

Annual Membership Meeting -- 2004
Sturgis, SD
September 24, 2004 -- 7:00 p.m.

Bruce Smart, President, called the meeting to order and asked for the agenda to be changed to recognize the Inductees into the ABCA Hall of Fame first.

Bruce Smart then introduced Bruce Fogt who introduced Dodie Green's Soot as outstanding dog. Dr. Leroy Boyd next introduced Francis Raley who was inducted into the Hall of Fame for outstanding achievement and contributions to ABCA.

Both Dodie Green and Francis Raley expressed great appreciation for this recognition by the Board and membership of ABCA.

Next Bruce Smart called the business meeting to order. Patty announced that a quorum was present for the meeting for election of officers with the presentation of ballots received by Alexander, Van Loon, Sloan, Levens and Favre, PLLC. There were 4155 ballots mailed to eligible members with 722 members returning ballots and casting their votes. This represented more than the required 10% of 415 votes.

The minutes of the 2003 meeting and financial report from Alexander, Van Loon, Sloan, Levens and Favre were also printed and distributed. Gary Westbrook make a motion to accept the minutes as presented. 2nd by Lena Bailey. There being no discussion, motion was approved.

Motion was made by Sally Lacy to approve the financial statement as presented. 2nd by Gary Westbrook. All approved.

Bruce Smart then gave his Presidential update. He stated that the computer system upgrade had been completed, and disciplinary policy had been established and adopted by the Board of Directors and it had been tested with the first Disciplinary Hearing this year. He asked Eileen Stein to give a report.

Eileen reported that an investigation had been completed and a hearing had been conducted by a Disciplinary Hearing Board this year concerning Mr. Richard Swafford from Portland, TN. He was determined to have submitted false certifications on applications to the registry concerning parentage of dogs and/or pups; he had falsely certified mating on applications given to others to be submitted to the registry; and maintained such poor kennel operations that it led to incorrect information being submitted to the registry. Eileen stated that Mr. Swafford had been expelled from membership in the American Border Collie Association, Inc. and his registration privileges had been revoked. These findings were a decision of the Hearing Board and they were appealed to the Full Board of Directors and upheld by them. This action became effective on all information regarding Mr. Swafford as of June 9, 2004.

Next Bruce Smart asked for the results of the election. He had asked Linda Fogt to tally the votes received during the meeting and add them to those from the accountant.

The four directors elected to serve a three year term were as follows:

Norma Brice
Susan Carvalho
Mike Neary
Martin Penfold

Next Sally Lacy gave a report from the ABCA Health and Genetic Committee. She reported that the 2004 clinic here at the finals had gone quite smoothly because of the excellent volunteers provided by the local group.

Sally also presented the award that was received last year from Cornell University and presented to the Association for contributions made by a breed club to their research.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

ABCA Health & Genetics Committee Report 2004

Results of the 2004 eye clinic:

Border Collies -	154	Acquired Retinopathy	11
Others	4	Acquired Cataract	4
Total Seen	158	Corneal Dystrophy	2
		Optic nerve Hypoplasia	2
CEA	1	Dry Eye	1
PRA	0	Diabetic cataract	1

Initiated small research program with Cornell to evaluate new procedure for predicting adult hip status from early x-rays. ABCA funded this project.

A veterinarian in Quebec learned the DLS technique last year.

A NH veterinarian learned the technique this year. Dr. Carpenter of Sturgis has just come on board.

As more centers are needed, we are looking for other veterinarians to learn the procedure so more members can participate in this study. Contact me if you think you can help.

19 dogs have had the DLS, 4 have completed the study with a follow-up OFA type x-ray. About 10 more dogs will enroll in the study in the next few months. Goal is to enroll 100 dogs in the next few years.

Data will be analyzed to see how the breed is doing with respect to quality of hip joint in young (8-12 month) dogs compared with the mature hip joint at age 24 months.

We're trying to determine if the DLS is a good early indicator of hip status in young dogs and to see if it is a good predictor of hip status compared to the standard methods. Since dogs will be followed over time, we can determine relative accuracy of the DLS vs. an OFA-like evaluation.

We plan to follow the dogs entered in the study long enough to see whether a DLS procedure is an effective predictor for hips in offspring. We have some second-generation dogs already enrolled.

DNA is being stored at Cornell for future fine screening for genes that affect hip development when the principal researcher obtains funds to undertake that analysis.

Denise Wall devised an on-line breed health survey. It is on the ABCA website (www.americanbordercollie.org). It will be there for a few months, and I hope all of you will submit your experiences with dogs that you have owned in the past 5 years. The results as ever are confidential. You can't get names from an unsigned Internet reply. The questionnaire is part of the H & G Committee's mission to monitor the health of working Border Collies. It will establish a base line from which we can see trends in diseases or conditions that may be genetic. Future surveys will track changes. This first one will indicate areas that need to be looked into further, both with respect to more detailed disease-specific surveys and possible future areas for research (?). The response has been good - over 2,000 dogs by now.

Epilepsy: Mellissa DeMille invites information from people who have had epilepsy diagnosed in their dogs. Write to mellissa@sheepdog.com. We hope to learn how prevalent this is in the working dogs and what form seems to be the most common. A fact-finding mission is important as we are hearing concerns about epilepsy in the breed from many quarters.