

Minutes of the Annual Membership Meeting of
The American Border Collie Association, Inc.

September 21, 2007
Gettysburg, PA
Battlefield Harley Davidson

Following the dinner sponsored by Battlefield Harley Davidson, Mike Neary called the meeting to order and thanked Barbara Levinson, Cheryl & Dick Williams for making all of the arrangements for the meeting.

Mike asked Betty Levin to come forward and lead in a remembrance of Edgar Gould, former Director of ABCA who had recently passed away. She stated he always loved the dogs and was 86 years old when he died.

Mike asked Patty Rogers to present the proof of mailing from Alexander, Van Loon, Sloan, Levens & Favre that showed 4331 ballots were mailed on August 21, 2007. 681 ballots were cast by eligible members through the mail to AVL, which constitutes a quorum present. Additional ballots were taken from members present that had not previously voted.

Minutes were distributed along with the financial statement and audit statement for all in attendance to have. Gary Westbrook made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. 2nd by Lorna Savage. All Approved.

The President's report was also distributed and Mike covered the highlights of that report. Mike stated that Jim Swift was not present to make a report from the Finance Committee, but the Financial Statement was attached to the minutes. There was a question on travel about the amounts donated to the Sheep & Cattle finals. After some discussion, Florence Wilson made a motion to accept the financial statement as presented. Motion was 2nd by Gary Westbrook. Polly had a question about trying to coordinate DNA sampling with all of the entities that were working on different DNA and said she was willing to help put that coordinated effort together. All Approved.

Mark Billadeau presented the Health & Genetics Committee report. He reported that 100 ABCA-registered dogs and 25 CBCA-registered dogs were DNA tested for CEA in 2006. Dr. Acland examined 218 dogs during the first two days of the 3-day eye clinic he was conducting at the finals. Mark also explained to the membership how we were working with UC Davis on Epilepsy studies. He stated that if the new technology they are using works for this study, they should identify the DNA marker(s) in the near future, and be able to develop genetic tests for Epilepsy that should cost around \$40 - \$50. Polly Matzinger had several questions and concerns related to DNA research. She suggested that there should be coordination among research groups rather than each group collecting a new set of DNA samples.

Florence Wilson reported the final tally of votes from AVL and on site. The new directors will be Kate Ash, Mike Hanley, and Martin Penfold, and Norma Stewart will be returning. She also stated that the By-law change passed with 627 over 22 against votes.

There being no further new business or announced business, the meeting was adjourned.

President's Report to ABCA Members at 2007 Annual Meeting

Gettysburg, PA

Mike Neary, ABCA President

First, I want to thank all the current board members for their service to the ABCA and the working Border Collie. The current Board members are:

Norma Brice
Larry Burkes
Susan Carvalho
Robin French
Dan Gill
Liz Hubbard
Martin Penfold
Eileen Stein
Jim Swift – Vice President
Gary Westbrook
Ivan Weir

Each and every one of the directors has made important contributions this year.

Also, I would like to thank all the general members that served on committees this year and helped the ABCA with programs and important association business. The ABCA is only as important as the members and directors are committed. All board members and general members serve the registry on an uncompensated basis. Furthermore, programs and actions happen in the ABCA by a consensus of the board and members. That is the manner in which our community has always worked. It is not always the most efficient method, but in the long run it is the most effective.

The directors of the ABCA always welcome member input. We are your peers, not some mysterious director. Contact directors with ideas and concerns. Be prepared to offer help and solutions though. All it takes to get an item on the board meeting agenda is for a director to request it.

Highlights of Activities for 2006

Increased Sponsorship of National Finals for both sheep and cattle -- The ABCA increased the amount of general sponsorship from \$6400 to \$10,100 and remains the largest single sponsor for

the National Finals in both sheep and cattle. The ABCA approved \$40,300 to help sponsor both events in 2007. These funds were allocated for livestock fees, general expenses to put on both trials, and as prize monies paid directly to ABCA members running ABCA registered dogs.

Promotional monies granted – In 2007, the ABCA board approved about \$16,000 worth of funds for promotional requests by local organizations and individuals. These promotional monies are used for local and regional education and promotional activities.

Health and Genetics activities – The board approved the H&G committee to make arrangements with the University of California-Davis to conduct an epilepsy study to identify DNA markers for the disease. This was at minimal cost to the ABCA.

Approved yearly free eye exams at the sheep and cattle finals – The ABCA will pick up all costs for ABCA registered dogs entered in either finals for the required eye exams. Also, if time allows, other non-entered ABCA dogs can have eye exams at no cost to the member.

Clarified DNA policy – Dogs not registered by second birthday need to have DNA submitted from both parents, living or dead, or go through the ROM process.

Abolished pedigree appeal process – Dogs with incomplete pedigrees will have to go through the ROM process.

Opposed California Spay/neuter bill – Worked with California members to oppose and lobby against bill. Sent multiple letters of opposition.

A member was suspended – This member used improper signature authority. One year suspension and a \$500 fine.

Updated office equipment – Purchased new printer and upgraded the computer server.

Reviewed compensation to Secretary/Treasurer – The board approved an increase in rental compensation to the Secretary/Treasurer in 2007. The ABCA increased rent paid from \$200 to \$300 per month.

Continued to deal with puppy mill problems and other disciplinary actions – This has slowed down some from 2006 but is still a significant problem. This problem takes much time from office staff, officers and directors of ABCA.

Activities dealing with this problem include:

- Dealing with an abundance of complaints against such operations has made much more work for the office staff. Also, officers of the association have spent considerable time on these complaints.
- The board amended investigative rules that clarified investigations, failure to cooperate in an investigation, and status of pending work during an investigation. The updated rules are on the website.

- Amended disciplinary rules to include proven incidents of abuse of dogs. The updated rule is on the ABCA website.
- An investigation of a member was conducted, but was suspended.
- Working on methods to publish and make public record the number of litters registered per year by breeders. This would make information available to potential puppy buyers who are the very large volume breeders.
- A new registry has been formed, the International Border Collie Association. It seems the principles behind this registry are past members who have been expelled from the ABCA for improprieties. The ABCA does not recognize pedigrees from this organization.