the following motion from the Conformation Committee.

This motion passes. Yes - Mary, Gail, Regi, Debbie, Liz, Leah, Peter, Ann, Glenda, Rhonda; No - Becky, Dorothy; Non- Voting - Luc, Nancy, Denise.

Motion by Liz Smith, second by Mary Hellmeister

I move to accept the following changes to the Approved Breeder Judge Requirements and Procedures.

APPROVED BREEDER JUDGE REQUIREMENTS

Before applying for Approved Breeder Judge Status, the following requirements must be met:

- A. Must be an ASCA Provisional Breeder Judge.
- B. Must have completed a minimum of ten (10) judging assignments with a minimum of fifteen (15) entries each at ASCA Sanctioned Conformation shows. A minimum of two (2) assignments must be from outside of the state/province the judge resides in.
- C. Judging assignments must be completed in regular classes as published in the ASCA Conformation Show Rules and Regulations. These are minimum requirements for applying and each applicant will be evaluated on an individual basis. Applicant may exceed these requirements for their benefit.

Reason for changes to the requirements;

B: It was felt by members of the CC that a judge should be required to judge outside the state/province they reside in. This was needed to provide judges an opportunity to see dogs from other parts of the country.

PROCEDURE

Steps in applying for Approved Breeder Judge:

A. In letter format submit the following documentation to the ASCA Business Office:

- 1. A minimum of ten (10) regular class judging assignments with a minimum of 15 entries that meet the previously stated requirements. *These assignments may come from the interim period during which a judge is awaiting final approval from the ASCA BOD. Once approval is given, all interim assignments will then count toward the level of judging being applied for.

2. Documentation must include the name of the Affiliate club sponsoring the sanctioned show, the date of the judging assignment, the name of the show secretary, the classes judged and the number of entries judged.

3. Documentation may include any other additional educational steps taken or beneficial activity the applicant may have been involved in since approval as a Provisional Breeder Judge.

B. Upon receipt of the application letter the ASCA Business Office will verify the documentation is correct and minimum requirements have been met.

C. Once the Office has determined that the applicant has met the minimum requirements, the applicant's name will be published in the next issue of the Aussie Times for comment from the membership. The membership will have forty-five (45) thirty (30) days to respond. The ASCA Business Office will forward the application letter and comments from the membership to the ASCA Board of Directors. The ASCA Board of Directors will approve or deny the application within sixty (60) days.

D. Any properly documented negative comments will be investigated by the ASCA Board of Directors. If this investigation indicates there is probable cause that the applicant should not be approved, the application will be denied. If denied, the applicant will be given an explanation as to the reasons for the denial and may include suggestions or tasks that will help the applicant to be successful in a second application process. If denied, the applicant will have thirty (30) days to appeal the decision. If an appeal has been submitted, the Board will respond within thirty (30) days. If an applicant has been denied approval at the approved level, the applicant may reapply after a waiting period of two (2) years and after having satisfied any additional tasks assigned by the ASCA Board of Directors. If the application is denied, these interim assignments may count toward additional tasks assigned per the ASCA BOD.

E. If the application is approved, the applicant will receive notification in writing from the ASCA Business Office of appointment to Approved Judge and, at that time, will be an ASCA Approved Breeder Judge. The applicant may now accept approved level judging assignments. Upon approval, the applicant's name, address and telephone number will be published in the next issue of the Aussie Times and will be added to the ASCA Approved Judges List as a Breeder Judge with the notation of "A" beside their name.

Reason for changes to procedures:

C: The change from "30 days" to "45 days" brings this procedure in line with the board requirements

Comment against the motion;

Becky -I vote NO. You are putting someone's ability to complete the requirements in someone else's hands. If Judges were allowed to solicit for assignments I would vote yes because their own destiny for those out of state assignments is in their hands.

In this economy, a lot of clubs are not hiring out of state judges. It's just not cost effective. Our judges should not have to rely on someone else choosing to spend the money so they can get their requirements met. They should be allowed to call other states.

Also I think it's silly to require out of state judging just on the premise of seeing other dogs from other regions. First and Foremost the dogs should be judged on structure and breed type as handed to them by the breed standard. Regardless of what region you are in or travel to...it doesn't change.

Regardless of the show location..the dogs in the ring either conform to the standard, sort of conform to the standard or don't conform to the standard.

The reason behind this motion is that the CC has spent hours discussing updating the various levels of ASCA Judge requirements and procedures. With the advent of the multiple shows in a day, many felt that our judges were climbing the ladder of levels much too quickly, without the experience necessary. The thought is to tighten up the requirements and procedures to allow for more ring experience.

Judge Education, when approved by the board, will be brought in a later date as part of the requirements for all levels of our judges.

Liz-This will affect those Provisional Judges that do not have 2 assignments from outside the state/province they reside in.

Approve: Hellmeister, Berryessa, Clayton, Dolan, Dexter, Bates, Ford, Vest; Non-voting: Westerman.

The motion is approved.

4:04 Conformation Committee: Motion # 16 NRBJ requirements and procedure changes

Motion by Berryessa: I move we accept the following motion from the Conformation Committee

Motion passes; Yes - Mary, Gail, Regi, Debbie, Liz, Leah, Peter, Ann, Glenda and Rhonda.

No - Becky, Dorothy. Non-Voting - Denise, Luc, Nancy.

Motion by Liz with a second by Mary. I move to accept the following changes to the Non-Regular Breeder Judge Requirements and Procedures.

NON-REGULAR BREEDER JUDGE REQUIREMENTS

Before applying for Non-Regular Breeder Judge status, the following requirements must be met:

A. Must be an FULL adult member of ASCA in good standing for a minimum of at least eight (8) years.

B. Must be at least twenty-six (26) years of age.

C. Must have bred five (5) ASCA Champions of Record or be a breeder of three (3) and handled two (2) ASCA Champions of Record to their title. (The applicant must have placed all points and majors on each Champion.)

D. Must have a thorough knowledge of the ASCA Australian Shepherd Breed Standard.

E. Must have a thorough knowledge of the ASCA Approved Conformation Show Rules and Regulations.

F. Must have evidence of a strong background and involvement in ASCA and its programs developed for the Australian Shepherd, such as membership and participation in Affiliate clubs, and putting on ASCA events such as Show Secretary, Steward, Scorekeeper, Timekeeping, etc.

G. Must have served as a steward in the conformation ring at five (5) three (3) or more ASCA sanctioned events. Must have served as a Show Secretary at three (3) or more ASCA sanctioned events.

H. Must be willing to abide by the ASCA Conformation Judges Code of Ethics.

THESE ARE MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR APPLYING AND EACH APPLICANT WILL BE EVALUATED ON AN INDIVIDUAL BASIS BEFORE ACCEPTANCE INTO THE PROGRAM.

APPLICANT MAY EXCEED THESE REQUIREMENTS FOR THEIR BENEFIT.

Changes to requirements and reason behind change;

A. The CC added the word "Full" to this statement. This is to insure our judge applicant is a full member and not a service member. Change of wording from "at least" to "a minimum of" is a grammar correction.

G. The CC felt that our new NRBJ's needed more ring experience hence the change from "3" events to "5" events". This change will affect those in the application process that only have stewarded 3 events.

PROCEDURE

Steps in applying for Non-Regular Breeder Judge:

A. Obtain an application and Affiliate sponsorship form from the ASCA Business Office.

B. Both the application and the Affiliate sponsorship form must be completed and returned to the ASCA Business Office by the sponsoring Affiliate Club.

C. Upon receipt of the application and the Affiliate sponsorship form, the ASCA Business Office will verify the documentation is correct and minimum requirements have been met.

D. When the Office determines the minimum requirements have been met they will send the applicant a judge's test. This test must be completed and returned to the ASCA Business Office within two (2) months. A score of 100% is required to pass. An applicant may attempt the test twice without penalty. Failure after the second attempt would result in a six (6) month waiting period. A failure after the third attempt would result in denial of his/her Breeder Judge Application.

E. Upon passing the judges' test, the applicant's name will be published in the Aussie Times for comments from the membership. The membership will have forty-five (45)[1] thirty (30) days to respond. The ASCA Business Office will forward the application, sponsorship form; judges' test results and comments from the membership to the ASCA Board of Directors. The ASCA Board of Directors will approve or deny the applicant within sixty (60) days.

F. Any properly documented negative comments will be investigated by the ASCA Board of Directors. If this investigation indicates there is probable cause that the applicant should not be approved, the application will be denied. If denied, the applicant will be given an explanation as to the reasons for the denial and may include suggestions or tasks that will help the applicant to be successful in a second application process. If denied, the applicant will have thirty (30) days to appeal the decision. If an appeal has been submitted, the Board will respond within thirty (30) days. If an applicant has been denied approval at the non-regular level, the applicant may reapply after a waiting period of two (2) years and after having satisfied any additional tasks assigned by the ASCA Board of Directors.

G. If the application is approved, the applicant will receive notification in writing from the ASCA Business Office of appointment to Non-Regular Judge and, at that time, will be an ASCA Non-Regular Breeder Judge. The applicant may then accept non-regular level judging assignments. Upon approval, the applicant's name, address and telephone number will be published in the next issue of the Aussie Times and will be added to the ASCA Approved Judges List as a Breeder Judge with the notation of "NR" beside their name.

Change and reason for procedure change; To bring this procedure in line with the change the board required.

The reason behind this motion is that the CC has spent hours discussing updating the various levels of ASCA Judge requirements and procedures. With the advent of the multiple shows in a day, many felt that our judges were climbing the ladder of levels much too quickly, without the experience necessary. The thought is to tighten up the requirements and procedures to allow for more ring experience. Judge Education, when approved by the board, will be brought in a later date as part of the requirements for all levels of our judges.

Comment against the Motion;

Becky - I vote NO...I don't believe that handling has anything to do with breeding or being a breeder judge. Not everyone can handle but the sure the heck know structure and movement.

Approve: Hellmeister, Berryessa, Clayton, Dolan, Dexter, Bates, Ford; Disapprove; Vest; Non-voting: Westerman. *The motion is approved.*

4:04 Conformation Committee: Motion #6 Chapter 1 Section 1.8 Show Premises/Boundaries

Motion by Berryessa; I move we accept the following motion from the Conformation Committee.

Vote results for this motion. Yes - Regi, Liz, Leah, Glenda, Denise, Nancy, Mary, Becky and Rhonda
No- Gail, Dorothy; Non-Voting - Debbie, Peter, Luc and Ann

Motion by Regi and Rhonda with a second by Leah.

It has been identified that Section 1.12, Boundaries of the Showgrounds, as found in the ASCA Conformation Show Rules and Regulations is unclear and unenforceable as now written.

To fix this problem, we suggest that Section 1.12 be rewritten and renumbered Section 1.8 and possibly illustrated in the rulebook.

To enhance this fix, we suggest renumbering the following sections: Section 1.8 renumber to Section 1.9, Section 1.9 to Section 1.10, Section 1.10 to 1.11, Section 1.11 to Section 1.12

The purpose for renumbering these sections is to allow the Show Grounds/Premises to be defined first and then the instructions found in Sections 1.8, 1.9 and 1.10 will be more clearly understood.

To complete the fix, we suggest that the word "grounds" as found in Sections 1.8, 1.9 and 1.10 be changed to Show Grounds for clarity and consistency. As is written in the rules now, Boundaries of the Show Grounds and the word Limits are synonymous. Premises are defined as the larger area.

Following is our suggested rewrite of Section 1.12.

Section 1.8 Show Grounds/Premises defined.

The word, "Show Grounds", whenever used in these Rules and Regulations shall be that area marked off by the Host Club that clearly defines where the Sanctioned Event is to be held in accordance with all provisions of these Rules and Regulations. That is the area required for the actual competition and management of the Sanctioned Event. Host Clubs shall post signs to cover all access points that clearly identify the boundaries of the Show Grounds. These signs shall have as a minimum lettering that is one inch in height.

The word "Premises" whenever used in these Rules and Regulations shall be used to define a larger area whose boundaries are not well defined. It consists of the land, building(s), and all parking areas adjacent to the Show Grounds where any ASCA Event is held either separately or in conjunction with each other. It also includes those areas designated as personal, temporary, residential areas, (RV parking).

No ASCA Sanctioned event shall occur on the premises outside of the marked Show Grounds area.

Comments Against Motion;

Gail-I vote NO, because I feel clubs should not have to "post signs to cover all access points...". I've been competing in dog events for over 20 years, in other registries, and I've never seen such a thing. In my opinion, this is micromanaging and unnecessary.

Dorothy-I vote No. I do not think that this is specific enough to delineate the show grounds.

Comments For This Motion;

Glenda-I am voting Yes because I believe the areas must be clearly defined and so the exhibitors and show committees know what those areas are called. In the event of an incident the committee and board would be able to define the area where the incident took place.

Liz-I fell this is a very good motion that finally defines what show grounds and boundaries are. The original rule was poorly written and not easily understood. I have attended many shows where signs are posted delineating show grounds from show premises.

Approve: Hellmeister; Disapprove: Clayton, Dolan, Dexter, Bates, Ford, Vest; Abstain: Berryessa; Non-voting: Westerman. *The motion is not approved.*

4:04 Conformation Committee: Motion #14 Chapter 3, Section 3.5

Motion by Berryessa

I move we accept the following motion from the Conformation Committee.

The vote results are in. The motion passes the CC.

Yes - Mary, Denise, Gail, Regi, Debbie, Liz, Leah, Nancy, Peter, Ann, Glenda, Dorothy, Rhonda

No – Becky; Non-Voting – Luc

Motion by Mary Hellmeister, second by Glenda Stephenson

I move to accept the following change:

Chapter 3, Section 3.5, as it reads now:

SECTION 3.5 ASCA Affiliate Clubs that meet the requirements of ASCA and wish to hold a Conformation Dog Show at which Championship points may be awarded, must make application to ASCA on the form provided for permission to hold such show. The Sanctioning form shall list date, location, Show Secretary/Chairman's name, address and phone number, all classes offered, judges names and addresses and assignments, unless as otherwise provided in SECTION 4.13, SECTION 5.2.h Any ASCA Affiliated Club requesting ASCA sanctioning for any event(s) shall, when making application for said event(s), include any applicable county, state, country or any other bylaws, rules of conduct or associated restrictions regarding dogs, their exhibition and the holding of said event(s) and shall include a list of such rules, bylaws or restrictions in the premium list. Such rules, restrictions, bylaws etc. shall be printed in English and the language of the country where said event(s) will be held, listing all pertinent information. This application must be submitted and postmarked no later than forty-five (45) days prior to the event. A sanction fee, see schedule of fees, per trial shall be submitted with the application.

All entries shall close prior to the judging of the first class.

All Affiliate clubs must send a show flyer to the ASCA Business Office along with the sanctioning forms.

ADDING TO SECTION 3.5 THE SENTENCE:

'Pre entry deadlines must be determined and set by "postmark date" of mailing.

CHAPTER 3, SECTION 3.5 WOULD READ AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 3.5 ASCA Affiliate Clubs that meet the requirements of ASCA and wish to hold a Conformation Dog Show at which Championship points may be awarded, must make application to ASCA on the form provided for permission to hold such show. The Sanctioning form shall list date, location, Show Secretary/Chairman's name, address and phone number, all classes offered, judges names, addresses and assignments, unless as otherwise provided in SECTION 4.13, SECTION 5.2.h Any ASCA Affiliated Club requesting ASCA sanctioning for any event(s) shall, when making application for said event(s), include any applicable county, state, country or any other bylaws, rules of conduct or associated restrictions regarding dogs, their exhibition and the holding of said event(s) and shall include a list of such rules, bylaws or restrictions in the premium list. Such rules, restrictions, bylaws etc. shall be printed in English and the language of the country where said event(s) will be held, listing all pertinent information. This application must be submitted and postmarked no later than forty-five (45) days prior to the event. A sanction fee, see schedule of fees, per trial shall be submitted with the application.

All entries shall close prior to the judging of the first class.

Pre entry deadlines must be determined and set by "postmark date" of mailing.

All Affiliate clubs must send a show flyer to the ASCA Business Office along with the sanctioning forms.

Comment for the motion;

Mary-To add the benchmark wording determining that all show premiums follow the same criteria on Pre-entry acceptance.

Comment against the motion;

Becky - I vote NO. Based solely on this sentence " Pre Entry deadlines must be determined and set by "postmark date" of mailing". I believe that clubs should be able to choose if they want a received date or a postmark date.

Approve: Hellmeister, Berryessa, Clayton, Dolan, Dexter, Vest; Disapprove: Ford; Non-voting: Westerman, Bates. *The motion is approved.*

4:04 Conformation Committee: Motion #13 Change to National Specialty Host Rule 5.4

Motion by Berryessa ; I move to accept the following motion from the Conformation Committee.

Motion has passed the CC. Yes - Mary, Regi, Debbie, Liz, Leah, Peter, Ann, Glenda, Rhonda

No - Denise, Gail, Nancy, Dorothy; Non-Voting - Becky, Luc

Motion by Mary, second by Leah; I move to accept the following change to Section 5.4 of the National Specialty Hosting Rules.

Section 5.4 currently reads:

5.4 The Regular Dog and Regular Bitch (Intact and Altered) Judges will be approved ASCA Senior Breeder Judges. Approved Breeder Judges may only judge Non-Regular classes. Provisional Breeder Judges are not eligible to judge any classes at the National Specialty. Best of Breed may be judged by one (1) judge, or by the three (3) Judge System. In the event one (1) judge is used, such judge must come from the ASCA Senior Breeder Judges List. In the event the three (3) Judge System is used for Best of Breed competition, the two (2) Regular Dog and Bitch Judges will judge Best of Breed. The third Best of Breed Judge must come from the ASCA Approved Senior Breeder Judge's List. In all cases, a Lead Judge will be designated. The Lead Judge will be the one with the most years of service as a Senior Breeder Judge. to read:

5.4 The Regular Dog and Regular Bitch (Intact and Altered) Judges will be approved ASCA Senior Breeder Judges. ASCA Senior Breeder Judges must be approved a minimum of 3 years at the time the first draft of the National Premium list is sent to the Board for approval. Non-regular classes can only be judged by ASCA Breeder Judges at the Approved Breeder Judge or Senior Breeder Judge level. ASCA Non-Regular and Provisional Breeder Judges are not eligible to judge any classes at the National Specialty. Best of Breed may be judged by one (1) judge, or by the three (3) Judge System. In the event one (1) judge is used, such judge must come from the ASCA Senior Breeder Judges List. In the event the three (3) Judge System is used for Best of Breed competition, the two (2) Regular Dog and Bitch Judges will judge Best of Breed. The third Best of Breed Judge must come from the ASCA Approved Senior Breeder Judge's List. In all cases, a Lead Judge will be designated. The Lead Judge will be the one with the most years of service as a Senior Breeder Judge.

Comments:

Mary: At the 2008 Vegas Nationals the Board decided that the Nationals Committee does not own the Nationals Rules and that changes to these rules are the prerogative of each program committee. With the option of multiple shows per day and the rapid speed that some judges are moving through the various stages of judgeship (from Non-regular to Senior) it is imperative for the quality of the program and the integrity of the premium event of ASCA that only experienced judges are being used.

Comments for the motion;

Liz: I vote YES on this motion. We have had too many incidents where our judges are speeding through the requirements and becoming our Senior Breeder Judges without the time or knowledge to judge at our National Specialty. The CC has heard or witnessed at the national specialty such as the following; getting lost with a huge class, continuously moving dogs down and back as the judge can not make up his/her mind, forgetting about dogs in the ring, etc. What this motion does, is allow our new Senior Breeder Judges time to get more ring experience under their belt. Also, this will not be difficult to track. The office has the ways and means to give the board the date of approval at each level for every judge. It will

just be another step to take to insure the ASCA National Specialty is of highest caliber. It is after all, the Nationals!

Comments against the motion;

From Gail: I vote NO, because I disagree with requiring a judge to be at the Senior level for 3 years prior to the date that the National Specialty premium list is submitted to the Board for approval. Here's the National Specialty Hosting Rules deadline: September 1 -- Judges Slate with applicable resumes and first draft of the Premium List due to the Executive Secretary. Premium list will not be approved until all resumes are received. This would be difficult to track, and would add to the already enormous pressure that every host club has to cope with. The host club is given a deadline, but many clubs submit their premium BEFORE the deadline. Can you all see where this is going? What if a club contacted a SBJ who was approved at the Senior level on August 20th, 3 years before these deadlines, but the host club submitted their first draft on August 15th? Technically, that judge would not qualify, with the way this revision is written. And this is more than a full year BEFORE the National, so that means someone would actually have to be a SBJ for over 4 years before they could judge at Nationals.

Host clubs already have a hard time finding SBJ's who are willing to judge at Nationals, and this would limit their choices even more. And I have every confidence that the BOD is going to approve our recommended changes to the requirements for advancing to Senior status, which will make our SBJ's more experienced than ever in the past. Do the members of this committee really feel that we have so many newer SBJ's right now that should NOT judge any classes at Nationals? We have SBJ's who've been at the Senior level for many years, who should not be judging at Nationals, and this rule change would remove some very good newer SBJ's from the available pool, thereby mandating that some of the older ones be hired, based solely on them being at Senior status long enough to suit you all.

Gail: If this motion passes the committee, I wish for my letter of dissent to be included when it is sent to the Board.

From Dorothy: I will be voting no on this. The rule is written in such a way as to be exclusionary, and a Judge would need to be at the Senior level for a total of 4 years, not 3. I also do not think our pool of SBJs is so enormous that we can exclude anyone who has the qualifications. Please pass comments on to the board. Dorothy

Denise: I vote no. The reason is that I feel that the 3 years time frame is ok only ahead of the date for the national itself, not the original premium list that is another year ahead of time.

Approve: Hellmeister, Berryessa; Disapprove: Clayton, Dolan, Dexter, Ford, Vest; Non-voting: Westerman, Bates. *The motion is not approved.*

4:04 Conformation Committee: Motion #12 Chapter 7, Section 7.26 Electronic Device Usage

Motion by Berryessa; I move we accept the following motion from the Conformation Committee.

Motion by Rhonda with a second by Regi.

I move that we accept the following motion:

Chapter 7 Section 7.26 Cell phones and other electronic devices must be turned off while judging is ongoing in the ring. Telephone calls must never be made or received by either the Judge, Ring Steward or Exhibitor(s) while in the ring.

The reasoning for doing so is that it has come to this committee's attention that judges, show secretaries and ring stewards are abusing the reason for having a cell phone while doing the job they have been hired to or volunteered to do.

Defining the new rule – This rule shall be defined as meaning the following without any further interpretation. Any electronic device in the possession of the Judge, Ring Steward or Exhibitor that has the ability to store, transmit or receive voice communication, message transmission, video streams or still photos shall be turned off while judging is ongoing in the ring. Once judging has stopped for planned breaks or at the completion of the judging assignment and all dogs have left the ring, electronic devices may be used. A designated member of the Show Committee may have a communication device at ringside during judging to facilitate the conduct of the show. In an emergency, the Judge and with the permission of the judge, the Ring Steward or Exhibitor/Handler, may excuse themselves from the ring a respectful distance (a minimum of fifteen feet), during judging to accept an emergency phone call. The judge shall not be under any obligation to honor such a request if the request will affect the competition in a negative manner. Electronic devices are not needed to keep track of time. Simple watches must be provided by the host club if the judge or ring steward does not have one available.

Problem Identified – It has been reported since the development of the technology of instant communication, e.g., cell phones, instant messaging, texting, video, still photography and instant transmission of those recordings that an increasing number of judges, stewards, and exhibitors are using such devices during the course of judging assignments. The most recent discussion of this phenomenon has risen more than half a dozen of these incidents from around the country. Many more instances have been reported and discussed over the past couple of years than what was just discussed on several lists, ASCA-L, the Judges list, etc.. This has led to concern by judges, show committees and exhibitors that such actions are not a necessary function during the course of judging conformation classes. Recording, phoning and texting during judging, slows down the conduct of the conformation show, diminishes the attention of the judge, show committee and exhibitors to the task at hand and easily raises the question as to who needs to have this information communicated to them so rapidly and why. Since the question was raised that this activity may not be in the best interest of maintaining the proper decorum for the conformation ring, a few members of the Conformation Committee began to investigate whether or not this is a problem that needed to be addressed.

The next logical step after being made aware of a concern would be to see if similar organizations have identified this activity as problematic and how did they address the situation. Research revealed that the American Kennel Club has created a rule to address just such a problem.

Their rule states, **“Cell Phones and other electronic devices must be turned off while judging. Telephone calls should never be made or received by either the judge or the ring steward while in the ring.”** (Unlike ASCA, AKC has representatives that patrol the show grounds monitoring to insure the rules are followed. Judges, Show Committee and Exhibitors know that they are being monitored. The representative has the authority to correct any rule violation, perceived rule violation, policy and procedure irregularities.)

It can then be concluded that the use of electronic devices during the course of conformation judging has been deemed by at least one other dog show organization as a problem and that the ASCA Conformation Committee is not being overzealous in their duties by also identifying the use of electronic devices during the course of judging as a problem.

Justification for a rule creation. - Conducting a Conformation Show for the Australian Shepherd Club of America is obviously not a job that requires quick life or death decisions. It is a job that requires attention to detail, complete adherence to all rules, regulations and guidelines for the expressed purpose of granting titles of merit to dogs within our chosen breed. If we cannot create a proper atmosphere to maintain the

integrity of our programs and to insure complete impartiality in all aspects of our deliberations than we run the risk of having our titles be considered valueless.

ASCA has established and will maintain programs that not only are fun but above all else will respect tradition and decorum to insure the legitimacy of ASCA Titles. To this end, ASCA requires the following: judges who respectfully honor their commitment to ASCA, the Affiliate Club and the Exhibitors as outlined in the Judges Code of Ethics and the Directions to Judges Appendices; Affiliate Club Show Committees that create a fun yet professional show that does not stray from ASCA's Rules, Regulations, Policies and Procedures; Exhibitors/Handlers who help to create an atmosphere of fun and professionalism by being respectful of the Host Clubs efforts, the Judges deliberations and helping to create confidence in the ability of program to provide a fair opportunity to win. If we cannot cooperatively accomplish these goals by taking responsibility for our individual parts, then we run the risk of devaluing our titles to the point of worthlessness.

An ASCA Conformation Show is a job, a workplace. The Hosting Club/Show Committee is working hard to organize and conduct the programs in concert with ASCA's Rules and Regulations. The judges, who have been hired, are putting to good use their years of training and education in choosing worthy dogs and bitches to receive titles for the betterment of our chosen breed. The exhibitors are working diligently to show their dogs as worthy of receiving the title of Champion. With all of this hard work going on, it is wise that ASCA has decided that it is important to maintain proper decorum in this workplace.

A few illustrations from ASCA's direction to be mindful of perceptions, with a couple of quotes from the rule book:

Chapter 14 Stewards – “Stewards should refrain from discussing or seeming to discuss the dogs or the exhibitors with the judge”

Appendix 2 - Judges Guidelines/Code of Ethics
Responsibilities

#4 It is essential that exhibitors have complete faith in the impartiality of their judges. A judge's actions and decisions should leave no doubt that they were made based solely on the merits of the dogs presented to them on that day.

Conduct

#1 “The general conduct of judge, both inside and out of the ring, should be above reproach.”

Appendix 3 Your responsibilities and conduct as a judge.

#2 ASCA Conformation Judges carry a tremendous amount of responsibility. They function as a guiding voice of the Australian Shepherd and should represent the highest ideals in terms of honesty, integrity, impartiality and knowledge of the sport and breed.

Responsibilities

#1 ASCA Judges should have thorough breed knowledge, understanding of the Breed Standard and full comprehension of the rules concerning ASCA's Conformation Program. They are expected to demonstrate efficient ring procedure and control.

#3 “Judges are to be professional in carrying out their duties,”

Conduct, Conflicts of Interest, and Common Sense: You must both possess and project an unwavering air of integrity and ethical behavior that protects the reputation of ASCA Dog Shows. With common sense, Judges can easily avoid situations which might raise ethical questions. Judges are presumed to be honest, competent and dedicated. Nevertheless, it is all too easy to find yourself in uncomfortable or even

inappropriate situations. No guidelines can cover every situation, but they can help you avoid improprieties or perceived improprieties.

Conduct

#1 The general conduct of judge, both inside and out of the ring, should be above reproach.

Reasons for the inclusion of this rule in the rulebook

No rule infractions have occurred. No disciplinary action is proposed against any Affiliate Club, Judge or Exhibitor. Judges, Show Committees and Exhibitors are all considered to be honest and dedicated to the mission of the Australian Shepherd Club of America and to the betterment of the Australian Shepherd.

Maintaining a respectful and decorous place to conduct ASCA's programs is paramount to ASCA's needs and future security as the parent club of the Australian Shepherd.

The ability to instantly talk to someone, transmit written messages, photos and videos of the dogs as they are being judged goes against ASCA's direction to maintain decorum and propriety in the conduct of the program. Without a doubt there is potential for abuse and harm to the program even if the abuse is perceived and not real.

Lessening the impact of this new rule – Now that we have become used to instantly being in touch, it will seem difficult to be without your device for a while. Just remember, cell phones will save messages for you so that you can return a missed call. The majority of judging assignments are over and done within two hours or less. The longest assignment I can remember would be a six hour marathon for Best of Breed at a National Specialty. If you find yourself in a spot where you have to monitor your phone, I can't think of any place where someone wouldn't be happy to hold onto and answer your phone for you. Remember to preplan. If you know that you can't dedicate yourself for two hours to a judging assignment, it would probably be fair to the club and the exhibitors if you declined the assignment.

Motion passes: Yes - Becky, Mary, Denise, Gail, Regi, Debbie, Liz, Leah, Nancy, Peter, Ann, Glenda, Rhonda; No- Dorothy; Non- Voting – Luc

Comment From Glenda; I vote yes, with this reply: Each venue that has a timed event must provide the judge with a stop watch. If the conformation judge comes to their assignment unprepared, then the club must provide a timing device. Individuals read signs daily: Cell Phones Must Be Turned Off. You can't walk into a court room, doctor's office, class room, or theatre without seeing the signs. Furthermore, other large registries have in their Judges conduct and rules that cell phones must be turned off. I personally hate having to make a rule that would only be common sense. Judges should not be distracted by electronic gadgets. What did we do before the cell phone? We left someone with an alternative phone number to call in case of emergency.

Approve: Hellmeister, Clayton; Disapprove: Dolan, Dexter, Bates, Ford, Vest; Non-voting: Berryessa, Westerman. *The motion is not approved.*

4:05 Agility Committee: Motion 05-2011 Reinstatement of Pamela Bryant Meeks

Motion by Dolan; I move to approve the following from the Agility Committee:

Motion by Sue, 2nd by Krystal

Motion passes; 10 yea 3 abstain

Motion to approve the reinstatement of Pamela Bryant Meeks. Effective immediately.

Approve: Hellmeister, Berryessa, Clayton, Dolan, Dexter, Bates, Ford, Vest; Non-voting: Westerman.

The motion is approved.

10:53 ASCOT Letter of Instruction

Motion by Vest, Second by Berryessa

I move that the ASCA Board of Directors answer the Australian Shepherd Club of Texas request for additional information regarding the ASCA Dog Bite Policy by delivery of the attached letter of instruction. The letter of instruction expounds upon the responsibility of an ASCA Affiliate when a dog bite incident occurs. Effective date for motion: Immediately upon approval.

Approve: Hellmeister, Clayton, Dolan, Dexter, Ford, Bates, Vest; Abstain: Westerman; Non-voting: Berryessa. *The motion is approved.*

84:05: Motion - Affiliate By-laws applications/amendments

Motion: Bates, 2nd: Clayton

I make a motion to require all Clubs applying to affiliate and all clubs wishing to modify their existing By-Laws be required to use the BYLAW GUIDE for AFFILIATE CLUBS of the AUSTRALIAN SHEPHERD CLUB of AMERICA when submitting their completed application.

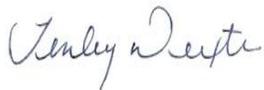
Approve: Hellmeister, Clayton, Dolan, Dexter, Bates, Ford, Vest, Westerman; Disapprove: Berryessa. *The motion is approved.*

96:02 SDC: Roger Stevens Judge Reinstatement Request

Motion: Bates; I move to accept the SDC recommendation to uphold the revocation of Roger Stevens' Stockdog judging privileges.

Motion: (Schvaneveldt; second by Baker); I move that the SDC recommend to the ASCA Board of Directors that Roger Stevens' Stockdog judging privileges remain revoked. The words in the December 2008 recommendation were carefully chosen. The reason for the term "revoked" was to recommend that those privileges cannot be reinstated.

Motion passes: 8 Approve of the motion ,3_ Opposed to the motion ,1 Abstained ,1 Non-voting
Approve: Hellmeister, Berryessa, Dolan, Dexter, Bates, Westerman; Disapprove: Vest; Abstain: Clayton, Ford. *The motion is approved.*



Tenley Dexter
ASCA Secretary