

NOVEMBER 2015



American Border Collie Association, Inc.

Newsletter

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ABCA Announces Health & Education Foundation

On June 15, 2015 the American Border Collie Association's Board of Directors voted to establish the ABCA Health & Education Foundation, Inc., a non-profit, tax-exempt foundation to enhance its services to Border Collies, their owners, and the Border Collie breed.

THE PURPOSE

The foundation is intended to be the focal point for

- **BORDER COLLIE GENETIC RESEARCH**
In the past, ABCA has provided financial and other types of support to research projects aimed at genetic diseases affecting the Border Collie. In the future, the foundation will be evaluating and awarding such grants. It will be better equipped to do so because as a §501(c)(3) charity, it can receive donations that will be tax-deductible to the donors, so it can draw on not only the amounts ABCA is able to contribute, but also on memorial gifts, bequests, corporate donations, proceeds from benefit trials, contributions from those particularly committed to a specific health issue, and the like. We hope it will attract advisers and volunteers from those with particular interest and expertise in health issues, and we also hope it will give us more clout to direct research toward issues that are a high priority for our breed (e.g., Early Onset Deafness).

- **EVALUATION AND DISSEMINATION OF HEALTH AND GENETIC INFORMATION**

It's important that the soundest and most up-to-date information about health issues and treatment options be made easily available to Border Collie owners and breeders. This will be one of the educational functions of the foundation.

- **PROVISION OF OTHER MORE GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT BORDER COLLIES**

One of the services most frequently requested by ABCA members is help for livestock producers in learning how to obtain, train, and utilize working dogs. This would be one example of the type of general education the foundation could provide, by enlisting those who are interested in and able to furnish this valuable assistance.

WHAT WE PLAN TO DO

One of the foundation's first priorities will be to try to reactivate the search for an Early Onset Deafness (EOD) genetic test. That test appeared to be almost in our grasp five years ago, but EOD research has been stalled since then. We hope to get the research going again by providing the money and DNA samples that are needed to take the final steps.

On a more fundamental level, the foundation is researching the best method for setting up a Border Collie DNA bank. From the point of view of researchers, a comprehensive DNA bank would provide the raw material needed to investigate pretty much any genetic diseases. From the point of view of Border Collie owners who would be contributing DNA to the bank, it would mean that you could provide DNA once for a dog, and it would be retained by the foundation for use in future worthwhile research projects; you wouldn't need to provide DNA from that dog again every time a new project comes along.

We are working toward having a real presence on the Web at www.bordercolliefoundation.org

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Back in 2011, when the ABCA surveyed the membership for their views about setting up a health and education foundation, more than three times as many of the responding members favored the proposal as opposed to it. And in a 2010 survey, members rated "health/genetic research" as the area it was most important for the ABCA to support, even above support for the sheepdog finals, with "promotion/education for farmers/ranchers" rated third. But soon we will find out how much interest and support there truly is for health and education.

We are not asking for your monetary support now. We're asking if you'd like to be involved with the foundation. Do you have a particular interest in Border Collie health and education matters in general, or in a particular issue? Do you have expertise in genetics, veterinary medicine, science in general? How about website design and maintenance, fundraising, organizing and setting up systems, accounting/bookkeeping, researching, writing or editing articles? If you're willing to be called on for help in any of these areas, or if you have any ideas you'd like to see considered, please email one of the following, telling a little about your background and interests:

Eileen Stein <eileen@bordercollie.org>
Mark Billadeau <markb_pdf@yahoo.com>
Warren Mick <wmick@nycap.rr.com>

Even if you just want to express general encouragement, or ask a question, please send your email address to Eileen, so we can keep you informed as we go along. We hope that with your support the foundation will enable us to take a big step forward on behalf of our dogs.

AMERICAN BORDER COLLIE ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

YORK RANCH, ALTURAS, CA

SEPTEMBER 24, 2015

Minutes

Mike Neary welcomed everyone to York Ranch, Alturas, CA, and called the meeting to order.

Debbie Bailey presented proof of mailing of the notice for the Annual Meeting. Debbie stated 2,054 ballots mailed to eligible voters, 17 returned undeliverable. Patricia L. Smith, CPA, tallied the ballots and report 360 validly cast ballots. Additionally, 11 ballots were accepted during the Annual Meeting. This represents more than a quorum of 10% of eligible voters. The results of the election; 4 Directors were elected for 3 year terms including Mike Neary, Allison Jarrard, Patrick Shannahan and Emil Luedecke. Mike thanked the Directors rotating off the Board for their service; Don Helsley, Elizabeth Baker and Barbara Ray.

The minutes of the 2014 Annual Meeting were distributed to those in attendance. A motion was made by Derek Fisher to approve the minutes as presented. Mike Goracke seconded the motion and was approved.

Mike Neary gave the President's Report stating that in 2015 ABCA approved \$41,750 to help sponsor the National Sheepdog Finals and the National Cattledog Finals. ABCA is the longest tenured sponsor of both events. Those funds are used for livestock expenses, prize monies and general support. The Board also approved \$11,460 in Promotional and Educational Funds for local and state organizations as well as individuals for working Border Collie events. These funds are provided by the earmarked \$1 per dog registered per state or province.

Mike stated that we had an increase again this year in registrations and transfers. He also noted things have settled at the office after the 2013 move from Mississippi to Georgia and that Debbie Bailey has proven to be a real asset to the ABCA.

Mike reported there was a disciplinary action by the ABCA against Bill and Gloria Barnes of Braxton, Mississippi. After a written complaint and a follow up investigation, it was determined they were submitting falsified registrations and pedigrees. They were permanently barred from all registration privileges. More complete information can be found on the ABCA website.

Mike announced that the Board of Directors approved the creation of a new foundation entitled the ABCA Health & Education Foundation. Mike reported this was a much deliberated and significant decision by the Board. The creation of the Foundation will be supported by an investment of \$100,000 over a four year period. This 501(c)3 Foundation should give advantages in soliciting tax deductible contributions to long term research and education activities to support working Border Collies.

Mike reported, the Board voted to sponsor a BAER clinic at this year's Sheep Finals, and to underwrite the full cost of BAER testing, both as a service to the membership and to aid in accumulating data for research into Early Onset Deafness (EOD) in adult Border Collies. This is the second year ABCA approved the funding. Special thanks to Elizabeth Baker

and Suki Dewey-White for coordinating the clinic.

Mike concluded his report with comments on high volume Breeders. He stated the Board has struggled with the difficult subject of high volume breeders. The ABCA has some breeders that are registering up to 75 to 80 dogs per year. These are not working breeders, but people outputting mass number of puppies for the pet market. Many complaints are lodged against these Breeders. This is also the type of Breeder that has been the biggest problem in regard to registration irregularities. More importantly these high volume breeders are not selecting working ability as the first criteria when producing puppies.

After much deliberation the approach the Board has taken for the immediate term is two-fold:

1) Developed a publication entitled ABCA Code of Ethics and Best Practices. This is a brochure with the objective of educating current breeders and potential Border Collie owners on the stance of the ABCA regarding breeding practices. Many thanks to Warren Mick and the Communications Committee for their work on this publication. It is available on the website or by contacting the ABCA office.

2) A list of Breeders that have registered more than 30 dogs per calendar year will be posted on the ABCA website. This equates to about 5 to 6 litters per year, a level that good working dog breeders don't produce annually. To be very clear that the ABCA doesn't condone or encourage high volume output of Border Collies, the following statement will appear in conjunction with the list:

The ABCA does not endorse high volume breeders. The main purpose of the ABCA is to protect and promote the working Border Collie. Good working Border Collie Breeders are not high volume Breeders. It is the intent of the ABCA to encourage Breeders to use livestock working ability as the primary criteria to select potential breeding stock. This is very difficult to do when breeding at a high volume rate. For further information on this topic please see ABCA's publication; Code of Ethics and Best Practices.

The Financial Statement was distributed and presented. After brief discussion, Don Helsley made a motion to approve, and Emil Luedecke seconded the motion. It was approved.

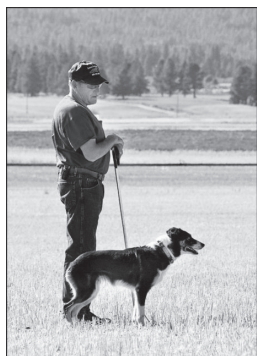
Mike Hanley, Chair of the Hall of Fame Committee, was unable to attend this year and in his absence Mike Neary announced Vergil Holland and Alasdair Macrae were this year's Inductees to the ABCA Hall of Fame.

There being no further business Emil Luedecke moved to adjourn the meeting and Dennis Gellings offered the second. Motion was approved.

Annual Memberships Due before January 1, 2016

Annual Memberships expire on December 31st of each calendar year. To be eligible to vote in the 2016 elections, your membership must be paid prior to January 1, 2016. Annual Membership fees are \$10 (\$11 if paid by credit card). Lifetime Memberships are \$100 (\$110 if paid by credit card). Both Annual and Lifetime Memberships offer the same benefits.

HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES



VERGIL HOLLAND

Lyle Lad gave a moving presentation for the posthumous induction of Vergil Holland into the ABCA Hall of Fame. Lyle began by sharing a quote from Vergil, "Anyone can win on a given day, with the right training foundation, the right dog and the right set of sheep". He believed on the trial field no one handler was more important than the other. Working and training dogs brought Vergil great pleasure. He gave of his time and talent to advance the working Border collie by serving with the ABCA and USBCHA. He helped organize a number of local organizations and was key in the 1994 effort to re-establish the Bluegrass Classic in KY, as one of the most popular and successful trials in the country. Vergil was a teacher, coach, clinician and mentor to many people through the years. Notably, Vergil authored an influential training book, "Herd dogs: Progressive Training" (Howell, 1994), a book that continues to benefit trainers to this day. His career as a dog handler was largely with dogs of his own breeding, winning and placing in numerous trials.



ALASDAIR MACRAE

Patricia MacRae gave a heartfelt presentation for the induction of Alasdair MacRae into the ABCA Hall of Fame. Patricia said, "Alasdair is highly regarded for his important breeding contributions and is far and away the most accomplished handler on the continent, winning the Scottish National, the Supreme as well the US National". Patricia went further to say, "Regarding the ABCA's final criteria of induction, I cannot think of a better example of

'other more intangible service' than Alasdair's contribution of single handedly raising the standard of sheepdog trials in the United States. As every one of us walks to the post today our handling and training has been impacted for the better by Alasdair's significant contributions". Patricia offered highlights of his service to the Border Collie community, noting he contributed to the draft of the "USBCHA Guidelines for Judging", chaired the committee setting standards for handlers to qualify for the World Trial, championed the 30-day trial period for dogs being sold and the fiberglass training stick, hosted a benefit trial, supported Border Collie rescue, local shelters, and has been an ambassador for the sport.



Hall of Fame Nominations Due To ABCA by June 1, 2016

Application forms available from the office or online at:

www.americanbordercollie.org

ABCA DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

The ABCA has permanently barred Bill & Gloria Barnes (Barnes Border Collies) of Braxton, MS from ABCA membership for submitting false registration documents to the ABCA. Effective May 19, 2015, their registration and certification privileges are revoked. As of that same date, Lady (ABC #344537) and Buddy (ABC #398685) are de-registered, and littermates Bella Ishee (ABC #344534), Oreo Cookie (ABC #344535), Lucy (ABC #344536), Sketch (ABC #398680), Toby (ABC #398681), Chief (ABC #398682), Rusty (ABC #398683) and Tuff (ABC #398685) are placed on Non-Breeding status.

HIGH VOLUME BREEDERS

The ABCA is strongly against the commercial breeding of Border Collies for the pet market. No member should engage in the wholesaling of litters or selling individual pups to such places as pet dealers, animal brokers, catalogue houses or the like. ABCA has some breeders that are registering a large volume of pups each year. These are not working breeders, but people outputting mass number of puppies for the pet market. These high volume breeders are not selecting working ability as the first criteria when producing puppies. The ABCA Board plans the following for the immediate term:

- 1) Provide a Code of Ethics and Best Practices to members and potential owners. This is a brochure with the objective of educating current breeders and potential Border Collie owners on the stance of the ABCA regarding breeding practices. The information will be included in future registrations and is available on the website or by contacting the ABCA office.
- 2) A list of Breeders that have registered more than 30 dogs per calendar year will be posted on the ABCA website. This equates to about 5 to 6 litters per year, a level that good working dog breeders don't produce annually. This is being posted to make it very clear that the ABCA doesn't condone or encourage high volume output of Border Collies, the following statement will appear in conjunction with the list:

The ABCA does not endorse high volume breeders. The main purpose of the ABCA is to protect and promote the working Border Collie. Good working Border Collie Breeders are not high volume Breeders. It is the intent of the ABCA to encourage Breeders to use livestock working ability as the primary criteria to select potential breeding stock. This is very difficult to do when breeding at a high volume rate. For further information on this topic please see ABCA's publication; Code of Ethics and Best Practices.

HEALTH & GENETICS

2015 ABCA HEALTH & GENETICS COMMITTEE SUMMARY

Mark Billadeau, PhD, ABCA Health & Genetics Committee Chair

While there were no active research projects in 2015, there was a significant development. For some time now members of the committee have been discussing the idea of a health foundation, an idea championed by Eileen Stein. The committee was in full support of establishing this foundation when it was proposed to the BOD. The foundation will allow tax deductible contributions to be used for Border Collie health & genetics research. The committee has also been discussing establishing a DNA sample bank to contain samples for future research projects with associated relevant health information on each dog. The bank would provide easier access for researchers to many samples at one time, in exchange the ABCA would be able to retain the data in one central location instead of the data from your samples being scattered across multiple research labs. The data could then be used for additional studies without having to collect and test more samples. The foundation is now the likely means by which the bank will be established and maintained.

During 2015 the ABCA received a research grant proposal which the committee reviewed. It was the majority opinion of the committee that the grant should not be funded at this time.

The committee also received reports of Imlerslund-Gräsbeck Syndrome (IGS) in some lines of working Border Collies. We studied the published research on this genetically linked disease, and determined that breed wide it is rare (<0.5% incidence rate). However it is present in some lines, and we feel breeders need to be aware of it, as well as the fact that there is a genetic test for it which can determine Normal, Carrier and Affected.

Information about IGS and other genetically linked diseases possibly present in Border Collies has been compiled in a table requested by the BOD as part of updating breed information. In addition to this table, the committee reviewed the health and genetics information in the "ABCA Code of Ethics and Best Practices". Committee members have also been reviewing and updating other health and genetic information currently found on the ABCA website.

Finally, the committee has been working with Elizabeth Baker, Suki Dewey-White, and the BOD to provide a BAER clinic at the 2015 finals. While research continues (no update at this time) on the genetics of Early Onset Deafness in our breed, the committee feels that facilitating the testing of dogs for deafness is the best means to monitor the incidence rate in our breed. Knowing which dogs are affected and monitoring pups out of affected lines for the development of deafness provides more information on how to best avoid producing more affected dogs. It also helps identify key dogs and lines that will be instrumental in future genetic studies to isolate the EOD gene(s) and eventually verification of a genetic test for EOD.

Causes of Deafness in Border Collies

CONGENITAL

Causes of dogs born deaf can be either inherited or acquired. Inherited congenital deafness may be caused by a variety of genetic defects, most of which are not yet well understood. Congenital sensorineural deafness is caused by vascular degeneration of the blood supply to the cochlea in the inner ear, which leads to loss of the hair cells necessary to transmit sound. One study found there was a somewhat higher risk of congenital deafness in merles, those with predominantly white heads, and those with two blue eyes, than in border collies with other color patterns. This is not proof that the genes causing these color patterns also cause deafness, only that these color patterns and deafness were found together more often than would be expected by chance. The great majority of dogs with these color characteristics do not have congenital deafness, and some dogs without these color characteristics do have congenital deafness. More research is needed to understand the mechanism of inheritance of inherited congenital deafness in the border collie. Acquired congenital deafness is usually the result of toxic exposures during pregnancy or very shortly after birth, or by infections in the pregnant bitch.

INFECTION

Intrauterine infections in the pregnant bitch may produce a host of problems in newborn pups, including deafness. More common infectious causes of unilateral or bilateral deafness in older pups and dogs are infections of the middle or inner ear. Otitis media (middle ear infection) may also produce exudates which can plug the ear canal; once this exudate is removed or absorbed, hearing may return to normal, or may not, if the eardrum was badly damaged. Otitis interna (inner ear infection) produces hearing loss that is usually permanent if not rapidly treated.

TOXINS

Many drugs in common use can cause damage to the hair cells in the ear's cochlea which can result in decreased hearing or total deafness. Some of these drugs are antibiotics such as gentamycin, neomycin, and others of the same class, and metronidazole, which is used to treat a variety of canine diarrheal illnesses. Chlorhexidine, no longer available but formerly used as an ear-cleaning solution, could cause deafness.

INJURY

Any trauma that damages the eardrum or inner structures (ossicles) of the ear or damage to the 8th cranial nerve can produce hearing loss or deafness. Mechanisms include external trauma, noise trauma, and tumors.

Above Ref: Dr George M. Strain, PhD, Professor of Neuroscience, School of Veterinary Medicine, Louisiana State University: Deafness in Dogs & Cats, www.lsu.edu/deafness/deaf.htm

EARLY ONSET DEAFNESS (EOD)

Research on Early Onset Deafness has been spearheaded in recent years by Dr. Mark Neff at UC Davis and the Van Andel Institute in Michigan, in collaboration with Dr. Alison Ruhe of ProjectDOG. They are studying dogs who go deaf in early to mid-adulthood with no other outside identified cause of the deafness. EOD is the likely cause of deafness not attributable to other causes in dogs aged 3-6 years. Dogs who go deaf between 6 and 8 years could have EOD, or it could be due to old age. After age 8, old age deafness is most likely. We won't be certain about dogs who go deaf during the 'overlap' period until a genetic test is developed. Two breeds are being studied for EOD; Rhodesian Ridgeback dogs and Border Collies. DNA and pedigree analyses have established an autosomal recessive pattern of inheritance for EOD in the Rhodesian Ridgeback dog. A Genome Wide Association study, supported by the American Border Collie Association and members of the working Border collie community, suggested an autosomal recessive pattern of inheritance for EOD also occurs in Border Collies. More research is needed to locate the genes involved and develop a DNA test for these genes.

**AMERICAN BORDER COLLIE ASSOCIATION, INC.
STATEMENTS OF REVENUES, EXPENSES, AND OTHER
CHANGES IN NET ASSETS - MODIFIED CASH BASIS FOR THE
YEAR ENDED
DECEMBER 31, 2014**

REVENUES

Annual memberships	\$ 19,219
Duplicates and corrections	3,257
Lifetime memberships	23,622
Registration fees	167,867
Donations	200
Miscellaneous	1,068
Investment income	17,653
Total Revenues	<u>254,061</u>

EXPENSES

Program services	
Prize monies awarded	15,700
Promotional support to members	13,185
Research support	3,427
Trials sponsorship	<u>20,821</u>
Total program services	<u>53,133</u>

Supporting Services

Annual meeting expenses	612
Bank fees	2,351
Computer and technical support	4,813
Depreciation and amortization	1,354
File storage	1,109
Insurance and bonding	1,441
Investment fees	8,888
Office supplies	1,303
Postage and delivery	9,280
Printing and reproduction	10,925
Professional fees	4,185
Secretarial fees	72,000
Telephone	2,643
Travel	3,126
Other office expenses	<u>488</u>
Total supporting services	<u>124,518</u>

Total expenses 177,651

OTHER INCOME (EXPENSE)

Realized Gain (loss) on Investments	6,102
Other Income	<u>1,978</u>
Total Other Income	<u>8,080</u>

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS 84,490

NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR

799,865

NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR

884,355

Promotional Money Available through ABCA

Promotional money is available upon a request from any ABCA member to promote the working Border Collie in their area. Funding for these projects comes from a designated fund at the rate of \$1 per dog registered. Funds are allocated to the state or province of the Breeder. Events often include trials, clinics, fun days, school projects, etc. A Promotional Money Request Form is available on the website or through the office. The request must be submitted to the office prior to the deadlines of February 15 and July 15 of each year. Following is the amount available as of October 2015.

STATE	AMOUNT AVAILABLE	STATE	AMOUNT AVAILABLE
AB	\$413.50	NB	\$94.50
AK	\$208.50	NC	\$436.50
AL	\$990.00	ND	\$1,058.50
AR	\$1,070.00	NE	\$1,384.50
AZ	\$1,735.50	NH	\$770.50
BC	\$181.00	NJ	\$1,014.50
CA	\$664.00	NM	\$486.00
CO	\$712.50	NS	\$10.00
CT	\$443.00	NV	\$757.50
DC	\$2.00	NY	\$140.19
DE	\$74.00	OH	\$3,171.00
FL	\$537.00	OK	\$2,242.00
GA	\$413.00	ON	\$730.00
HI	\$4.50	OR	\$1,872.50
IA	\$288.50	PA	\$1,912.00
ID	\$784.50	PR	\$20.00
IL	\$783.00	QC	\$945.50
IN	\$1,768.00	RI	\$130.00
KS	\$1,237.00	SC	\$1,105.50
KY	\$635.00	SD	\$283.00
LA	\$3,002.00	SK	\$325.50
MA	\$1,110.00	TN	\$546.00
MB	\$224.00	TX	\$1,209.00
MD	\$540.00	UT	\$349.50
ME	\$1,186.00	VA	\$356.50
MI	\$1,479.00	VT	\$350.00
MN	\$302.50	WA	\$309.00
MO	\$1,003.00	WI	\$288.50
MS	\$268.50	WV	\$1,657.00
MT	\$1,471.00	WY	\$1,598.00

Grant funds are also available from the ABCA. Grants are generally made for scientific research and educational projects, and grant monies are not allocated by state. A Grant Request Form is available on the website. The deadlines for grant requests are January 15 and June 15 each year.



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www.americanbordercollie.org

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Prize Monies Paid at the National Finals Each Year

**Handler must be a current American Border Collie Association Member to compete in the USBCHA Finals.*

Dogs must be ABCA registered to collect ABCA prize monies.

Sheep Finals - Nursery Top 30 Qualifying - \$100 each

Open Top 50 1st Go Round - \$100 each

Open Top 20 2nd Go Round - \$100 each

Breeder of the Top ABCA registered Nursery and Open Dogs - \$500 each

Cattle Finals - Nursery - 1st - \$300, 2nd - \$200

Open - 1st Go Round - 1st - \$200, 2nd-4th - \$100 each

Open - 2nd Go Round - 1st - \$200, 2nd-4th - \$100 each

Open Finals - 1st-\$500, 2nd-\$400, 3rd-\$300, 4th-\$200, 5th-10th-\$100, 11th-20th-\$50

Breeder of the Top ABCA registered Open and Nursery Dogs - \$500 each