

Summer Newsletter



German Shepherd Dog Club of Queensland Inc.

PRESIDENT'S NESSAGE

I would firstly like to wish all members their families a very Merry Christmas and a safe and prosperous 2023.

- I am really pleased to announce our membership increased this year from 211 members last year, to 251 this year.
- All committee meetings continued to be held via ZOOM, which enabled us to have 12 committee meetings. 4 General meetings and 1 Special General meeting were also held as well as our AGM.
- Zoom attendees at meetings averages around 6-10 members. The opportunity to participate at a GSDCQ meeting allows our country members to participate in club meetings if they so choose. So have your say no matter where you live.
- I would like to extend a big thank you to all the GSDCQ management committee who have worked so hard again this year for the member's benefit.
- Financially the club is in a good position with a small operating profit of \$2,437.00
- Income for Shows, Members Competitions and Obedience and tricks trials was \$16,505, with an expenditure of \$16,912, a loss of \$407, considering the beautiful trophy tables, this is a great result. Income raised from, donations, sponsorship, catalogue advertising, raffles and merchandise sales of \$5,161.
- It was again the aim of the committee this year to give as many events as possible back to the members as we could, and the club has hosted the following events this year:
- 8 show events, 2 Championship Shows, 1 State Breed, 4 Members Competitions and 1 Open Show.
- Obedience had 8 Events; 2 Restricted Obedience Trials, Unrestricted Double rally Trial in May 46 entries.

- Unrestricted Double Tricks Trial July 65 entries.
- Unrestricted Double Tricks Trial August 73 entries.
- I would like to acknowledge and thank;
- Our judges for shows this year, Mr. Kurt Moreton, Fay Stokes, Vince Tantaro, Alastair Henderson, Melanie Groth, Glen Wilshire, (Open show Judge), Jo Cathie and Greg Green.
- Our trial judges Daphne Sellwood, Laurie Knauth, Mechelle Anderson, Maree Rablin, Cheryl Williams,
- Sue Eller, Kim Dawson, Val Bonney and Warren Doyle.
- We would also like to thank Gail Donald for all her effort and terrific photos that she takes of all the events.
- A big Thank you to Alison Drinkwater and Bronwyn Hurley for live feeding the classes of shows
- where possible. I know these were very well received by the GSD fraternity.
- **Breed Surveys**
- 5 Breed Surveys were conducted in Queensland this year, 4 in Brisbane, and one in Zone 2 at Bullyard.
- A total of 34 Animals were presented to survey for the year, with 33 classified and 1 fail.
- This year is the most animals presented in a year in QLD since 2014.
- A big thank you to our State Surveyors Mrs. Carol O'Rourke, Mr. Louis Donald and Mrs. Sharon Ballantyne-Gordon, who adjudicated at the surveys this year. Also, to Melanie Groth and Jo Cathie for also assisting
- at our surveys. We appreciate you giving up your time to Breed Survey our Dogs.
- HD ED
- Queensland continues to participate highly in the HDED schemes with 84 contracts issued, of which 83 HDED and 1 ED.
- **Show Training**
- Show training was held most Wednesday nights over the year, the exceptions being post show, weather limitations, and on a couple of nights Dogs QLD restrictions. Sunday training was held every 2nd Sunday weather and trainers permitting till the start of December.



Club News/ Newsletter/Web site and Facebook Page.

This year has unfortunately shown an increase in the number of people wishing to rehome their German Shepherds, sometimes seemingly without any real reason, even dogs they have had from puppyhood. 'Available' dogs this year number 99 with only 43 'wanting' so there has been a marked discrepancy in finding new homes for all the dogs.

The Club Facebook page provides the members with up-to-date information and allows us to inform members of any changes in a quick and timely manner. The live feeds are posted on this page, and have a great viewing rate. We had a little problem with a scammer this

year who tried to get members to pay for live feeds, but thankfully this was nipped in the

bud.

Breed Rescue

This year has unfortunately shown an increase in the number of people wishing to rehome their German Shepherds, sometimes seemingly without any real reason, even dogs they have had from puppyhood. 'Available' dogs this year number 99 with only 43 'wanting' so there has been a marked discrepancy in finding new homes for all the dogs.

Puppy Listings

The number of listings for this reporting year (Sept 2021- Oct 2022) was a total of 20, compared

with the same time last year with 25 so there is reasonable drop in numbers. In particular, there

were no listings in Oct 2021, Jan, April - June 2022

The Annual report has been emailed to all members, and to the GSDCA, and the club has

provided the documentation needed to Dogs QLD, and the Office of Fair Trading. In 2023 we have some great events and news for members, and full details will be available on the

club web site.

Obedience training will commence in February 2023.

We have purchased new vests

Our Double Header Championship show has 2 overseas Judges. Just to name a few.





Our deepest condolences to the family and friends of Brinsley Parker

To say we were shocked to hear of Brinsley's sudden passing is an understatement.

Brinsley was an active member of the club, participating at club shows, always there to lend a hand and always with a smile on his face. His deep love for the breed was a delight to watch, and his love for the dogs was second to none. I remember talking to him on various occasions and his pride and love for the dogs was written on his face, as he spoke of them with such joy. He was a gentleman with always a kind word to say to people, we will miss you Brinsley, and I hope where you are you have lots of dogs to lavish your love on.

To close thank you to all that have supported the events this year, and we look forward to seeing you all next year. See you all in 2023!

Regards Sharon Thorp

President GSDCQ



BREED SURVEY RESULTS



of Queensland

BREED SURVEY RESULTS

7TH MAY 2022





KAYROSSI WICKED GAMES Sire: AZTEK KATEKO Dam: KAYROSSI GAME ZONE Owner/s: R G MASTERMAN



KINGLAND HARRIET Sire: CONBHAIREAN FREDDIE Dam: KINGLAND VENICE Owner/s: L KING & J CATHIE



SUNDANEKA ZOIC ZIVA Sire: SUNDANEKA ALMANDIN Dam: SUNDANEKA HULABALOO Owner/s: K COLQUHOUN



KARHAM FULL OF BEANS Sire: SHERNAA PAKROS Dam: COSSAVANE TOUCH OF MAGIC Owner/s: N HAMMOND



CINDERHOF ROMAA Sire: CHILLI DELA VALCUVIA Dam: VANLAND AVA Owner/s: J CATHIE

BREED SURVEY RESULTS 2022



BREED SURVEY RESULTS

10th SEPTEMBER 2022





KAYROSSI STILL MS BEHAVING Sire: VEGAS VON DONGMIRAN Dam: KAYROSSI MS BEHAVING Owner/s: R G MASTERMAN



CASTASTAR OVER THE WALL Sire: CONBHAIREAN FREDDIE Dam: DEBBAR ISABELLA Owner/s; M J PURCELL



IMAGICK IRMA

Sire: MACHO VOM LAMORAK

Dam: IMAGICK ANASTASIA

Owner/s: M A MACKLIN



AMDAK HASHTAG FUDGE ME Sire: EROICA ICE ICE BABY Dam: AMDAK FUDGE ME SIDWAYS Owner/s: J PHILP



BREED SURVEY RESULTS

10TH SEPTEMBER 2022





GEWALT CASINO ROYALE Sire: XANDER VOM GRABFELDGAU Dam: GEWALT GAMBOLS GRETEL Owner/s: M WETZLAR



KINGLAND NICOLETTE
Sire: CINDERHOF VANDAAL
Dam: KINGLAND WHOLE LOTTA KAYOS
Owner/s: K COLQUHOUN



VONDARCOR VALAK Sire: BORDY BLENDY Dam: CHIA VIKAR Owner/s: A L PARRY



BREED SURVEY RESULTS

10TH SEPTEMBER 2022





LETTLAND GRAND DESIGN Sire: EROICA ICE ICE BABY Dam: AWESAMSHEP ELLI MAY Owner/s: B & D HOUGHTON



DEBBAR OPHELIA
Sire: XANDER VOM GRABFELDGAU
Dam: DEBBAR HERMIONE
Owner/s: D A O'KEEFE



KINGLAND MATILDA Sire: CHILLI DELLA VALCUVIA Dam: KINGLAND SAMBOOKA TWIST Owner/s: L G KING



GABMALU HELGA Sire: CINDERHOF VANDAAL Dam: GABMALU ECHO Owner/s: M & R HORNICK





BREED SURVEY RESULTS & 2023 SCHEDULES



BREED SURVEY RESULTS

12TH NOVEMBER 2022





KARHAM I OWN IT ALL Sire: DJANGO VOM TEAM PANONIANSEE Dam: KARHAM KNOW IT ALL Owner/s: N J HAMMOND



CASTASTAR PANDORA Sire: CHILI DELLA VALCUVIA Dam: CASTASTAR INCANTATION Owner/s: A C DOYLE



FREINHAUF PEDRAA Sire: CHILI DELA VALCUVIA Dam: FREINHAUF HAVOC Owner/s: K&R KNUCKEY, J CATHIE, M GROTH



GRANDSPY KISS AND TELL Sire: DEWISRI PRINCE Dam: GRANDSPY EVIL INTENTIONS Owner/s: J PHILP



BREED SURVEY RESULTS

12TH NOVEMBER 2022





SHARDON VIBRANT BEAUTY Sire: ILIANO VOM JUVENISTY Dam: SHARDON TRANQUILITY Owner/s: B & D HOUGHTON



VONNUREMBERG JERO Sire: GERO Z BEROUNSKE BASTY Dam: VONNUREMBERG DJANA Owner/s: R G MASTERMAN



DEBBAR QUALL Sire: CHILI DELLA VALCUVIA Dam: DEBBAR ISABELLA Owner/s: D A O'KEEFE



DEBBAR QUACKER Sire: CHILI DELLA VALCUVIA Dam: DEBBAR ISABELLA Owner/s: D A O'KEEFE



GSDCQ OPEN SHOW & MEMBER'S COMP

Saturday & Sunday, 25th & 26th March 2023

JUDGE OPEN SHOW Saturday 25th March 2023

Ms Catherine Walker (QLD)

Judging commences immediately following Breed Survey but not before 10.30am

ENTRY FEES (Includes Catalogue) All Class - \$10

Classes: Baby, Minor, Puppy, Junior, Intermediate & Open

NO CHALLENGE POINTS AWARDED

Order of Judging -LSC Bitches (including Best & Runner Up LSC Bitch) followed by SC Bitches (including Best & Runner Up SC Bitch)

Sc Bitches (including Best & Runner Up LSC dog) followed by LSC Dogs (including Best & Runner Up LSC dog) followed by SC Dogs (including Best & Runner Up SC Dog) followed by

Best of Breed LSC then Best of Breed SC

Best Exhibit in Competition
Runner Up to Best Exhibit in Competition

followed by best of and opposite of each class starting with baby puppy to open LSC followed by SC

MEMBER'S COMP SHOW Sunday 26th March 2023

Mr Tony Gibson (NZ)

Judging commences 8.30am

ENTRY FEES (Includes Catalogue) Members - First Entry - \$20, Subsequent Entries - \$15 Non-Members - First Entry - \$25 Subsequent Entries - \$20

Classes: Baby, Minor, Puppy, Junior, Intermediate, & Open

NO CHALLENGE POINTS AWARDED

Order of Judging for both Open Show & Member's Comp-LSC Bitches (including Best & Runner Up LSC Bitch)
followed by
SC Bitches (including Best & Runner Up SC Bitch) follower

LSC Dags (including Best & Runner Up LSC dag) followed

by SC Dogs (including Best & Runner Up SC Dog) followed by Best of Breed LSC then Best of Breed SC Best Exhibit in Competition Runner Up to Best Exhibit in Competition

Gradings are awarded at the Judge's discretion in all classes. Excellent Medallions may be awarded in the Open classes only if the animal has been Breed Surveyed & is two years of age or over. Grading certificates will be available on request. Critiques for

Junior, Intermediate, & Open classes. The Gun Test may apply in the Open class at the Judges discretion

BREED SURVEY

Saturday, 25th March 2023 9:00am

Surveyors -Mr Louis Donald

Mrs Carol O'Rourke

Ms. Sharon Ballantyne-Gordon

Venue -Dogs QLD, King Avenue, Durack

Documents Required to be sent to our Breed Affairs Coordinator, Peter Hersant

- Complete Application Form (found on GSDCQ Website)
- Copy of Registration
- 3. Copy of A Z Certificate
- 4. Copy of 5 Generation Pedigree
- 5. Survey Application Fee

Please bring original documents to be sighted on the day of Survey



Please direct enquiries to **Peter Hersant** breedaffairs@gsdcqld.org.au





Please direct enquiries to the Show Manager showsec@gsdcqld.org.au

WHAT MAKES A German Shepherd tick.



Why would I want to own a German Shepherd.? He's big, I've been told he's aggressive, he's not for everyone.

What about the fact that he is loyal, forgiving, the best companion you will ever have, as well as faithful kind, intelligent and if you take the time to understand what makes him tick, he will be the best investment you will ever make in taking on a pet who won't ever want to be anywhere except with you.

I have tried to list here all of the necessary things you may need to know or at least be aware of when you get your beautiful, exciting new GERMAN SHEPHERD companion. REMEMBER 'Understand him, and most of all LOVE HIM. He's worth it. You will have many years of owning a wonderful companion.

What does make a German Shepherd dog tick? Why does it do the things it does? The whole reason can be read in the book "Who's the Boss"?. And the sequel "Are you still the Boss?" These will give you a full read and understanding. Not just this shortened version,

This is a very simplified version.

Think about the dog of yesteryear. The wild dog. The Wolf The dingo, and all other species of dogs which have been around for a great many thousands of years.

How did they survive?

What are their Natural Instincts? How do they use them? How do they compare with the dog of today?

Let's talk about those Instincts.

EYES. How does a dog see.? Does it ever have to wear glasses? What does it see when it's using its eyes? Does its vision differ to ours? Remember the German Shepherd normally has very pricked ears. Do they play a part in its vision?

The answer very briefly is Yes. Most dog have centre Vision (Particularly the dog with pricked ears) where when looking straight ahead it can still see out to the side further than we can. Spread your arms sideways, and this is approximately the width of your Shepherds centre vision.

Now spread your hands upwards and backwards, and this is approximately the height your dog can see at any one time. Much better and further than ours. Peripheral Vision.

Without going into Medical details, Shepherds particularly see better at night than we do, and anything that moves quicker and better than we. However, if an object stands still, the dog doesn't always see it as well as we do. (He can however most times Scent it) This heightened vision (eyes) is part of understanding the dog and what makes him tick. Why do we continually stretch our hands above our heads to call a dog to come to us? Particularly if it's only a few meters away. The further distance, the higher you can put your arms. Think about it next time you recall. It doesn't really have any perception of height or depth. Always be aware of this. A dog on a roof is quite likely to jump off. It sees the ground, but doesn't realise just how far away it really is. Having said that, the dog is smart and only occasionally gets hurt because of a miscalculation.

HEARING: - Does the dog hear better than we do. Briefly YES. A Shepherds hearing is more acute and is about 7 times greater than ours. It can pick up sounds that are not available to our ears. High pitched sounds, some specific low sounds and sounds made often kilometres away. This makes and keeps him very alert. I believe much of his hearing is in an echo status, especially words we use. I have no scientific proof of this but after years of working many different breeds of dogs, and the Shepherd in particular, this is my belief. We verbalize with the dog - that is our communication network. Dog's can understand words if we use them clearly, distinctly and use a hand signal to suit the word. Of course for the dog to learn the word, we must be consistent, and use it constantly until we know the dog really understands what we mean. (Read about it further if you wish)

NOSE; - Dogs scenting capabilities are greatly different to ours. It has been said as many as 100,000 times better than ours. All I know is the ground it walks on is like a smorgasbord, and when you wet its nose, it scents even better. Wetting opens up its capillaries. (Little hairs in your Shepherds nose.) This is really its communication antennae, and it tells the dog everything it needs to know about humans, friend or foe, other animals, male or female, where it is, and what is happening around it. You never teach a dog how to scent, but you can teach it what you want it to scent. A good handler does very well using this particular trait. However you need to understand it.

This is the communication area which makes the great Drug Dog, Custom Dog, Tracking Dog, Search & Rescue Dog and others. So many Shepherds are used in these areas in all parts of the world.

When other senses are dulled for some reason, medical or otherwise, its touch senses chip in. You can teach a Blind dog, a Deaf Dog or a dog with other disabilities, by Touch. Touch, speak and guide, and all will be well. Be aware a dogs whiskers are his touch antennae. He can tell so much about his environment by using these whiskers. Note the whiskers around your Shepherds nose. They are super sensitive. His skin is also very sensitive, and particular areas – such as his ears, the base of his tail under the arm pits and in the groin area are also super sensitive for him. Sometimes just a touch from us in one of these areas can give him so much pleasure and direction. Great Praise areas.

TASTE; A dog has considerably less taste buds than we have. His taste buds allow him to differentiate between things it knows it can eat, and in most cases things it shouldn't eat. He is psychologically different to us, and many things that are palliative to the human, can either make the dog very ill or even kill it. Again in "**Are you still the Boss?**" book things that are dangerous to the dog are listed. Of course there are many others. Chocolate, Some nuts, Avocado (and yet I have seen some dogs pull them off trees and eat them with no ill effect.) The simple raisin/sultana. (It has been known for as few as 7 have killed a dog.)

BODY LANGUAGE. dogs are born understanding this in its littermates, mother, father and other animals. It reads the human body language very well, but still we don't understand the importance that this very elemental part of us and the dog means. There are so many calming signals the dog gives to other dogs to defray a potential danger. These are the same calming signals we can give to the dog, but we don't. Because we don't know them. Learn about them. You'll find them all listed in the books.

This body language for the dog plays a great part in showing what it is feeling. Your Shepherd needs to display all the body language to show for instance Aggression. The Hair stands up on its back, ears either go on full alert, bend backwards (if fearful) tail will stand high or in between its legs (fear), Legs will brace, lips draw back teeth shown, all these are there to display just what the dog is feeling. You as the human have to learn to read these signs, sometimes just altering one of the indications being given, will alter the dogs intentions. Usually, it needs his full display to be on display before it will attack.

I talk about aggression here, but if you do all the correct things with your Shepherd (indeed any breed of dog you may have), you may never see it display any sign of aggression).

There are about 15 different types of aggression. Again, they are all described in the book "Are you still the Boss"? and as a Shepherd owner you should be aware of the difference of each type of aggression on display, and how to treat them on an individual basis.

The end of your dogs tail (the very tip of bone there) is full of endorphins, and should your dog be hurt, you can rub this tip and the endorphins release a form of morphine, and this assists the dog when it needs it most. Another reason why docking is not great for the dog. He still feels he has a tail, and it is this tail that acts like a rudder. It gives the dog the direction it requires. Fortunately Shepherd tails have never been docked unless for Medical/health reasons.

The things I have listed here in this shortened version of Understanding the dog and what makes it tick, are just that. Very shortened.

PACK STRUCTURE.: - (Pecking order). Shepherds need and want a Leader. There is always the hierarchy in every pack, and the dogs react to this. It gives them purpose and order They know where they stand, and are happy in this environment. Living in a family of humans, they still require this hierarchy, they need and want a Leader. Be consistent, Constant, Calm, Confident and you will have the Control you require to have a great family pet. Be a good Leader, NOT an overbearing Boss. Always be fair and consistent. Never say Yes to day and No tomorrow. They will be confused. Make a decision and stick to it.

THE DOG TODAY;-As an owner/handler of the dog you need to become fully aware of these instincts. Unfortunately, over many years of breeding which some people have done to alter the look of the dog, they have altered the dogs' features, shorter noses, floppy ears, docked tails, broader or narrower faces, we have altered the outline enough to minimise some of the senses the dog has. (Fortunately, this has been minimal in the German Shepherd) However, we have not obliterated them. They still have the 5 most important senses they originally came with.

HOW DO THEY LEARN? A dog learns by repetition, by making sure it understands what you are trying to teach BEFORE you move onto something else. Break down the thing/exercises you want to teach into smaller parts. Teach each part separately and thoroughly, and then once you feel the dogs knows them, put them together. Don't overate the dog's intelligence, but try not to underrate it either. A Shepherd has the Intelligence as we know it, of about the average 2- to 3-year-old child. It is a creature of habit and routine. The more consistent the routine/boundary given the better the dog will respond. Again, another huge subject. Again, having lived with shepherds for about 50 years, they never cease to amaze me with what they can achieve, Sometimes I think we only touch about 10% of their brain capacity.

Every Breed of course is different, and every dog within the breed is different. You can own 4 dogs of the same breed, and you have to try and understand each one on an individual basis. You may have to train them differently. Their temperaments may be different Temperament comes initially from the parents of the dog (its breeding). The dog's disposition comes from how it is treated. Even the best temperament can be destroyed, by bad upbringing(disposition). Bringing out the best in it is up to you.

The disposition of the Shepherd - can be changed. For good or Bad. The temperament is much more difficult as it is usually genetic. A genetically unsound dog, (bad temperament,) is most time s an unsolvable problem, and may need to be put quietly to sleep.

We have to read and understand, what is temperament and what is disposition. A whole book on its own.

A Shepherd is the best companion you can ever have, but you must learn to understand it to be able to bring all it has to give you to the front. I guess it's like being married. If you don't take the time to understand your partner, then you will eventually finish up severing your relationship.

This happens so often with dog and family. Family can't handle what they have, so they get rid of the dog. So sad.

There is so much to be discussed here, but this is a brief outline and so I will leave it here.

If you require to know more then please get a copy of the two books "Are you still the Boss?" and "Who's the Boss"? These books are two of the best Educational Tools available to the average dog owner.

Regards,

Val Bonney (Canine behavioural specialist/International Trainer/Author/Judge)

Web page. www.bonnies.com.au or email info@bonnies.com.au.

GSDCQ 2022 AWARD WINNERS



2022 Award Winners



German Shepherd Dog Club of Queensland Inc.

OWNER	DOG	TITLE/S
Nicole Hammond	Supreme Champion Karham Vava Vava Voom HT AZ BSC	ET
Nicole Hammond	Karham Destined To Be AZ	HITGHT
Ann Clarkson	Ancartra Badas A Bone AZ BSCL	RALLY NOVICE & TRACKING DOG
Meredith Nelson	LaGuardia Perfect Finale TD RN	RALLY O NOVICE
Debbie Schmidt	Haveloc Storm Chaser	TRACKING DOG
Meredith Nelson	Laguardia Heart Of A Hero CCD, CD RD HT	TRICKS STARTER
Debbie O'Keefe	Ch. Debbar Quacker AZ	AUST CH.
Debbie O'keefe	Ch. Debbar Quall AZ	AUST CH.
Janine Hourn	Ch. Lozani Harmonyz Secret	AUST CH.
Jocelyn Philp	Ch. Amdak Hashtag Fudge Me AZ	AUST CH.
Jocelyn Philp	Ch. Grandspy Intentionally Evil AZ	AUST CH.
Cathie & K Zimmerle	Ch. Cinderhof Italiaa AZ BSCL	AUST CH.
1 Cathie	Ch. Cinderhof Vantaa AZ BSCL	AUST CH.
Cathie & B & D Tatham	Ch. Cinderhof Khaleesi AZ BSCL	AUST CH.
Nicole Hammond	Ch. Karham I Own It All AZ	AUST CH.
Nicole Hammond	Supreme Champion Karham Know It All HTAZ BSLC	ZONE 1 - 250 POINTS
Margaret Purcell	Supreme Champion Castastar Over The Wall AZ BSCL	ZONE 3 - 233 POINTS

GSDCQ ZONE 2 MEMBERS COMP Judge Melanie Groth (NSW)





Best In Competition Lettland Flint



GSDCQ September Members Comp Judge Jo Cathie (NSW)



Best In Show
Wulkano Uno Vom Schnitzerteam



Reserve Best In Show
Ch. Vladimir Supercalifragilistic



GSDCQ SBE JUDGE GREG GREEN (VIC)

GSDCQ 2022 LSC Siegerin Kaygarr Esther





GSDCQ 2022 LSC Sieger Ch. Eroica Ice Ice Baby



GSDCQ SBE JUDGE GREG GREEN (VIC)

GSDCQ 2022 Sieger Wulkana-Uno Von Schnitzerteam





GSDCQ 2022 Siegerin Ch. Cinderhof Italiaa



GSDCQ 2023 Calendar



- 23.01.2032 General Meeting
- 25.03.2023 Breed Survey
- 25.03.2023 Open Show
- 26.03.2023 Members Comp
- 27.03.2023 General Meeting
- 28.04.2023 30.04,2023 49th German Shepherd Show & Trial
- 22.05.2023 General Meeting
- 08.07.2023 09.07.2023 July Champ Show
- 24.07.2023 General Meeting
- 23.09.2023 24.09.2023 -- SBE/ Members Comp (TBC)
- 25.09.2023 General Meeting
- 27.11.2023 General Meeting
- 04.12.2023 AGM

HD ED: Congratulations Eroica Touriga for achieving AZ Stamps!