



Newsletter

American Border Collie Association, Inc.

www.americanbordercollie.org

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Monty 2025 Hall of Fame Inductee

Beverly Lambert noted that her nomination of Amanda Milliken's Monty for the ABCA Hall of Fame, was not based on his worthy trial career, but rather, on Monty's significant impact on the Border Collie breed in North America. Beverly went on to recognize a number of Monty's offspring that have demonstrated excellence on the trial field over the years and spoke of his lasting influence on generations of working dogs. She remembered Monty through the years, not as a flashy dog, but as a dog with an easy, steady consistency that was his trademark- qualities that he has passed on to many successful offspring. ABCA, the premier registry for working sheepdogs on this continent, recognizes Monty's excellence as a sire with his 2025 induction into the Hall of Fame



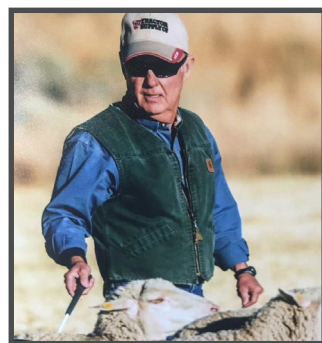
Progeny Highlights

Nursery
USBCA National Finals
2022 Tui 2nd
2019 Kerry 4th & Wise 5th
2018 Grantham-champion
2017 Coal 3rd, Tagh 5th, Hazel 7th, Quark

9th, Bella 20th
2013 Howell 7th & Flint 8th
CBCA Nursery Champion (2023) - Peavy

Open trial dogs:

Howell (2016 Meeker Champion), Maverick (2018 Meeker Res Champion), Hazel (2022 Kingston Champion), Grantham, Tab, Wyse, Bella., Tane, Pic, Kerry, Pearl, Mira, Spy, Paris, Tort, Cy



Don Helsley 2025 Hall of Fame Inductee

Following the recommendation of the Hall of Fame Committee the ABCA Board of Directors approved the induction of Don Helsley in to the ABCA Hall of Fame. Karen Child and Shilah Olson made the presentation at this year's Annual meeting In Canby, CA. Don was recognized for his service and being a mentor to many. They shared a number of highlights.

Don has spent over 30 years shaping our community as a respected handler, trainer, and judge. He's presided over some of the most prestigious trials in North America, including the USBCHA National Finals, the Canadian Finals, Meeker Classic, Bluegrass Classic, and Soldier Hollow. His reputation for fairness, consistency, and integrity is well earned. Through judging clinics and mentorship, Don has helped

sustain high standards and prepare the next generation of judges.

As a trainer, Don has mentored countless handlers through private lessons, clinics, and informal trial-side coaching. His teaching style is quiet, effective, and confidence-building. Watching him run a dog is a clinic in its own right.

Don's breeding program has produced generations of intelligent, driven, stock-savvy dogs. In our community, names like Cap and Wizard don't need an introduction. They're celebrities in their own right. Don has always focused on preserving the core working traits of the Border Collie.

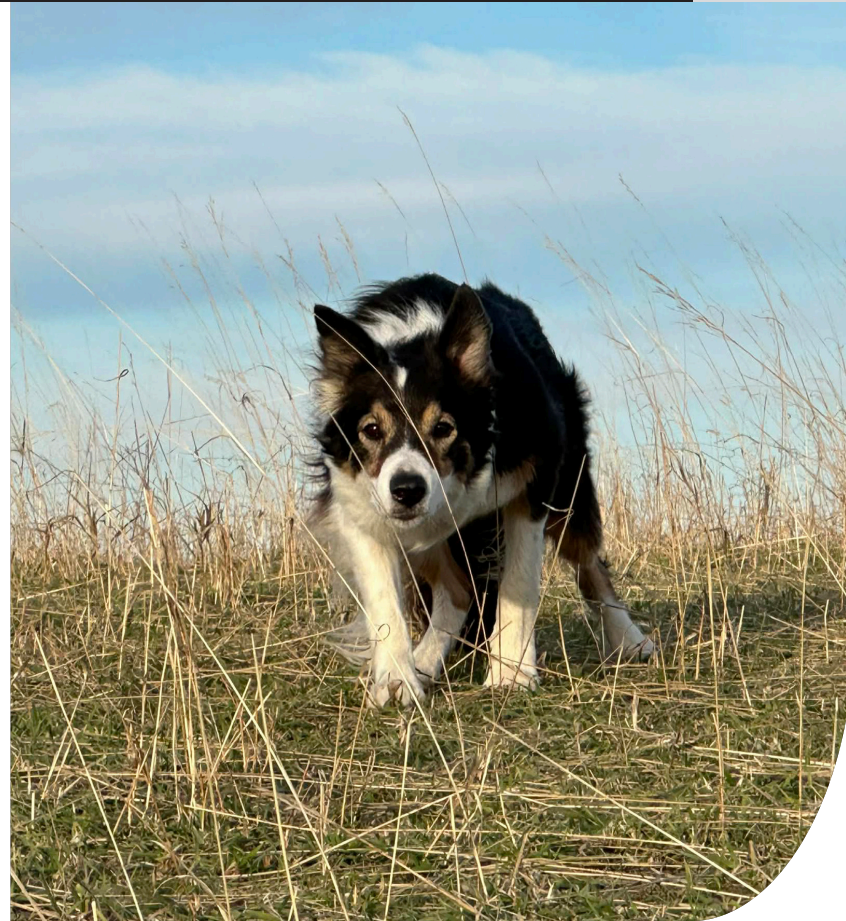
Through his judging, training, mentorship, and breeding, Don Helsley has exemplified the highest standards of excellence. His contributions have strengthened the working Border Collie community, ensuring that the breed's integrity and skill remain at the forefront of stock dog work.

Accepting the honor with humble words of appreciation, Don concluded by reminding us, "It's About The Dogs!"

Collie Eye Anaomly (CEA)- a clear result can be recorded on your dog's registration by submitting the "clear" result from an accepted lab (Optimal Selection, Paw Print Genetics, Gene Check). The fee is \$5 to add the designation "C" on your dog's certificate.

Orthopedic Foundation for Animals Designation (OFA) - evaluation can be recorded on your dog's registration by submitting the result from OFA or Cornell Hip. The fee is \$5 to add the designation "@" on your dog's certificate.

Microchip or Tattoo - Submit your chip or tattoo number and it will be placed in the description for your dog. (there is no charge if your request is made during a transfer or initial registration)



WAYS THAT YOU CAN SUPPORT ABCA HEALTH & EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Gifts to the HEF are fully tax deductible. 100% of donations will support the activities, programs and grants of the HEF. None goes to paid fundraisers or salaries. You may make a gift online or by mail. Contact information below. A gift to the HEF may be made in memory of a family member or friend. The HEF will send a card to the recipient, letting them know of your thoughtful gift.

The HEF's mission is to support research into border collie genetics, diseases, disease prevention and treatment, and to disseminate educational information regarding Border Collies, including their use and value as working stock dogs, and their genetics, diseases, and proper breeding.

The HEF is still a young organization and its programs and activities are still being formulated. Its website contains useful health information, but work to create and expand educational content on its site is still in progress. The HEF hopes to improve the future of the Border Collie and needs your help and input to do so.

Eileen Stein, President, American Border Collie Health & Education Foundation
212 Long Hill Rd • Hillsborough, NJ 08844 • eileen@bordercollie.org • www.bordercolliefoundation.org

Hall of Fame Nominations

Due To ABCA by June 15, 2026

Application forms available from the office or online at www.americanbordercollie.org

AMERICAN BORDER COLLIE ASSOCIATION

Annual Meeting October 2, 2025

Minutes

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.

Minutes (continued) →

AMERICAN BORDER COLLIE ASSOCIATION

Annual Meeting October 2, 2025

Minutes

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.

Resolution of Censure Sonia Craig (7/22/2025)

WHEREAS, Sonia Craig has formed the opinion that the ABCA President and Secretary/Treasurer have improperly withheld information from the Finance Committee, and

WHEREAS, instead of raising this concern with the Board of Directors, she engaged a lawyer to write a threatening letter to the Board asserting that the President had usurped the functions of the Board and that the Board was derelict in its duties, and

WHEREAS, she participated in a special Board of Directors meeting called to deal with these issues, in which the Board of Directors by unanimous vote agreed to a procedure to deal with her complaints going forward, and

WHEREAS, following that meeting, without notice to the Directors, and still without having made any motion seeking action by the Board of Directors or repudiating the course of action she voted for in the meeting, she disseminated her lawyer’s letter by email to one or more ABCA members, and

WHEREAS, in addition, she disseminated to ABCA members and some who are not current ABCA members a letter from the Finance Committee which stated, “When we requested this data from Debbie, she refused. When we asked Mary about gaining access, she refused to require Debbie to provide that access. While we have never accused anyone of any wrongdoing regarding the financial records, we have also never received an explanation why they are going to such great lengths to prevent us from seeing them. . . .” and advocated “a review of ABCA’s internal financial controls to ensure accountability and transparency of ABCA’s Secretary/Treasurer and President,” and

WHEREAS, predictably these emails created an uproar among recipients and those to whom they were further distributed, resulting in questioning whether ABCA was going to lose its non-profit status, and causing one recipient to publicly state, “Share far and wide. Apparently, there’s a possibility of embezzlement; Debbie Bailey is under suspicion. . . . So, it’s time to get the word out,” and

WHEREAS, despite being aware of these reactions, Sonia has taken no steps to publicly correct the negative impression of the ABCA and its Secretary/Treasurer and President that her communications have created, or to apologize to the Secretary-Treasurer for actions resulting in her being publicly defamed,

Now therefore, be it RESOLVED that Sonia Craig is hereby censured by the Board of Directors for conduct tending to injure the good name of the ABCA, its President, and its Secretary-Treasurer, and it is directed that this censure be recorded in the minutes of this Board of Directors meeting.

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 shared there will be two ABCA Hall of Fame Inductees this year; Monty and Don Helsley. Presentations made following the meeting. Mary Minor asked if anyone had comments or further business. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

**AMERICAN BORDER COLLIE ASSOCIATION, INC.
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENSES, AND OTHER
CHANGES IN NET ASSETS - MODIFIED CASH BASIS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024**

REVENUES	2024
Annual Memberships	\$ 22,770
Duplicates and Corrections	4,320
Lifetime Memberships	31,035
Registration Fees	165,510
Transfer Fees	24,880
Miscellaneous	3,049
Investment Income	110,857
Total Revenues	<u>362,421</u>

EXPENSES

Program Services	
Health and education grants	-
Prize monies awarded	29,600
Promotional support to members	42,200
National finals sponsorship	40,056
Total Program Services	<u>111,856</u>

Supporting Services	
Annual meeting expenses	1,745
Bank fees and credit card processing fees	10,106
Computer expense, technical support, and web expense	5,785
Depreciation and amortization	1,564
Donations	-
File storage and maintenance	2,460
Insurance	1,979
Investment fees	18,913
Office supplies	1,721
Miscellaneous	150
Postage, delivery, and box rental	14,288
Printing and reproduction	8,222
Professional fees	4,600
Office manager/registrar fees	93,846
Telephone	6,403
Travel	4,090
Total Supporting Services	<u>175,872</u>
Total Expenses	<u>287,728</u>

OTHER INCOME (EXPENSE)	
Realized gain on investments	14,866
Loss on disposal of assets	-
Total other income (expense)	<u>14,866</u>
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	<u>89,559</u>
NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR	<u>2,089,840</u>
NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR	<u>\$ 2,179,399</u>

ABCA'S PROMOTIONAL MONEY PROGRAM

Since its founding, the ABCA has had a program that uses a portion of each registration fee to support member-run events throughout the United States and Canada that promote the working Border Collie. Three dollars from each dog registration is reserved for redistribution to member-run events which promote the Border Collie throughout the United States and Canada. Typically, these events are stockdog trials (sheep and cattle), but they can also include demonstrations, training clinics, and other educational initiatives.

Requests are reviewed and awarded in the same year the event is held. There are two deadlines for submitting requests for promotional money, February 15 and July 15. Soon after each deadline, the Board of Directors will review and vote on the requests. Their decision will be based on information submitted about the scope and features of the event, including location, dates, how many people and dogs will attend, a budget for the event and other sources of financial support. Requests must be submitted by a current member who is involved with organizing and running the event. More information about the application process and an application form can be found at: americanbordercollie.org/services/promotional-money-program/

Prize Monies Paid at the National Finals Each Year

**Dogs must be ABCA registered to collect ABCA prize monies.*

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

**Breeder must be current American Border Collie Association Member to be eligible for prize monies.*

Sheep Finals

Nursery Top 30 Qualifying.....	\$200 each
Open Top 50 1st Go Round	\$200 each
Open Top 20 2nd Go Round	\$200 each
Breeder of the Top ABCA registered Nursery and Open Dogs	\$1000 each
Breeder of the Reserve 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 each
11th-20th.....	\$50 each
Breeder of the Top ABCA registered Open and Nursery Dogs	\$1000 each
Breeder of the Reserve ABCA registered Open and Nursery Dogs	\$500 each



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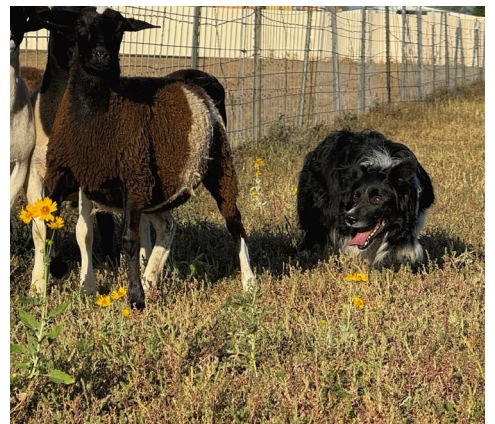
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Phone (706) 663-5999

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ABCA is the premier registry for the working Border Collie

Annual Memberships Due before January 1, 2026

Annual Memberships expire on December 31st of each calendar year. To be eligible to vote in the 2026 elections, your membership must be paid **prior** to January 1, 2026. Annual Membership fees are \$15. Lifetime Memberships are \$150.

Both Annual and Lifetime Memberships offer the same benefits.