

ABCA

December, 2005

American Border Collie Association, Inc.

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ABCA Office Experiences Delays with Katrina

The ABCA office is located in South Mississippi in one of the hardest hit areas by Katrina. The office did not suffer any structural damage, but was without power for nearly three weeks. All of the staff members suffered substantial damage on either their homes or farms, and are still working on the clean-up and recovery. Katrina changed many aspects in the lives of us in South Mississippi that will never be the same again. The prayer support, volunteers and financial donations that have been sent to our small communities have truly amazed us. Many ABCA members have helped with donations of time, supplies and money in recovery efforts. All of those donations are truly appreciated. We appreciate the memberships' patience and understanding as we continue our efforts to return to "normal". We apologize for the inconveniences this storm has caused any of you. Again, thank each of you from all of the staff for your continued support.

Patty, Leona, David & Karen

2005 ABCA Hall of Fame

Steve Clendenin from Cleveland, NC was inducted into the ABCA Hall of Fame posthumously for his outstanding contributions in support of the finals and in encouraging novice handlers. Steve was well known in the trial world for being a great "cheerleader" and supporter of new handlers just beginning to work with their dogs. He offered untold time and advice as well as support as they began their trialing efforts. He will be sadly missed in the border collie trial world.

Cindy VonDette's Peg was the outstanding dog inducted into the ABCA Hall of Fame. Peg was honored for her accomplishments as a producer of outstanding offspring. Her pups went on to win both USBCHA/ABCA National Finals Nursery and Open championships, Cattledog Championships and a long line of Open trial wins throughout the country.

Congratulations to both new members of the ABCA Hall of Fame. Nomination forms are available on the website.

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.
Red Bluff, CA 96080
(530) 529-3700
merle@cwnet.com

Eileen Stein
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Robin French
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Susan Carvalho
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Franklin Springs, GA 30639
(706) 245-7880
nbbrice@yahoo.com

Mike Neary
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Brookston, IN 47923
(765) 563-3982
mneary@purdue.edu

Jim Swift
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Grand Junction, CO 81505
(970) 243-1982
Jswift0327@aol.com

Kate Broadbent
RR 1
Truro, NS Canada B2N 5A9
(902) 895-8932

Gary Westbrook
10030 Foxbrook Lane
Benton, AR 72015
(501) 594-5612
stockdog@direcway.com

Annual Memberships Due before January 1, 2006

All annual memberships expire on January 1 of each calendar year. To be eligible to vote in the 2006 elections, your membership must be paid prior to January 1, 2006. Be sure to mail your membership in as soon as possible. Annual membership fees are \$10.00. Lifetime memberships are also available for a cost of \$100.00.

Promotional Monies Increased

Effective the beginning of this Fiscal Year on March 1, 2005, the Board of Directors voted to increase the money designated to the promotional funds for states to \$1 per registration. It had previously been \$.50 since the beginning of ABCA. These funds can be requested by any active members for use in promoting the border collie in their area. A written request is to be sent to the office by the February 15 or July 15 deadlines. That request must explain the planned use for the monies and when it will be used as well as the amount requested. Amounts available of course change on a daily basis, but the amounts available as of November 15 were as follows:

State	Amount Available	State	Amount Available
Alberta, Canada	\$315.50	New Braunfels, Can ..	\$72.05
Alaska	31.50	North Carolina	1,145.50
Alabama	744.00	North Dakota	812.50
Arkansas	480.00	Nebraska	484.50
Arizona	600.50	New Hampshire	286.50
British Columbia	141.00	New Jersey	476.50
California	887.00	New Mexico	409.00
Colorado	295.50	Nova Scotia	4.00
Connecticut	153.00	Nevada	607.50
Washington, DC	2.00	New York	1976.19
Delaware	25.00	Ohio	1026.00
Florida	613.00	Oklahoma	1081.00
Georgia	4952.00	Ontario, Canada	982.00
Hawaii	4.50	Oregon	557.50
Iowa	384.50	Pennsylvania	1173.50
Idaho	849.50	Puerto Rico	5.00
Illinois	544.00	Quebec, Canada	271.50
Indiana	468.00	Rhode Island	62.00
Kansas	190.00	South Carolina	214.50
Kentucky	609.00	South Dakota	611.00
Louisiana	3,258.00	Saskatchewan, Can ..	158.50
Massachusetts	577.00	Tennessee	1,160.00
Manitoba, Canada ...	125.00	Texas	2,460.00
Maryland	231.00	Utah	735.50
Maine	710.00	Virginia	1,066.50
Michigan	420.00	Vermont	326.00
Minnesota	900.50	Washington	643.00
Missouri	892.00	Wisconsin	320.00
Mississippi	471.50	West Virginia	653.00
Montana	698.00	Wyoming	539.00



Election Results for 2006

Two directors were elected to serve a second three year term. They are Larry Burkes from Paducah, TX and Gary Westbrook from Benton, AR. Two new directors were also elected. They are Robin French from Oxford, NC and Kate Broadbent from Truro, Nova Scotia, Canada.

Disciplinary Policy Enforced and Action Taken Again in 2005

The ABCA has expelled Kristen Campbell of Black Hill Farms, Bristol, Tennessee from ABCA membership for making false statements and submitting false registration documents to the ABCA, and forging the signature of another on a registration application. Effective May 10, 2005, Ms. Campbell's registration and certification privileges are revoked. As a result, we are no longer able to process any paperwork with her signature. These actions were necessary to maintain the integrity of the Association's records.

Directors and Officers and Committees for 2006

President: Mike Neary

Vice-President: Jim Swift

Secretary/Treasurer: Patty Rogers

Executive Committee: Mike Neary, Jim Swift, Eileen Stein, Gary Westbrook, and Dan Gill

Hall of Fame: Dan Gill, Chair; Eileen Stein, Co-chair

Health & Genetics: Sally Lacy, Chair

Finance Committee: Jim Swift, Chair

Nominating Committee: Gary Westbrook, Chair

Appeals Committee: Merle Newton, Chair, Robin French, Beverly Lambert

Cattle Finals Committee: Larry Burkes, Chair; Robin Nuffer, Gary Westbrook, Merle Newton, and Dan Gill

Minutes of the Annual Membership Meeting

Sturgis, SD

September 16, 2005 -- 7:30 p.m.

Bruce Smart, President, called the meeting to order and announced that Patty was prevented from being present due to the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Power has just been restored to the office and she will be getting started on the backlog of paperwork.

Bruce announced that a quorum was present for election of directors with the presentation of ballots received by Alexander, Van Loon, Sloan, Levens & Favre, PLLC. The 639 ballots returned exceeded the 422 required to constitute 10% of the eligible voters. A quorum was not present for the transaction of other business.

The minutes of the 2004 meeting were distributed. Gary Westbrook made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, Gene Litton seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

Bruce then gave his President's Report. He reported that effective January 1, 2005 breeders have been required to register their pups themselves, rather than leaving registration to be done by the pups' new owners. He also reported that state promotional funds have been increased from \$.50 per registration to \$1.00 per registration. Finally, he explained a change in the office practice regarding transfer forms. The new policy is that once a transfer of ownership form is signed by the seller, the office will regard that as final and will process the transfer even if the former owner asks that a hold be placed on the transaction.

Bruce explained that financial statements were not available from Alexander, Van Loon, due to the hurricane, so there would be no Treasurer's Report.

Bruce then invited any questions or comments that the members present would like to raise. Polly Matzinger expressed the view that de-registered AKC champions should be able to be re-registered on merit. Eileen Stein and Denise Wall responded, explaining the reasoning behind the rule making them ineligible for ROM.

Bruce then asked for the results of the election of directors. He had asked Eileen Stein to tally the votes received during the meeting and add them to those from the accountant. Eileen announced that the four directors elected to serve a three-year term were as follows:

Larry Burkes; Robin French; Gary Westbrook; Kate Broadbent

The next item on the agenda was the presentation of inductees into the Hall of Fame. Angie Pickle introduced Cindy VonDette's Peg, who was the outstanding dog inducted. Peg was honored chiefly because of her accomplishments as a brood bitch. She is the dam of Angie's Sam, who was both a Nursery champion and an Open champion, and also produced a Cattle dog champion, as well as other distinguished offspring. Alasdair MacRae spoke movingly about Steve Clendenin, who was inducted posthumously for his outstanding contributions in support of the finals and in encouraging novice handlers.

The Health & Genetics Committee then gave a report. Denise Wall said that they are starting to collect blood samples and pedigree information for an epilepsy study, and asked for help identifying participants. Sally Lacy reported that the CEA DNA test has been well received, and key dogs are being tested. She introduced Dr. Gregory Acland, key figure in the development of the test, who gave a brief presentation on Focal/Multifocal Acquired Retinopathy, a retinal condition which is frequently mistaken for PRA. Dr. Acland said the breeds in which this condition is found tend to be the breeds which do strenuous physical work, and the hardest working dogs tend to be the ones who get it. The condition begins with little bits of bleeding into the retina, which leaves lesions that last forever. Dogs who get one of these bleeds tend to get more, and it can progress to a generalized retinopathy. The condition is more common in males, and more common in left eyes than right eyes. It is not inherited, but it is fairly common. Dr. Acland recommended that following strenuous exertion, dogs should be cooled off and rehydrated as quickly as possible, and it may even be desirable to administer a sugar or salt solution.

There being no further business following Dr. Acland's presentation, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Eileen Stein, Acting Secretary

The AKC Story – No Happy Ending

By Eileen Stein

On August 8, 2005, the Board of Directors of the AKC voted to continue accepting registrations from the three US working Border Collie registries (the ABCA, AIBC, and NASDS), and from the Canadian Border Collie Association, after their so-called Open Registration period ends on December 31st. Since those registries were the only ones covered by the Open Registration procedure, the effect of this vote is to keep the AKC studbook open forever to dogs in the working Border Collie registries.

Ever since the AKC recognized the Border Collie back in 1994, lovers of the traditional Border Collie have waited anxiously for them to close their studbook. Originally it was to stay open for only three years, but that period was extended twice – first for another three years, then for an additional five years. It's clear the AKC was dismayed that so few Border Collies were being registered with the, especially in the early years after recognition, and kept hoping more would be registered if the possibility was kept open for another few years. Now they apparently have come to believe that their only hope of getting a majority of Border Collie owners to register with AKC is by keeping that option open indefinitely, and letting the passage of time blur the difference between the traditional Border Collie, bred for work and the AKC Border Collie, bred for show.

This action of the AKC is unwelcome and disappointing. It's an effort on their part to maintain a unified gene pool between AKC Border Collies and working Border Collies, which can nly be harmful to the working breed in the long run. By taking this extraordinary step, the AKC is acknowledging that, after eleven years of registering Border Collies, it cannot maintain a viable breed without continuing infusions from our working registries in the future.

The ABCA registry has taken a number of steps in the past eleven years to try to counteract the effects of AKC recognition on our working gene pool. The ABCA does not accept pedigrees for registration from the AKC or from other conformation-based registries, nor will it cooperate with the AKC in verifying the accuracy of pedigree information for the dogs they register. The ABCA also deregisters dogs who receive conformation titles.

The AKC vote means that we can never breathe the sigh of relief we'd hoped for when their studbook closed. The fight to preserve the working breed from AKC dominance will be harder than it would have been had the AKC closed is studbook, but it will go on.

We continue to encourage all those who care about the future of the working Border Collies *not* to register dogs with the AKC. We encourage breeders to continue breeding for working ability, to register with the ABCA, and to utilize non-breeding (NB) registration when selling pups to pet and sport homes. We encourage buyers of Border Collies to support our non-AKC working breeders when buying pups. And finally, we hope everyone will re-double their efforts to educate others about the *real* Border Collie now that the AKC has abandoned their commitment to close their studbook to outside registrations.

First Quarter 2005	Second Quarter 2005	Third Quarter 2005
Normal 609 (70.8%)	Normal 391 (70.5%)	Normal 621 (76.8%)
Carrier 239 (27.8%)	Carrier 149 (26.8%)	Carrier 183 (22.6%)
2 CEA copies 12 (01.4%)	2 CEA copies 15 (02.7%)	2 CEA Copies 5 (00.6%)
860	555	809

With a number of people substituting the DNA test number for an eye exam, and having Dr. Larry Carpenter of Sturgis there to draw blood for anyone who wanted to take advantage of our Optigen 20/20 clinic, the numbers for our eye clinic at the National Finals were lower. Dr. Gregory Acland saw 109 dogs over a day and a half, reporting one new CEA case and one probable "go-normal" whose owner will confirm by DNA test.

Hip Dysplasia: Our efforts to get 50 young working dogs into Dr. Rory Todhunter's Dorsolateral Subluxation (DSL) study at Cornell is going slowly, owing to the scarcity of testing sites. However, Dr. Todhunter has a Morris Foundation grant for Mapping Refinement of Quantitative Trait Loci for Canine Hip Dysplasia," and all Border Collies we have enrolled in the study will be part of that DNA mapping project.

Epilepsy: We have begun collecting blood samples from a pedigree that we expect will provide insight into Border Collie primary epilepsy when the research being done elsewhere has located some genes implicated in this disease. We will be able to find out if the same genes are responsible in Border Collies as in the breeds under study.

The general health of Border Collies remains good, owing to the diligence of breeders and of buyers. Buyers cannot expect a perfect dog, but they should make inquiries to satisfy themselves that the breeder of the pup is aware of the potential for genetic or acquired defects. The more that is known about the lines, the better the prediction for overall health. If the breeder sells a healthy puppy from well-tested working parents and the buyer raises it properly, the chances of a long partnership with a healthy dog are enhanced.

*Submitted by ABCA Health & Genetics Committee
Sally Lacy, chairman*

Draft Statement of Revenues and Expenses for Year Ending February 28, 2005

Revenue

Annual Memberships	\$39,492.29
Life Memberships	21,546.37
ABCA Store Sales	308.10
Appeals	300.00
Decals	1,269.32
Duplicates/Corrections	1,136.81
Eye Clinic	299.64
Hip Certifications	313.14
Registrations	154,077.28
Transfers	23,312.37
Total Income	\$242,055.32

Expenses

Advertising Fees	\$ 735.00
Annual Meeting Expenses	1,162.94
Audit Fees	11,935.00
Banking Fees	149.19
Banking Supplies	119.26
Bond Fees	208.37
Certificates	1,766.35
Computer System Expenses	21,477.37
Corporation Fees	244.00
Decal Purchases	692.00
Equipment Purchases	382.48
File Storage	2,507.45
Hall of Fame Expenses	43.55
Insurance	1,676.00
Internet Expenses	981.98
Mail Processing	300.00
Miscellaneous	48.50
Office Supplies	1,867.81
Postage & Delivery	9,903.71
Printing	4,935.24
Prize Money	16,000.00
Accounting Fees	1,775.00
Legal Fees	350.00
Promotions Paid	12,650.00
Rent	1,800.00
Safety Deposit Box Rent	30.00
Secretarial Fees	77,295.00
Telephone	4,565.49
Travel	1,678.12
Trials Expenses	11,467.00
VISA Discounts	257.03
Web Page Fees	1,808.20
Total Expenses	\$191,440.04

Health & Genetics Committee Report – December 2005

It is nearly a year since Optigen announced it was ready to start DNA testing the collie family of dogs for copies of the mutation with causes Collie Eye Anomaly (CEA). This was the long-awaited test the American Border Collie Association had hoped for when it granted Dr. Gregory Acland of Cornell \$75,000 for a post doctoral researcher to work exclusively on finding the CEA gene. There were a number of other working Border Collie groups and individuals who gave generously to that cause and made possible a four-year grant.

Border Collie owners from the UK to Australia have been submitting samples to Optigen for DNA testing. When the statistics for 2005 are complete, Optigen will hand pull the working-registry-affiliation figures and we will have a better idea of the frequency of the mutation in this population. So far, the distribution in the breed among dogs with two normal copies, one normal and one mutation, and those with two copies of the CEA gene are running just about as predicted. (See table below) The cost of DNA testing parents is significantly higher than ophthalmic examinations of the parents. Breeders, however, cannot rely on the ophthalmic exam to distinguish between the two most common categories - normal and carrier - so they cannot be certain that they are not mating two carriers, which would likely produce at least some puppies affected with CEA. As always, breeder integrity is important. Telling puppy buyers the dog has been found clear of CEA by ophthalmic exam is different from telling them the dog has been DNA tested normal. Puppy buyers should not be surprised later on. It isn't necessary to breed only normal-eyed dogs to each other. Many top-quality working dogs carry one copy of the CEA gene. It is necessary only to choose a normal-eyed mate for them to avoid producing CEA puppies and to gradually reduce the incidence of CEA. It is our hope that this test will help breeders make choices that meet their criteria for working traits without producing any more CEA-affected dogs.

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