

# ABCA

December, 2003

## American Border Collie Association, Inc.

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www.americanbordercollie.org

### REGISTRATION POLICY CLARIFIED

Concerned with the dangers of conformation breeding to the Border Collie, the ABCA Directors have voted to clarify our registration policy.

"The ABCA is a working stockdog registry and believes that breeding for conformation standards rather than working ability is detrimental to the health and working ability of the Border Collie. Consequently the ABCA will only register dogs or bitches whose ancestors are registered with working registries with the same strict working goals as the International Sheepdog Society and the American Border Collie Association.

Dogs or bitches registered with any registry that promotes conformation showing of Border Collies (American Kennel Club, United Kennel Club, the Kennel Club (UK), Federacion Cynologique Internationale, Australian, or New Zealand Kennel Clubs, etc) will not be registered unless they are also registered by an acceptable working registry.

The ABCA will deregister any ABCA registered dog or bitch should it be named a "Conformation Champion 'by a conformation registry'".

This policy change becomes effective January 1, 2004.

### Appeal Policy Established

During the October 21, 2003 Annual meeting of the Board of Directors, a new application appeal policy was established to begin on January 1, 2004. There will be a \$25 non-refundable fee charged for all appeals after that date. This will be paid at the time the request is made prior to the application being forwarded to the committee. The appeals committee for 2004 is Robin Nuffer, Beverly Lambert and Merle Newton. All appeals must be directed to the ABCA office for action.

### ISDS Recognizes ABCA

In a historic agreement, the International Sheepdog Society has recognized the American Border Collie Association. While adult ABCA dogs cannot be transferred to the ISDS, pups from ABCA sires and dams can be ISDS registered. The full text of Norman Lorton's letter can be found on the ABCA web site ([americanbordercollie.org](http://americanbordercollie.org)).

#### Joint statement:

*The International Sheep Dog Society (ISDS) and the American Border Collie Association (ABCA) are pleased to announce a joint agreement whereby the ISDS will recognise the pedigree of an ABCA recorded sire and/or dam as valid for the registration of pups in the ISDS Stud Book according to ISDS Rules.*

This position has been reached for the benefit of owners, breeders and dogs alike. The two organizations have the same objective of supporting the Border Collie being a working sheepdog. It is recognized that this will be greatly helped by effectively bringing together the worldwide community of these dogs and giving owners greater access to an appropriate register.

Following is a list of all of the current directors and their addresses:

**Larry Burkes**  
HC 3  
Paducah, TX 79248  
(806) 492-3456  
stockdog@caprock-spur.com

**Merle Newton**  
14200 Red Bank Rd.  
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**Eileen Stein**  
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**Donald McCaig**  
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mccaig@va.tds.net

**Robin Nuffer**  
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Emmett, ID 83617  
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**Mike Neary**  
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**Bruce Smart (President)**  
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**Gary Westbrook**  
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**Denise Wall**  
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**Martin Penfold**  
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**Dan Gill**  
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**Jim Swift**  
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Jswift0327@aol.com

### Annual Memberships Due before January 1st

All annual memberships expire on January 1 of each calendar year. To be eligible to vote in the 2004 elections, your membership must be paid prior to January 1, 2004. Be sure to mail your membership in as soon as possible. Lifetime memberships are also available. The cost is \$100. This also needs to be paid prior to January 1 to be eligible to vote in the 2004 elections.

**AMERICAN BORDER COLLIE ASSOCIATION, INC.  
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENSES, AND OTHER  
CHANGES IN NET ASSETS - MODIFIED CASH BASIS  
FOR THE YEARS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2002 AND 2001**

<b>REVENUES</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2001</b>
Annual memberships	\$ 35,658	\$ 36,263
Lifetime memberships	17,870	13,160
Registration fees	135,327	120,062
Transfer fees	20,583	17,652
Miscellaneous	14,493	2,880
Investment income	10,811	17,861
Total revenues	234,742	207,878
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Program Services		
Prize monies awarded	500	24,700
Promotional support to members	11,907	8,350
Research support	38,700	17,450
Trials sponsorship	11,207	20,544
Total program services	62,314	71,044
General and Administrative		
Advertising	1,064	2,430
Annual meeting expenses	796	2,477
Computer and technical support	11,848	47,630
Depreciation	19,114	8,081
Equipment and supplies	2,729	2,872
File storage	474	5,219
Insurance and bonding	1,408	1,208
Postage and delivery	10,753	14,854
Printing and reproduction	5,429	5,420
Professional fees	9,225	1,185
Rent	1,800	1,800
Repairs and maintenance	7	342
Secretarial fees	77,077	80,060
Telephone	5,669	5,769
Other office expenses	3,216	2,384
Total general and administrative expenses	150,609	181,731
Total expenses	212,923	252,775
<b>CHANGE IN NET ASSETS</b>	<b>21,819</b>	<b>(44,897)</b>
<b>NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR</b>	<b>419,788</b>	<b>464,685</b>
<b>NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR</b>	<b>\$ 441,607</b>	<b>\$ 419,788</b>

### Promotional Request Deadlines

One of the unique benefits of the American Border Collie Association is the use of promotional money accumulated from each registration at the rate of \$.50 per dog to promote the border collie and border collie events throughout the United States and Canada through it's members. Money is available to members in each state with request deadlines on February 15 and July 15 of each year. A written request must be submitted by the member with a detailed description of the activity or event that they are requesting funds for. The information should include the description, date(s), members involved, location and amount of money requested. If the event involves multiple states, a member from each state should make a separate request. Current members will only be considered. Be sure to have your written request in by February 15, 2004. Requests may be mailed, faxed or emailed into the office.

## Directors and Officers and Committee Chairmen for 2003-2004

During the Annual membership meeting in Sturgis, SD, it was announced that Dan Gill, Merle Newton, Jim Swift and Eileen Stein would serve for their first terms as Directors of ABCA. Martin Penfold was also elected for the first time after serving a portion of an appointed director's position he filled in 2003. Dan, Merle, Jim & Eileen will each serve 3 year terms. Martin will only serve 1 year and will then be eligible for reelection at that time.

The current board and staff welcomes these new directors.

On October 21, 2003, the Board of Directors held their annual meeting and elected the following officers and Executive Committee:

**President** - Bruce Smart

**Vice-President** - Don McCaig

**Secretary/Treasurer** - Patty Rogers

**Executive Committee:** Mike Neary, Gary Westbrook and Dan Gill

#### *Following are the Committees for 2004:*

**Health and Genetics** - Sally Lacy, Chair;  
Denise Wall, member

**Sheep Trials** - Jim Swift, Chairman

**Cattle Trials** - Gary Westbrook, Chairman

**Promotional** - Don McCaig, Chairman

**Hall of Fame** - Mike Neary, Chair;  
Dan Gill, member

**Nominating Committee** - Robin Nuffer, Chair;  
Don McCaig, Larry Burkes, members

## CORNELL GIVES ABCA GENETICS AWARD

On October 10, 2003, Sally Lacy, Chair of the ABCA Health and Genetics Committee accepted Cornell University's Baker Institute's John A. LaFore Kennel Club award on behalf of the Association. This award is given in recognition "of a kennel club or breed-affiliated organization's outstanding contributions to the advancement of canine health through their support of research and education."

The ABCA has funded genetic research at Cornell since 1999. The award cites the ABCA: "We would like to recognize the Association's enlightened and active role in breeding. The Association's longstanding commitment is helping to ensure health for future generations of companion animals."

## ABCA Initiates Pilot Study of Hip Dysplasia

Like herding ability, hip formation is a complex trait which is the sum of a dog's genes and its environment; and these traits develop over time correctly - or not - directed by an interaction of genes and environment.

While genes provide the blueprint for how the hip joint is built, the environment provides both the building materials and the stresses on the maturing joint. Hip dysplasia (HD) is a trait (sum of genes and environment). Osteoarthritis (OA) is the disease caused by poorly formed hips. The HD trait starts with genes that cause errors in the way the hip capsule forms, and it also is affected by environmental factors that affect the amount of banging around that takes place in the joint as the puppy is growing.

Dr. Rory Todhunter of Cornell is studying HD on two levels: diagnostic and molecular. He is looking for the most useful tools to predict whether the mature joint will be normal or not, and he is looking for specific differences in the genome between dogs that have bad hips, those which have good hips, and those which have some of the genes for each. The predictive tool invented by Dr. Todhunter's group is a "radiographic method to assess the degree of functional instability present in a hip joint of a dog that is standing or walking (Farese et al, 1998; 1999). This dorso-lateral subluxation (DLS) test determines the extent of functional joint instability by measuring the degree of displacement of the femoral head with the hips in a neutral, but loaded, position."

It is known that some young Border Collies develop HD traits and are unsound, and that in some others the HD trait goes undetected at first but the dogs gradually become arthritic and have to be retired from hard work when they are between 6 and 9 years of age.

Just what is the prevalence and severity of HD in the working Border Collie is of importance to the future of the breed. It takes years to develop a dog into a dependable stock dog, and it is a disappointment to have its working

life cut short by arthritis. A reliable hip-formation-prediction procedure can be one tool in selecting which young dogs to train and breed from. The ABCA's Health & Genetics Committee has set up a pilot study to enroll 50 young Border Collies with herding pedigrees and herding futures in Dr. Rory Todhunter's DLS testing program at Cornell to see if this technique will be useful in forecasting at an early age whether a Border Collie will develop dysplasia and osteoarthritis. DNA is also being collected so the genetic information (genotype) can be analyzed as well as the physical information (phenotype). The data from the participating dogs is being compiled and analyzed to obtain a clearer picture of the hip status of working (herding) Border Collies. The Board of Directors has authorized a grant to subsidize the cost of DLS x-rays and their standardized interpretation at Cornell.

Dr. Todhunter *"expects that dogs with HD will have (the lowest) DLS scores ... and normal dogs will have (highest) DLS scores ... The risk for dogs in the intermediate range will also be calculated compared to dogs at the highest risk. We expect the DLS score to be more sensitive than the OFA evaluation in detection of dogs with subluxation and with HD based on later development of hip osteoarthritis. We expect that a cutoff may be established for the 8-12-month-old DLS score ... that a veterinarian could provide to clients with a certain level of probability that a given dog is, or is not, dysplastic."*

*It must be emphasized that hip dysplasia is not an all-or-none phenomenon. There will be a gradation in hip scores no matter what method is used to evaluate hip conformation. It is assumed that dogs in the intermediate risk range for any method will have less severe hip osteoarthritis and that this arthritis will develop more slowly than a dog with high risk".*

Veterinarians wishing to learn more about the Dorsolateral Subluxation technique can visit Dr. Todhunter's web site: <http://www.sheepdog.com/Todhunter/dls.html>

Health and Genetics Committee: Sally Lacy, Chairman; C. Denise Wall, PhD; Mellissa DeMille, PhD; Amy Coapman, MS.

## Minutes of The Annual Membership Meeting and ABCA Hall of Fame

September 19, 2003 -- 7:00 p.m.  
Sturgis, SD

Bruce Smart, President called the meeting to order and asked Patty Rogers, Secretary to make the presentation of proxies and notice of meeting. She announced that the notice was mailed and that 3,818 official notices were mailed and 621 were returned which constitutes a quorum based on the 10% requirement in the bylaws of the Association. Bruce announced that no quorum was present for the meeting itself; therefore no unannounced business could take place.

The minutes were distributed to the members present and motion was made by Bruce Fogt to accept the minutes as printed. Motion was seconded, and all approved.

The Financial statement and Audit report were distributed to the members. There was one question on the cover statement regarding inaccurate membership records. Patty explained that that was a statement that was not removed from the previous report, but the records were now accurately reflecting membership. That problem had been corrected after last year's audit. Mike Neary made a motion to approve the Financial Statement. 2nd by Bruce Fogt. All

*(continued on next page)*

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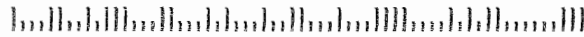
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Website:

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BULK RATE  
Non-Profit Org.  
U. S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
Perkinston, MS  
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*(Minutes of the Annual Membership Meeting continued from previous page)*

approved.

Bruce Smart then gave his Presidential updates. He stated that ABCA had arranged with ISDS to accept ABC pedigrees and that decision was to go to the ISDS Board for their approval in the near future. This agreement had been approached because of the possibility of exporting dogs into the U.K. in the near future.

Don reported on the Health and Genetics Committee. The eye clinic had been held earlier in the week with Dr. Greg Acland and they had tested 172 dogs. 167 were Border Collies. He had only found 4 potentially inherited eye disease problems with the tests and some of them had been identified previously.

Don also stated that the board would accept the British Veterinary Board's approval on hips. ABCA was helping to fund a hip research project with \$10,000 and one doctor would evaluate all of the hips for the study. He also made reference to the Health Survey on the web.

Don also reported that the Communications committee had run several ads in Livestock magazines this past year with little results.

Next Don introduced the proposed modification of the registration policy of the association. It will be as follows:

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Don did not explain how this would be implemented.

Patty then announced the election results and stated that Martin Penfold, Dan Gill, Merle Newton, Jim Swift and Eileen Stein would serve as directors this next year.

Next Bruce Smart recognized Bruce Fogt for 6 years service as a director and Beverly Lambert for 3 years service as a director and presented each of them with a plaque.

Next was the Hall of Fame Recognition for Jack Knox as a handler into the ABCA Hall of Fame. Larry Burch from Butler, MO, introduced the recipient.

Following the induction, the meeting was adjourned.

## Check Your Label for Membership Info!

If the information in the mailing area above does not match your records, or if you have any questions, please notify the office. It should look like the example below.

INDICATES LAST YEAR PAID



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