



# AUSTRALIAN SHEPHERD CLUB OF AMERICA®

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## ASCA Executive Secretary's Report - April 2022

This report details the day-to-day activities of the Board of Directors of the Australian Shepherd Club of America (the Board). It includes results of motions voted on via email, meeting minutes, and any other non-confidential issues brought before the Board.

ANNOUNCEMENTS	
<p><b>2022 Nationals Committee Member Change:</b> Gail Karamalegos will replace Peter Kontos as Conformation Chair.</p> <p><b>2022 Nationals Judge Change:</b> Heidi Mobley will replace Gail Karamalegos as the Most Versatile Aussie Evaluator.</p> <p><b>New ASCA Affiliate Clubs:</b> 880 ASC (Texas), Working ASC of Austria (Austria)</p> <p>Effective immediately, the Judge may only allow 1 handler in the ring at a time for PEE-WEE and SUB-JUNIOR exhibition classes.</p>	<p><b>2022 Finals Judge Change:</b> Maarten Walter will replace Rick Hardin as a Stockdog Finals Judge.</p> <p>The following ASCA fees were raised: Litter registration, Individual registration, Reciprocated CKC registration, QTracker number, Service membership, Single lifetime membership, and Dual lifetime membership.</p> <p><b>2022 Lifetime Achievement Award Recipients:</b> Frank Butera and Patrick MacRoberts</p> <p>The Board voted to discontinue the Virtual Titling Program, effective immediately.</p>

## ASCA Board Spring Meeting Minutes

March 31-April 2, 2022

The meeting was held in Bryan, Texas, at the Best Western Premier and at the ASCA Business Office.

### Thursday's Meeting

In attendance: President Liz Busquets, 1st Vice President Gina Larson, 2nd Vice President Rick Gann, Treasurer Jan Wesen, Secretary Ann McCabe, Director Susan Byrne, Director Denise Creelman, Director Carol Gerken, Director Jean Roberts (via phone), Accountant Richard Webb (from 10:00 am to 10:30 am), Counsel David Schleicher (from 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm), and Executive Secretary Kalla Jaco.

President Busquets called the meeting to order at 9:02 am.

### Norms

The Board of Directors has a list of norms that guide their behavior and interactions. These norms were created several years ago and are renewed at each face-to-face meeting. Directors all agreed that the norms are valuable as a tool for efficient communication.

### Replacement Judge for 2022 Stockdog Finals

The Board voted to approve Maarten Walter to replace Rick Hardin as one of the judges for the 2022 ASCA Stockdog Finals. The motion is below.

#### BD.22.42 Replacement Judge for 2022 Stockdog Finals

**Motion carried (8-0)** - Approve: Busquets, Byrne, Creelman, Gann, Gerken, McCabe, Roberts, Wesen. Disapprove: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Larson (busy with the daily stand-up call with Inventive).

Motion by Liaison Gann to approve Maarten Walter as the replacement judge for the 2022 Stockdog Finals replacing Rick Hardin.

Comments/Rationale: Rick Hardin has resigned and so a replacement judge must be chosen. Maarten Walter was on the list of judges drawn for the 2022 Stockdog Finals.

Affected: 2022 Stockdog Finalists.

Effective Date: Immediately upon Board approval.

## **Treasurer's Report**

This discussion was held in Executive Session. Treasurer Wesen shared via email the reports from the Business Office. Due to the timing of this meeting, the reports are not complete.

## **Profit from 2021 Nationals**

The Board spent some time brainstorming ways the profit from the 2021 Nationals can be used to benefit the club and membership the most. Their consensus was that it would remain in the current account and is best dedicated to building a new business office when the time comes.

Treasurer Wesen will direct Sarah Jackson to earmark these funds for the new building, with a caveat that the money could be used for other purposes in case of unforeseen emergency situations.

## **Meeting with Auditor**

The Board met with Richard Webb from Ingram, Wallis & Co., P.C., ASCA's accountant in Bryan. They handle our yearly audit and tax return. The last audit was for 2020 and soon President Busquets will sign the engagement letter for the 2021 audit.

Mr. Webb was asked if ASCA must provide 1099 miscellaneous forms to livestock providers. The type of provider determines whether this is necessary - an individual would receive one, but an LLC would not. The form is provided to those receiving \$600 and over from ASCA.

The Board informed Mr. Webb of our ongoing computer system rebuild and asked how we can account for that as an asset. Mr. Webb advised moving the expenses in QuickBooks to an asset account for computers. He will coordinate getting help for Sarah Jackson at the Business Office to make that move at the completion of the audit. We do not need to wait until the rebuild is finished before moving it - we can move it now and it will begin to appreciate once it's completed.

Regarding the profit from the 2021 Nationals, Mr. Webb advised that it be left in a regular cash account and designated for the building fund. There is already \$16,212.00 designated for the building fund which is from the 2018 pipeline easement on ASCA's property in Bryan.

## **Fee Increases**

The Board has been discussing the need to increase most of the fees associated with membership and dog registrations, due to overall increases in costs and expenses. It has been over a decade since any registration fees have been increased. Meanwhile, almost everything the Business Office uses to process events, from paper and supplies to utilities, has increased in the last few years and we must keep up. The proposed increases keep ASCA fees well below those of other registries while remaining fair and financially feasible for members, breeders, and competitors.

The Board wants ASCA to continue improving customer service, retain good employees, and provide the Business Office with the tools and work environment necessary to operate properly and efficiently. This cannot be accomplished if fees remain at the same level they have been for years. The Board also continues its commitment to modernizing ASCA processes and making it possible for ASCA to remain competitive in a rapidly changing business environment. The Board hopes that the membership understands the rationale for the increases.

The following motions detail the increases that will become effective on June 1, 2022. These fees will be revisited every year during the Board's spring meeting.

**BD.22.43 Increase Litter Registration Fee**

**Motion carried** (9-0) - Approve: Busquets, Byrne, Creelman, Gann, Gerken, Larson, McCabe, Roberts, Wesen. Disapprove: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None.

Motion by Byrne to increase the fee to register a litter to the amounts reflected in the below table. Seconded by Larson. Effective June 1, 2022, to be revisited annually during the Board's spring meeting.

Age	Current	New
0-6 months	\$21 / \$42	\$30 / \$60
6-12 months	\$30 / \$60	\$40 / \$80
12-24 months	\$55 / \$110	\$75 / \$150
Over 2 years	\$110 / \$220	\$150 / \$300

**BD.22.44 Increase Individual Registration Fee**

**Motion carried** (9-0) - Approve: Busquets, Byrne, Creelman, Gann, Gerken, Larson, McCabe, Roberts, Wesen. Disapprove: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None.

Motion by Byrne to increase the individual registration fees to the amounts reflected in the below table. Seconded by Wesen. Effective June 1, 2022, to be revisited annually during the Board's spring meeting.

Age	Current	New
0-1 years	\$15 / \$30	\$25 / \$50
1-2 years	\$30 / \$60	\$50 / \$100
Over 2 years	\$50 / \$100	\$100 / \$200

**BD.22.45 Increase Reciprocated CKC Registration Fees**

**Motion carried** (9-0) - Approve: Busquets, Byrne, Creelman, Gann, Gerken, Larson, McCabe, Roberts, Wesen. Disapprove: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None.

Motion by Byrne to increase the registration fees reciprocated with the Canadian Kennel Club to the amounts reflected in the below table. Seconded by Gann. Effective June 1, 2022, to be revisited annually during the Board's spring meeting.

Age	Current	New
0-1 year	\$15 / \$30	\$25 / \$50
1-2 years	\$30 / \$60	\$50 / \$100
Over 2 years	\$50 / \$100	\$100 / \$200

**BD.22.46 Increase QTracker Number Fee**

**Motion carried** (9-0) - Approve: Busquets, Byrne, Creelman, Gann, Gerken, Larson, McCabe, Roberts, Wesen. Disapprove: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None.

Motion by Byrne to increase the other breed QTracker number fee from \$10 to \$20. Seconded by Gerken. Effective June 1, 2022, to be revisited annually during the Board's spring meeting.

**BD.22.47 Increase Service Membership Fee**

**Motion carried** (9-0) - Approve: Busquets, Byrne, Creelman, Gann, Gerken, Larson, McCabe, Roberts, Wesen. Disapprove: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None.

Motion by Byrne to increase the annual service membership fee from \$10 to \$20. Seconded by McCabe. Effective June 1, 2022, to be revisited annually during the Board's spring meeting.

**BD.22.48 Increase Single Lifetime Membership Fee**

**Motion carried** (9-0) - Approve: Busquets, Byrne, Creelman, Gann, Gerken, Larson, McCabe, Roberts, Wesen. Disapprove: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None.

Motion by Byrne to increase the single lifetime membership fee from \$300 to \$400. Seconded by Roberts. Effective June 1, 2022, to be revisited annually during the Board's spring meeting.

**BD.22.49 Increase Dual Lifetime Membership Fee**

**Motion carried** (9-0) - Approve: Busquets, Byrne, Creelman, Gann, Gerken, Larson, McCabe, Roberts, Wesen. Disapprove: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None.

Motion by Byrne to increase the dual lifetime membership fee from \$520 to \$600. Seconded by Creelman. Effective June 1, 2022, to be revisited annually during the Board's spring meeting.

The Board also discussed offering an option for members to opt-out of receiving a paper copy of the Aussie Times magazine, in an effort to reduce printing costs. A suggestion was to offer only electronic issues throughout the year and then publish one physical issue annually with a summary of the past year.

### **Legal - Trademark**

This discussion was held in Executive Session with ASCA's Counsel present. Following the retirement of ASCA's previous trademark attorney, the Board agreed to hire Aaron Wilkerson of Johnson Hobbs Squires, LLP (based in Waco, TX) to handle routine trademark issues/inquiries.

### **Legal - Washington Non-Profit Laws**

This discussion was held in Executive Session with ASCA's Counsel present. Counsel informed the Board that Washington has updated its non-profit law and we will need to go through ASCA's Bylaws to be sure they are in line with the new requirements. Any changes to the Bylaws require approval by a vote of the membership.

Another option is for Mr. Schleicher to research what is involved in changing our state of incorporation to Texas rather than Washington. The Bylaws would still need to be checked for any necessary updates. The Board agreed Mr. Schleicher should investigate this with proposed changes possibly included with the 2023 ballot.

### **Legal - ASCA Board of Directors Election**

This discussion was held in Executive Session with ASCA's Counsel present. For the ASCA Board of Directors election there are three openings each year and this year there are only three candidates - Susan Byrne, Dawna Sims, and Jan Wesen. Since ASCA Bylaws Article VII, Section 6 does not require a minimum number of votes and does not include the option of voting members writing in a candidate, the three candidates are chosen by default. In hopes of forgoing an election, and saving ASCA over \$3000, a notice was sent to the membership on March 7, 2022, requesting that any objections be shared with the Executive Secretary by March 21, 2022. No objections were received so the Board agreed it was not necessary to hold an election.

#### **BD.22.52 Forgo 2022 ASCA Board of Directors Election**

*Motion carried (9-0) - Approve: Busquets, Byrne, Creelman, Gann, Gerken, Larson, McCabe, Roberts, Wesen. Disapprove: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None.*

Motion by Larson to not send out a ballot for the 2022 ASCA Board of Directors election since there are three vacancies and three candidates and considering the lack of formal objections received. Seconded by Wesen. Effective immediately. The information for each candidate will still be available on the website and in the Aussie Times.

### **Legal - Counsel Committee**

This discussion was held in Executive Session with ASCA's Counsel present. The ASCA Counsel Committee is an Executive Board Committee that monitors communication with Counsel and Directors to ensure that this communication is necessary to conduct ASCA's business and that we are not using up Counsel's retainer too quickly or for something frivolous. The Committee consists of two Directors and the ASCA President, as well as an alternate member in case of a conflict of interest.

The Committee remains President Liz Busquets, Director Jan Wesen, and Director Ann McCabe, with Director Gina Larson as the alternate.

### **Legal - Suspension of ASCA Member**

This discussion was held in Executive Session with ASCA's Counsel present. Rhiannan Peterson/Vitiello received a lifetime suspension from ASCA.

### **Virtual Titling Program**

The Board evaluated the virtual titling program that was started during the COVID-19 pandemic. While the program was active during times when exhibitors were locked down or there weren't any shows happening in their areas, there have recently been very few participants. Now that most restrictions are lifted and shows are

being held normally in the United States, the Board decided to discontinue the virtual titling program. Titles that have already been earned will be kept.

### **BD.22.54 Discontinue Virtual Titling Program**

*Motion carried (9-0) - Approve: Busquets, Byrne, Creelman, Gann, Gerken, Larson, McCabe, Roberts, Wesen. Disapprove: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None.*

Motion by Larson to discontinue the virtual titling program. Seconded by Byrne. Effective immediately. Titles already earned will be kept.

Thanks to everyone that participated in the program and helped create income for ASCA during a difficult time.

Thanks to the judges who stepped up to take on these additional assignments - the program would not have been able to happen if not for their willingness to help.

**Rally Judges:** Karen Black, Betsy Coleman, Mary Waugh Swindell, Edward Pheifer, Jan Wesen, Debra St. Jacques, and Gudrun Dytrych.

**Obedience Judges:** Betsy Coleman, Penny Jameson, Nita Gandara, Donna Blews-Pappas, and Laurie Rubin.

Last, but not least, thanks to Heidi Mobley, our virtual program secretary. She was a driving force in the creation and maintenance of this program and in offering these options to our members.

### **System Liaison's Report**

System Liaison Larson reported on the status of the database migration/system upgrade project ongoing with Inventive since 6/15/2021. There will be a demo tomorrow when the Board goes to visit the Business Office. This phase of the project is expected to wrap up in May.

In the case of new programs and titles - Larson presented a spreadsheet template to be used to document the new program/title progression to ensure the programming is done logically and correctly. Larson will present a motion to include reference to this document in ASCA's policies.

Larson will also present a motion for handling the storage and archiving of Board meeting recordings.

### **ASCA Foundation Treasurer's Report**

The Board of the ASCA Foundation (same as the ASCA Board) met to review the Foundation Treasurer's Report. As with the ASCA Treasurer's Report, due to the timing of this meeting, the reports are not complete. There is nothing unexpected to note.

Regarding the grants available to Australian Shepherd rescue organizations - when the money originally dedicated for this purpose has been disbursed, the Board can use unrestricted funds to continue the grants.

### **BD.22.55 Foundation Treasurer's Report**

*Motion carried (9-0) - Approve: Busquets, Byrne, Creelman, Gann, Gerken, Larson, McCabe, Roberts, Wesen. Disapprove: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None.*

Motion by Byrne to approve the Foundation Treasurer's Report as presented. Seconded by McCabe.

### **Strategic Plan**

The Strategic Plan of ASCA is a document that outlines the goals and objectives of ASCA and its standing program committees for the short and long term. Director Gann presented a plan in the progress of being updated. He had not received much of a response from the committees and asked Liaisons to reach out again.

### **Recognition Awards**

Director Larson proposed recognition awards for ASCA staff which she thinks will help improve morale and customer service. She also proposed awards for volunteers who have gone above and beyond for ASCA. Director McCabe offered to help Larson with drafting policies for these awards.

## Scent Search Program

The Scent Search Committee has been working diligently to develop this exciting new program and has presented a preliminary rulebook to the Board. While the Board commends the Committee for their work and agrees that the program is a positive addition to ASCA's programs, it can't be effective until completely programmed in the new computer system by Inventive. This is a necessary step to provide the best service possible to all members and to provide the Business Office with the tools necessary to process sanctioning requests, results, and titles. The programming will be part of phase 2 of the WARP project.

## Lifetime Achievement Award

This discussion was held in Executive Session. Each year ASCA recognizes people who have contributed to the breed and/or the ASCA organization in an outstanding manner with our Lifetime Achievement Award. These people are often long-time members with deep ties to our community. This award is a way for our organization to show appreciation for their contributions.

This year, the ASCA History Committee recommended Frank Butera and Patrick MacRoberts for the award, and the Board was honored to approve.

Mr. Butera and Mr. MacRoberts started the first online discussion group for members of ASCA Affiliate Clubs in the late 1990s called the Affiliate-L. This group is what became the ASCA-L for all ASCA members. Mr. Butera and Mr. MacRoberts spent many hours keeping the forum running. In 2017, the L, as it was known, moved to a different platform and got a new name: ASCMembers. Mr. Butera was instrumental in moving everything from the archives over and remains an admin on the list. He has also been helping the Webmaster with ASCA's website and was recently approved to move the website to new hosting and assume its maintenance. He developed the ASCA Event Calendar in conjunction with the Webmaster and hosted the unofficial ASCA Event Calendar. Mr. MacRoberts was on the ASCA Board of Directors and served as ASCA's President. He hosted and managed one of the first, most complete pedigree databases for Australian Shepherds. He was also involved in developing ASCA's first database at the Business Office. Mr. Butera and Mr. MacRoberts are also longtime volunteers with their local Affiliate Clubs. They have been quietly serving ASCA through various methods all during their time as members.

### BD.22.56 Lifetime Achievement Award for Frank Butera

*Motion carried (9-0) - Approve: Busquets, Byrne, Creelman, Gann, Gerken, Larson, McCabe, Roberts, Wesen. Disapprove: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None.*

Motion by Liaison Roberts to approve Frank Butera for the 2022 ASCA Lifetime Achievement Award.

### BD.22.57 Lifetime Achievement Award for Patrick MacRoberts

*Motion carried (9-0) - Approve: Busquets, Byrne, Creelman, Gann, Gerken, Larson, McCabe, Roberts, Wesen. Disapprove: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None.*

Motion by Liaison Roberts to approve Patrick MacRoberts for the 2022 ASCA Lifetime Achievement Award.

The History Committee continues to work on developing a nomination and selection process for the Lifetime Achievement Award.

## Applications to Affiliate

The Board received two applications to affiliate with ASCA and voted to approve them both.

### BD.22.58 Application to Affiliate - 880 ASC (Texas)

*Motion carried (9-0) - Approve: Busquets, Byrne, Creelman, Gann, Gerken, Larson, McCabe, Roberts, Wesen. Disapprove: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None.*

Motion by Roberts to approve 880 ASC out of Texas as an ASCA Affiliate Club. Seconded by Larson.

### BD.22.59 Application to Affiliate - Working ASC of Austria (Austria)

*Motion carried (9-0) - Approve: Busquets, Byrne, Creelman, Gann, Gerken, Larson, McCabe, Roberts, Wesen. Disapprove: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None.*

Motion by Larson to approve Working ASC of Austria as an ASCA Affiliate Club. Seconded by Roberts.

Director Creelman would like to remind Affiliate Clubs to work together whenever possible and not cause disruptions for each other in hosting ASCA events.

## **Obedience Committee Recommendation**

Liaison Roberts presented a recommendation from the Obedience Committee for the Board's consideration. The proposed changes were made at the request of Misty Ryan in the Business Office who handles obedience sanctioning.

### **OB.22.05 Clarify Sanction Requests**

**Motion carried (9-0)** - Approve: Busquets, Byrne, Creelman, Gann, Gerken, Larson, McCabe, Roberts, Wesen. Disapprove: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None.

Motion by Liaison Roberts to approve the following recommendation from the Obedience Committee.

Committee Recommendation: Clarify Sanction requests – Clubs may not add classes after sanctioning has been approved. Motion by Betsy Coleman that we add "Once approved by the ASCA Business Office, no classes can be added to the event." Seconded by Marilyn Cherry.

Results of Committee Vote: Approve: 6. Disapprove: 4. Abstain: 1. Non-Voting: None.

#### Current Wording:

##### **1.1.2 Sanction Request**

Only ASCA Affiliate Clubs in good standing may sanction ASCA events. An Event is defined as Conformation, Obedience, Tracking, Agility, Rally or a Stockdog Trial. One club's event must not conflict on the same day with another club's event held within a 200-mile radius of the event unless both clubs concur in writing that this may occur. Affiliates may have up to two Obedience Trials per day.

ASCA Affiliate Clubs that meet the requirements of ASCA and wish to hold an Obedience Trial, at which qualifying scores toward an obedience title may be awarded, must apply to ASCA on the form provided for permission to hold such trial. This application must be submitted and postmarked no later than sixty (60) days prior to the event. A sanctioning fee (see Schedule of Fees) per trial shall be submitted with the application along with a copy of the premium.

#### Proposed Wording:

##### **1.1.2 Sanction Request**

Only ASCA Affiliate Clubs in good standing may sanction ASCA events. An Event is defined as Conformation, Obedience, Tracking, Agility, Rally or a Stockdog Trial. One club's event must not conflict on the same day with another club's event held within a 200-mile radius of the event unless both clubs concur in writing that this may occur. Affiliates may have up to two Obedience Trials per day.

ASCA Affiliate Clubs that meet the requirements of ASCA and wish to hold an Obedience Trial, at which qualifying scores toward an obedience title may be awarded, must apply to ASCA on the form provided for permission to hold such trial. This application must be submitted and postmarked no later than sixty (60) days prior to the event. A sanctioning fee (see Schedule of Fees) per trial shall be submitted with the application along with a copy of the premium. Once an event has been sanctioned by the ASCA Business Office, additional classes may not be added to the event.

Comments/Rationale: The rationale for this motion is to minimize extra work for the business office. Clubs have been trying to add classes to their events after the sanctioning which creates a lot of extra work for the business office. It is happening often enough to be a problem. Sanctioning of shows/trials is just one part of Misty's job. She attempts time management and budgeting for sanctioning (including uploading flyers), results, Judge approvals, emails, etc. The best scenario time-wise is to touch a sanction request once and get all the way through it. Mailing out more forms is again time-consuming, and costly. USPS priority mail isn't cheap. Requests for extras at a later date mean "taking cuts" in front of other mail waiting.

Affected: The ASCA business office and trial secretaries. How it affects Business Office: Clarifies process for sanctioning, not allowing clubs to add extra classes to trials once they have been sanctioned.

Effective Date: Immediately upon Board approval.

## Rally Course Reviewers

This discussion was held in Executive Session. Following approval of pre-trial course review for ASCA Rally trials in January 2022, it is necessary to appoint Rally Course Reviewers. Liaison Gann provided a list of individuals that have been volunteering for post-trial course reviews for all trials and pre-trial course reviews for provisional judges and are willing to continue volunteering their time to ASCA in this new capacity for pre-trial course review and approval.

The following volunteers have been approved to be Rally Course Reviewers:  
Joan Skinner, Lori Anglemeyer, Kathryn Meyer, Corinne Shanks, and Karen Black.

## Junior Committee Recommendation

Following a recent incident at a show involving Pee Wee Handlers, the Junior Committee finds it necessary to revise the rules for hosting Pee Wee and Sub Junior Handling classes. Their recommendation is below, as presented by Liaison McCabe.

### JR.22.03 Ring Procedure for Pee-Wee & Sub-Junior Classes

**Motion carried (9-0)** - Approve: Busquets, Byrne, Creelman, Gann, Gerken, Larson, McCabe, Roberts, Wesen. Disapprove: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None.

- **Comment from Director Larson:** I will vote for this but do not think it will solve the problem. I believe it would be more beneficial for the junior to be given a stuffed animal to "handle" in the ring.

Motion by Liaison McCabe to approve the following recommendation from the Junior Committee.

Committee Recommendation: Emergency Motion for Pee Wee & Sub Junior Classes. Motion by Bayley William to approve the following emergency motion. Seconded by Andrea Bair.

Results of Committee Vote: Approve: 8. Disapprove: None. Abstain: None. Non-Voting: None.

### Current Wording:

Chapter 2 Junior Handling Classes

PEE-WEE: 3-5 years old

SUB-JUNIOR: 6-7 years old

1. Judges judging the pee-wee and sub-junior classes are not to give placements. The Affiliate Club is to be responsible for giving each pee-wee and sub-junior competitor a participation ribbon. Ages are to be calculated as of June 1st of the current merit ear. No junior under the age of 3 may exhibit in any non-regular class.

### Proposed Wording:

Chapter 2 Junior Handling Classes

PEE-WEE: 3-5 years old

SUB-JUNIOR: 6-7 years old

1. Judges judging the pee-wee and sub-junior classes are not to give placements. The Affiliate Club is to be responsible for giving each pee-wee and sub-junior competitor a participation ribbon. Ages are to be calculated as of June 1st of the current merit ear. No junior under the age of 3 may exhibit in any non-regular class.
2. Ring Procedure for PEE-WEE & SUB-JUNIOR CLASSES: The Judge may only allow 1 handler in the ring at a time for PEE-WEE and SUB-JUNIOR exhibition classes. The ring entrance/ exit must be kept clear for the juniors to safely enter and exit the ring. If there is more than 1 Pee-wee or Sub-junior, the subsequent junior may not enter the ring until the previous junior has exited the ring. The ring steward is responsible for ensuring only 1 junior is in the ring at a time. A parent, guardian, or relative, who is at least 18 years old, must be ringside to assist the ring steward in ensuring the safety of the junior handler when entering and exiting the ring and assist the junior in maintaining control of their dog, if necessary.
3. The purpose of the ASCA Junior Program is to encourage juniors to become involved with Australian Shepherds. Parents and Mentors are essential to the Junior program and are reminded the Pee-Wee and Sub-Junior classes are not a competition. These classes are only an exhibition meant to inspire and encourage the future of the Junior Program.



Comments/Rationale: The committee has been discussing this idea for a few years now, but after the recent events at a conformation show where a dog fight happened in the Pee Wee class due to dogs being too close, we felt it was time to time to implement this in hopes that what happened never happens again. We hope that the ASCA BOD agrees in making these changes effective immediately.

Affected: Affiliate Clubs hosting Conformation events, Conformation and Junior Judges, Parents, and Junior Handlers between the ages of 3 and 7.

Effective Date: Immediately upon Board approval.

## **Groups.io**

The free tier of Groups.io no longer offers the use of a files section. For new groups to have access to the files section, they need to be created as a subgroup to a premium group. The Executive Secretary is working with support at Groups.io to find a solution for ASCA moving forward.

## **Affiliate Draw for 2023 Nationals Pre/Post-Trials/Shows**

Each year during their Spring Meeting the Board conducts a random draw of all Affiliate Clubs that have requested to host a pre/post-trial/show at that year's National Specialty. Then, after the Nationals schedule and the pre/post-trial/show contracts have been approved, the Affiliates will be asked, in the order drawn, to select the pre/post-trial/show they wish to host. For example, number 1 will choose the date they want, followed by two, etc., until all pre/post-trials/shows have been spoken for.

### Agility Pre-Trials

1. Colorado ASA
2. New Hope ASC

### Conformation Pre-Shows

1. Delta ASC
2. Central Valley ASC
3. Colorado ASC

### Obedience/Rally Pre-Trial (No draw needed)

Hill Country ASC

### Stockdog Pre-Trial (No draw needed)

Central Texas Working ASA

## **Dock Jumping Program**

Liaison Wesen updated the Board on the status of the Dock Jumping Program and the Committee's search to find more pools for ASCA members to use. There are seven ASCA clubs they have been working with to hold events so far.

Currently, the Dock Jumping Committee hosts their discussions in a Facebook group, but the Board would like them to switch to using Groups.io.

### **BD.22.60 Dock Jumping Committee Groups.io**

**Motion carried** (9-0) - Approve: *Busquets, Byrne, Creelman, Gann, Gerken, Larson, McCabe, Roberts, Wesen.* Disapprove: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None.

Motion by Liaison Larson to require all Dock Jumping Committee communications be conducted on a Groups.io group. Seconded by Byrne. Effective immediately.

## **Kennel Name and Membership**

This discussion was held in Executive Session. Director Creelman spoke to the Board about an issue a member is encountering regarding the use of their family's kennel name. ASCA's Registry Rules (2.7.1 ASCA Membership) state that "all applicants and co-applicants must have been full ASCA members in good standing

for five continuous years without a lapse in membership prior to applying for a Registered Kennel Name. Junior and service members are not eligible.”

The consensus of the Board is to allow junior members (not any other immediate family members) to be able to be co-owners of a kennel that is owned by a family member. President Busquets will talk with the Business Office to find out how this would work and how it could be programmed.

### **Judge Application and Membership**

This discussion was held in Executive Session. The Board confirmed the membership status of a judge applicant and determined not to reconsider their previous decision regarding eligibility.

### **Membership Retention Survey**

According to the Policy Book (9.6.3 Membership Retention Survey), “the ASCA Business Office shall deploy a membership retention survey, approved by the ASCA Board, via email within the first week of March and of September. Email addresses of lapsed full individual or dual memberships from the previous six months shall be mined for use in deployment. Data shall be compiled after 30 days of submission and submitted to an appointed member of the Board (who should also be a member of the Strategic Planning Committee) for presentation to the Board and to the Strategic Planning Committee, including analysis of results and recommendations based on survey feedback. Removal effective April 1, 2022.”

The retention survey has not been sent out for a few years because there is often a lack of follow-up. The Board agreed to postpone this practice until we can follow up appropriately.

#### **BD.22.61 Delete Policy 9.6.3 Membership Retention Survey**

**Motion carried** (9-0) - Approve: Busquets, Byrne, Creelman, Gann, Gerken, Larson, McCabe, Roberts, Wesen. Disapprove: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None.

Motion by Gerken to delete policy 9.6.3 Membership Retention Survey. Seconded by Creelman. Effective immediately.

**The meeting was postponed from 5:00 pm until Friday, April 1 at 9:00 am.**

### **Friday’s Meeting**

In attendance: President Liz Busquets, 1st Vice President Gina Larson, 2nd Vice President Rick Gann, Treasurer Jan Wesen, Secretary Ann McCabe, Director Susan Byrne, Director Denise Creelman, Director Carol Gerken, Director Jean Roberts (via phone), and Executive Secretary Kalla Jaco.

President Busquets called the meeting to order at 9:02 am.

### **Last 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 email, each face-to-face meeting or conference call meeting includes a motion to ratify all business conducted via email since the last face-to-face meeting or conference call meeting.

#### **BD.22.62 Effective Date of March Motion SD.22.08**

**Motion carried** (9-0) - Approve: Busquets, Byrne, Creelman, Gann, Gerken, Larson, McCabe, Roberts, Wesen. Disapprove: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None.

Motion by Roberts to change the effective date from June 2023 to June 2022 for motion SD.22.08 to remove the sixty-day move-up rule for the Stockdog Program. Seconded by Wesen. Effective immediately.

#### **BD.22.63 March 2022 Email Business**

**Motion carried** (9-0) - Approve: Busquets, Byrne, Creelman, Gann, Gerken, Larson, McCabe, Roberts, Wesen. Disapprove: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None.

Motion by Wesen to ratify all business conducted over email in March 2022. Seconded by Creelman.

## **Committee Renewals and Appointments**

The Board appoints volunteers with full ASCA memberships to program committees for a period of two years at their Spring Meeting each year. For the Stockdog Committee, judges are renewed in odd-numbered years and contestants are renewed in even-numbered years. The discussions were held in Executive Session.

### **AGILITY**

The Agility Committee Liaison is Susan Byrne, and the Chair is Jan Niblock.

Renewed to the Committee: Jan Niblock to region 4, Andrea Hoffman to region 5, Michael Kurdzo to region 6, and Natascha Wagenaar to region 7.

### **CONFORMATION**

The Conformation Committee Liaison is Susan Byrne, and the Chair is Mary Hellmeister.

Renewed to the Committee: Brandy Greenhagen to region 3 and Ann DeChant to region 4.

Outgoing members: Debbie Martin and Peter Kontos.

New appointments to the Committee: Star Mathis to region 5, Jeff Ngo to region 3, Leah Swatko to region 6, Shelby Shank to region 3, Michael McGuire to region 2, Elizabeth Stibley to region 3, Shawna Sakal to region 2, and Elke Philippy to region 7.

### **DOCK JUMPING**

The Dock Jumping Committee Liaison is Jan Wesen, and the Chair is Heidi Mobley.

Renewed to the Committee: Kristina Churchill to region 3 and Sandra Czarny to region 6.

Outgoing member: Tina Lass.

New appointments to the Committee: Melinda Jenkins to region 1 and Leslie Hill to region 5.

### **HALL OF FAME**

The Hall of Fame Committee Liaison is Denise Creelman, and the Chair is Kristina Churchill.

Renewed to the Committee: Lynda Peppel to region 2, Kristina Churchill to region 3, and Dorothy Montano to region 5.

### **HISTORY**

The History Committee Liaison is Jean Roberts, and the Chair is Ann DeChant.

Renewed to the Committee: Ann DeChant to region 4.

Outgoing members: Sunday Miles and Jeanne Joy Hartnagle Taylor.

### **JUNIOR**

The Junior Committee Liaison is Ann McCabe, and the Chair is Andrea Bair.

Renewed to the Committee: Andrea Bair to region 2, Bailey Crader to region 2, Mallori Bryan to region 5.

Outgoing members: Susan Harris, Soren Smail, and Donalyn Shock.

New appointments to the Committee: Taylor Justice to region 5.

### **LEGISLATIVE**

The Legislative Committee Liaison is Jean Roberts, and the Chair is Susan Beals.

Outgoing member: Sunday Miles.

### **MOST VERSATILE AUSSIE**

The Most Versatile Aussie Committee Liaison is Jan Wesen, and the Chair is Janet Colby.

Renewed to the Committee: Andrea Hoffmann to region 5 and Lori Fausett to region 5.

Outgoing members: Curt Uritz and Janet Colby.

### **OBEDIENCE**

The Obedience Committee Liaison is Jean Roberts, and the Chair is Betsy Coleman.

Renewed to the Committee: Karen Gray to region 1, Betsy Coleman to region 2, Marilyn Cherry to region 3, Sandy Walroth to region 5, and Pat Pierce to region 5.

Outgoing member: Guenter Geisel.

### **RALLY**

The Rally Committee Liaison is Rick Gann, and the Chair is Karen Black.

Renewed to the Committee: Joan Skinner to region 3, Karen Black to region 5, and Noel Ritter to represent region 1.

### **SCENT SEARCH**

The Scent Search Committee Liaison is Denise Creelman, and the Chair is Donna Armstrong.

Renewed to the Committee: Kiddy Christie to region 1, Sandra Tung to region 1, Donna Armstrong to region 2, Leslie Fassio to region 2, Bev Peabody to region 2, Sandy Thompson to region 4, Jackie Kobierecki to region 4, Deborah Divich to region 5, and Kathryn Meyer to region 6.

Outgoing members: Sheigh Crabtree and Kathi Filar.

New appointments to the Committee: Liz Bernstein to region 1, Marilyn Conner to region 6, and Mattias Svensson to region 7.

### **STOCKDOG**

The Stockdog Committee Liaison is Rick Gann, and the Chair is Dan Sanderson.

Contestants renewed to the Committee: Nate Bake to region 1, Cathy Lowe to region 3, Jacqueline Tinker to region 5, and Matteo Campedelli to region 7.

Outgoing members: Terri Jones and Dan Sanderson.

New appointments to the Committee: Donna Marsh to region 4, Melinda Gardner to region 2, Regina Bures to region 6, and Devona Pierce to the vacant judge at large position.

### **TRACKING**

The Tracking Committee Liaison is Jan Wesen, and the Chair is Jacqueline Tinker.

Renewed to the Committee: Beth MacLehose to region 4, Joyce Charron to region 4, and Jacqueline Tinker to region 5.

Outgoing member: Maia Halvorsen.

## **Nationals and Finals Judges Contracts**

ASCA is required to provide 1099 miscellaneous forms to those receiving \$600 and over from ASCA. The Board decided to alter the fees paid to judges, so this only affects judges that are judging for three days or more during the Nationals or Finals.

### **BD.22.64 Fees for Nationals and Finals Judges**

**Motion carried** (9-0) - Approve: *Busquets, Byrne, Creelman, Gann, Gerken, Larson, McCabe, Roberts, Wesen.* Disapprove: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None.

Motion by Gann to amend the language in the Nationals and Finals Judges contracts to state that the first day's compensation will be \$300 and any additional day they are judging they will be compensated \$295 per day. 1099 forms will still be required for those receiving \$600 and over. Seconded by Larson.

## **Nationals Livestock**

Director Wesen shared concerns about the quality of the livestock (specifically the sheep) used for Nationals and Finals last year. She is requesting the livestock are guaranteed dog broke for everyone, but at least for the working juniors. The Board needs to be sure that someone is putting the necessary time into the livestock before the event.

Directors agreed that a section should be added to the Nationals rules regarding the care of livestock. Directors Wesen and Gerken will work on a proposal for the Board's consideration over email.

**At 12:00 pm the Board left the meeting room at the hotel and traveled to the ASCA Business Office for the remainder of the meeting.**

## **Demo of New Computer System**

The Board spent over an hour watching a demo of the new computer system at the Business Office. There is a great deal of new functionality that has been useful to the Office and will be exciting for the membership. To help with the adjustment, there will be tutorial videos available on ASCA's YouTube channel.

One goal of the new system is for members to be more self-sufficient and able to print necessary documents themselves with no wait time or service fees. A long-term goal is for ASCA to go paperless. Director Roberts suggested no longer automatically sending title certificates to co-owners of dogs. They could request it from the Office or print the titles themselves through the user side of the website. The Board is also interested in allowing members to be able to opt-out of receiving hardcopy issues of the Aussie Times (online only). Additionally, it should be easy in the new system for breeders to register the entire litter online with a discount.

Moving forward, each ASCA member must have a unique email address in the system. Family members cannot use the same email address. Please login to the user side of the website and be sure your membership information is up to date. An audit of the database will also need to be done to remove duplicate accounts, etc.

An asca.org email address will be created that is dedicated to receiving feedback from members on the new system. This email can be checked by multiple people involved in the system work.

What is ongoing is just phase one (WARP-1). There will be added functionality in phase two (WARP-2).

## **Meeting with Office Manager**

The Board met with Ray Fryar, ASCA's Office Manager, regarding the state of the Office.

The Office is currently understaffed - we need to hire someone to handle agility and then the Assistant Manager can take on more duties. There is, however, a lack of physical space in the Office for another person. Building a new office would alleviate that, which has been a goal of the Board. One benefit of the computer system rebuild is the increased automation of previously manual tasks, which will free up the staff to focus on other tasks and may lessen the impact of staffing issues.

The Office Manager explained that he prefers to use a temp agency because it's become increasingly hard to fill positions with qualified people using an application process. The agency provides resumes for the Office Manager to review, and he can set up interviews quickly. If it doesn't work out, the agency can provide a new candidate. If it does work out, the hiring process is simple.

Director Roberts suggested offering the staff the option to choose one day per week to work from home. This is a nice benefit for the staff and allows for better work-life balance.

### **Meeting with Office Staff**

The Board met with the staff of ASCA's Business Office to hear how things have been going. They updated the Board on the status of sanctioning, show results, registrations, and interactions with the membership. They have been working hard on their daily tasks as well as helping Inventive with the system rebuild. These updates will have a great impact on the efficiency of their work.

ASCA's Business Office staff are a huge part of what keeps ASCA running smoothly, and we cannot thank them enough for all they do.

Director Roberts volunteered to work with Sarah Jackson to be sure that the process for making changes to a sire on litter registrations is properly documented.

**The meeting was postponed from 5:00 pm until Saturday, April 2 at 9:00 am.**

### **Saturday's Meeting**

In attendance: President Liz Busquets, 1st Vice President Gina Larson, 2nd Vice President Rick Gann, Treasurer Jan Wesen, Secretary Ann McCabe, Director Susan Byrne, Director Denise Creelman, Director Carol Gerken, Director Jean Roberts (via phone), and Executive Secretary Kalla Jaco.

President Busquets called the meeting to order at 9:04 am.

### **Employee Reviews**

The Board discussed employee reviews and voted on raises for the year. ASCA's Policy Book (13.3. Staff Compensation) states that "a maximum of thirty percent of ASCA's annual budget will be allocated to staff compensation." The Board would like to change "maximum" to read "average".

### **Stockdog Finals**

Director Gann thanked the Board for voting down the recent motion from the Stockdog Committee to return to using six judges for the Stockdog Finals. The Board is looking forward to seeing how using three judges works out in 2022 and can then reevaluate the Committee's request. Directors agreed that if we ever return to using six judges, all the scores will need to be counted - the lowest score cannot be dropped.

Director Gann also brought up a concern about where the judges are seated to judge the Stockdog Finals runs. Depending on the course, certain positions can be hard for judges to see everything that's happening. He suggested having all the judges sit together to get the same view of the run.

### **Cost to Host a Nationals Pre/Post-Show/Trial**

The Board would like to increase the fee for Affiliates to host a pre/post-show/trial at the National Specialty. The fee is currently set so low that ASCA ends up footing most of the bill. The increased fee should not be prohibitive but needs to offset more of the expenses. Director Byrne volunteered to break down the costs and prepare a recommendation for an increase.

**The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 am. Thank you to everyone in attendance.**

## ASCA Board Motions

### Committee Recommendations

#### AG.22.05 Clarify Responsibility for Incorrectly Set Jumps/Tires on Course

**Motion failed** (0-9) - Approve: None. Disapprove: Busquets, Byrne, Creelman, Gann, Gerken, Larson, McCabe, Roberts, Wesen. Abstain: None. Non-voting: None.

- **Comment from Director Creelman:** The responsibility of the correct jump heights being set is the responsibility of the exhibitor. If there is an error, the exhibitor should have the correction made before the dog leaves the start line.

Motion by Liaison Byrne to approve the following recommendation from the Agility Committee.

Committee Recommendation: 4-2022 Motion to clarify responsibility for incorrectly set jumps/tires on courses. Motion by Nicole Watts to approve a revision to the Agility Rulebook clarifying responsibility for incorrectly set jump bars and tires on courses. Second by Sandra Katzen.

Results of Committee Vote: Approve: 11. Disapprove: 1. Abstain: None. Non-Voting: None.

**Dissent from Committee Member Chet Katwyk:** This motion addresses a complaint that was brought before this committee where a judge quoted a tradition/old rule, "The handler is responsible for the bars being set correctly." It was alleged that the judge said it as if it is a current, written rule. That was seen as unfair by the handler making the complaint. This is the first and only complaint about this that I am aware of while I have been on this committee. Personally, I understood the complaint to be that the judge quoted the tradition as a rule, not that the tradition was unfair. There have not been any previous complaints -- other than this one (again, that I am aware of) -- and members and judges have not voiced any issue with this tradition. Neither members nor judges have asked for a rule change that this motion is directed towards. There is no evidence that this motion is wanted, so it should not be approved. Also by not consulting the judges, we don't know how this motion will be received by them. Furthermore, this motion far exceeds what the original complaint is about which was the first run after a height change. The motion also includes all bars, whether set too high or too low. Another thing to consider is this could open up the opportunity for cheating to occur as a handler could claim a knocked bar was set at the wrong height. At the very least this motion should be rejected and sent back to the committee because of the clause that includes bars set "too low" are not faulted when the dog knocks them. The other venues have not gone in this direction. ASCA will be the only agility venue, by tradition or by rule, that does not have the handlers be responsible for making sure the bars are set correctly before starting their run. I am encouraging you to vote no on this motion.

Current Wording:

#### 9.2.2 Obstacle Faults

F. Displaced Jump Pole, Bar or Tire: 5 faults – A dog is faulted a five fault penalty if it displaces the top jump pole/bar or tire on a jump obstacle. If a dog makes no attempt to jump and displaces the jump poles/bars or tire, knocks over the jump stanchion, or displaces the jump wings, then the dog will be faulted for a Failure to Complete (20 faults).

G. Re-Attempting an Obstacle: Elimination – If the handler elects to re-attempt an obstacle after earning a Failure to Complete penalty (on that obstacle), the judge shall eliminate the team (on the basis of training) and they will have Maximum Course Time (MCT) to finish the run.

Proposed Wording:

#### 9.2.2 Obstacle Faults

F. Displaced Jump Pole, Bar, or Tire: 5 faults - A dog is faulted a five fault penalty if it displaces the top jump pole/bar or tire on a jump obstacle. If a dog makes no attempt to jump and displaces the jump poles/bars or tire, knocks over the jump stanchion, or displaces the jump wings, then the dog will be faulted for a Failure to Complete (20 faults).

G. Incorrectly set jump bar/s or tire: 0 faults --If any bar is set incorrectly in a course in which the jumps are otherwise correctly set, and the handler is told by the ring crew to "go," no fault will be incurred if the dog displaces that jump. This is the case whether the jump is too high or too low. If the dog displaces or avoids an incorrectly set jump, the handler may request a re-run without penalty or take SCT. All other faults will stay in place.

If the handler is told by the ring crew to "go," and the dog begins a run where all the jumps are set at the

incorrect height (too low or too high), the handler may request a re-run without penalty, regardless of how much of the course the dog has completed. But all other faults will stay in place.

H. Re-Attempting an Obstacle: Elimination - If the handler elects to re-attempt an obstacle after earning a Failure to Complete penalty (on that obstacle), the judge shall eliminate the team (on the basis of training) and they will have Maximum Course Time (MCT) to finish the run.

Comments/Rationale: There has been some confusion over what a judge should call for a run where the bars are set incorrectly because there was no rule in the rule book which states what the call should be. This motion is to clarify what the call should be if this happens.

Affected: Judges, Clubs.

Effective Date: Immediately upon Board approval.

### AG.22.06 Approval for Minimum Sized Ring with Obstructions

**Motion failed** (0-9) - Approve: None. Disapprove: Busquets, Byrne, Creelman, Gann, Gerken, Larson, McCabe, Roberts, Wesen. Abstain: None. Non-voting: None.

- **Comment from Director Creelman:** If the ring size is so much smaller it would lessen course times and other dimensions. Compared to courses that run in a ring 100 x 100, it would not be equivalent which, in my opinion, would cheapen their titles.

Motion by Liaison Byrne to approve the following recommendation from the Agility Committee.

Committee Recommendation: 6-2022 Motion about how to approve agility trial where rings are at minimum with obstacles. Motion by Jan Niblock to approve this motion because there are many areas, especially in the Northeast and Midwest that have to hold trials indoors. This is due to the weather or the fact that there are very few outdoor places to rent. Seconded by Sandra Katzen.

Results of Committee Vote: Approve: 9. Disapprove: 1. Abstain: 2. Non-Voting: None.

Current Wording:

#### 2.2.1 Arena/Ring Dimensions

The minimum usable course area for an Agility trial ring is 8,000 square feet (743 square meters).\* Although the 8,000 square feet (743 square meters) usable area is the absolute minimum size acceptable for agility, a 12,000 square foot (1115 square meters) or larger ring (e.g., 100' x 120' (30.5 m x 36.6 m), 110' x 110' (33.5 m x 33.5 m), 95' x 130' (29 m x 39.6 m), or 90' x 135' (27.4 m x 41.2 m), etc.) of clear, unobstructed ring surface, is highly recommended wherever feasible. The trial area shall be of a non-slip surface, preferably grass, which will provide a safe and cushioned footing for the dogs and handlers competing.

\*In exceptional cases the minimum usable course area may be 7,200 square feet (669 square meters). For areas 7,200 to 7,999 square feet only wingless jumps with 4-foot (1.2 m) bars may be used, and the host club must have a dog walk with 8-foot (2.4 m) planks available for the judge to use, if desired. Otherwise, a 12-foot (3.6 m) dog walk may be used by the judge only if course design places dog walk along the longest side of the arena. Course areas this small should be the rare exception when no larger, more suitable facilities can be found, and only if the aforementioned wingless 4-foot jumps are used. In all areas, the minimum width of the area must be 60 usable feet wide.

## APPENDIX A: Equipment Specifications

### Contact Obstacles

Obstacle	Height	Ramp Width	Ramp Length	Contact Zone
A-Frame	5' - 5'6" (1.5 m - 1.7 m)	3' - 4' (91.4 cm - 121.9 cm)	9' (2.7 m)	42" (1.1 m)
Dog Walk	36" (8' ramp/planks) 46" - 54" (12' ramp/planks) (91 cm - 137.2 cm)	12" (+/- 1") (30.5 cm (+/- 2.5 cm))	8' or 12' (2.4 m or 3.7 m)	36" - 42" (91.4 cm - 106.7 cm)
Teeter-Totter	24" (61 cm)	12" (+/- 1") (30.5 cm (+/- 2.5 cm))	12' (3.7 m)	36" - 42" (91.4 cm - 106.7 cm)



...

NOTE: When using a dog walk with 8' (2.4 m) planks, a lower dog walk height such as 36" (91.4 cm) should be used. When using a dog walk with 12' (3.7 m) planks, a higher dog walk height such as 46" – 54" (1.2 m - 1.4 m) is used. Additionally, a dog walk with 8' (2.4 m) ramps should have an 8' (2.4 m) center ramp and a dog walk with 12' (3.7 m) ramps should have a 12' (3.7 m) center ramp.

Proposed Wording:

**2.2.1 Arena/Ring Dimensions**

The minimum usable course area for an Agility trial ring is 8,000 square feet (743 square meters).\* Although the 8,000 square feet (743 square meters) usable area is the absolute minimum size acceptable for agility, a 12,000 square foot (1115 square meters) or larger ring (e.g., 100' x 120' (30.5 m x 36.6 m), 110' x 110' (33.5 m x 33.5 m), 95' x 130' (29 m x 39.6 m), or 90' x 135' (27.4 m x 41.2 m), etc.) of clear, unobstructed ring surface, is highly recommended wherever feasible. The trial area shall be of a non-slip surface, preferably grass, which will provide a safe and cushioned footing for the dogs and handlers competing.

\*In exceptional cases the minimum usable course area may be 7,200 square feet (669 square meters). For areas 7,200 to 7,999 square feet only wingless jumps ~~with 4-foot (1.2 m) bars~~ may be used, ~~and the host club must have a dog walk with 8-foot (2.4 m) planks available for the judge to use, if desired. Otherwise, a 12-foot (3.6 m)~~ The dog walk ~~may~~ should be used ~~by the judge only if~~ with the course design placing it ~~the dog walk along~~ on the longest ~~side~~ area of the arena. This could be along the side or in the middle of the arena. Course areas this small should be the rare exception when no larger, more suitable facilities can be found, ~~and only if the aforementioned wingless 4-foot jumps are used.~~ In all areas, the minimum width of the area must be 60 usable feet wide. If the ring dimensions meet the minimum but has obstacles (poles or other unusable areas) that cause it to be less than the minimum square footage, then the Club needs to have these rings approved by the Agility Committee for use: 1) a dimensionally accurate drawing showing any posts, supports or other irregularities with the dimensions of obstructions and dimensions of the placement of them within the ring. 2) Photos showing all sides and obstructions of the ring must be submitted. Then after receiving approval, it will be sent with the rest of information to judges that are hired when this facility is used.

**APPENDIX A: Equipment Specifications**

**Contact Obstacles**

...

Obstacle	Height	Ramp Width	Ramp Length	Contact Zone
A-Frame	5' - 5'6" (1.5 m - 1.7 m)	3' - 4' (91.4 cm - 121.9 cm)	9' (2.7 m)	42" (1.1 m)
Dog Walk	<del>36" (8' ramp/planks)</del> 46" - 54" <del>(12'</del> <del>ramp/planks)</del> (91 cm - 137.2 cm)	12" (+/- 1") (30.5 cm +/- 2.5 cm))	<del>8' or 12'</del> <del>(2.4 m or 3.7 m)</del>	36" - 42" (91.4 cm - 106.7 cm)
Teeter-Totter	24" (61 cm)	12" (+/- 1") (30.5 cm +/- 2.5 cm))	12' (3.7 m)	36" - 42" (91.4 cm - 106.7 cm)

...

~~NOTE: When using a dog walk with 8' (2.4 m) planks, a lower dog walk height such as 36" (91.4 cm) should be used. When using a dog walk with 12' (3.7 m) planks, a higher dog walk height such as 46" – 54" (1.2 m – 1.4 m) is used. Additionally, a dog walk with 8' (2.4 m) ramps should have an 8' (2.4 m) center ramp and a dog walk with 12' (3.7 m) ramps should have a 12' (3.7 m) center ramp.~~

Comments/Rationale: In many places, the only buildings available to hold trials indoors are at the minimum ring size but have obstructions. But they can still hold an approved ASCA trial. Many of the issues are with buildings at 7,200 sq ft (669 square meters) and due to the fact that they have structural supports either around the edge or in the ring which take away space. But courses can be designed using tunnels around the structural supports in the center which does not take away space or place equipment away from the structural supports on the edge. This motion is needed due to the fact that we want to have agility trials in these areas where there is no larger facility or outdoor space available. If we do not make those exceptions for clubs who cannot find an 8,000 sq ft (743 square meters) facility, then we will not have trials in those areas. Do we really want to lose more agility trials? We lose enough trials now to competition. There might be more clubs that

could put on agility trials if we were a bit more practical and evaluated the buildings based not just on size but on the fact that they could hold an approved ASCA agility trial.

Affected: Agility Clubs, Judges, and Course Reviewers.

Effective Date: Immediately upon Board approval.

### **SD.22.13 When Scoring of Obstacles Begins on Course D (Revised)**

**Motion carried** (9-0) - Approve: Busquets, Byrne, Creelman, Gann, Gerken, Larson, McCabe, Roberts, Wesen. Disapprove: None. Abstain: None. Non-voting: None.

Motion by Liaison Gann to approve the following recommendation from the Stockdog Committee.

Committee Recommendation: When scoring of obstacles begins on Course D. Motion by Dan Sanderson to clarify when scoring of an arena obstacle begins on Course D when using a take pen. Seconded by Terri Jones.

Results of Committee Vote: Approve: 9. Disapprove: None. Abstain: None. Non-Voting: None.

Current Wording:

#### **12.1.1 Course D Arena**

D. Take Pen: The take pen does not have to be the same enclosure as the re-pen as long as the procedure is consistent for the entire trial and both pens are at the same end of the arena

1. All take pens must be placed on the outside of the arena, along the fence opposite obstacle two. If the pen is on the side of the arena, it must be as close to the back fence as possible, on the opposite end of the arena from obstacle two, with consideration for the advanced handler line taken into account

2. The take pen gate for Cattle, Sheep/Goats, and Ducks/Geese must be no less than 8'

3. The take pen gate must be closed after the stock is released into the arena

4. The take pen size and location must be stated in the sanctioning request form. The Duck/Geese arena take pen size must be a minimum of 8' x 8' and a maximum of 16' x 16'. For Cattle and Sheep/Goats, a take pen must be of adequate size to allow the dog to remove the livestock safely. The livestock size, number, and demeanor will determine the necessary size of each take pen. The livestock should not take up more than 1/3 of the take pen. It is suggested that the minimum size be no less than 250 square feet with a maximum size of 900 square feet

5. If the Judge, in consultation with the Course Director, decides the take pen is not of adequate size and construction to be safe for the dog or livestock, the Cattle, or Sheep/Goats will be released into the arena from the take pen

6. If the livestock is released into the arena, the Advanced Handlers must position themselves at the Advanced Handler line on the take-pen side of the line; wherever they feel it is best to take control of the livestock to move it up the middle of the arena. The handler is free to move after the dog has been sent as long as it is on the take pen side of the Advanced Handler Line. Open and Started Handlers may position themselves wherever they feel it is best to take control of the livestock to move it up the middle of the arena. Open Handlers' Line is in effect for the Open Division

Proposed Wording:

#### **12.1.1 Course D Arena**

D. Take Pen: The take pen does not have to be the same enclosure as the re-pen as long as the procedure is consistent for the entire trial and both pens are at the same end of the arena

1. All take pens must be placed on the outside of the arena, along the fence opposite obstacle two. If the pen is on the side of the arena, it must be as close to the back fence as possible, on the opposite end of the arena from obstacle two, with consideration for the advanced handler line taken into account

2. The take pen gate for Cattle, Sheep/Goats, and Ducks/Geese must be no less than 8'

3. Scoring for Obstacle 1 will begin when the last head of livestock clears the plane of the take pen gate, whether or not the gate is closed

4. No Course Points may be earned on Obstacle 2 until the take pen gate is closed

5. The take pen size and location must be stated in the sanctioning request form. The Duck/Geese arena take pen size must be a minimum of 8' x 8' and a maximum of 16' x 16'. For Cattle and Sheep/Goats, a take pen must be of adequate size to allow the dog to remove the livestock safely. The livestock size, number, and demeanor will determine the necessary size of each take pen. The livestock should not take up more than 1/3

of the take pen. It is suggested that the minimum size be no less than 250 square feet with a maximum size of 900 square feet

6. If the Judge, in consultation with the Course Director, decides the take pen is not of adequate size and construction to be safe for the dog or livestock, the Cattle, or Sheep/Goats will be released into the arena from the take pen

7. If the livestock is released into the arena, the Advanced Handlers must position themselves at the Advanced Handler line on the take-pen side of the line; wherever they feel it is best to take control of the livestock to move it up the middle of the arena. The handler is free to move after the dog has been sent as long as it is on the take pen side of the Advanced Handler Line. Open and Started Handlers may position themselves wherever they feel it is best to take control of the livestock to move it up the middle of the arena. Open Handlers' Line is in effect for the Open Division

Comments/Rationale: In 2020 there was a lot of confusion at the Finals/Nationals as to when scoring for the first obstacle was to begin. The same confusion occurred in 2021 with half of the Finals Judges judging it one way while the other half judged it another. By clearly stating that the gate must be closed before scoring can begin on the second obstacle, we will have addressed the issue of a take pen gate not being closed prior to working the first obstacle.

Affected: ASCA Stockdog contestants and ASCA Judges.

Effective Date: June 1, 2023.

### **SD.22.14 When Scoring of Obstacles Begins on Course E (Revised)**

*Motion carried (9-0) - Approve: Busquets, Byrne, Creelman, Gann, Gerken, Larson, McCabe, Roberts, Wesen. Disapprove: None. Abstain: None. Non-voting: None.*

Motion by Liaison Gann to approve the following recommendation from the Stockdog Committee.

Committee Recommendation: When scoring of obstacles begins on Course E. Motion by Dan Sanderson to clarify when scoring of an arena obstacle begins on Course E when using a take pen. Seconded by Terri Jones.

Results of Committee Vote: Approve: 9. Disapprove: None. Abstain: None. Non-Voting: None.

Current Wording:

#### **13.1.1 Course E Arena**

D. Take Pen: The take pen does not have to be the same enclosure as the re-pen as long as the procedure is consistent for the entire trial and both pens are at the same end of the arena

1. All take pens must be placed on the outside of the arena, along the fence opposite obstacle two. If the pen is on the side of the arena, it must be as close to the back fence as possible, on the opposite end of the arena from obstacle two, with consideration for the advanced handler line taken into account

2. The take pen gate for Cattle, Sheep/Goats, and Ducks/Geese must be no less than 8'

3. The take pen gate must be closed after the stock is released into the arena

4. The take pen size and location must be stated in the sanctioning request form. The Duck/Geese arena take pen size must be a minimum of 8' x 8' and a maximum of 16' x 16'. For Cattle and Sheep/Goats, a take pen must be of adequate size to allow the dog to remove the livestock safely. The livestock size, number, and demeanor will determine the necessary size of each take pen. The livestock should not take up more than 1/3 of the take pen. It is suggested that the minimum size be no less than 250 square feet with a maximum size of 900 square feet

5. If the Judge, in consultation with the Course Director, decides the take pen is not of adequate size and construction to be safe for the dog or livestock, the Cattle, or Sheep/Goats will be released into the arena from the take pen

6. If the livestock is released into the arena, the Advanced Handlers must position themselves at the Advanced Handler line on the take-pen side of the line; wherever they feel it is best to take control of the livestock to move it up the middle of the arena. The handler is free to move after the dog has been sent as long as it is on the take pen side of the Advanced Handler Line. Open and Started Handlers may position themselves wherever they feel it is best to take control of the livestock to move it up the middle of the arena. Open Handlers' Line is in effect for the Open Division

Proposed Wording:

**13.1.1 Course E Arena**

D. Take Pen: The take pen does not have to be the same enclosure as the re-pen as long as the procedure is consistent for the entire trial and both pens are at the same end of the arena

1. All take pens must be placed on the outside of the arena, along the fence opposite obstacle two. If the pen is on the side of the arena, it must be as close to the back fence as possible, on the opposite end of the arena from obstacle two, with consideration for the advanced handler line taken into account

2. The take pen gate for Cattle, Sheep/Goats, and Ducks/Geese must be no less than 8'

3. Scoring for Obstacle 1 will begin when the last head of livestock clears the plane of the take pen gate, whether or not the gate is closed

4. No Course Points may be earned on Obstacle 2 until the take pen gate is closed

5. The take pen size and location must be stated in the sanctioning request form. The Duck/Geese arena take pen size must be a minimum of 8' x 8' and a maximum of 16' x 16'. For Cattle and Sheep/Goats, a take pen must be of adequate size to allow the dog to remove the livestock safely. The livestock size, number, and demeanor will determine the necessary size of each take pen. The livestock should not take up more than 1/3 of the take pen. It is suggested that the minimum size be no less than 250 square feet with a maximum size of 900 square feet

6. If the Judge, in consultation with the Course Director, decides the take pen is not of adequate size and construction to be safe for the dog or livestock, the Cattle, or Sheep/Goats will be released into the arena from the take pen

7. If the livestock is released into the arena, the Advanced Handlers must position themselves at the Advanced Handler line on the take-pen side of the line; wherever they feel it is best to take control of the livestock to move it up the middle of the arena. The handler is free to move after the dog has been sent as long as it is on the take pen side of the Advanced Handler Line. Open and Started Handlers may position themselves wherever they feel it is best to take control of the livestock to move it up the middle of the arena. Open Handlers' Line is in effect for the Open Division

Comments/Rationale: In 2020 there was a lot of confusion at the Finals/Nationals as to when scoring for the first obstacle was to begin when working Course D. The same confusion occurred in 2022 with half of the Finals Judges judging it one way while the other half judged it another. Course E has the same layout and confusion as found in Course D, so correcting Course E is the sensible thing to do. By clearly stating that the gate must be closed before scoring can begin on the second obstacle, we will have addressed the issue of a take pen gate not being closed prior to working the first obstacle.

Affected: ASCA Stockdog contestants and ASCA Stockdog judges.

Effective Date: June 1, 2023.

**SD.22.15 When Scoring of Obstacles Begins on Course F (Revised)**

**Motion carried** (9-0) - Approve: Busquets, Byrne, Creelman, Gann, Gerken, Larson, McCabe, Roberts, Wesen. Disapprove: None. Abstain: None. Non-voting: None.

Motion by Liaison Gann to approve the following recommendation from the Stockdog Committee.

Committee Recommendation: When scoring of obstacles begins on Course F. Motion by Dan Sanderson to clarify when scoring of an arena obstacle begins on Course F when using a take pen. Seconded by Terri Jones.

Results of Committee Vote: Approve: 9. Disapprove: None. Abstain: None. Non-Voting: None.

Current Wording:

**14.1.1 Course F Arena**

D. Take Pen: The take pen does not have to be the same enclosure as the re-pen as long as the procedure is consistent for the entire trial and both pens are at the same end of the arena

1. All take pens must be placed on the outside of the arena, along the fence opposite obstacle two. If the pen is on the side of the arena, it must be as close to the back fence as possible, on the opposite end of the arena from obstacle two, with consideration for the advanced handler line taken into account

2. The take pen gate for Cattle, Sheep/Goats, and Ducks/Geese must be no less than 8'

3. The take pen gate must be closed after the stock is released into the arena

4. The take pen size and location must be stated in the sanctioning request form. The Duck/Geese arena take pen size must be a minimum of 8' x 8' and a maximum of 16' x 16'. For Cattle and Sheep/Goats, a take pen must be of adequate size to allow the dog to remove the livestock safely. The livestock size, number, and demeanor will determine the necessary size of each take pen. The livestock should not take up more than 1/3 of the take pen. It is suggested that the minimum size be no less than 250 square feet with a maximum size of 900 square feet

5. If the Judge, in consultation with the Course Director, decides the take pen is not of adequate size and construction to be safe for the dog or livestock, the Cattle, or Sheep/Goats will be released into the arena from the take pen

6. If the livestock is released into the arena, the Advanced Handlers must position themselves at the Advanced Handler line on the take-pen side of the line; wherever they feel it is best to take control of the livestock to move it up the middle of the arena. The handler is free to move after the dog has been sent as long as it is on the take pen side of the Advanced Handler Line. Open and Started Handlers may position themselves wherever they feel it is best to take control of the livestock to move it up the middle of the arena. Open Handlers' Line is in effect for the Open Division

#### Proposed Wording:

##### **14.1.1 Course F Arena**

D. Take Pen: The take pen does not have to be the same enclosure as the re-pen as long as the procedure is consistent for the entire trial and both pens are at the same end of the arena

1. All take pens must be placed on the outside of the arena, along the fence opposite obstacle two. If the pen is on the side of the arena, it must be as close to the back fence as possible, on the opposite end of the arena from obstacle two, with consideration for the advanced handler line taken into account

2. The take pen gate for Cattle, Sheep/Goats, and Ducks/Geese must be no less than 8'

3. Scoring for Obstacle 1 will begin when the last head of livestock clears the plane of the take pen gate, whether or not the gate is closed

4. No Course Points may be earned on Obstacle 2 until the take pen gate is closed

5. The take pen size and location must be stated in the sanctioning request form. The Duck/Geese arena take pen size must be a minimum of 8' x 8' and a maximum of 16' x 16'. For Cattle and Sheep/Goats, a take pen must be of adequate size to allow the dog to remove the livestock safely. The livestock size, number, and demeanor will determine the necessary size of each take pen. The livestock should not take up more than 1/3 of the take pen. It is suggested that the minimum size be no less than 250 square feet with a maximum size of 900 square feet

6. If the Judge, in consultation with the Course Director, decides the take pen is not of adequate size and construction to be safe for the dog or livestock, the Cattle, or Sheep/Goats will be released into the arena from the take pen

7. If the livestock is released into the arena, the Advanced Handlers must position themselves at the Advanced Handler line on the take-pen side of the line; wherever they feel it is best to take control of the livestock to move it up the middle of the arena. The handler is free to move after the dog has been sent as long as it is on the take pen side of the Advanced Handler Line. Open and Started Handlers may position themselves wherever they feel it is best to take control of the livestock to move it up the middle of the arena. Open Handlers' Line is in effect for the Open Division

Comments/Rationale: In 2020 there was a lot of confusion at the Finals/Nationals as to when scoring for the first obstacle was to begin. The same confusion occurred in 2021 with half of the Finals Judges judging it one way while the other half judged it another. By clearly stating that the gate must be closed before scoring can begin on the second obstacle, we will have addressed the issue of a take pen gate not being closed prior to working the first obstacle.

Affected: ASCA Stockdog contestants and ASCA Stockdog judges.

Effective Date: June 1, 2023.

**Respectfully submitted by Kalla Jaco, Executive Secretary.**