

GERMAN SHEPHERD DOG COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA Inc.

NATIONAL BREED COMMISSION MEETING

held on Saturday 21st July 2018 and Sunday 22nd July 2018

at "Airport Motel & Convention Centre"

33 Ardlie Street, Attwood, Victoria

MINUTES OF MEETING



1. Opening & Welcome:

Chair Mr. Vince Tantaro – GSDCA President.

Meeting opened on Saturday 21st July 2018 at: 3.55pm.

The Chair opened the meeting by asked the members to participate in a postscript from the Judges meeting relating to item 3.5– Australian Judges being listed on the National List. Participants were asked to anonymously write down the names of four Australian judges who they believe have the respect of the members to be included on the National Judges List. Frank Moody will act as adjudicator and the results will be announced at the end of the day. The result of this poll has been listed in the Judges committee Meeting.

2. Present & Apologies: As per signature sheet.

Motion: ***"That the apologies be accepted"***.

Moved: Stephen Collins Seconded: Karen Hedberg CARRIED

3. Adoption of the Agenda:

Adoption of the Agenda for the National Breed Commission meeting.

Motion: *"That the Agenda for the National Breed Commission Meeting as circulated, be adopted"*.

Moved: Fay Stokes Seconded: Greg Green CARRIED

4. Confirmation of the Minutes:

Motion: *"That the minutes of the National Breed Commission Meeting held on Sunday 30th July 2017 in Adelaide, South Australia be accepted as a true and accurate record"*.

Moved: John Fenner Seconded: Fay Stokes CARRIED

5. Business Arising from the 2017 Minutes:

5.1 Results of Motions presented to the 2018 GSDCA AGM:

7.1, 7.2 and 7.3:

Applications for Aspiring Breed Surveyor status for Sharon Ballantyne, Natalie Humphries and Andrew Jones. CARRIED

5.2 7.4 "That the current regulation regarding inbreeding is amended to read:

"Animals born after 1 July 2018 to be classified at breed survey must not have any line-breeding closer than (3-3)".

Animals born prior to 1 July 2018 must not have any linebreeding closer than (3-2) or (2-3). CARRIED

This motion applies with regard to classification at Breed Survey.

The Chair said that this item has gone forward to the ANKC and thanked Karen Hedberg for her assistance.

6. National Breed Commission Reports – NBC Executive

6.1 National Breed Commission Report – Vince Tantaro

It is with pleasure and thanks that I welcome you all to the 2018 NBC meeting. I must again express our thanks to Melanie Groth, who unfortunately due to work and health issues resigned as NBC Chairperson in May, for her dedication and work done in that role. Like many of you I am indeed heartened that she has taken up the role of NBC Registrar and will continue to contribute as a member of the Breed Survey Improvement Program as initiated by the 2016 GSDCA Breed Survey Forum.

It is important to note that the GSDCA Executive decided not to fill the vacant NBC Chairperson position, as it was felt that the short time frame to the next election process would not be conducive for someone to come in cold and administer the position. Robyn Knuckey and I are administering the portfolio's affairs, with any contentious matter being resolved by the Executive. In wearing this dual hat, I have known for a long time that the NBC portfolio demands much from its Chairperson! I have in the past asked that specific work areas be shared and others are empowered to administer their own roles with oversight by the NBC Chairperson as the only way of ensuring whoever takes the role on is not burnt out or seen as a dictator! With this in mind I do ask the Judges and Breed surveyors to seriously consider stepping up and nominate for election.

I thank all our Registrars and other officers that contribute to the work of the NBC - it is important for the membership to note that you are voluntary workers who give up valuable time to meet the Breed and their needs. I ask you all read the reports as presented and note any recommendation and or information as presented. I must also thank Val Moody, Jane Pike and Jacinta Poole who continue to provide valuable support to the NBC Executive.

I am happy to report that the Breed Survey Improvement Program Working Group 2 & 3 has been combined and now will cover Education & Personal development. I am indeed pleased that it will now be led by Jo Cathie. It is unfortunate that matters related to the WUSV Harmonisation have taken our focus away from the principle outcomes of the 2016 Breed Survey Forum. I would like to thank Ian Urie who as Chair of the WG2 decided to resign.

I cannot overemphasise the importance of all of us working together to raise the membership's confidence in our Breed Survey Scheme. Only you can do this! The signing of service agreements was one big step, however it must be noted that whilst we have found in one case the agreements are not watertight - the fact as a GSDCA Surveyor/Judge it is our collective obligation to adhere to the major principle of the agreements, which is rather simple "you cannot preach unto others to do something you do not do yourself". We have a long way to go and again I quote the fact only 40% of GSD breeders do so with 2 breed surveyed animals! There is much work to do if we want to see only breed surveyed parents be allowed to be bred with and enacted as an ANKC LRL!

Noting the importance to breed matters it must be stated that the impact of introducing the WUSV 23 schedules as agreed had been one that has seen noted opposition after the fact!. You have as members of the Leadership Group been privy to the machinations of the WUSV Board questioning our commitment to putting into place key elements of the WUSV Harmonisation, be it in full or as amended by us at the SGM held last year. The fact that we have had push back on Gun Testing and us fully participating in the SV DNA Scheme again highlights to all our ability to be rather selective despite the Council agreeing to act as one to what each Member Club will support without question! There is strong language from the WUSV (despite reassurances expressed from WUSV CDO at and during last year's debate that IPO was not essential as long as we presented a case to the ANKC) that I have interpreted as it must be our primary goal to convince all that IPO must be introduced.

Working Test Prerequisite for GSDCA Breed survey: We have found we lack the ability, capacity and or commitment across the majority of our Member Clubs to see Schedules 2 & 3 regarding BH & AD titles put in place as scheduled. The ZAP puppy Test can and will be introduced.

Group these with the partial acceptance of a number of schedules examples such as the application of a Gun test that will only apply to Open Classes and not making the SV DNA identification a prerequisite for Breed Survey continue to divide rather than unite all behind the fact we did accept as an organisation the concept of WUSV Harmonisation with an approach suited to our situation at this moment in time.

This weekend will see some very important discussion around a number of matters that may better serve our future. I do ask that you all comment freely and listen to others. It is only with this approach that we can gain a consensus based on respect for one another. This in turn will produce outcomes that we all own and progress forward.

Thank You
Vince Tantaro
President

The Chair added that the NBC Executive were saddened that Melanie Groth felt the need to resign from her position of NBC Chair. He believes part of the reason for her resignation was the frustration she felt that whilst we decided on matters, when taken back to the clubs, they are diluted. In relation to issues with the WUSV, he hopes we maintain the drive to push forward with the Harmonisation Scheme. Despite various communications the WUSV has not advised of definitive time frames when requirements will be enacted, i.e. conduct of gun testing at our shows.

GSDCA Registrars Reports

6.2 National HD/ED Registrar Report – Doug West

John Fenner asked that these Minutes note that the degree of information in this report is impressive and that a letter of appreciation be forwarded to Doug West. The following motion was put forward:

Motion: That a letter of appreciation be written to Mr Doug West thanking him for his in depth report.

Moved: John Fenner Seconded: Karen Hedberg CARRIED

Action: Secretary to forward a letter of appreciation to Mr. Doug West.

Melanie Groth said there were 67 hip and elbow forms applied for where the results have not been submitted, however assuming the figure of 67 is derived from the full database over the database's lifetime then it is not a significant figure. The reasons why people pay for the forms and then do not submit the results are not clear. It was agreed that the breed average over a 5 year period would provide a clearer indication of our hip and elbow situation.

Action: NBC Executive & NBC Register conduct an analysis of those dogs whose plates are not being submitted. The analysis will include the date the forms were issued.

Post Meeting:

The 67 animals as noted by Melanie are imported dogs that already had a hip result from overseas, but required a GSDCA Elbow result.

Action: That the HD/ED Registrar includes in his annual report a rolling breed average taken over the past 5 years.

6.3 NBC Registrar Report – Melanie Groth

Melanie Groth added further to her report as follows:

- It was decided to again produce kennel results in December this year so that the time frame is calendar year to calendar year.
 - Action: NBC Exec to advise Doug West to produce his figures up to the end of each December.
- Requested all clubs to protect their registrars. Some people are producing their paperwork the day before the survey.
- Action: NBC Exec to write to clubs and SBSR reiterating the Rules clearly state that the paperwork must be received in 7 days prior to the survey. Be mindful of the amount of

work the Registrar needs to do prior to the survey. Surveys cannot proceed unless ALL paperwork is submitted as per the regulations.

- SBSC are reminded that you must present a report after each survey.
 - For info of all: It is most helpful to know the process of what the registrar does.
 - When all the information comes in from your breed survey, all that information is entered into a spreadsheet so the council number can be allocated. The report from the surveys is not the same as the cover sheet which is for administrative purposes and processing. I found the coversheet to be very helpful.
- The Aspirants report above is a proforma form I thought might be of assistance and have attached a sample and what the purpose was for. There are suggestions included for mentoring.
 - [Action: NBC Executive makes the forms available to SBSC and mentoring Breed Surveyors and Aspirants.](#)

6.4 Breed Health & Welfare Committee Report – Dr. Candy Baker

As Dr. Baker was not present at the meeting, the Chair asked Dr. Karen Hedberg to speak on this report.

Inter varietal breeding and Genetic testing is still in discussion with the ANKC. A motion was passed in July to push that all parents and puppies be tested at the point of registration from 2020. The international markers should be the basis of any scheme we put in place. If we have to use the German system we would be double dipping. If you want DNA you must be very sure of what you want included. Must be careful in what we want under genetic testing.

To be noted: At this point in time the GSDCA only interest in DNA testing is for parentage testing. Whilst we are well aware that the WUSV provider of parentage testing is conducting research that utilises the large GSD DNA sample collection at hand, for other genetic conditions, there is at this stage NO intent to formally introduce any genetic test in Germany.

Dr. Hedberg suggested sending the following to the ANKC to put forward to the AVA – coming from the ANKC should carry more weight than just coming from the GSDCA. ”

Action: Dr. Candy Baker to liaise with Dr Karen Hedberg and draft submission to ANKC regarding this matter.

Early neutering

- Current thoughts and recommendations to wait until skeletal maturity for orthopaedic protection.
- Alternative forms of neutering – vasectomies, three quarter spay, pros and cons in every situation.

Dr Hedberg said this should not be done. Dogs need to be at least 8/9 months to develop sexual maturity. Early desexing creates other health problems. The alternative forms of neutering are not worth it.

Hip Dysplasia

Dr Zammit's research, would be great to hear from Rob on where things are at. They are still seeking funding for the completion of the data.

Action: Dr. Candy Baker to seek update from Dr. Robert Zammit as to status of this project.

Post Meeting Report

Hello All,

My apologies for the delay on this report and for not making this meeting. Hopefully, my intentions of being at the next meeting will be realised as I am trying to work less weekends.

We have commenced the sequence of an older female German Shepherd with 0-0 hips. The initial work on breaking this down was in Arizona U and we have several DNA cells completed with many more to go. The information goes to Germany where we use their supercomputer to get much more information and examine this against a scaffolding of other dogs. IT comes back here for more work, back to the States then final lands in Australia for a little more polishing.

This then gets examined against the 500 + samples I have already gathered. I will need more samples so I will contact individual States to request their assistance in gathering more blood and cheek samples; owners willing will need to bring a copy of their Hip Results.

The cost for the initial work in Arizona and Germany has been \$34,000 so far and that does NOT include the sequencing I have done here in Australia on some 100 samples. I will be doing them all over time so combining this with my work commitments is more than a little difficult.

Regardless, the work is progressing very well and we are pretty excited about the work covered so far.

Thanks for your support and look forward to maybe presenting something at the next meeting. Hopefully it's not in October as I am presenting a paper in the USA during that month as well as some lectures.

Best wishes to all,
Rob Zammit

6.5 Haemophilia Registrar Report – Dr. Candy Baker

Dr. Hedberg suggested that we continue with blood testing rather than DNA testing. Some of the DNA results are abnormally low due to incorrect storage of the blood.

The NBC Executive has again discussed the DNA matter. Proof of parentage comes in as at 1st July 2020. We are going to put forward a proposal that people can buy the GoCards from Council, send them off, get the results back, and present the results at breed survey. When the ANKC scheme comes into place, this can still be used. The DNA results would be for that animal – there may not be DNA records of the parents unless the dogs have been imported from Germany.

If the dog is an Australian bred dog the result would be DNA “*present*” from that animal. If the parents are in the German scheme then the DNA would be “*proven*”.

The meeting was reminded that at this year's AGM a report was provided that the WUSV scheme has been in place for a long time and is German Shepherd specific. There would also be the capacity to do further testing such as DM. Essentially that scheme produces proof of parentage at this point in time and for us to go out and create our own scheme is reinventing the wheel. The membership decided to use the ANKC scheme as it will be compulsory. This motion allows people to use the ANKC or go through the WUSV scheme. In the end all pups registered on main register will have to be done on the ANKC scheme for main register puppies.

As from the 1st July 2020 we must prove parentage. To participate in the breed survey scheme animals will have to be DNA parentage proven hopefully ANKC has its scheme in place by January 2020. The puppies will not be going on to breed survey until 2021. The Breed survey states proven parentage be presented. .

The Chair suggested that the best we can do at this point in time, is people can go through the SV scheme and have the results recorded on the pedigree until the ANKC scheme comes in place. The whole intent is to prove the parentage. At the moment it is a voluntary scheme.

When the ANKC gets their processes together either scheme could be used. At this stage, we should encourage breeders to commence the DNA schemes now. Start with the individual dog's profile and then start building the profile.

The following actions resulted from the discussions:

Action: Karen Hedberg to provide the appropriate wording for a motion to the Secretary.

Action: NBC Exec will propose a process to next GSDCA AGM that will support of the following motion:

“That as of 1st January 2020, Proof of Parentage via one of the following schemes must be provided with application for animals to participate in the GSDCA Breed Survey Scheme.

- ANKC DNA Parentage Scheme
- DogsQLD DNA Parentage Scheme
- SV-WUSV DNA Parentage Scheme

The comment was made that as breeders, we need to know how the information being received is made known to breeders regarding underlying health concerns. We need to work out how to best address the underlying health problems.

Dr. Hedberg said that It comes down to receiving information that is statistically viable to be able to publish. We need more than 10 to start reporting. We need to receive the data. Receiving the information in gives us a basis to reveal how healthy is our breed. Breeders do not tend to report the reasons why their dogs have died. The data is so important in preparing the health profile. We have received less than 10 a year on the reasons for death. The Health form is on the website and it is emailed directly to Dr. Candy Baker – no one else sees the form. It is to obtain statistical value only

Action: Dr Candy Baker annually provides information retrieved from the submitted health forms in her report.

Action: Secretary to request Clubs via their communication tools remind breeders/owners of the importance of completing and forwarding the health form. It is only with data can we make valued judgement with regard to the current state of the breed's health. Must also again be stressed that the information is confidential and much needed for credible statistical analysis. It must also be highlighted that not submitting HD/ED results for reading is such a waste of valuable data and in fact defeats the whole purpose why breed improvement schemes were put in place.

In addition the Clubs are asked to identify the most commonly used veterinarians and provide them with a letter requesting their cooperation with the forms and Stamped addressed envelopes to Dr Candy Baker, Chairperson, GSDCA Health & Welfare Committee Chair.

Action: Dr Candy Baker to draft a letter for clubs to distribute along with health forms.

6.6 National Database Coordinator Report – Frank Moody

Melanie Groth pointed out there are a number of options in the BS scheme that have been now inserted. The login has been enhanced for breed surveyors.

The Chair asked that if there are further enhancements to the database please provide them to Frank Moody. Remember though, changing the database takes a long time. All database work is done on a voluntary basis and we thank Frank once again.

The following motion was put to the meeting:

Motion: That the reports as provided be accepted.

Moved: Karen Hedberg Seconded: Stephen Collins CARRIED

7. Matters Arising from the National Breed Commission Chairman's Report - Nil

8. Matters Referred to the 2018 NBC Meeting from GSDCA Member Clubs:

8.1 GSDC SA – Discussion Item

1. There have been incidents recently over veterinarians who have been suggesting JPS surgery to new GS puppy owners, usually when they attend the vet for the pup's 10 week vaccinations.
The GSDC SA suggests contacting both the Australian Veterinary Association and the Veterinary Surgeons Board in each State advising them that due to the GSDCA Hip Scheme that the chances of a pedigree puppy developing HD through genetic means has been greatly reduced.
Further, we feel that suggesting JPS surgery is not only over-servicing of clients but a puppy should not be put through this surgery for something that may never happen. Other factors to consider in a pup developing HD, is diet and environment. Most registered and responsible breeders provide a diet chart and information on the importance of moderate exercise to their puppy buyers.
2. Neither Dr Roger Lavelle, Dr Karen Hedberg or Dr Candy Baker can categorically state that a dog that has had JPS procedure would NOT pass the GSDCA HD scheme. This has serious and detrimental consequences to the health of our breed as we will never know the true incidents of HD in the breed if GS dogs are having JPS surgery and would therefore totally compromise the GSDCA HD statistics.

Explanation on JPS Surgery as taken from the Adelaide Vet Animal Hospital,

"JPS is a procedure which enables puppies to have much improved hips with a very minor surgery. The cartilage connecting the 2 sides of the pelvis is fused and this in turn results in rotation of the hip sockets into a more normal position giving a much sounder fit of the femoral head (ball) into the acetabulum (socket). Best results are achieved if the operation is done before 20 weeks (18 weeks is best). Since this is a good age for desexing the two procedures can be combined with one anaesthetic and recovery is very rapid".

Jenny DeLucia told the meeting that the South Australian club has been investigating JPS and have found that some vets are recommending the surgery be carried out as young as 16 weeks of age. Some owners have even had hip replacement surgery suggested to them by vets. We believe this is scaremongering and over servicing by vets. She suggested that Breeders should include in their agreement/contracts that they would not cover any surgical procedure carried out without prior knowledge of the breeder would not be covered and the agreement/contract would be at an end.

The following suggested actions were put to the meeting:

- a. Contacting the AVA and the Veterinary Surgeons Board highlighting our concern with over-servicing of clients and suggesting unnecessary surgery to large breed puppies simply because they are large breed.
- b. Providing statistical evidence based on the GSDCA HD Scheme proving the reduction in cases of severe and crippling HD in the German Shepherd Dog.
- c. Pointing out that if PennHIP is used, it must be performed by an accredited veterinarian/specialist using the correct equipment (distractors).
- d. Contacting the University of Pennsylvania (PennHIP is patented but only in the USA), to gain their opinion on JPS surgeries conducted in Australia as routine following PennHIP xrays.
- e. That, all PennHIP xrays are to be conducted only by certified veterinarians with x-rays being forwarded to Antech Imaging Services for scoring, and recommendation that x-rays are to be read by certified vets who have received training in reading images.

Dr. Hedberg suggested sending the following to the ANKC to put forward to the AVA – coming from the ANKC should carry more weight than just coming from the GSDCA.

“That when surgeons are performing the JPS procedure and the animal is not desexed at that time, then the animal must be positively identifiable in some way so as to limit their use in the breeding population.”

Action: Please refer to 6.4

Update from the Closed Breed Surveyors/Judges Meeting:

The Chair told the meeting that at the closed meeting of Surveyors/Judges held his morning, Sharon Ballantyne and Natalie Humphries were recommended to this meeting to be accepted as Breed Surveyors. The following motion was put forward:

Motion: That Sharon Ballantyne and Natalie Humphries be accepted as GSDCA Breed Surveyors.

Moved: Vince Tantaró. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Chair congratulated both Sharon and Natalie.

Ian Urie was given approval to participate in the WUSV Judges seminar. Congratulations Ian.

The meeting was then declared closed at 5.55pm and will reconvene at 8.30am on Sunday morning.

Sunday 22nd July 2018 – Continuation of the NBC Meeting:

The Chair declared the meeting open at 8.30am.

First item discussed arising from the Judges meeting yesterday was the selection of judges for the 2021 National. Note that the venue is still to be decided. The following names were put forward to the meeting:

1. Jens Becker-Olsen.
2. Christoph Ludwig.
3. Malcolm Griffiths.
4. Frank Goldlust.

The Queensland club are to nominate two judges plus a reserve as soon as possible to ensure the contracts can be sent out as soon as possible.

To be noted: post meeting ACTGSDA informed the NBC exec that Mr Jens Becker Olsen was contracted to judge their 2020 Show: GSDCQld were advised that as a result Richard Bausch would replace him.

8.2 GSDA WA – Discussion Item

NBC Breed Surveyors – Review

A discussion needs to be had on the matter of how changes to the Breed Survey from “Class 1” & “Class 2” to “Breed Survey Classified” (BSC) is, and will, affect the way animals are breed surveyed. This matter should be discussed at the NBC Surveyors meeting as a review of where we are in regards to the size issue since BSC came in.

The Breed Standard stipulates that oversize is a Disqualification.

This item evoked a great deal of discussion with varying views put forward from the delegates. Currently the status quo is where dogs measure 67cm max and 62cm max, are of very high quality i.e. **well above** the breed standard, are eligible for breed survey. Unfortunately in some cases, some animals presenting for survey are much more than the 2cm max allowed.

Surveyors should assess the degree of penalisation. If the animal is exceptionally beautiful, apply the principle that if the dog is over 2cm but of very high anatomical worth in construction, then the animal is to be surveyed. The survey form must clearly state that the animal is oversize and care must be taken as to size when considering breeding partners. Surveyors are to ensure that the description must be precise and must fit the dog being surveyed.

It was agreed that the Status quo remains, and an article will be published explaining clearly the “status quo” and the problems of oversize animals being presented at breed survey.

Action: NBC Exec: An article to be published clearly explaining the size issues at survey and the decision to apply the “highly well above anatomical worth” to animals 2cm oversize.

8.3 GSDA WA – Discussion Item

NBC Breed Surveyors and Judges – Review

A discussion needs to be had in relation to where SV Judges are placing oversize animals at the GSDCA National Shows. Should we follow the SV BSZS process of larger dogs not being placed in the top 30, in Germany, with perhaps a change, in Australia, to be applied to the top 10?

This item was raised due to the placing of obviously large dogs at the pegs at the South Australian National this year. The question was asked whether dogs measuring 62/67cms should be placed on the pegs. As the National is technically a Championship show under ANKC rules: judges must not be told anything about the dogs they judge and are to be judged according to their anatomical construction vs the breed standard.

The Chair informed the meeting that both judges were informed of our accepted (as again endorsed at the 2018 GSDAC AGM) guideline with regard to oversize animals and the grading of excellent. This is common practise with regard to the National show.

Action: Secretary to request Clubs ensure reference is made to measuring requirements and that the GSDCA Judges Guidelines are attached to Judges Contracts for all shows where GSDCA grading may be awarded.

- **Secretary will arrange for GSDCA Judges Guidelines to be translated into German.**

8.4 GSDA WA – Discussion Item

NBC Breed Surveyors– Review

A discussion, at the NBC Surveyors meeting, needs to be had regarding Health issues of the breed with emphasis on the importance of pursuing DNA Testing. Bearing in mind that the clubs knocked back using the WUSV DNA testing procedure in favour of the ANKC procedure which is not yet up and running.

Karen Hedberg said the DNA question is about “parentage” only and not about diseases the dog may have in its background. Testing for DM is not being carried out in Germany at this time. Whilst some purchasers ask if the parents have been tested for DM, we need to note that approximately 15% might be classed as *at risk* and of that 15% only 5% may become affected. Here again, witch hunting is occurring. There are 17 breeds with DM genes. At this stage we should not be putting a test in place unless it is definitive. DM is well down the list of health problems in the GSD breed. Karen suggested that we follow the German’s lead in this instance.

Action: Please refer to 6.4 & Dr. Karen Hedberg to provide a website link to articles currently on the website to assist breeders.

9 Matters Referred to the 2018 NBC Meeting from GSDCA Annual General Meeting: Nil

10. Any Other Business:

10.1 Discussion Item: Inter- Variety Breeding

To begin the discussion the Chair said that he believes the best course of action would be to put a case to the SV/WUSV to relax their importation of semen for Long Stock Coats.

10.1.2 The Genetics of Inter Variety Breeding: John Fenner

The Chair thanked John for such a comprehensive PowerPoint presentation.

10.1.3 Changing our policy on Inter Variety Breeding - Dr. Karen Hedberg

The issue of the long coats and their severely reduced gene pool in Australia keeps raising its head. I tried very hard to allow inter varietal breeding to be permitted but was defeated, largely due to I feel a lack of understanding of the long term issues involved.

Australia has a small population of GSD's compared to Germany and within that reduced population, to further reduce it (unnaturally) to totally separated varieties is a great detriment to all long coated dogs. There are reduced bloodlines, severely reduced access to newer bloodlines (limited LC dogs available, limited semen access to LC dogs) and long coated breeders are often limited to poorer quality of dogs with little or no statistical health data behind them to support their widespread use.

New Zealand with a similarly smaller population, has allowed inter varietal breeding with no detriment to the shorter coated variety and with no artificial limitations on stud dog usage.

I am in agreement with Yvonne that if the 3-3 minimal line breeding is introduced, there will be an even smaller gene pool available to long coated breeders.

It is not healthy to so limit a breed, let alone a variety, when the solution is so patently obvious.

I strongly suggest there be open inter varietal breeding allowed for a minimum of 10 years and if this is not possible that the 3-3 minimal line breeding be only applied to stock coats.

As the ANKC Chairperson on Canine Health and Wellbeing, we are forever trying to keep gene pools as open as possible to allow the widest possible gene combinations so as to maintain overall breed health.

I personally do not have an issue with the 3-3 minimal line breeding restriction, provided inter varietal breeding is permitted.

I hope this item is put forwards for discussion as it needs to be looked at for long term health and welfare of the long stock coat variety.

Dr Karen Hedberg BVSc,
ANKC Health and Wellbeing Chairperson

The Chair thanked Karen for her presentation.

The Chair asked Graham Saltiel (NZ) to provide a report on how the inter variety breeding figures was going in New Zealand. Graham said he hasn't seen any detriment to date, and that some of the prominent kennels are making use of the inter variety breeding.

The meeting concluded, that there are long stock coat puppies in most litters bred from well established gene pools, and quite often the long stock coat puppy is the "pick" puppy, yet amazingly the long stock coat fraternity see little value to view or purchase these puppies that are from well established producing bloodlines. It must again be noted that the SV/WUSV do not approve of inter variety breeding. It was evident from the recently held National that the quality of our long stock coats is excellent with the main bloodlines are well represented across the LSC gene pool and genetic diversity is not restricted at all.

The meeting did not support taking a motion to the AGM.

10.2 Discussion Item - BS1 – Application – Jane Pike

Owners that pay to enter an animal at a survey and then defer with permission.

- Currently if the owner applies for the NEXT survey they do not have to pay again.
- If they want to present, say 12 months later or 2 survey's later, and had previously paid they need to pay another fee.
- In these cases the club collects the original \$35, which they keep in its entirety.
- The Club pays Council \$27 when the animal completes the survey either successfully or fail.

Suggestion - we look at the same process as for HD/ED.

- Have the BS1 application in triplicate.
- Purchased from the State Breed Survey Registrar. It then stays with the animal for life until it is submitted for Breed Survey.
- Like the HD/ED forms, the money is paid to council on purchase by the applicant. Clubs still get the \$8 handling fee and the \$27 is payable to council.
- Original form to the owner, copy 1 to the NBC Chair and copy 2 to the State Breed Survey Registrar.
- This could be set up so that billing is done quarterly from the NBC Chairs record of the "copy 1" received from the State Registrar quarterly.

Further Suggestions from the meeting were:

- In a failure situation, a further fee would need to be paid
- Remove the wording: "has to represent at the next breed survey".
- Anomaly between Stock Coat & Long Stock Coat. Long Stock Coat use a different Council number to differentiate between the varieties.

Action: This item to go forward as an Agenda item at the AGM and to be included in the Breed Survey Manual.

10.3 Discussion Item: Imported Semen Verification - NBC Executive

The increasing use of imported semen requires us to consider implementing a verification process as applies to imported animals: GSDCA Title Verification for Imported dogs.

Noting that the importation of semen is now seen as another tool to utilise new bloodlines and that by doing so expands our breeding pool, it is as is the case with imported dogs imperative that we verify Hip, Elbow, Breed Survey and/or Title status of these animals.

Currently imported dogs and imported semen are entered into the GSDCA Database via the ANKC Registration quarterly uploads.

- Only those imported animals that have a GSDCA Title Verification have a full 4 generation pedigree created on the GSDCA Database with all Hip, Elbow, Breed Survey and Titles for all dogs in the pedigree. This ensures the integrity of the GSDCA Database.
- Imported animals that do not have a GSDCA Title Verification are added to the GSDCA Database, but with only the basic 3 generation pedigree (as per the ANKC) with NO Hip, Elbow, Breed Survey or Title information, for the imported animal and dogs within their pedigree.

This has not been an issue up to now, as generally speaking the progeny from these dogs do not come through the GSDCA Schemes. However this is changing with the use of imported semen.

Recommendation: Prerequisite for Breed Survey: Imported Semen

- GSDCA Title Verification of animals whose semen is imported must be provided with application for their progeny to be presented to GSDCA Breed Survey.
- The process to be applied will be that as for imported animals with the exception that verification can take place at any time.
- Noting the requirement for GSDCA Breed Survey, importers of semen are encouraged to apply for verification well before the semen is used and any progeny are presented to survey.
- Breeders utilising such should also insist on viewing GSDCA Title Verification prior to using the semen.

Frank Moody said that working line semen is coming into the country without title verification. He believes it is necessary that we know what dogs behind the semen have hips/elbows etc. This will become necessary when the progeny comes to survey, some progeny is coming to survey now

Joylene Neddermeyer is the GSDCA Titles Verification Officer and she has access to the German database and ensures the titles are correct. All imported dogs are titled verified.

We have all the processes in place for imported dogs and now that imported semen is overtaking imported dogs, we need to verify the semen. The verification goes back through three generations. If the importer of the semen complies with the verification system, it will give breeders integrity of the Council and assist surveyors when the progeny comes to breed survey. The ANKC has a process if we want to import semen into the country.

Karen Hedberg said it is easier to get verification at the time of importation. In the past Sharon Thorpe worked with Joylene to have the title verification entered into the database but that is no longer happening. Karen recommended that imported semen comes with all of its title verifications as it will be required

Action: This item to go forward as an Agenda item at the AGM and to be included in the Breed Survey Manual.

10.4 Discussion Item: GSDCA Breed Surveyor/Judges Service Agreement - NBC Executive

That the GSDCA Breed Surveyor and Judges Service Agreements be amalgamated in order to see only one document to be signed.

The Judges Chair said there were only a couple of service agreements outstanding. Judges were reminded that if the Agreement is not signed and returned, then those judges will not be able to award gradings.

Action: Motion: “That as of 1st July 2019 the revised GSDCA Service Agreement for GSDCA Breed & Trainee Surveyors & GDCA Judges and Trainees (version 07/2019) must be signed in order to maintain their assigned GSDCA status.”

10.5 ZAP Introduction.

The Obedience Chair said the NBC Executive would like the Breed Surveyors to liaise with the clubs and drive the introduction of the ZAP test. NBC Executive will be in touch with surveyors and hope to get things up and running as soon as possible. We need highly motivated people to be involved and we need to especially target the breeder fraternity – to start driving it. The ZAP is the start for the BH test which will be a pre-requisite for breed survey.

It was suggested that the ZAP introduction should come under the Breed Affairs portfolio and work very closely with the obedience chair and OTC.

The NBC Executive has received responses from the clubs re the implementation of Schedules 2 and 3. Reaction from clubs has not been overwhelming. We believe this has more to do with the capability and capacity to conduct the training required. Discussions have been held with the WGSDCA and believe it will test their capacity as well. The Executive recommended a course of action last year, the alternative being a pass in CD as a viable entry to BH. This provides more avenues for members to pursue as there are quite a lot of obedience clubs around the country. No reason why breed surveyors could not be the assessors.

It is the opinion of the executive to revisit breed surveyors being able to judge the BH test and find some way to fulfil that requirement. To obtain a qualifying score in CCD/CD is far harder than the obtaining a pass in BH. A decision is still to be made whether this goes forward to the AGM. The implementation date will be 2021. The intent is to have a working test as a pre requisite for breed survey. It was suggested that a pass in CD divorces us from the assessment as it is an independent ANKC assessment, and adds credibility to the test. The GSDCA is having discussions to find out if the BH can become an ANKC recognised title. Trials would be held at obedience clubs. It is more about the structure in place we can utilise to meet our end aim

This will go forward to the AGM to start planning.

Conclusion:

The Chair urged all to go back to your clubs and disseminate the information from this weekend. He also reiterated the need to have open Breed Affairs meetings where breed matters can be reported on and member feedback can be readily had. Each club should have a Breed Affairs Committee: the breed surveyors and judges must drive breed affairs. We need to fight for and instil idealism based on what is best for the breed and have self-interest cloud our mission. The factions that are no longer irrelevant are now quite prominent and this is hurting our ability to move forward. if the breed is going to go forward.

The Chair thanked all for their attendance and handed over to Robyn Knuckey to continue with the Workshops.

11. Date & Venue for 2019:

Post meeting Action:

NBC Exec has investigated best date and set the date to 27th & 28th July 2019.

12. Close of Meeting:

The NBC Meeting concluded at 11.53am.
Commenced the Workshop

BREED SURVEYORS & JUDGES - WORKSHOP ITINERARY

to be held on Sunday 22nd July 2018 – 8.30am to 4.00pm

| | | Proposed Speakers |
|---------------|--|--|
| 8:30 – 8:45 | Introduction | Vince Tantaro & Robyn Knuckey |
| 8.45 – 9.30 | Database – practical session | Frank Moody |
| 9.30 – 10. 30 | Part A - BS workshop - Alignment, roles and responsibilities Part B - unpacking the general description for clarity of anatomical worth | Robyn Knuckey Jenny Yuen |
| 10:30 – 10.45 | Morning tea | |
| 10.45 – 11.45 | Practical workshop measuring | Vince Tantaro & Robyn Knuckey |
| 11.45 – 12.00 | Presentation of proposed Breed Survey Manual | Jane Pike & Stephen Collins |
| 12.00 – 1.30 | Workshop of BS Manual in designated groups | All |
| 1:30 – 2:45 | Lunch | |
| 2:45 – 3:45 | Workshop information in designated groups | All |
| 3:45 – 4:00 | Recap of the day and Close | Vince Tantaro & Robyn Knuckey |

15 minutes

Introduction set the plan for the day.

Database session

Session on the database.

- Reminder of common problems.
- Finding a dog on the database to enter a survey registration number waiting for it to come up.
- Searching for dogs on the database – using the filters to find results/progeny.
- Useful for looking at hips and elbows of the sires and dams of dogs.
- Using the stats.

Frank Moody provided an in depth demonstration on further inclusions to the database and also how the surveyors can enter data and review the information entered. Common mistakes Melanie Groth is encountering were discussed and surveyors told the correct way to input the data.

The Chair thanked Frank for his presentation.

Breed Survey Workshop - outline their responsibilities with regard to:

- running state Breed Surveys.
- how they interact with the Aspirants.
- their roles as leaders in their state in promoting Breed Survey and the Schemes.
- the management of paperwork between survey and to the NBC Chair.
- protection of their Registrars who often get abused by the members with late paperwork etc.
- get them to give a brief chat about how they manage their patch and hear what others do in the other states.
- conduct of surveyors in relation to the contract.

The General Description in the survey – how do we use it to ensure that there is delineation between superior animals.

Particular virtues and faults and Recommendations – how do we get credibility in this area? – what is limiting us in this area?

Discussion:

Robyn Knuckey said that states are running their Breed Surveys differently. The following question was posed asking how you want to run and promote breed surveys in your states:

- How do we get kennels to put all of their animals through the schemes?
- How do we get the breeders to embrace our ideals?
- Do you actively interact with breeders?
- Are you encouraging people who have a really nice animal to go through our schemes?
- How many clubs have a Breed Affairs Committee that is inclusive to all members.

Suggestions included:

- The first step to engage their members. Strongly recommend you put this in place. Next step the
- Institute a Breed Affairs structure in all states.
- Breed Affairs Committee's designate a task/goal, and perhaps invite breeders to the next survey and explain the process and get the breeder's feedback as to why they are not participating. You need a structure for Breed Affairs.

Protecting Breed Survey Registrars:

According to the regulations, breed survey entries are supposed to be received 7 days prior to the event. If we keep accepting late entries it puts more work on the Registrar. It is up to the surveyors to support our registrars and ensure the rules are followed. If a member is being difficult the Club Management Committee should deal with it.

Action: Letter from NBC Executive to all Clubs re: supporting their Registrars.

- 1. Breed Affairs Committees to be set up at each Club.**
- 2. Tap into our younger surveyors to drive the Breed Affairs Committees.**
- 3. Jo Cathie will be leading the Education and Professional Development & Strategy working group.**

The Chair thanked Robyn Knuckey for her presentation.

The General Description in the survey – how do we use it to ensure that there is delineation between superior animals.

Particular virtues and faults and Recommendations – how do we get credibility in this area? – what is limiting us in this area?

Jenny Yuen commenced with a PowerPoint presentation. She commented that now we have a single classification, we need to be careful in the descriptors written in the breed survey worksheet. We want comments of a dog of high standard, to be described in such a way that it leaves no doubt that the dog would have been Classified Class 1 under the old system.

She said that in the "Under Gait: item in the Breed Survey Worksheet – remove the instruction that "unless there is quite pronounced weakness, do not mention it on the work sheet etc., etc. "

An interactive workshop was conducted with photographs of different dogs handed out to and participants who were then asked to write a critique as if they were surveying the animal. . The participants did not know the name of the dog until the critiques were read out.. People were asked to award either a Cl.1 or a Cl.2 classification.

The Chair thanked Jenny for an entertaining presentation.

Practical workshop Measuring – judging and surveying

- The height/chest ratio – what does it mean?
- Some samples of dogs and their measurements.
- Making reference to it in the survey.
- What do you see when you measure a dog.
- What do the spectators see?
- What do you look for?

This item was discussed during the course of the meeting and therefore didn't require further input.

Workshop the proposed updated Breed Survey Manual from last NBC Meeting and info provided on BS

- The reformat is to align all areas that refer to Breed Survey Manual, including references/motions in the Regulation Manual.
- Consolidation of all specific areas eg: all points on dentition are now in the same section to decrease confusion
- All Breed Surveyors and Aspirants are aware of all components of the BS Manual and therefore improve compliance and credibility across the fraternity.
- Ownership by all present to support motion presented at GSDCA AGM at Club level.
- What information should be included in Selection of Breeding Partners?
- When recommending bloodlines, how close do we recommend animals – by actual male or closest major line?
- What bloodlines produce virtues/faults to inform recommendations?

The Chair said participants would be divided into four groups – a group leader would be appointed to co ordinate and own the group's findings and consolidate the responses. The Group leader will send the collated information out to the group for further comment and then email the results to Jane Pike.

The participants in the Working groups are:

Sections 1-9 of the draft amendments to the Breed Survey Manual

1. Nicky McDermott. (Leader) John DeLucia, Fay Stokes, Janet Haase, Jacinta Poole.
2. Jenny Delucia (Leader). Sharon Ballantyne, Wolf Meffert, Jo Cathie, Ian Urie.

Sections 10-17 of the draft amendments to the Breed Survey Manual and the Appendices

3. Jenny Yuen. (Leader) Jan Brabham, John Fenner, Carole O'Rourke. Graham Saltiel, Tony Mercieca, Julie Urie.
4. Natalie Humphries (Leader), Greg Green, Leanne Irvine, Mel Adamson, Sue Bruno, Karen Hedberg.

Facilitators: Vince Tantaró, Robyn Knuckey, Stephen Collins and Jane Pike.

Team leaders were asked to follow the following process:

- Collate the changes.
- Jane Pike to email the draft document to team leaders.
- Insert comments at each point where you believe changes should be made –do not use track changes.
- Group Leaders to provide the information by 5th August 2018.

That document will then become a draft and sent back to you and once agreed and accepted, will be taken to the AGM. The whole idea of the review is to make the Manual the *go to document* for breed surveyors removing the need to constantly review regulations.

Thanks to Robyn and Mel for the format of the workshop which continues what was instigated last year being hands on exercised and not so administration focused.

Conclusion:

The Chair concluded by thanking the following people who added to the NBC meeting and this workshop:

- ✚ To our presenters, Jenny DeLucia for her JPS comprehensive report re JPS surgery.
- ✚ John Fenner and Karen Hedberg, for very comprehensive presentations on intervariety breeding.
- ✚ Frank Moody for his invaluable presentation and the amount of work he does on our database, we couldn't afford to pay for this.

The workshop like last year was organised by Robyn Knuckey and Mel Groth. It proved most useful and again demonstrated a real need for this group to discuss breed matters by encouraging open and frank discussion by seeking diverse opinion. It is important that we act as a collegiate group.

The unpacking of the general description as lead by Jenny Yuen was an excellent initiative and I for one would like to see it again set for next year- possibly with verbal then and there responses rather than written critiques. There was much value from this exercise.

The review of the GSDCA Breed Survey Manual was long overdue and provided participants direct input into how better to make this document easy to understand more practical and remove ambiguity and provide clarity. I would like to thank Jane Pike who has been the main driver and Steve Collins for pushing this along. I would also like to thank the 4 groups who will provide valuable input that will see the revised manual put to the GSDCA AGM for approval.

On the administrative side, we mustn't forget Val Moody together with input from Jane Pike. Val was the main driver to get Agendas, reports and organise this meeting out on time. An absolutely top effort and very much appreciated. Thank you to Barbara Blythe for taking the minutes again.

The Chair reiterated the need now is to try and instil idealism into the groups you can influence and counter the pragmatic approach some take in the breeding of the GSD. He again thanked all their input, giving up time and money to attend what is a most important meeting of the Council. Pleasing to see Jenny De Lucia, Sharon Ballantyne and Jo Cathie willingly share their thoughts. This is to be encouraged.

In closing, I would like to ask you for any ideas, thoughts, and feedback on how the meetings went this weekend. I would appreciate your comments. Please send them to me by email. Your feedback will be used to improve our meeting next year.

Action: A feedback form to be provided for all future meetings.

Meeting closed at 3.49pm.