

American Border Collie Association, Inc.  
Annual Meeting Minutes  
Klamath Falls, OR  
September 29, 2006

The meeting was held at the trial site in Klamath Falls during the USBCHA/ABCA National Sheepdog Finals at 7:00 p.m. following the trial.

Mike Neary, President called the meeting to order and asked Patty Rogers, Secretary to present the proof of mailing of the notice of the meeting. She stated that 4,221 notices were sent out by Alexander, Van Loon, Sloan, Levens and Favre and 656 valid votes were returned representing a quorum of the eligible membership.

The minutes were printed and distributed. Motion was made and 2<sup>nd</sup> to accept the minutes as presented. All approved.

Mike Neary then gave a President's report of the activities of the Association for the past year (copy attached).

Jim Swift presented a report on the audit and budget for the Association which included the latest audited financial statement. Motion was made by Beverly Lambert to accept the report. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Herbert Holmes. All approved. Jim also informed the membership of the addition of \$150,000 to the investment account following the committee's recommendation.

Eileen Stein gave a report for the Health Committee. She stated that 239 dogs were tested at the eye clinic earlier in the week and only 17 were not ABCA registered dogs. She also reported that the Committee was recommending we assist Dr Gary Johnson of the University of MO in his work to develop a DNA test for epilepsy and it should be available before too long.

Eileen also reported that the Communications Committee was working to improve the website and the results would be up soon.

Mike Neary had asked Kristine Koval and Nicki Riehl to complete the counting of ballots received at the meeting to add to those mailed to the accountants. Patty read the report stating that Jim Swift, Dan Gill and Eileen Stein had been re-elected and Liz Hubbard was also elected from the US for her first term and Ivan Weir was elected to represent Canada.

Next was the Hall of Fame Induction. This presentation was made by Michelle Howard who noted the many accomplishments of Ivan Weir's Jim and his offspring. Ivan was unable to accept the award, but the Medallion would be mailed to him following the meeting.

There being no further business of the Association, Herbert Holmes was introduced to make some announcements for the Handler's Association. He also wanted to THANK Eileen Stein for her tremendous donation of time and talent in offering legal advice to the Handler's Association over the last 2 years. He also introduced Stewart Milne who presented the Ralph Pulfer Award to Kristine Koval. Herbert thanked the ABCA for their support at the finals as well as the money that they contributed to prizes and the running of the trial.

There being no further business or announcements, the meeting was adjourned.

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### Presidents Report to ABCA Members at 2006 Annual Meeting

Klamath Falls, Oregon

Mike Neary, ABCA President

First, I want to thank all the current board members for their service to the ABCA and the working Border Collie. The current board members are:

Norma Brice  
Larry Burkes  
Susan Carvalho  
Robin French  
Dan Gill  
Merle Newton  
Martin Penfold  
Eileen Stein  
Jim Swift – Vice President  
Gary Westbrook

Each and every one of the directors has made important contributions this year.

Also, I would like to thank all the general members that served on committees this year and helped the ABCA with programs and important association business. The ABCA is only as important as the members and directors are committed. All board members and general members serve the registry on an uncompensated basis. Furthermore, programs and actions happen in the ABCA by a consensus of the board and members. That is the

manner in which our community has always worked. It is not always the most efficient method, but in the long run it is the most effective.

The directors of the ABCA always welcome member input. We are your peers, not some mysterious director. Contact directors with ideas and concerns. Be prepared to offer help and solutions though. All it takes to get an item on the board meeting agenda is for a director to request it.

### **Highlights of Activities for 2006**

*Sponsorship of National Finals for both sheep and cattle-* The ABCA remains the largest single sponsor for the National Finals in both sheep and cattle. The ABCA approved well over \$35,000 to help sponsor both events in 2006. These funds were allocated for livestock fees, general expenses to put on both trials, and as prize money paid directly to ABCA members running ABCA registered dogs.

*Promotional monies granted-* The ABCA late in the 2005 year approved the increase in promotional monies allocated to states and provinces from \$.50 per dog registered to \$1.00 per dog registered. These funds are used for promotion and education programs at the local level. In 2006, the ABCA board approved \$12,825 worth of funds for promotional requests by local organizations and individuals.

*Creation of Finance Committee-* A report will be given by Jim Swift on the activities of this committee. The duties of this committee are to prepare an annual budget and to oversee the finances and investments of the ABCA. The committee makes recommendations to the full board in regards to these activities. The Vice President has signature authority on financial transactions which adds a further check and balance into the finances of the ABCA.

*Health and Genetics grants-* The board approved two \$5,000 grants in 2006 related to health and genetics of Border Collies. One was to Dr. Rory Todhunter to continue his research on a potential new technique to predict hip conformation in mature dogs based on hip laxity when they are young. The other grant is being used to do some pilot work on epilepsy in Border Collies. The majority of funds are to be used to draw blood samples from affected dogs, to keep the samples in long term storage, and to do an extensive compilation of pedigrees of affected dogs.

*Approved yearly free eye exams at the sheep and cattle finals-* The ABCA will pick up all costs for ABCA registered dogs entered in either finals for the required eye exams. Also, if time allows, other non-entered ABCA dogs can have eye exams at no cost to the member.

*Policy on late registrations-* Under a policy approved by the board, dogs not registered by their first birthday the fees will double. If a dog is not registered until after their second birthday the fees will triple and a DNA test will be required.

*Reviewed Compensation to Secretary/Treasurer-* The board approved an increase in compensation to the Secretary/Treasurer in 2006. The new compensation is \$3.75 per registration, \$3.25 per transfer, and a rental agreement that pays \$200 per month for office space. The compensation had not been reviewed and acted on in a number of years. The board also decided to review compensation annually.

*Dealt with puppy mill problems and other disciplinary actions-* This has gotten to be a huge problem nationally and with the ABCA. Internet exploitation of naïve puppy buyers by producers of common type pups produced in mass quantities has required much attention and effort by office staff, officers of the ABCA, and by board members.

Activities dealing with this problem include:

1. Dealing with an abundance of complaints against such operations has made much more work for the office staff. Also, officers of the association have spent considerable time on these complaints.
2. Continued problems with an expelled past member (Richard Swafford, Portland, TN) that was producing large quantities of poorly bred pups that was falsifying pedigrees. He was still selling dogs as being eligible to register with the ABCA, when they were not. He was selling dogs on consignment from other breeders.
3. The board added to the disciplinary section a rule on circumvention of suspension to deal with the problem of selling consignment dogs by suspended breeders.
4. A certified letter was sent to his associates notifying them of potential investigations and possible suspensions as a result of working with a suspended breeder.
5. Conducted a recently concluded investigation into operations of two of these associates. One person voluntarily agreed to not register dogs with the ABCA anymore, while the other is still pending.
6. Expelled Kristen Campbell from the ABCA for submitting false registrations to the ABCA office and for falsifying papers she gave to puppy buyers.
7. Suspended Mary Ann Harrison from privileges of ABCA membership for failing to cooperate in an investigation.

8. Purchased internet domain names to alleviate some of the puppy millers from trying to use ABCA's name as an implied endorsement.
9. Wrote letters to United States Senators stating our opposition to the pending PAWS legislation. A copy of the letter is on the ABCA web site.
10. Implemented the policy passed in 2005 to require breeders registering litters themselves and not passing out registration applications to puppy buyers.
11. Considering methods to publish and make public record the number of litters registered per year by breeders. This would make information available to potential puppy buyers who are the very large volume breeders.