

Annual Meeting of the American Border Collie Association, Inc.
Sturgis, SD
September 10, 2008
Boulder Canyon Station Convention Center

Following a dinner sponsored by ABCA, Jim Swift called the meeting to order.

He asked if a quorum was present. Patty Rogers announced that there were 4,321 ballots mailed to eligible voters and 653 were returned along with those present at the meeting which constitutes a quorum presented as presented in the letter from Alexander, Van Loon, Sloan, Levens and Favre.

Patty Rogers distributed a copy of the minutes to all of those present. Motion was made by Gary Westbrook to approve the minutes as distributed. Norma Stewart 2nd the motion. All approved.

A financial statement was also distributed that had been prepared by AVL. Motion was made and 2nd to accept the financial statement as presented. All approved.

Eileen Stein asked Mark Billadeau to give the report from the Health & Genetics Committee that consisted of Mike Neary, Kate Ash, Sally Lacy, Amy Coapman, Eileen and Mark. He stated that Dr. Acland, who was present at the meeting, had seen 112 dogs that day and found 1 with CEA. He would be testing again tomorrow.

He also explained that the ABCA has been supporting a study conducted by Dr. Rory Todhunter of Cornell University to determine whether the Dorsolateral Subluxation (DLS) technique of evaluating hips is a good early predictor of Border Collies' hip conformation at 2 years or older. The DLS x-rays were taken at 8-10 months of age, with the dog in a more natural position than used with any of the other methods. The hips were then evaluated by the widely accepted OFA technique once the dogs had reached 2 years of age.

Based on the data from between 40 and 50 Border Collies who have completed the study, Dr. Todhunter concluded that "for the current population of Border Collies, the DLS score does not provide any better prediction over currently available radiographic methods."

Statistically, it's very hard to prove a predictive relationship when a study includes only a small number of dogs, or when the dogs are similar rather than varied in their hip characteristics. Our working Border Collie subjects did not have a wide distribution of hips ranging from dysplastic to "excellent" hips; all the dogs in our study had hips "within normal limits." The H&G Committee thought it likely that even if we continued the study to include a greater number of dogs, we would not get a wide enough range of hip quality to yield significant results.

At the same time our study was being conducted, Cornell University bred a colony of dogs (Greyhound x Labrador Retriever) with a wide range in hip quality specifically for studying the genetics of hip dysplasia. Using this colony Dr. Todhunter and his colleagues compared the DLS technique to other hip evaluation techniques. That study proved the utility of the DLS technique

and it is currently being used in hip dysplasia research in universities around the world.

Based upon that published study and the results of our study, the ABCA Health & Genetics Committee has ended our DLS hips study. Those dogs that were already enrolled in the study and tested at 8-10 months are being allowed to complete the study by getting the OFA evaluation at age 2.

Dr. Acland then gave a report on Dr. Rory Todhunter's hip work.

Next Mark stated that the Epilepsy study was ongoing and they were working on a report. It was not a simple gene related disease, but they had discovered 1 gene related to early onset deafness and would soon be publishing a report.

Jim then asked for Patty to announce the election results. The new directors would be Angie Coker-Sells, Emil Luedecke, Allen Hickenbottom, and Michele Howard.

Next Jim asked Bruce Fogt to give his report. Bruce began with a brief history of the American Border Collie Association and led into the 2008 Hall of Fame award which was given to Patty Rogers. Bruce quoted the figures of how many dogs have been registered since she became secretary in 1986 and stated that the Association was in debt at the time and now has the attached financial statement that was presented. Patty accepted the award from Bruce.

There being no other business, motion was made and 2nd to adjourn the meeting.