



Established 1957

# AUSTRALIAN SHEPHERD CLUB OF AMERICA

6091 E State Hwy 21, Bryan, TX 77801

P: (979) 778-1082

F: (979) 778-1898

[www.asca.org](http://www.asca.org)

Office Contact: [manager@asca.org](mailto:manager@asca.org)

Board Contact: [asca.execsec@gmail.com](mailto:asca.execsec@gmail.com)

## Executive Secretary's Report

July 2019

### Announcements

#### New Judges

Regular Stockdog Judge - **Michael Bryant** (Georgia)

Non-Regular Breeder Judge Applicant - **Laura Abbott** (California)

Provisional Breeder Judge Applicant - **Melanie Kreutzkam** (Germany)

Senior Breeder Judge Applicant - **Kristin Henry-Walden** (Kansas)

Provisional Rally Judge Applicant - **Molly Reyenga** (Alabama)

Senior Rally Judge Applicant - **Jan Wesen** (Washington)

#### New Committee Members

Legislative Committee - **Jay Kiper** (region 5)

#### From the ASCA Foundation

##### **FD.19.05 Establish Foundation Account for Ernest Hartnagle Memorial Award**

Approve: Unanimous; Motion **carries**.

Motion by Roberts

Second by King

I move to establish an account in the ASCA Foundation for the Ernest Hartnagle Memorial Award

Affected: Bookkeeper, Treasurer.

Effective Date: Immediately upon Board approval.

### Board of Directors Email Motions

##### **BD.19.75 Emergency Motion to Approve 2019 Finals Budget**

Approve: Unanimous; Motion **carries**.

Motion by Gann

Second by Busquets

I move to approve the 2019 Nationals Finals budget as presented.

Effective Date: Immediately upon Board approval.

#### **AF.19.04 Affiliate Bylaw Change Request**

Approve: Unanimous; Motion carries.

Motion by Vest

Second by King

I move to approve the request from West Coast Australian Shepherd Club to update their Bylaws per the attached documentation.

#### Current Wording:

Article VI - Section 6 OFFICERS

Section 6.4 Treasurer

The Treasurer shall be entrusted with all financial records and monies of the Club, shall collect dues and pay debts of the Club, and keep accurate records of all transactions under his/her supervision. Expenditures of amounts in excess of \$99.00 must be approved by the President. All funds shall be deposited in a bank designated by the Board, and he/she may be bonded, at the discretion of the Board, for an amount not to exceed the balance of funds in the Club treasury. His/her books shall always be open to inspection of the Board, and he/she shall report the status of the Club's finances at each general membership meeting. At the closing of the fiscal year, shall render a written report of the previous years' accounts to the general membership at its next or annual meeting. The Treasurer has the duty of a fiduciary to the Club.

#### Proposed Wording:

Article VI - Section 6 OFFICERS

Section 6.4 The Treasurer

The Treasurer shall be entrusted with all financial records and monies of the Club, shall collect dues and pay debts of the Club, and keep accurate records of all transactions under his/her supervision. Expenditures of amounts in excess of \$100.00 or regular payments such as rents or insurance must be approved by the President and the Board of Directors for amounts exceeding \$300.00. All funds shall be deposited in a bank designated by the Board, and he/she may be bonded, at the discretion of the Board, for an amount not to exceed the balance of funds in the Club treasury. His/her books shall be open for inspection to any member at all times. He/she shall report the status of the Club's finances at each general membership and BOD meeting. At the closing of the fiscal year, shall render a written report of the previous years' accounts to the general membership at its next or annual meeting. The Treasurer has the duty of a fiduciary to the Club.

Comments/Rationale: To define the dollar amounts that must obtain Affiliate WCASC Board approval.

Effective Date: Immediately upon Board approval.

## Committee Recommendations

### **SD.19.15 Welcome to the ASCA Stockdog Program Brochure**

Approve: Unanimous; Motion **carries**.

Motion by Creelman

I move to approve the Stockdog Committee motion for the Stockdog Program Brochure.

#### Committee Recommendation:

Title: Adding Welcome to the Stockdog Program tri fold to the ASCA website  
(Pamphlet included at the back of this report)

Motion by Art Landry

Second by Jan Wesen

I move to have the attached Welcome to the Stockdog Program Brochure stored on the ASCA website with a link to it so that members and affiliates are able to download it and print it as a resource for their events. I further move to recommend that ASCA distribute the Brochure at the discretion of the ASCA Board of Directors.

Comments/Rationale: The affiliates and stockdog community in general have been asking for resources to use at Fun Days, Intro events and to advertise the Stockdog Program. This handout is a step in providing those resources. It could also serve as an invitation to join the Stockdog Program when replying to member applications and inquiries.

Affected: Anyone potentially interested in the ASCA Stockdog Program, Business Office and the Webmaster of the ASCA website.

Effective Date: As soon as practical for the Webmaster and ASCA Board of Directors.

#### Results of Committee Vote:

Approve: 13; Oppose: None; Abstain: None; Non-Voting: 2

There were no comments. The vote passes the committee.

## Board of Directors Teleconference Meeting Minutes

A meeting of the Board of Directors (the Board) of the Australian Shepherd Club of America (ASCA) was held on Thursday, July 11, 2019, via online meeting service GoToMeeting.

**Directors Present:** President Liz Busquets, 1st Vice President Rick Gann, 2nd Vice President Cindy King, Treasurer Jean Roberts, Secretary Judy Boone, Director Denise Creelman, Director Linda Gray (joined at 6:18 pm), Director Ken Silveira, and Director Rachel Vest.

**Also Present:** Executive Secretary Kalla Jaco.

**Directors Absent:** None.

## Call to Order

President Busquets called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm CDT and Executive Secretary Jaco recorded the minutes. A quorum of Directors was present, and the meeting, having been duly convened, was ready to proceed with business.

## Executive Session

The Board was in Executive Session from 6:03 pm - 7:30 pm to discuss the below topics.

### Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report for period ending June 30, 2019, was presented by Treasurer Roberts. Ending balance is \$201,365.13.

ASCA accepts Dock Jumping scores from Ultimate Air Dogs for a fee. However, that fee has not been paid for the scores submitted so far. The Business Office will contact UAD to arrange payment.

Once the Ernie Hartnagle Award fund is set up in the Foundation account, all donations received so far will be transferred.

### Co-Ownership Issue

The Board voted to remove a co-owner on a dog's registration.

### Requests for Conflict Resolution

Secretary Boone investigated two requests for conflict resolution and will present a motion for Board vote over email as soon as possible.

### Dog Aggression Issue

The Board denied a request to reconsider a dog's disqualification.

### Individual Dog Registration Issue

The Board voted to assist a member in registering their dog with ASCA.

### Ownership Dispute

The Board voted to assist a member in changing the registered name of their dog with ASCA.

## 2020 Nationals Entry Clerk

ASCA is seeking to hire a qualified individual to be the 2020 Nationals Entry Clerk. The deadline for resume submission was July 1st. The Board will take some time to review applicants before choosing a candidate during their August meeting.

## Legal Counsel Payment

The Board voted to provide payment to ASCA's new legal counsel David Schleicher for 2020.

## Open Session

The Board was in Open Session from 7:30 pm - 8:26 pm to discuss the below items. A recording of this part of the meeting may be listened to on ASCA's:

Website: <https://www.asca.org/home/news/bod-meetings-audio>

YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC490D1qEJtV7oiDp6KOHEvA>

## Past Month's Email Business

Due to the requirements of Washington State Law, all legal business of ASCA must be conducted via face-to-face meetings or telephone conference call meetings. To meet this requirement and continue to conduct business via e-mail, each face-to-face meeting or conference call meeting includes a motion to ratify all business conducted via e-mail since the last face-to-face meeting or conference call meeting.

### **BD.19.72 June Email Business**

Approve: Unanimous; Motion **carries**.

Motion by King

Second by Vest

I move to approve all email business conducted by the Board in June 2019.

## System Liaison's Report

Board System Liaison Vest reported on the ongoing status of the computer system upgrade. Although currently behind schedule, that should soon be remedied.

The Business Office is still working with Inventive on bugs in the current portal system. Inventive has also been working on stabilizing ADMS on an updated software. Before the SOW can be finished, everything on the current portal must be stabilized.

## Selection Process for Nationals and Finals Judges

The Board must revise section 4 of the National Specialty Rules to clarify that program committees are responsible for creating a selection process for Nationals and Finals Judges, not actually selecting the judges.

### **Change to National Specialty Rules 4 Selection of Judges**

Motion by Silveira

Second by Gann

I move the following language replace the existing language in the National Specialty Rules:

Proposed Wording:

4 Selection of Judges:

The Program Committee's will develop procedures to hire Judges for the various Nationals and Finals events. If a Committee does not currently have a procedure for selecting Nationals and Finals judges, the Committee will create such a procedure and follow it, beginning with the 2021 Nationals and Finals.

Current Wording:

4 Selection of Judges

~~Judges for the various Nationals and Finals events shall be selected by ASCA's program committees.~~  
If a Committee does not currently have a procedure for selecting Nationals and Finals judges, the Committee will create such a procedure and follow it, beginning with the 2021 Nationals and Finals.

Comments/Rationale: The intent of this section was to have the Committee's create a process by which each Program selected Judges for the National Specialty and Finals competition. The original phrasing did not convey that intent. This new language clarifies the original intent.

Effective Date: Immediately upon approval of the Board of Directors.

There was some confusion due to the motion in the Board's shared file being incorrect. Several Directors raised concerns that the proposed wording was not clear enough and Director Silveira agreed to withdraw and revise the motion.

## 2019 Finals Budget

The updated budget for the 2019 Finals has not yet been submitted to the Board. Once it is, the Board can approve by an emergency motion.

## DNA Lab Info to Membership

The Board discussed which documents related to the current exploration of DNA labs for parentage verification will be provided to the membership.

### **BD.19.73 Provide DNA Lab Info to Membership**

Approve: Unanimous; Motion **carries**.

Motion by Vest

Second by Creelman

I move to provide the ASCA Membership with all supporting documentation which relates to the DNA Lab analysis, to include the questions and answers from each Lab, the Lab analysis worksheet prepared by the DNA Committee, and the Therion letter.

Comments/Rationale: To provide full transparency to the ASCA Membership regarding pending DNA Lab decision.

Effective Date: Immediately upon Board approval.

## Selection Process for Nationals and Finals Judges, continued

Director Silveira rescinded his earlier motion and submitted a revised motion for the Board's consideration. Some changes were made as a result of the Board's discussion.

### **BD.19.74 Change to National Specialty Rules 4 Selection of Judges**

Approve: Unanimous; Motion carries.

Motion by Silveira

Second by Gann

I move the following language replace the existing language in the National Specialty Rules.

#### Proposed Wording:

4 Selection of Judges

The Program Committees will develop separate procedures for the Nationals Committee to hire Nationals Judges and Finals Judges. If a Committee does not currently have procedures for the Nationals Committee to select Nationals Judges and Finals Judges, the Committee will create procedures to be followed beginning with the 2021 Nationals and Finals.

#### Current Wording:

4 Selection of Judges

Judges for the various Nationals and Finals events shall be selected by ASCA's program committees. If a Committee does not currently have a procedure for selecting Nationals and Finals judges, the Committee will create such a procedure and follow it, beginning with the 2021 Nationals and Finals.

Comments/Rationale: The intent of this section was to have the Committee's create a process by which each Program selected Judges for the National Specialty and Finals competition. The original phrasing did not convey that intent. This new language clarifies the original intent.

Effective Date: Immediately upon Board approval.

## Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the meeting, the meeting was adjourned at 8:26 pm.

## Board of Directors Special Meeting Minutes

A special meeting of the Board of Directors (the Board) of the Australian Shepherd Club of America (ASCA) was held on Tuesday, June 25, 2019, via online meeting service GoToMeeting.

**Directors Present:** President Liz Busquets, 1st Vice President Rick Gann, 2nd Vice President Cindy King, Treasurer Jean Roberts, Secretary Judy Boone, Director Linda Gray, Director Denise Creelman, Director Ken Silveira, Director Rachel Vest

**Also Present:** Member David Clayton, DNA Committee Chair Peter Hellmeister, Office Manager Ray Fryar, Executive Secretary Kalla Jaco

**Directors Absent:** None

## Call to Order

President Busquets called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm CDT and Executive Secretary Jaco recorded the minutes. A quorum of Directors was present, and the meeting, having been duly convened, was ready to proceed with business.

## Open Session

The Board was in Open Session from 6:05 pm - 7:55 pm to discuss the below items. A recording of this part of the meeting may be listened to on ASCA's:

Website: <https://www.asca.org/home/news/bod-meetings-audio>

YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC490D1qEJtV7oiDp6KOHEvA>

## DNA Laboratory Discussion

The purpose of this special meeting is to discuss ASCA's DNA program and the possibility of using other labs, besides ASCA's current lab, Therion, to conduct parentage verification for ASCA's Registry. The Board first heard from member David Clayton who provided an analysis of the laboratories being considered for ASCA's use. Mr. Clayton knows of ~20 dogs whose DNA profiles were adjusted after the fact by Therion, based on the dog's offspring.

Director Silveira asked if it would be in ASCA's best interest to use Certagen (our current lab in Germany) for our testing until ISAG comes up with universal markers and wondered if that might make our transition easier. Mr. Clayton responded that the switch to new markers is going to be complicated no matter what. Waiting to use the universal markers may be helpful, but the most important issue is having enough markers to confidently identify the dog.

Director Silveira requested that Mr. Clayton fill the Board in on how it was decided to adjust dogs' profiles due to lapses of information. At some point after the transition from Immgen to Therion, due to missing DNA profiles instead of retesting dogs the choice was made to try to reconstruct the parent's DNA profile from the offspring. If you have a large sample size of puppies, you might get close to the DNA profile but using one or few litters is too small a sample size and introduced errors. That and two few DNA markers was why some closely related lines consistently had problems.



Director Silveira questioned why only certain lines are affected and not others. Mr. Clayton answered that ~3,500 of the original samples from Immgen were blood card or buccal samples and so were lost in the transition. Some lines were heavily retested, and issues were either resolved or left open and built upon. Mr. Clayton believes this was due to poor chain of custody at the time.

Director Gray provided background info on ASCA's split from Immgen due to our samples not being a priority for Immgen to process.

Director Vest shared that at the 2005 ASCA National Specialty Will Gergits was asked how Therion would test closely line bred dogs and his response was that he had not been informed ASCA had those types of dogs. He said then that it would take at least 28 markers to confidently identify parentage of those dogs. She said that Mr. Gergits also confirmed markers were rounded in dogs' profiles, but that it was not documented for which dogs that was done.

There was some discussion regarding which labs use STR or SNP markers, and how many markers are needed for parentage verification. Concerns were raised about moving to another private lab which uses their own proprietary markers.

- Mr. Clayton left the meeting at 6:45 pm.

The Board next heard from Office Manager Ray Fryar who shared concerns about how long a transition might take and how it may affect sample testing for our members. He reminded the Board that Certagen is working with the markers we currently utilize and ASCA could take advantage of that before switching to a new lab and new markers. Mr. Fryar is not satisfied with our current level of service from Therion.

The Board last heard from DNA Committee Chair Peter Hellmeister who provided background info on how this search began at the committee level. The committee had concerns about the amount of "0"s showing up in dogs' profiles and Therion's issues with processing certain markers. Certagen uses the same markers and does not have these issues. Mr. Hellmeister believes that ASCA's priority is how best to move forward in a way that least impacts the membership.

2nd Vice President King asked if STR and SNP markers could be cross-referenced. No, they cannot be compared. Ms. King also asked if STR markers don't provide enough info for a closely bred litter, would it need to be retested using SNP markers? Not necessarily; the greater the number of markers, regardless of STR or SNP, the higher the accuracy of results will be. ASCA will need to choose one set of markers; it doesn't make sense to have both.

*Footnote: The answer provided to Ms. King was based on the info Mr. Hellmeister had at hand at the time of the call. He since learned that only because the number of markers is greater in SNPs does not mean that the accuracy is greater also. Comparing both techniques is a complex issue that*

*should not be reduced to just the number of markers. For parentage verification STRs are a sufficient tool and it is usually enough to increase the number of STR markers for closely related dogs to a slightly higher number than ASCA is currently using. 20 to 40 more markers will do the job if needed.*

President Busquets wondered if ASCA would be changing markers twice if we decide to contract with a lab which uses STR markers, and they decide to switch to SNP markers in the future. Yes, but switching from marker sets is more of an internal matter within the lab, it would not be something the customer would deal with.

DNA sample storage techniques and ability of labs to re-test stored samples was discussed. Each lab defined their storage techniques in the questionnaire, and additional requirements can be negotiated with whatever lab is chosen. Director Gray questioned how a new lab would deal with testing frozen semen from deceased dogs. What is left in the straw after the breeding is done is typically enough to conduct parentage verification, but that would need to be negotiated as well.

Most Directors agree to move away from Therion and transition to a new lab for DNA parentage verification of ASCA's Registry. Directors will send their list of priorities for a new lab by Friday 6/28 and any questions for the labs by Monday 7/1.

## Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the meeting, the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kalla Jaco, Executive Secretary

## A Little History ...

The Australian Shepherd was developed in the 19th and 20th centuries as a general-purpose ranch and farm dog in the American West, where a tough, enduring, versatile stockdog with an honest work ethic was required. His usual work included moving very large herds of sheep and cattle from summer to winter grazing grounds and back, flushing range cattle out of heavy brush, and moving livestock in tight quarters such as chutes and alleys. These kinds of jobs are still where Australian Shepherds excel and are most valued. The fact that the dogs also excelled as cattle dogs made them ideal for our many diverse farm and ranch operations. The breed evolved to meet the demands of their farm and ranch owners.

Aussies have been used for many purposes. Their use with livestock demanded a natural worker who was easy to train. Their devotion to their owners made them the ideal family farm dog which was needed to guard the homestead. The original purpose of the breed as a working stockdog is still maintained across America on ranches and farms as well as through competition at stockdog trials\*.

In recent years the Australian Shepherd's talents have been utilized in more diverse ways such as search and rescue, drug detection, therapy and as service dogs. The breed's intelligence and adaptability has no boundaries.

\* About Aussies, Australian Shepherd Club of America, January 2019  
<https://www.asca.org/the-australian-shepherd/about-aussies/>



*The purpose of a stockdog is to take the place of a person's work, accomplishing what is needed without damage, undue stress, or danger to the stock. The proper frame of reference for judges and exhibitors evaluating the dog's work should be "what is best for the stock."*

For more information on the

Australian Shepherd Club  
of America

(ASCA)

Stockdog Program

please visit:

<https://www.asca.org/stockdog/>

To find an ASCA Affiliate Club

near you go to:

[https://portal.asca.org/#!/resources/  
clublist](https://portal.asca.org/#!/resources/clublist)

**THANK YOU for your interest!**



# Welcome to the Australian Shepherd Club of America (ASCA®) Stockdog Program



© Wendy Pinckney



### **Why does ASCA call it a “Stockdog”**

**Program?** ASCA believes in the versatility of a working dog. They may herd and protect a flock of sheep, load a group of cattle into the trailer, search for steers out on the range and gather ducks in the farmyard. A good dog can substitute for a farmhand or two when needed or compete in an arena trial for enjoyment. They can handle stock whether on the family farm or on the range of a large scale ranch. They are first and foremost a stockdog.



© Jamie L Burns

**Who can participate?** Whether a junior (up to age 17) or an adult, ASCA has a program for you!

**Can my dog participate?** ASCA’s Stockdog Program currently recognizes over fifty breeds. For a complete list visit the ASCA Stockdog Rulebook at <https://www.asca.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/StockdogRules.pdf>.

The list can be found in the Appendix section.

**What does ASCA offer?** We’re so glad you asked. ASCA has designed numerous fun and rewarding programs to help you enjoy your dog and display his or her talents. You’ll be recognized for your efforts by earning certificates and titles from the Started Trial Dog all the way to the coveted Farm Trial Champion, Working Trial Champion and Stockdog Champion titles.

Our **Arena Trial Program** will test your teamwork on a variety of pre-designed courses. Beginning at the Started level, you can progress through the Open, Advanced and even Post Advanced divisions. Arena competition is offered on different classes of stock that include either ducks or geese, sheep or goats, and cattle.



© Karen Bumble

We have a **Farm Trial Program** to simulate work on the small family run operation and a challenging **Ranch Trial Program** that will test your handling as well as your dog’s skills.

Too busy to get away from the ranch? We’ll be glad to come to you. Our **Ranch Dog Inspection Program** was tailored for the true working stockdog! You’ll be able to use your facilities to demonstrate the skills, talent and training you’ve worked so hard to develop.

**What’s my next step?** Start by contacting your local affiliate. ASCA has over 120 affiliated clubs throughout the United States, Belgium, Canada, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands and Sweden. A complete list with contact information can be found at: <https://portal.asca.org/#!/resources/clublist>.

Visit an event near you. ASCA maintains a comprehensive calendar of sanctioned events. Visit us at : <https://www.asca.org/asca-calendar/>. We’ll do our best to welcome you and answer your questions.

Check out the Stockdog Rulebook found at: <https://www.asca.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/StockdogRules.pdf>

Go to the ASCA website: <https://www.asca.org/>. While you’re there check out our agility, dock jumping, conformation, junior showmanship, MVA, obedience, rally and tracking programs too!

**We’ll be looking for you!**