

# AMERICAN BORDER COLLIE ASSOCIATION

## ANNUAL MEETING

October 2, 2025

Dr. Mary Minor welcomed everyone to Canby, CA and called the meeting to order.

Debbie Bailey presented proof of mailing of the notice for the Annual Meeting. Debbie stated 2,513 ballots mailed to eligible voters, 3 ballots returned ineligible. Patricia L. Smith, CPA, tallied the ballots, reporting 316 validly cast ballots. This represents more than a quorum of 10% of eligible voters. Debbie thanked the out-going Directors for their service Scott Glen, Lori Cunningham and Allison Jarrard. The result of the election: Four Directors were elected for three-year terms; Eileen Stein, Joe Haynes, Faansie Basson and Lee Lumb.

The minutes of the 2024 Annual Meeting were distributed to the members. A motion was made by Bridget Strang to approve the minutes as presented. Scott Glen made the second and the motion was approved.

Mary Minor gave the President's Report. ABCA is a member-owned registry with more than 9,000 members. We provide a full range of services. In 2024 we registered more than 10,000 dogs bringing total ABCA registrations to 556,090. We also transferred more than 1,600 dogs and updated about 500 certificates for our customers. We've come a long way since 1983 with more than a half million dogs registered.

In our effort to promote and preserve the unique traits only found in the working Border Collie, the registry has designated \$42,000 of promotional monies in the 2024 year. During this span, ABCA also contributed \$66,625 to the National Sheepdog and Cattledog Finals combined. (Sheepdog \$26,850, Cattledog \$10,175, Finals prize monies combined \$29,600).

In the fall of 2024, the Board of Directors approved a rewrite of our registry software. The current software has served the registry well to date. This has been a proactive response to update to a more contemporary software system that we can utilize readily and build on going into the future. It has been a challenging process with no source code from our original custom software. We are in the final stages of testing and should be finished shortly. The software rewrite will add additional protection for our stud book and potentially add user-friendly features for members.

We have worked as a Board to preserve the vast intellectual property of the registry on many planes this year. ABCA began a video archive and preserving the perpetuity of the 'point system' to be able to draw information of historic value. We would like to acknowledge the untimely loss of Heather Nadelman who was, among many other things, spearheading the video archive project.

ABCA continues to support the work of its Health & Education Foundation (HEF), which monitors health developments regarding the working Border Collie, identifies concerns, and sponsors genetic research in problem areas. The Foundation sponsored the BAER testing and sample collection at these Finals, coordinated by Julie Grenfell and volunteers, whose work is much

appreciated. The testing is offered as a service to owners as well as for research purposes, and to monitor the hearing of dogs who are likely to be particularly influential as sires and dams. The research aimed at finding the genetic cause(s) of Early Adult-Onset Deafness, HEF's foremost endeavor over the last several years, is continuing, but so far without the breakthroughs hoped for at this time last year. The genetics of EAOD is proving to be a very hard nut to crack.

The Foundation also reviewed the scientific literature on dog cloning, and offered advice to the ABCA Board regarding a pending application to register a Border Collie cloned from a current ABCA-registered working dog. The owner of both the registered dog and its clone is an ABCA member who has represented the US in the World Trials. While we expect that applications to register cloned dogs will be very rare, the Board wants to make sure that the implications are fully considered from all angles and that appropriate safeguards are in place if clones are to be registered.

The Directors have also been working to encourage voluntarily adding a permanent identification to your litter registrations. In the newsletter, we suggested adding a microchip number or tattoo onto the registration certificate. This would update our registry to what ISDS and CBCA are already requiring, and would be sensible in protecting and promoting the genetic integrity of our breed as we move forward.

This year we opted as a Board to have a due-diligence review of our finances. As an Association it has been quite a few years since we have had such an evaluation, if ever. The results from an independent CPA did not show any concerns and stated that our finances "appeared to be well thought out and done in a professional manner". This was not an audit, and we did not have any specific concerns. Our financial protocol is prepared at a compilation-level annually, professionally by a CPA that we have utilized nearly 20 years. There will be a statement published on our webpage about the process, should you be interested in more information.

There was one unpleasant note this year that I must briefly touch on. As you all know, ABCA is a member-owned organization, in which the members elect a Board of Directors to manage the Association's affairs. If a Director has concerns about any matter, it is their duty to raise this concern with the Board of Directors, and not to spread innuendo tending to discredit our Association. One of our Directors violated this duty, and as a result the Board of Directors voted to censure her for conduct tending to injure the good name of the ABCA, its President, and its Secretary-Treasurer. The Resolution to Censure Sonia Craig was shared at the meeting and is posted on the ABCA website.

This has been a year of advances and accomplishments, in which a foundation was laid for more accomplishments to come. I would like to wrap up this message encouraging each and every member to consider themselves as an ambassador to our working Border Collie. A grass roots promotion of the greatest working dog, as well as the American Border Collie Association, will be a self-fulfilling prophecy to the great works we have coming in the future.

Debbie Bailey presented the 2024 Financial Statement. Jeanie Helsley moved to accept the 2024 Financial Report. Bev Lambert made the second, motion approved.

Mary Minor asked if anyone had comments or further business. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.