

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.

February 1–28, 2010

Board of Directors Teleconferences

Monday February 1, 2010

The February 1st, 2010 Board of Directors (BoD) meeting was called to order at 8:01 PM CST by President Michelle Berryessa. Those attending via phone or teleconference were: Rick Gann/Director, Pete Dolan/Secretary, Jerry Aufox/Director, Peter Hellmeister/First VP, Tenley Dexter/Director, Rachel Vest/Second VP, Chris Davenport, Director, Mark Westerman/Treasurer and Mary Logue/Executive Secretary.

Ground Rules in the advent of a phone disconnect. Don't call Pete Dolan back. He will contact everyone.

- 1) Old Business
 - a. Confirmation of e-mail/teleconference votes taken in January, 2010 (Berryessa): Motion by Aufox, second by Berryessa; Approve: Unanimous; The motion is approved.
 - b. Treasurer Update (Westerman): The unaudited latest Profit & Loss report (12/31/09) was discussed. Treasurer reported an unaudited gain of approximately \$21,000. If the non-cash item (depreciation) of approximately \$9,000 is added to this net gain, then the total cash available for capital improvement projects for the coming year is around \$30,000. The treasurer suggested allocating monies for the Rally program (\$3K) and increase work hours for the webmaster (\$4.800) for 2010.
 - c. 2009 Finals Expenses (Gann): Discussion involved the report that Rick Gann sent to the Directors prior to the teleconference. Based on the numbers provided, the Finals budget totals may be close to complete. Rick is still waiting on the expenses package from CASA. Rick will contact CASA and request they verify their numbers on the Finals Budget.
 - d. Rally (Berryessa): The rules for Rally have passed. Business Office has received application(s) for judge(s). Business Office (BO) will accept judges and courses prior to 4/1/2010. Discussion was held in regards to the effect Rally will have on Obedience. Michelle indicated that when Rally was first discussed ~ five (5) years ago, the Obedience Committee indicated they felt there should be a separate committee for Rally.
 - e. Mandatory DNA/DNA Question on Ballot (Vest): Discussion occurred as to whether, due to present economic constraints, ASCA should place a moratorium on mandatory DNA, which is presently going into effect on 1/1/2011. Rachel discussed whether the BoD should authorize placing a question to that effect on the ballot for membership input with a Yes/No response. Pete Dolan indicated that "economic impact" isn't a valid argument.
- 2) New Business:
 - a. Roberts Rules of Order (RRO) for Committee Chairs (Dolan): Pete asked the BoD whether it would be helpful if ASCA provided copies of RRO to committee chairs to assist them. It was discussed that a motion would not be required because of the cost, only approval by the Treasurer or President; Liaison's will ask their committee chairs their opinion on the matter.

Motion to adjourn: Hellmeister, second Aufox; Approve: Unanimous; Motion is approved. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM CST.

Next teleconference is presently scheduled for March 1, 2010 at 8 PM CST.

Executive Secretary

Date of Approval

EMERGENCY MOTION: 10:11 Revocation of judging privileges for Frank Alhino

Motion by Hellmeister

Second by Gann

Emergency motion (see reason below in the comment section). Discussion for three days (2/3/2010 thru 2/5/2010), vote immediately thereafter for three day period (2/8/2010 thru 2/11/2010).

I move to revoke judging privileges for Judge Frank Alhino, Judge # 4170, immediately.

Comment: The following note was found in the AKC Secretary's Report for the month of June 2009:

The AKC's Management Disciplinary Committee has suspended Mr. Frank Alhino, Castro Valley, CA, from AKC event privileges for five years, effective May 11, 2009, and imposed a \$2000 fine for his conviction on the misdemeanor charge of unlawfully and fraudulently appropriating, secreting with intent to appropriate property controlled and cared for by him by virtue of his position as Treasurer of the Contra Costa Kennel Club.

It states in the ASCA Judge's Code of Ethics:

In addition to satisfying other stated qualifications to serve, an applicant must consistently display the highest level of ethical conduct, impartial demeanor, professional comportment and dedication to upholding ASCA's codes, rules, decisions and the Statement of Purpose in ASCA's Bylaws. Any documented failure to perform on this level may result in denial or revocation of judging privileges by the ASCA® Board of Directors without regard to any other qualification or prior service.

According to a flyer by Delta ASF, affiliate club of ASCA, Mr Alhino is slated to judge a Conformation Show on the weekend of April 3 & 4, 2010. Deciding this matter as an emergency vote will give the club ample time to search for a replacement.

Approve: Aufox, Vest, Westerman; Disapprove: Dolan; Non-voting: Gann, Hellmeister, Berryessa, Davenport, Dexter.

The motion is approved.

Policy Book: Section 8.4 and 10.5

Motion by Dolan

Second by Westerman

I move to reword Section 8.4 and Section 10.5 which read:

8.4 Confidentiality

a. The following was adopted by the Board of Directors regarding confidentiality:

The following items are considered confidential:

Employee records

Individual registry files, except they may be reviewed by the current owner and/or co-owner.

Disciplinary complaint files.

Membership letters in regard to Judges' applications

b. ASCA will keep confidential and not disclose the name and identifying information of the author of all written comment letters detailing actions of any of the following individuals:

1. Judge Applicants

2. Judges

3. Officials of ASCA, its affiliates and licensees detailing actions during an ASCA sanctioned event.

Such letter will be forwarded to the individual named and complained of in the letter with identifying information redacted and seeking a response. Added: 03/08

10.5 Filing of Complaint Letters

- a. Any communication that requests inclusion of a complaint letter in a Judge's or member's file shall also be sent to the person the complaint is about advising him/her that he/she may prepare a rebuttal statement that will also be placed in the file.
- b. The person requesting the inclusion of the complaint letter will be sent a letter advising him/her of this policy before the complaint letter is sent on to the Judge or member. If they withdraw their request, the letter will not be included in the Judge's or member's file or be sent onto the Judge or member.

Effective: 07/01

to read:

8.4 Confidentiality

- a. The Board of Directors has determined that the following are confidential:
 - i. Employee records
 - ii. Individual registry files, except for review by the current owner and/or co-owner.
 - iii. Disciplinary complaint files.
 - iv. Letters from members regarding Judges' applications.
 - v. Letters from members regarding Judges
 - vi. Letters from members regarding officials of ASCA, its affiliates and licensees detailing actions during an ASCA sanctioned event.

10.5 Filing of Complaint Letters/E-mails

- a. ASCA will adhere to the confidentiality policy of Section 8.4 and not disclose the name and identifying information of the author of all written comments.
- b. Any communication that requests inclusion of a complaint letter/e-mail in a Judge's or member's file shall also be sent to the subject of the complaint advising him/her that he/she may submit a rebuttal statement that will be placed in the file.
- c. The person requesting the inclusion of the complaint letter/e-mail will be sent a letter advising him/her of this policy before a redacted version of the complaint letter/e-mail is sent on to the Judge or member. If the writer withdraws his/her request, the letter/e-mail will not be included in the Judge's or member's file or be sent onto the Judge or member.
- d. Letters/e-mails of complaint will be forwarded to the individual named in the complaint. Such letters/e-mails will have all information identifying the author redacted. The forwarding letter/e-mail will seek a response from the subject of the complaint.
- e. The Board of Directors will take no action on an application to become a judge until completion of the preceding process.

I also move to forward this motion to each program committee for comment prior to the Board of Directors acting on the entire motion. Each committee shall place a statement in its rulebook referring to section 10.5 of the Policy Book. This statement shall appear in the judge application and approval section.

Comment/Rationale: Presently complaint letters are referenced in two sections of the Policy Book. The motion provides a central location for a procedure to handle complaint letters by consolidating the partial procedure in section 8.4 into section 10.5. It also directs the program committees to include an explicit reference to this process in each rulebook.

Approve: Aufox, Berryessa, Davenport, Dolan, Westerman, Aufox, Gann; Disapprove: Dexter, Hellmeisterter;
Non-voting: Vest.

The motion is approved.

Policy Book: Changes to Section 8.8.6

Motion by Dolan

Second by Hellmeister

I move to add the following to the Policy Book:

Section 8.8.6 Judge Approval Motion

The judge approving process follows:

- a. The Business Office periodically compiles a list of judge candidates, judge applicants and judges moving to a higher level. This list is for submission to the Board of Directors as the mechanism for approval/disapproval of the candidates.
- b. The Business Office liaison (ASCA President) shall present this list to the Board of Directors in the form of a motion (no second required).
- c. When called to a vote Directors may approve the entire list, may approve some and disapprove some, not vote, or abstain by so stating in a vote sent to the Executive Secretary. The "not vote" or "abstain" options apply to the entire list or specified individuals.

Comment/Rationale: This change formalizes a process used to approve all judges and brings the process in line with Roberts Rules of Order. Also, the change designates the individual responsible for executing the procedure. This process is akin to that contained in the Committee Procedures used to process program committee motions.

Approve: Unanimous;
The motion is approved.

4:02 Committee Procedures: Motion to amend/Electronic Newsletter

Motion by Aufox

Second by Gann

Move to amend paragraph 7 of the Committee Chairperson's Duties contained in ASCA's Committee Procedures (Revised February 20, 2009) to read as follows:

“7. Electronic Newsletter: In order for the ASCA Membership to receive information in a timely manner it is required that the Committee Chairperson set up an Electronic Newsletter. The Chairperson will forward current discussion, motions and vote results with comments to the Newsletter. No comments on personal matters, sensitive or confidential items will be forwarded to the Newsletter. The Electronic Newsletter will be set up as read only for the Membership and shall be posted on the ASCA-L. (Note: An email addressing a discussion item that does not relate to a specific individual by name is not a “personal matter” notwithstanding that it identifies the sender/writer of the email)”

Comment: The revised wording makes it clear that electronic newsletters are mandatory and comments by individual on pending motion of rule changes or other matters which indentify the sender/writer of the comments are NOT personal matters. To have it otherwise would mean that no discussion could be shown verbatim and to require summaries would mean the chairperson would have a great amount of work, thus discouraging members to take a lead/chair role in a committee. Further the newsletter must be and can only be posted on ASCA-L

The current wording of the section is below:

“7. Electronic Newsletter: In order for the ASCA® Membership to receive information in a timely manner it is recommended the Committee Chairperson set up an Electronic Newsletter. The Chairperson will forward current discussion, motions and vote results with comments to the Newsletter. No personal comments, sensitive or confidential items will be forwarded to the Newsletter. The Electronic Newsletter will be set up as read only for the Membership.”

Approve: Gann, Westerman; Disapprove: Aufox, Berryessa, Davenport, Dexter, Dolan, Hellmeister, Vest;
The motion is not approved.

4:04 Conformation Committee: Conformation Finals Rule: 15:3 Participants

Motion: Gann

Motion by Liz Gibson, 2nd by Regi Gravettes

Motion to amend and define the current Conformation Finals Rule: 15:3 Participants to the following:

15.3 PARTICIPANTS

By July 1st of every year, the ASCA Business Office will mail an invitation to the Top Thirty (30) Altered Conformation Merit Dog Finalists and the Top Thirty (30) Intact Conformation Merit Dog Finalists to compete in the Conformation Finals. If there is a tie at the 30th position, all dogs tied for the 30th place will be invited to the conformation finals. The ASCA Business Office will also send invitations to the next fifteen (15) alternates in their ranked order in both the Altered and Intact Divisions, including all ties in those 15 alternates. If the ASCA Business Office receives less than the Top Thirty (30) entries in both Altered and Intact by the postmarked deadline of July 15th of the Finals year, the ASCA Business Office will notify alternates whose entries must meet the same deadline, in their ranked order, until reaching the total number of thirty (30) Altered Merit Dogs and thirty (30) Intact Merit Dogs.

Voting on this motion was unanimously in favor by all committee members: Liz Gibson, Debbie Martin, Mary Hellmeister, Denise Creelman, Regi Gravette, Becky Noe, Ann DeChant, David Clayton, Ronnie Bates, Gail Karmalegos, Peter Kontos, Leah Swatko, Luc Goossens, Nancy Pelletier.

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

4:05 Agility Committee: Motion 01-2010: Teeter Specifications

Motion by Dolan

I move to approve the following Agility Committee motion:

Pamela moved, Krystal seconded.

Yes: Sherry, Janelle, Krystal, Cynthia, Andrea, Betty, Pamela, Abstain: Sue, Ally Non-voting: Annelise
Motion passes

Effective June 1, 2010

Appendix A, Equipment Specs, Contact Obstacles:

From:

The teeter - totter shall be constructed or adjusted so that a three-pound weight placed twelve inches from the end on the raised side will cause the plank to drop to ground level in three seconds or less.

Note:

If required, most teeters can be adjusted to meet this criterion by adding weight, temporarily or permanently, to the underside of the raised end.

To:

The teeter - totter shall be constructed or adjusted so that a three-pound weight placed twelve inches from the end on the raised side will cause the plank to drop to ground level in 2.5 to 3 seconds, averaging 12-16" per second. Clubs are required to have a 3 pound weight available for measuring teeter-totter speed at the trial.

Note: If required, most teeters can be adjusted to meet this criterion by adding or removing weight, temporarily or permanently, to the underside of the raised end.

The teeter-totter base shall be wider than the board, not hidden underneath, and visible to the dog on approach.

The base should extend at least 2 inches past the sides of the plank with a gap not to exceed 4 inches so that dogs can see the pivot point. The ground support of the base may be wider than the portion attached to the base for more visibility. The height of the teeter-totter measured to the top of the board at the pivot is 24 inches plus or minus 2 inches. It is highly recommended the base be painted a different color than the body of the teeter board. The board shall be 12" wide by 12' long, give or take 1" and the center point should be placed 2-4" off center on the base. The base shall be secured to the trial surface, such as sandbags or stakes, to prevent movement of the base.

Rationale:

We were receiving reports of teeter-tooters dropping the full height at too fast of speeds to be safe, and this modifies it. It also adds a visibility and movement requirement for the base for safety reasons.

Approve: Unanimous.

The motion is approved.

4:05 Agility Committee: Motion 2-2010: Gamble Start Motion

Motion by Dolan

I move to approve the following Agility Committee motion:

Motion by Pamela, second by Krystal

Yes: Sherry, Sue, Janelle, Krystal, Cynthia, Andrea, Betty, Pamela, Ally Non-voting: Annelise

Motion passes.

Effective June 1, 2010

Change rulebook, section 4.2.5, after table I,

From:

At the end of the first thirty (30) second point accumulation period, a whistle or horn will sound, indicating that the gamble time has begun. At this time the handler must maneuver their dog into the gamble area to prepare to execute the gamble. Once the handler has indicated to the dog by position, hand signal, or verbal command to begin the gamble, the dog must execute the gamble obstacles in the exact order as described by the judge's course design. The dog will receive points for each obstacle performed correctly in the right order in the gamble sequence. Any break in the course design as set by the judge will end the point accumulation time for the gamble.

To:

At the end of the first thirty (30) second point accumulation period, a whistle or horn will sound, indicating that the gamble time has begun. At this time the handler must maneuver their dog into the gamble area to prepare to perform the gamble. The gamble will begin when the dog performs the first obstacle of the gamble correctly. The dog must then perform the gamble obstacles in the exact order as described by the judge's course design.

The dog will receive points for each obstacle performed correctly in the right order in the gamble sequence. Any break in the course design as set by the judge will end the point accumulation time for the gamble. Any obstacles completed after the 30 second point accumulation period, but prior to the first gamble obstacle will not have points awarded.

Rationale: This will improve consistency between judges and eliminate calling intent. It will make it clear when the gamble starts which is the major source of confusion for judges.

Approve: Unanimous.

The motion is approved.

09:05 AR Legislative Committee Mission Statement

Motion by Westerman

I move that the attached ASCA Legislative Committee Mission Statement be approved.

Motion made by Chris Reedy and 2nd by Mary Hellmeister.

Voting: Jarilyn – yes; Mary- yes; Chris – yes; Gina – yes; Darcy – yes; Margi - non voting

ASCA LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MISSION STATEMENT

The Legislative Committee will serve the membership of ASCA by providing education, up to date information regarding legislation affecting pet ownership, and foster communication with the public as well as global, national, state, and local decision makers in such matters. The Committee advocates responsible animal ownership and will inform the membership of any threat to our animal ownership rights.

Approve: Berryessa, Dexter, Dolan, Gann, Hellmeister, Vest, Westerman; Abstain: Aufox; Non-voting: Davenport;

The motion is approved.

09:05 Legislative Committee: Appoint Janet Hanson

Motion by Westerman

I move to appoint Janet Hanson to the Legislative Committee.

Approve: Unanimous.

The motion is approved.

09:05 Legislative Committee: Susan Beals appointment to legislative committee

Motion by Westerman

I make a motion that Susan Beales be added to the Legislative Committee.

Approve: Unanimous.

The motion is approved.

9:28 History Committee: Move to appoint Sunday Miles and Jo Kimes

Motion by Dexter

I move to add Sunday Miles and Jo Kimes to the History Committee.

Approve: Unanimous.

The motion is approved.

10:01 Pamela Bryant-Meeks complaint

Motion by Dexter

Second by Vest

I move that the Executive Secretary draft a letter to Ms. Pamela Bryant-Meeks instructing her to correctly follow the Dog Bite Policy and refrain from overstepping her authority in the future. Ms. Meeks should also be instructed to write notes of apology to ASC of Southern Florida and Conformation Judge, Mr. Cunningham.

The letter should inform her that any further rule violations may result in the further action by the Board of Directors which could include suspension as outlined in Section 7 of Appendix C of the Agility Rules and Regulations.

Section 7 – DISCIPLINE

7.1. An ASCA Agility Judge may be temporarily denied judging privileges and/or accepting new assignments from clubs for sixty days by the Board of Directors while it investigate any infractions, violations of the Judges Code of Ethics or ASCA® rules and procedures.

7.2. A judge may be suspended from judging assignments by the Board of Directors.

7.3. If a formal complaint is filed against a judge concerning a trial, it shall be investigated. If the complaint is valid, the judge may be reprimanded, suspended, or have judging privileges revoked by the Board of Directors

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

10:07 Working Australian Shepherd Club of Georgia Affiliation Application

Motion by Dolan

Second by Dexter

I move to approve the Working Australian Shepherd Club of Georgia By-Laws and application to affiliate.

Comment: The Bylaws Review Committee reviewed the Working Australian Shepherd Club of Georgia application and recommends approval.

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

10:08 GTWAG Affiliate Application

Motion by Dexter

Second by Dolan

I move to accept the attached Affiliate Application by GTWAG.

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

10:09: 2010 Election

Motion by Dolan

Second by Davenport

I move to direct the Election Secretary contract long term (3-5 years if possible) with an election firm based on bid and best value for ASCA and allocate funding not to exceed \$8,000 in support of this effort.

I also move that the Treasurer add a budget line "Election Services", or some other appropriate name, to future budgets.

Comment/Rationale: The Election Secretary has in hand two bids plus the costs of having the Business Office conduct the election. Providing direction and allocating funds allows her to negotiate in the best interests of ASCA. As demonstrated by last year's experiment, using this service streamlines and simplifies the balloting process while saving Business Office time and labor. The process also insures an independent tabulation of election results.

Approve: Unanimous.
The motion is approved.

10:10: Dog Disqualification at Nationals E158450 Find Yourself Wicked

Motion by Dolan

Second by Hellmeister

I move to vacate the disqualification of Find Yourself Wicked E158450

Comment/Rationale: The disqualification was not executed in accordance with the Stockdog Program Rules. The score sheet for this run was not completed as required by the Stockdog Program Rules. There was no reason for the disqualification stated on the score sheet and there was no zero entered for a score. The report written by the judge did not state the reason for the disqualification. It did state a series of actions by the dog.

Approve: Dexter, Dolan, Vest; Disapprove: Aufox, Berryessa, Davenport, Gann, Hellmeister, Westerman.
The motion is not approved.

Letter of Dissent

A DQ is the most severe penalty a Stock Dog Judge can give to a stock competitor as it prohibits the competitor from competing further in a venue. The seriousness of the situation and the consequence to the competitor demand Judges be held to the highest standard to read, know and follow the letter of the rule exactly and carry out their duties properly so a decision is beyond reproach. The rules were not properly followed and executed in this case.

Tenley Dexter

Letter of Dissent

My vote to set aside the DQ of E158450 Find Yourself Wicked is due to the rules not being properly followed as they are currently written in the Stock Dog Rulebook. The DQ of a dog in the SD program is the most serious offense that a Judge can recommend and as such the SD rules should be followed to the letter. That did not happen in this situation.

Rachel Vest

10:12 ASCA New Mission Statement

Motion by Hellmeister

Second by Dolan

I move that the Board accepts the following as ASCA's new mission statement

The Australian Shepherd Club of America is dedicated to maintaining the integrity of its registry and to preserving and promoting the Australian Shepherd as an intelligent working dog with strong herding instinct.

Comment:

A mission statement is a formal short written statement of the purpose of a company or organization. The mission statement should guide the actions of the organization, spell out its overall goal, provide a sense of direction, and guide decision-making. It provides the framework or context within which the company's strategies are formulated.

ASCA's current mission statement is too long. The proposed mission statement consolidates the old one in a shorter, more significant way.

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

The motion is approved.

10:13 Legislative Committee Position Statement

Motion by Westerman

I move that the following motion from the Legislative Committee be approved.

Motion made by Gina Larson and 2nd by Chris Reedy that the position statement currently located on the legislative page of the ASCA website be moved to ASCA's main page and placed directly above the mini announcement and breed information.

Position Statement:

"The Australian Shepherd Club of America will not condone the policy of any individual, group, or proposed legislation which advocates restricting the breeding, showing, training, and/or exhibiting of the Australian Shepherd or any other domesticated animal.

The Australian Shepherd Club of American also does not condone the proposed restrictions to the practice of tail docking or removal of dewclaws for cosmetic or health reasons.

We find this policy to be a detriment to the welfare of the Australian Shepherd breed as a whole and an infringement on the rights of the owners, breeders, trainers, and exhibitors of all domesticated animals. The Australian Shepherd Club of America will educate its members of any proposed legislation which may ill affect the welfare of the breed and its guardians, the breeders, owners, trainers, and exhibitors.

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

93:17 Stockdog Rules: Motion to rescind 96:02 change to 4.13

Motion by Westerman

Second by Gann

I move to rescind the motion 96:02 changes to 4.13 Judging period and number of runs permitted.

Rationale: Committee Procedures have not been followed. The Stockdog Committee failed to put this proposal in front of the membership using Stockdog Committee reports in the Aussie Times and failed to procure input comments from the general membership. Given the sweeping changes and impact of this rule, such procedures are important and warranted.

Approve: Gann, Westerman; Disapprove: Aufox, Berryessa, Davenport, Dexter, Dolan, Vest; Non-voting: Hellmeister;
The motion is not approved.

98:15 Obedience Committee: 180 day motion

Motion by Dolan

I move to approve the following Obedience Committee motion:

We respectfully submit the following motion to become effective 6/1/10. This motion will extend the amount of time handlers are allowed to be in the "A" classes as well as clarify the Novice rules regarding HIT.

Motion by Burlingame, second by Case. Voting: Yes – Unanimous

Chapter 3, (NOVICE) Section 1, 3rd paragraph.

Change entire paragraph to read:

"A dog may continue to be shown in Novice A for 180 days following notification by three (3) judges, two (2) of whom are different, that the requirements for a CD have been completed. After the 180 day grace period is over the team must move out of Novice A. The team can move to Novice B and remain there until they receive a HIT OR earn an Open leg. Failure to move out of Novice A will result in the loss of all wins, placements, scores, prizes, etc... earned beyond the grace period."

Chapter 3, (NOVICE) Section 2, 3rd paragraph.

Change entire paragraph to read:

" A dog that earns the CD title from the Novice B class can continue to be shown in Novice B for 180 days following notification by three (3) judges, two (2) of whom are different, that the requirements for a CD have been completed. After the 180 day grace period is over, the team may continue to compete in Novice B until they earn a qualifying score in Open, OR receive HIT. If a Novice team earns HIT after the 180 day grace period has expired, they are required to move on to the next class for which they are eligible. Failure to move on will result in the loss of all wins, placements, scores, prizes, etc. which may be earned from the Novice B class beyond the grace period."

Chapter 4, (OPEN) Section 1, 2nd paragraph.

Replace 1st sentence with:

"A dog may continue to be shown in Open A for 180 days following notification by three (3) judges, two (2) of whom are different, that it has completed the requirements for the CDX title. After the 180 day grace period is over, the team must move to either Open B, Open V, or another class for which they are eligible. Failure to move on will result in the loss of all wins, placements, scores, prizes, etc. earned after the grace period"

Remainder of paragraph remains unchanged.

Chapter 5, (UTILITY) Section 1, 2nd paragraph.

Replace 1st sentence with:

"A dog may continue to be shown in Utility A for 180 days following notification by three (3) judges, two (2) of whom are different, that it has completed the requirements for the UD title. After the 180 day grace period is over, the team must move to either Utility B, Utility V, or another class for which they are eligible. Failure to move on will result in the loss of all wins, placements, scores, prizes, etc. earned after the grace period."

Remainder of paragraph remains unchanged.

We have worked with the Business Office to create 2 sets of letters (see attached letters). One set offers congratulations for earning new titles earned and reiterates the rules dictating which class the handler should be showing in. The other set is a violation letter which is sent to handlers found to have violated the rules. These letters (as well as the motion) have been reviewed by the Business Office and have been determined to be workable.

REASON: Due to the limited number of ASCA obedience trials available, the committee felt that we should extend the time limit for people in the "A" classes to show at that level. We further have worked with the BO in assuring that the people who violate the rules and show in the wrong class will lose all achievements from their erroneous entry. We have been told by several exhibitors that due to the BO not being able to track people entering the wrong classes, some people are taking advantage of the situation and staying in a lower level class so they can have a better chance of winning HIT and gaining higher rankings. With the work we have done with the BO, we feel this will fix that problem.

Approve: Unanimous.
The motion is approved.

98:15 Obedience Committee: ASCA Title Requirement

Motion by Dolan

I move to approve the following Obedience Committee motion:

We respectfully submit the following motion to become effective 6/1/2010. This motion is to clarify the fact that ASCA titles are required from a lower level class before moving up. Motion by Case, second by Burlingame. Voting: Yes - Unanimous.

Chapter 4, section 2 - Open B Class

Change the first two sentences to read:

"The Open B class shall be for dogs that have earned the CD, CDX, or CDX-V title from ASCA. A dog may continue to show in this class after earning their CDX, CDX-V, UD, or UD-V title from ASCA."

Chapter 4, section 3 - Open V Class

The Open V class shall be for dogs aged 7 years or older who have earned the CD (Companion Dog) title from ASCA. This class shall not be mandatory for dogs aged (7) seven years or older. The Open V class shall not be eligible for High in Trial or High Combined Awards. This class shall not be eligible for Merit and National Finals standings. Titles earned in this class are eligible for the Hall Of Fame program. Dogs will jump four (4) inches lower in this class than the specified height for Open A and B classes. Order of exercises will follow Open A. Legs earned toward a CDX title may be transferred to Open V from the Open A or B classes. Legs earned in Open V may not be transferred to the Open A or B classes. Owners may enter more than one dog in this class. No dog shall be entered in either Open A or B if it is entered in the Open V class at any one (1) trial.

Chapter 5, section 3 - Utility B class

Change the first sentence to read:

"The Utility B class shall be for dogs that have earned the CDX, CDX-V, UD, or UD-V title from ASCA."

Chapter 5, section 3 - Utility V Class

Utility V class shall be for dogs aged (7) seven years or older who have earned the CDX or CDX-V or the UD or UD-V title from ASCA. This class shall not be mandatory for dogs aged 7 years and older. This class shall not be eligible for High in Trial or High Combined Awards. This class shall not be eligible for Merit and National Finals standings. Titles earned in this class will be eligible for the Hall of Fame program. Dogs in this class shall jump four (4) inches lower than the height specified for Utility A and B classes. Legs earned toward a UD title may be transferred to Utility V from the Utility A and B classes. Legs earned in Utility V may not be transferred to the Utility A or B classes. Dogs in this class may be handled by the owner or any other person.

Owners may enter more than one dog in this class. No dog shall be entered in either Utility A or B if it is entered in the Utility V class at any one (1) trial.

REASON: It was brought to the committees attention that the phrase "or other registry" made it sound as though an ASCA title from a lower level was not necessary in order to move to the upper levels. By removing the phrase "or other registry" from each of these sections, it clarifies that an ASCA title from the previous level is required before moving up to the next level.

Approve: Unanimous.
The motion is approved.

98:15 Obedience Committee:-Chapter 10 Revision

Motion by Dolan

I move to approve the following Obedience Committee motion:

We respectfully make the following motion to become effective 6/1/10. Motion by Burlingame, second by Alexander. Voting: Yes, unanimous.

Replace Chapter 10 of the Obedience Rulebook with the attached revision.

Reason: The Finals Chapter has needed a major overhaul for years. The Obedience Committee compiled a long list of issues brought to our attention by exhibitors as well as our own first hand knowledge of problems that needed to be addressed. This revision should make the rules and procedures for the Finals much easier for everyone to understand.

Approve: Unanimous.
The motion is approved.

98:15 Obedience Committee:-Chapter 10 Revision

Motion by Dolan

I move to approve the following Obedience Committee motion:

We respectfully make the following motion to become effective 6/1/10. Motion by Burlingame, second by Alexander. Voting: Yes, unanimous.

Replace Chapter 10 of the Obedience Rulebook with the attached revision.

Reason: The Finals Chapter has needed a major overhaul for years. The Obedience Committee compiled a long list of issues brought to our attention by exhibitors as well as our own first hand knowledge of problems that needed to be addressed. This revision should make the rules and procedures for the Finals much easier for everyone to understand.

Approve: Unanimous.
The motion is approved.

98:15 Obedience Committee Motion - Colored Dumbbell

Motion by Dolan

I move to approve the following Obedience Committee motion.

We respectfully submit the following motion to become effective 6/1/2010. Motion will allow handlers to used different colored dumbbells. Motion by Burlingame, second by Uran. oting: Yes – Unanimous
Motion to allow colored dumbbells.

Chapter 4 (Open) section 9, last paragraph, 4th sentence
Replace sentence with:

"It may be unfinished, or coated with a clear finish, or may be of any color."

Remainder of paragraph remains unchanged.

Approve: Unanimous.
The motion is approved.

98:27 Webmaster: Extension of Approved Hours

Motion by Hellmeister

I move to extend the originally approved weekly hours for maintaining the website from 10 to 20 until the end of May 2010. Revisit the number of hours by then to determine whether weekly hours should be extended on a permanent basis.

Comment: With the current transfer of the website going on more hours are needed to bring the site up-to-date faster in order to provide accurate information about ASCA to the members and interested parties. The Treasurer has been contacted about the increase in funds needed and is supporting the motion.

Approve: Unanimous.
The motion is approved.

99:10 Tracking Committee: Tracking motion 1-10

Motion by Berryessa

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

This is Tracking Committee Motion 1-10. It has passed the committee by unanimous vote.

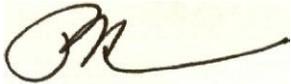
Voting in favor of this motion are: Linda Grey, Becky Parker, Anne Hershey, Betty Mueller, Marja Teelgelbeckers, Maria Kremers, Sue Schroeder, Carol McQuade, Renea Dahms, Celeste Kelly, Betty Mueller, Margaret Abrahamson, and Jan Wesen.

I, Betty Mueller move, and seconded by Jan Wesen, that we add to the second paragraph of Section A2, Assignment Limitation, in the Appendix A, the following sentence shown IN CAPITAL LETTERS.

A Provisional TD Tracking Test Judge must judge at least twice before petitioning the Board to be moved into Regular TD status. At each assignment, the co-judge must make a written report of the Provisional Judge's performance. A copy of this report should be sent to the ASCA Business Office with relevant paperwork and another copy should be given to the Provisional to submit with their application for Regular status. No Tracking Test may be judged by two (2) Provisional Judges. NO PROVISIONAL JUDGE MAY JUDGE AT AN ASCA NATIONAL TRACKING TEST.

Approve: Unanimous;
The motion is approved.

Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'PD', is written over a yellow rectangular highlight.

Pete Dolan
ASCA Secretary

Chapter 10: Obedience Finals

Purpose of the Obedience Finals

The ASCA Obedience Finals competitions are designed to showcase ASCA's finest obedience dogs to the fancy by those breeders, owners and handlers who take pride in their contribution to the Australian Shepherd breed.

Purpose and Audience for this Document

The purpose of this document is to provide a reference for the Obedience Final Competitor and the Obedience Show Finals Chair as well as anyone interested in an overview of the ASCA Obedience Finals. We assume that the competitor is aware of and understands the ASCA Obedience rules.

Supporting Obedience Documentation

The following rule books and forms are located on the ASCA web site in the following locations:

Obedience Rules and Regulations <http://www.asca.org/Portals/0/obediencerules.pdf>

National Specialty Hosting Rules <http://www.asca.org/Portals/0/NatSpecHostRules.pdf>

Obedience Finals Entry Form <http://www.asca.org/Portals/0/obedfef.pdf>

Section 1: Administrative Requirements

This section describes the basic requirement regarding the qualifications of the Obedience Show Finals Chair, Judges, Stewards and general site requirements.

Obedience Show Finals Chair Requirements

Obedience Show Finals Chair will be familiar with all aspects of hosting an obedience trial.

Obedience Show Finals Chair will work with the ASCA Obedience Committee Chair, either by phone or email, to ensure all procedures and requirements are met.

The Obedience Show Finals Chair and the ASCA Obedience Committee Chair (if available) will meet with the Finals judges prior to the event to review all rules and scoring procedures used during the Finals competition.

The Obedience Show Finals Chair will prepare the judges' books in the correct run order. It is recommended that the judges' books be completed once the exhibitor run order is finalized.

The Obedience Show Finals Chair will ensure the ring stewards are ringside one (1) hour before the scheduled start time and will ensure both rings are set up and ready at least one (1) hour before the scheduled start time.

Judge Requirements

The Obedience Show Finals Chair will hire judges who are knowledgeable of all ASCA Obedience rules and procedures.

Steward Requirements

The Obedience Show Finals Chair will find experienced obedience stewards – 3 per ring. It is acceptable to have one inexperienced steward if the other two are experienced.

Site Requirements

Warm-up Area

The Host Club will make every effort to provide an area or spare ring for teams to use for warm-up.

Crating Area

The Host Club will provide crating space for teams close to the rings. Ideally this space will be available to them the day before the Finals. If crating space is not available the day before, it will be available at least one (1) hour before the start of the Finals competition.

SECTION 2: Conducting the Obedience Finals

The Host Club will conduct the Obedience Finals in conjunction with the National Specialty each year. The ASCA Obedience Committee strongly suggests the Host Club not allow other obedience competitions on the

same day as the Obedience Finals. The Obedience Finals should be the exhibitors' top priority on that day and they are to be ringside when their class is run in order not to hold up the other exhibitors.

There are two judges to judge each Finalist once in each ring, except for Super Dog, which is judged twice in each ring by each judge. The Obedience Show Finals Chair will plan a schedule to minimize any conflicts between runs. The points lost by each Finalist will be totaled and the Finalist with the least number of points lost is the winner of their class. Placements are also awarded to second through tenth place and will be denoted as such on the rosettes.

Classes

The Finals will be held over the course of one day. The Finals consists of two (2) runs of the Novice, Open, and Utility divisions and four (4) runs of the Super Dog division.

Selecting Open and Utility Classes

The Obedience Show Finals Chair chooses the Open and Utility runs from the B class mixed orders and posts the class order ringside at least one (1) hour before the class begins. The Obedience Show Finals Chair verifies that a different run order be used for each ring in Open and Utility. The run order for Open and Utility classes are available in the ASCA Obedience Rules and Regulations, Chapter 4, Open and Chapter 5, Utility.

Selecting Super Dog Classes

The Super Dog division consists of one (1) run of Utility, one (1) run of Open, and two (2) runs of the Super Dog mixed orders. The Obedience Show Finals Chair shall choose from one of the five (5) B class orders from Open B and Utility B and two (2) of the four (4) Super Dog mixed orders listed in the section marked Super Dog Orders and Exercise Point Values. The Obedience Show Finals Chair will ensure two different mixed orders are used for each ring.

Super Dog Orders and Exercise Point Values

Run One

Heel Free/Figure 8	40 points
Directed Retrieve	30 points
Retrieve Over High Jump	30 points
Directed Jumping (20 points per jump)	40 points
Drop on Recall	30 points
Moving Stand	30 points
	200 points

Run Two

Signal Exercise	40 points
Broad Jump	30 points
Moving Stand	30 points
Retrieve on the Flat	30 points
Scent Articles (20 points per article)	40 points
Retrieve Over High Jump	30 points
	200 points

Run Three

Retrieve on the Flat	30 points
Directed Retrieve	30 points
Signal Exercise	40 points
Retrieve Over High Jump	30 points
Drop on Recall	30 points
Directed Jumping (20 points per jump)	40 points
	200 points

Run Four

Broad Jump	30 points
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Scent Articles (20 points per article)	40 points
Figure 8/Heel Free	40 points
Directed Retrieve	30 points
Moving Stand	30 points
Retrieve on the Flat	30 points
	200 points

Stays

- Each judge will judge their group stays after their individual exercises. No classes are combined. For example, the Open Group exercises will not be combined with the Super Dog Open group exercises.
- Open stays and Super Dog Open stays will be held as per directed in the mixed order sequence being used for that class. The number of dogs in each group will be no greater than ten (10).

Running Order of the Entrants

The Obedience Show Finals Chair determines the exhibitor run order by drawing numbers. Dogs will not run in their order of ranking. The Obedience show Finals Chair will post the exhibitor run order ringside at least one (1) hour before the start of the Finals. Each judge will use the same exhibitor running order.

SECTION 3: Eligibility of Entrants

- Eligible dogs are ASCA registered Australian Shepherds, including LEP, that have received three (3) qualifying scores in each division the dog will be competing in at the Finals.
- Only full ASCA members may accumulate points toward the Obedience Finals.
- Eligible obedience classes include:
 - Novice
 - Novice dogs can earn their Open title AFTER May 31st and still be eligible for the Novice division for which they qualified during the year in question.
 - If the Novice dog earns its Open title on or before May 31st, the Novice scores will be void and the Open scores will be used to calculate eligibility to qualify for the Finals in the Open division.
 - Open Utility
 - Super Dog
 - Dogs must have their UD titles to compete in the Super Dog category.
 - If a dog is ranked in Super Dog that dog may only show in the Super Dog category regardless if the dog is ranked in either Open and/or Utility. This will allow more dogs to compete in the Finals.
- Eligibility points accumulate during the twelve month period from June 1st of the previous year to May 31st of the year the Finals are held.
- The ASCA Business Office keeps track of the results of the ASCA obedience trials. The ASCA Business Office determines the ranking by using the three (3) highest scores obtained during the competition year.
- Eligible dogs for the Obedience Finals are the top ten (10) obedience dogs, ranked in the Aussie Times from eligible obedience categories at the end of Finals year.
- **Breaking Ties:** In the event that there are more than ten (10) dogs ranked in the top ten (10) for any category, ties will be broken using the following methods in the order listed as necessary until all tie(s) are broken:
 - Average the top two (2) scores from the Finals year
 - Highest individual score
 - Draw by Business Office
 1. Repeat this process for all ties until the maximum allowed number of dogs is reached. The ASCA Business Office will contact the next twenty (20) dogs listed (including dogs that have been in ties) as alternates. If there is a tie between alternates, the ASCA Business office will use the same criteria to break ties for Finalists.
- The ASCA Business Office will send the Host Club the Obedience Finals entry form for each dog whose

owner has stated their intent to show by the close of the pre-entries for the Nationals.

SECTION 4: Verification of Eligibility

1. The Business Office will notify all eligible contestants and alternates of their standing by first class mail if they have qualified for the Finals on or about July 1 of the year the competition will be held. The Business Office will notify foreign qualifiers using the best method to insure they receive their notification.
2. The completed entry form must be sent to the Business Office and postmarked no later than July 15th of the competition year.
3. All eligible contestants and alternates wishing to compete must complete an official entry form and send it to the Business Office.
 2. Eligible Finals entrants will send entry fees, in US funds, with their official entry form.
 3. Alternates will only submit an official entry form to save their place should one become available. If an alternate becomes eligible, the Business Office will notify the alternate who will submit payment to the Business Office at that time.
 4. If an eligible contestant fails to send in an entry form by the July 15th deadline the next alternate who has sent their official entry form signifying their intent to compete will be notified of the vacancy by the Business Office.
4. If an exhibitor must cancel they should contact the Business Office immediately. If the Business Office receives the cancellation before the Nationals catalog goes to print, the Business Office will contact the next eligible alternate who sent in their official entry form and offer them the vacancy. If an entered contestant must cancel their entry after the Nationals catalog has gone to print, their vacancy will remain unfilled. Entry fee will not be refunded for cancellations.
5. The Business Office will send all confirmed entries for the Obedience Finals to the Host Club by the close of entries for that year's Nationals.

SECTION 5: Entry Fees

- Host Club shall submit a proposed budget to the Board of Directors and the Obedience Committee at least six months prior to the Finals.
- The Board of Directors will set the entry fees for the Obedience Finals (see the Schedule of Fees) based on recommendations from the Obedience Committee.
- There will be no refunds.

SECTION 6: Awards and Ribbons

- All divisions will have placements of first (1st) through tenth (10th) place.
- Each placement will receive a rosette with the placement of the contestant denoted.
- All placements will be awarded regardless of any non-qualifying scores.
- The winner of each class will receive a special award
- All rosettes will show dog's registered name, obedience titles earned and the date and location of the Obedience Finals. Multicolored, decorative rosettes are allowed and encouraged, with first through fourth placements being represented by a color streamer, first place is blue, second place is red, third place is yellow, and fourth place is white. The remaining rosettes will be the same color, theme, and design and will have the placements fifth through tenth on them.
- Separate streamers can be printed so the dog's name can be attached once placements have been determined.
- The Host Club is responsible for procuring awards and rosettes for the Obedience Finals competition.
- Presentation of rosettes and awards should highlight the event and will be presented ringside at the conclusion of the event to ensure all participants and spectators can join in the excitement of the results.
- There will be NO overall high scoring dog, only high scoring dog in each division.
- Rosettes and prizes should be made available within one (1) hour after completion of the Finals event.
- The Obedience Show Finals Chair will ensure the official photographer be available ringside at the time of the award presentation to take the win photos while the judges are still available. If the photographer's set-up is nearby, photos could be taken there also. In either location, the Obedience Finals photos will be the

photographer's first priority.

- The photographer will provide a backdrop for the photos and will have signboards available to denote all divisions, including "Novice", "Open", "Utility" and 'Super Dog'.
- The location chosen for photographs must be large enough to include each division, as a group, if the contestants wish a group photograph.
- The Host Club will allow exhibitors to take their rosettes and prizes upon completion of the event if they will not be able to attend the welcome banquet or awards ceremony. The Host Club will keep track of who can and cannot attend the ceremony and will read the names and placements of those who could not attend. When presenting the rosettes and awards for all contestants, the Host Club will read the name of the handler and the dog's registered name.

SECTION 7: Judging

- The Obedience Finals requires two (2) judges. The Obedience Finals entrants will show under each judge. The Obedience Show Finals Chair, or designated aid, will add the points lost from each judge to determine the Finals placements.
- Each judge shall judge one (1) run of Novice, one (1) run of Open, one (1) run of Utility and one (1) run of Super Dog mixed orders. In the Super Dog division, the Obedience Show Finals Chair will use a coin toss to determine which judge will judge Super Dog Open and which will judge Super Dog Utility.
- Each judge will stay with his or her assigned ring. The dog and handler teams will change rings for each run.
- The Obedience Show Finals Chair determines the running order of the classes and rings for the day of competition.
- The Obedience Show Finals Chair determines which mixed orders are used for all classes using mixed orders (Open, Utility, Super Dog Open, Super Dog Utility, and Super Dog mixed orders).
- Each dog shall have two (2) runs, one under each judge with the exception of Super Dog. Super Dog competition will consist of one (1) run of Utility B, one (1) run of Open B, and two (2) runs of the Super Dog mixed orders.
- The Obedience Show Finals Chair will ensure each ring uses a different mixed order from the Open B, Utility B and Super Dog mixed orders.
- The points lost will be added for each dog for the two (2) runs, or four (4) runs in the case of Super Dog, to determine the placements.
- All scores will be used. If an exercise receives an NQ, points will be deducted equal to the full value of the exercise. Scores from all remaining exercises will be used.
- Super Dog placements are determined by totaling the points lost from the one (1) Super Dog Open score, the one (1) Super Dog Utility score, and the two (2) scores of Super Dog mixed orders.
- If there are tied scores, placements are determined by a run-off using the Novice heel free exercise. Runoffs will be done after all dogs have competed; this includes any bitches in season.
- There will be a Finals winner from each of the following divisions: Novice, Open, Utility and Super Dog. The winner will carry the title of (year won) ASCA Champion (Novice, Open or Utility) Obedience Dog. The winner of the Super Dog category will carry the title of (year won) ASCA Supreme Champion Obedience Dog.
- The ASCA Obedience Rules and Regulations will be the standard by which these classes are judged with the following exceptions:
 1. Judges will score each directed jump in Utility separately. Each jump, high and bar, is scored 20 points.
 2. The Super Dog order runs of the Super Dog competition.
 3. Group exercises are eliminated from the Super Dog division except the Super Dog Open class.
 4. Bitches in season are allowed to compete but will run last.
 5. Official placements will include first through tenth. All teams will receive a numerical placement.
- The Obedience Show Finals Chair determines run-off judge by a coin toss and that judge's ring shall be used for all run-offs.
- Judges for the Obedience Finals will not judge any other obedience trials held in conjunction with the

National Specialty or Pre-show trials.

SECTION 8: Ring Requirements

Ring Size and Matting

- The rings sizes are 40' X 50' as per the obedience regulations found in Chapter 1, Section 26.
- When the Finals are held indoors and space is a consideration, the ring size can be reduced to 35' X 50'.
- If the ring does not have traction or is slippery or otherwise considered a hazard to handlers or dogs, the ring must be fully matted. The judges will determine if mats are necessary and will notify the Obedience Show Finals Chair that corrective action must be taken.
- If ring mats are used, the entire ring must be matted.
- The rings will be clean and ready to use well in advance of the start of the event.
- Two full sets of regulation jumps are required.
- If the Finals are held outside on grass, and the grass is wet, the Host Club will supply sand to use around any jumps to ensure proper, safe footing. The judge will decide if the sand should be used.

Stewards

- Each ring should have 3 stewards, a gate steward, a table steward and a ring steward.
- The Host Club must make every effort to find experienced stewards to work during the Finals to ensure a smooth flowing event.
- The gate steward will make sure each team is ready to enter the ring when the judge is ready.
- The table steward is responsible for the paper work
- The ring and gate stewards will set the jumps, act as posts for the Figure Eight exercise, hold the clipboard for the judge during the moving stand, set out scent articles and gloves for the retrieval exercises.
- The stewards will take the dog's leash from the handler in the ring and return the leash back to the handler in the ring.

SECTION 9: Miscellaneous

Posting of the Results

- Two people not entered in the finals will check and verify the addition of the points lost for each exhibitor before the results are posted.
- The Obedience Show Finals Chair will post the total points lost as soon as they are available on a board of some kind and make it available for viewing in an area easily seen by exhibitors.

Bitches in Season

- Bitches in season will compete last after all other judging is finished with the exception of run-offs each day, including sits and downs which shall be held separately.
- A bitch in season could be competing back to back in both rings.
- Bitches in season must be crated, not placed in an X-pen, away from the obedience rings before and during the competition except when competing.