

ABCA History Notes

The information below is an assortment of historical notes, facts and events that have occurred since the formation of the ABCA in 1983.

The first financial report presented by Mrs. West (the ABCA's first secretary) in 1983 is given below:

Income:

14 Lifetime members @ \$50.00: **\$700.00**

13 Annual Members @ \$5.00: **65.00**

117 dogs registered @ \$3.50: **409.50**

loan by members against credit upon registering dogs: **412.50**

Total deposit **\$1,587.00**

Expenses:

Applications, Certificates, Membership Cards, Seal, Folders, Stationery: **\$339.47**

Bank Balance: **\$1,247.53**

The members who registered the 117 dogs were from the states of Alabama, Arizona, California, Georgia, Illinois, Idaho, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Mississippi, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Wyoming and Canadian province of Ontario

One of the features of the registry is the Promotional Credit program. From the beginning, \$.50 from each registration fee was set aside for use by people in the state the member lived in to further the welfare of the working Border Collie. Requests are made to the Secretary and amounts are decided by the Directors. Most of the requests have been to support sheep dog trials or eye clinics.

When Stan Moore was President, he asked the Secretary, Mrs. Jerry West, to compile data for the time required to fulfill her duties. She made this report in December, 1985:

161 certificates	80 hours 30 minutes
25 transfers	6 hours 15 minutes
38 memberships	12 hours 40 minutes
24 inquiries	8 hours
Membership mailing	16 hours
4 membership list requests	1 hour
Bookkeeping	6 hours
total	130 hours 25 minutes

Secretary compensation was set at \$2 per certificate or transfer processed. Thus, processing 186 certificates & transfers @ \$2.00 meant income of \$372 for the secretary which equates to \$2.85 per

hour. An office worker was paid \$104 to assist the secretary. Mrs. West showed she did not receive the minimum wage for her work as Secretary and Registrar. Also, difficulties with the computer and the program she had been using demonstrated the importance of having a reliable and functional computer program for generating registration certificates.

At the 1986 Annual Meeting, the new computer program for the registry was demonstrated. A second Canadian Director was added in 1991 as there were Canadian members in both the eastern and western Provinces. The 1990 Annual Meeting was held in the Northeast, and Robert Barlow was the first President to receive compensation for travel expenses associated with attending the meeting.

When the membership stood at around 2000, the Board undertook a survey of the people the Association served and what their needs, wants, and hopes for the breed were. Mike Neary chaired the committee which developed a voluntary plan to recognize dogs having Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA) grades showing normal hip formation. For a fee that covered the cost, a notation could be put on the certificate. This set the stage for addressing genetic eye disease in the breed. Amanda Milliken chaired this committee which recommended eye testing as a first step in controlling eye problems. The first eye clinics at National Finals were instituted. Mike Neary and Herbert Holmes coordinated the Association's first joint sponsorship of the National Finals Trials with the Handlers Association. While it seems well accepted now, all of these efforts were controversial at the time.

The Canadian Government dropped a bombshell when it enacted the Animal Pedigree Act which allowed only one registry for each breed and decreed that the registry must be Canadian. Amanda Milliken made a persuasive presentation to the Minister of Agriculture that the Border Collie is an agricultural dog not suited to Canadian Kennel Club membership. She succeeded in getting a Canadian Border Collie registry designated as the one and only, but they had to defend this ruling in court. To work out the details and to get the Canadian Border Collie Association off the ground took years, a donation of money from the ABCA, and changes to the ABCA computer program so that it can produce certificates with a C before the registration number for CBCA dogs.

There were expansion years for the ABCA. New equipment for the office. Not enough money to do what was needed. Changes to the by-laws. Then, increases in popularity of the breed brought both problems and opportunity. In 1994, the American Kennel Club announced plans to register Border Collies, angering those who depend on and value the traditional working dog. The Association urged its members to communicate their opposition to the AKC, but the AKC disregarded their views. Anticipating the problems likely to result from AKC recognition, the Association developed a set of registration requirements which exclude dogs from conformation registries and other dogs with questionable

pedigrees from the ABCA stud book. David Rogers chaired a committee which developed an exacting Register on Merit program. Another protective measure was a program allowing breeders to put breeding prohibitions on the registration certificates of puppies they sell, if the buyer also agrees.

When the Border Collie breed topped the list of trainable dogs in the mid-nineties and the movie, *Babe*, gave the world talking sheep dogs, breed popularity exploded outside the working community. Since 1996, the office has been registering 100 dogs on each working day, compared to 161 for an entire month in 1985. What this means to the traditional working livestock breed is still being sorted out. There are as many opportunities as there are problems. The concentration and storage of North American working Border Collie genealogy at ABCA is its greatest asset and will continue to increase in historical value for the breed.