

**ABCA Board of Directors Meeting**  
December 14, 2006 Conference Call  
Executive Summary

Directors on the call: Mike Neary, Jim Swift, Dan Gill, Robin French, Liz Hubbard, Eileen Stein, Ivan Weir, Martin Penfold, Norma B. Stewart (Larry Burkes joined the call in progress).

Also on the call: Patty Rogers, Secretary.

**Election of Officers.** The following were nominated and on motion duly made and seconded were elected to the offices indicated:

President: Mike Neary

Vice-President: Jim Swift

Secretary-Treasurer: Patty Rogers

Executive Committee: Gary Westbrook, Eileen Stein, Susan Carvalho;  
Mike Neary and Jim Swift (ex officio)

**Committee Assignments.** Mike asked for volunteers, and said he would subsequently make assignments taking directors' preferences into account. The ultimate assignments are:

Finance Committee -- Jim Swift, Chair

Nominating Committee -- Gary Westbrook, Chair

Health & Genetics Committee -- Eileen Stein, Board Liaison

Hall of Fame Committee -- Larry Burkes & Jim Swift, Co-Chairs

Communications Committee -- Eileen Stein & Martin Penfold, Co-Chairs

Register on Merit Committee -- Liz Hubbard & Susan Carvalho, Co-Chairs

Sheepdog Finals Committee -- Robin French

Cattledog Finals Committee -- Norma Stewart

**Epilepsy Study.** Mike summarized the proposal that we cooperate with a research team at UC Davis in an attempt to isolate genes causing hereditary epilepsy in the Border Collie, and develop a test for them. The methodology they are using is powerful, but it requires access to an extended database of pedigree information, such as our studbook. We would know in a matter of months whether this project would be successful or not, and if it was not, we could proceed with our support for the University of Missouri project already approved. UC Davis has committed to a significantly lower charge for any test that might result from this research than the cost currently charged for the CEA test. They have also committed to keeping any information from our studbook totally confidential and using it only for this one project.

Upon MOTION duly made and seconded, it was agreed that we will supply the requested information following the signing of an appropriate confidentiality agreement.

**Registration Appeals.** Appeals continue to be received regarding denials of registration, chiefly for dogs registered on merit by another working registry, whose pedigrees are incomplete. The Appeals Committee which has been reviewing and making recommendations on these appeals has expressed concern about how difficult it is to have a sound basis for deciding whether such dogs should be registered or not, and suggested that the appeals should be incorporated with our ROM process. After a

discussion of the difficulty the Board had also experienced in making decisions regarding these dogs, it was voted, on MOTION duly made and seconded, that effective January 1, 2007 the appeal process be abolished, and that dogs who do not meet the full pedigree requirements for registration be registered only if they can qualify through the ROM process. Appeals already pending in the office will be processed; the new policy will apply only to future registration applications.

**Amendments to Disciplinary Rules.** Eileen made several proposals for amendments to our disciplinary rules, based on experience gained in previous cases. These basically would (a) permit the appointment of members other than directors to investigate cases and serve on (but not chair) hearing boards; (b) permit the president to initiate an investigation based on credible evidence of misconduct obtained other than through a formal complaint (e.g., discovered during the investigation of another complaint); (c) mandate that a suspension for failure to cooperate in an investigation shall be automatically converted to expulsion if the suspended member persists in non-cooperation for more than six months; and (d) make it clear that pending paperwork affecting the studbook will be held in abeyance from the time the investigation is begun, pending its outcome. On MOTION duly made and seconded, the changes were approved.

**Conviction of animal cruelty or neglect.** A number of issues have arisen regarding one of our members, who had surrendered her dogs to the State of Missouri to avoid proceedings against her for animal cruelty and neglect. The dogs were sold at a nominal fee by the MO Dept of Agriculture without papers, and this member had re-acquired some of them and wanted their registrations re-activated. It was agreed that the dogs' registrations were effectively ended by their seizure and sale without papers by the state, since the chain of ownership had been broken. The question arose whether we ought to have a rule in place providing for the suspension of members in a case like this, and that question was deferred for discussion and voting via internet forum.

[After discussion on the internet directors' forum, it was voted on January 22, 2007, on MOTION duly made and seconded, to adopt the following as Disciplinary Rule 14:

*14. A conviction of cruelty, neglect or related offenses regarding dogs, or confiscation of dogs by lawful authorities and/or relinquishment of dogs to lawful authorities as a result of a charge of cruelty, neglect or other violation of laws regarding the care and treatment of dogs, shall be grounds for immediate suspension of membership and/or denial of membership. Dogs which have been confiscated in these circumstances and disposed of by lawful authority through sale or otherwise will ordinarily be de-registered, except where the dogs are returned to their owner as a result of his or her acquittal of the charges leading to the seizure. Any such denial or suspension of membership, and any such de-registration, may be appealed to the Board of Directors, which may if it deems necessary delegate the appeal to a Hearing Board for the taking of evidence and the making of recommendations. The decision of the Board of Directors on the appeal shall be final. ]*

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.