



**GERMAN SHEPHERD DOG CLUB OF AMERICA-
WORKING DOG ASSOCIATION, INC.
Board of Directors Meeting
April 13-14, 2007
Ramada Inn, Peoria, IL**

Call to Order – Friday April 13, 2007

President Ken Downing called the meeting to order at 6:40 PM.

David Landau, Jim York and Tom Mesdag will be attending but have not arrived yet. Miriam Barkus questioned the quorum. LaMar Frederick explained Colorado law regarding a quorum at board meetings. Bylaws cannot go against law.

Miriam Barkus exited the meeting room until David Landau could be present. LaMar explained that the meeting could continue as a “committee of the whole” but cannot vote on anything.

Jim York arrived and Miriam returned. LaMar advised them that they owe a duty to the club. Jim announced that Tom Mesdag was on his way and that David Landau was told the meeting was to start at 7:00.

Ken Downing announced that he did not get an agenda out. There will be no agenda at this meeting.

Ken stated the bylaws call for 7 for a quorum...3 officers and 4 directors...however we can still conduct business without 3 officers in the efforts to move business along per Colorado law. LaMar explained in 1997 there were substantial changes in non-profit corporation law in Colorado. Per Colorado law, only 1 officer (the president or vice-president), and either the secretary or treasurer, and then a quorum of the board is required to conduct business.

Officers and Directors Present

Richard Agee, Miriam Barkus, Wayne Davis, LaMar Frederick, Rhonda Long, Tom Mesdag, Russ Osburn, Martylou Plinski, Mike West, Jim York, David Landau

Committee Chairs

Clay Meadows

Guests Present

Steve Beal, Alethea Caldwell-Munsinger, Allan Castillo, Donna Gauvin, Phil Hoelcher, Carlos Huerta, Heidi Landau, Robin Leasure Huerta, Chris Olson, Carl Smith, Danny Spreitler, Joy Schultz

Approval of Minutes

Ken Downing announced that the secretary could not attend and requested approval for Joy Schultz to record the minutes in Ginny Altman’s absence. **Approved.**

Ken announced the board received and approved the minutes of the January meeting electronically and called for any corrections or objections to the minutes. There were no corrections or objections. **Approved.**

Clay Meadows addressed the Chair and asked to be heard. Ken Downing denied Clay Meadow’s request.

Miriam Barkus asked about issues that she heard will be presented to the board for action at this meeting regarding the Helper Committee. Ken Downing announced that the Helper Committee has fulfilled its duties to the Club. The Board then will operate under the guidelines that were set up by the Committee.

Officers’ Reports

- Report of the Secretary – Ginny Altman
No Report

▪ Report of the Treasurer – Martylou Plinski

Martylou distributed her report. Ken Downing called for questions and pointed out that at the end of March the Club had assets of \$135,694.

Budget Report: Martylou Plinski distributed the 2007 budget proposals. One is the general operating budget and the second is the team budget as requested by LaMar. The budget for the NASS is not finalized yet.

Russ Osburn moved that the reports and budgets be approved. Motion seconded. **Motion carried.** Martylou abstained.

▪ Report of the President

Executive Committee actions for Board ratification:

- 1) Approval of John and Pam Rody to host our website. Joy Schultz, as Newsletter editor is to work together with them to bring the two entities together working on ads and those types of things. The Rody's will charge the Club \$150/month management fee. There is a \$10/month hosting charge.

Wayne Davis moved to approve John and Pam Rody to manage our website. Motion seconded. **Motion carried.** Ken instructed LaMar to draw up a "scope of work" document for the Rody's website management.

- 2) The Executive Committee has approved a process drafted by LaMar for a member "not-in-good standing":

If a member or pending member of the Club should owe the German Shepherd Dog Club of America-Working Dog Association money or goods and/or services rendered by the Club on behalf of the member or pending member or should such member or pending member commence a suit against the club in violation of the arbitration provision of the membership in the Club then in that event the secretary of the Club shall send an invoice or other notice of violations of this paragraph to the offending member or pending member giving notice of the violation and requesting that the member or pending member within ten (10) days of the date of the notice either pay the outstanding obligation and/or dismiss the suit. The member or temporary member failing to cure the violation in the period set forth in the notice may at the next regular or special meeting be declared by the Board of Directors of the Club not-in-good-standing for a period and/or under conditions to be determined by the Board of Directors.

LaMar explained it is a condition of membership now that a member must go to binding arbitration. If the member does go to binding arbitration this clause will not apply.

Russ Osburn moved to approve the Member Not-In-Good Standing process. Motion seconded. **Motion carried.** Miriam Barkus abstained.

Ken requested Board approval of the following committee chairs:

- 1) Budget and Finance – Ken Downing and Martylou Plinski. Miriam Barkus nominated Danny Spreitler to be on the committee. Russ Osburn moved to approve. Motion seconded. **Motion carried.** Martylou abstained.
- 2) Bylaws – LaMar Frederick Chairperson. Russ Osburn moved to approve. Motion seconded. **Motion carried.** LaMar abstained.
- 3) Insurance – Richard Agee Committee Chair. Wayne Davis moved to approve. Motion seconded. **Motion carried.** Richard abstained.
- 4) Junior Program – Ken nominated and recommended Danny Spreitler. Wayne Davis moved to approve. Motion seconded. **Motion carried.**
- 5) K-9 Committee – Wendell Nope
Wayne Davis moved to approve. Motion seconded. **Motion carried.**
- 6) Legal Affairs – LaMar Frederick
Wayne moved to approve. Motion seconded. **Motion carried.**

- 7) GSDCA/GSDCA-WDA Club Liaison – Jim York
Wayne moved. Motion seconded. **Motion carried.**
- 8) North American Sieger Show – Richard Agee
Wayne moved. Motion seconded. **Motion carried.**
- 9) Parliamentarian – LaMar Frederick
Wayne moved. Motion seconded. **Motion carried.**
- 10) Performance Rules & Regulations – David Landau
Miriam moved. Motion seconded. **Motion carried.**
- 11) Helper Program – Clay Meadows

Ken stated he was not planning to continue with this committee because they have put together a program for the board to follow and it is complete. In addition it was his thought process to use the existing people on the committee who put the program together for consultation and the work that needs to be done. Ken stated he has been questioned about the make up of the committee. The majority of the committee members are Helpers and we should be taking their expertise but it is a conflict of interest.

After considerable discussion, Ken Downing recommended Clay Meadows to continue as Chair of the Helper Program Committee. Wayne Davis moved to approve. Motion seconded. **Motion carried.**

Richard Agee asked why there is not a final accounting of last year's NASS. The Treasurer, Martylou Plinski responded there was a final accounting that was passed out at the January board meeting.

The GSDCA-WDA Breed Survey Rules and Procedures document will be passed out for approval tomorrow. Once approved it will be put up on our website. Ken Downing read changes to breed surveys as follows: Proof of a BH and at least one SchH1 or IP1 that was judged by an SV, SVF, GSDCA-WDA or USCA trial judge. Our judges will be accepted on breed surveys done by an SV Körmeister in the United States. There is a caveat and that caveat will be the same when you get to elbows and that is, if the Working titles were not obtained under SV or SVF judges the breed survey may not be recognized internationally. We are leaving it up to the owners to do this, that is their responsibility. In other words, we are not going to police it.

Ken Downing read a letter from David re SV release of SVF judges. David is asking we develop a release for our judges to judge clubs other than GSDCA-WDA. Russ moved to approve. Motion seconded. **Motion carried.**

Insurance

Ken Downing announced that our D&O policy has been renewed at an increased cost this year of \$285.

HGH

The German Shepherd Dog Club of Fort Worth Texas (a GSDCA club) has a member who is an AKC Herding Judge, Eunice Gerloff. Eunice owns 1000 sheep and several hundred acres. They would like to, along with the Seagoville GSDCA-WDA club, put together a herding program. Ken Downing appointed an ad hoc committee with Jim York as Chair to work with Eunice Gerloff and Russ Osburn to form a HGH program for GSDCA-WDA. Wayne Davis moved we post HGH rules on the website. Motion seconded. **Motion carried.**

Membership

Wayne Davis moved to return incomplete 2007 membership applications and monies to the people who have not completed the full membership application renewal process. They are to be treated as new members. Motion Seconded. **Motion carried.** Tom Mesdag, Jim York and Miriam Barkus abstained.

Members who joined late in 2006 before the arbitration agreement was in place and whose memberships are technically not due for renewal until later this year will need to sign when they renew.

Elbow Certifications

Ken Downing requests approval to accept OFA Elbow Certifications in our events. Jim York moved. Motion seconded. **Motion carried.**

Richard Agee asked about entries in the Working Classes at the NASS. What about entries from South America, Canada, Italy, etc? David recommended we accept those that are accepted by the SV plus OFA. Dogs that are not

OFA or on the SV list of acceptable elbow certifications, cannot go VA. David moved we accept OFA and SV recognized elbow certification for VA ratings and note the VA ratings may not be recognized in Germany if the elbow certification is OFA. Motion seconded. **Motion carried.** David is to get the list of acceptable countries' elbow evaluations from the SV.

David announced that the SV has again given permission that a dog can do a breed survey on Saturday but then receive its first show rating the following day.

O.G. Agua Dulce Breed Survey

Regarding the breed survey held by O.G. Agua Dulce March 10th, Ken Downing said there were violations of stated policies for breed surveys. To be eligible for a breed survey the dog must be hip certified at the time of entry. Additionally the owner of the dog must be a GSDCA-WDA member. At this breed survey, there were dogs entered not owned by members and dogs that had not yet been hip certified. The club has been notified that this would be discussed at this board meeting and if there is any action taken against the club we would do that, and in addition we would notify the entries that they were ineligible. David Landau has written a letter to Herr Lux asking if a provisional breed survey can be given pending SV hip certification. Our current rules say you must have hip certification to enter a breed survey. The SV rules also say you must have hip certification at the time of survey but they do deviate from their written rule. The dogs in question at the Agua Dulce breed survey were entered with a letter from the USCA that stated that the paperwork had been sent to the SV for "a" stamp evaluation.

Martylou Plinski read from our Breed Survey Entry Form: "Note: Seven days prior to the event you must submit this entry form with copies of all original documents." At the bottom of the entry form it states "I herewith certify as owner of the dog or agent that all information is correct. Original pedigree, previous breed survey if applicable, scorebook, AD certification, hip certification, and proof of show rating will be presented on the day of the breed survey." Part of the documents that the owners entering a Breed Survey are supposed to get from the host club is the Breed Survey Rules and Checklist for Documents and it says originals must be submitted. Documents that must be submitted: "OFA hip certificate, SV "a" Stamp or other SV recognized hip certification, USCA certificates of pure breeding can only be used as proof of SV hip certification, the original scorebook, show card, the original breed survey report if needed."

David stated that the SV has printed rules that you can look up in booklets and pull down from the web that state things very specifically. One of them is you must have the "a" stamp in the pedigree in order to enter a breed survey. That is very clear. If someone wants to enter a breed survey, they call up the SV and say I've sent my x-rays in, is this ok, and they are told yes that is ok. We may well have an event here where someone gets some paperwork or forms to fill out and they can't quite fulfill this and wonder if the SV will accept it. They call up the SV and the SV say yes, it can be done. So they are under the assumption that what they are doing is perfectly honorable and GSDCA-WDA is not informed about any of this. So we are now under the assumption that we can trust the SV printed rules. David stated he has written to the SV and told them about the confusion this is causing the members as well as the organization and if they have a set rule for things like this our office needs to know so that we can avoid this in the future. Clearly there were violations of our posted rules.

Miriam Barkus moved to accept the breed surveys from those who were not members, as they were not advised of the GSDCA-WDA membership requirement by the club at the time of the breed survey. Because they were not members they could not have known membership was a requirement. They then joined when they were advised they needed to be members in order for the breed survey to be processed. Motion seconded. **Motion carried.** Lamar Frederick, Tom Mesdag and Richard Agee opposed.

Russ move to accept all breed surveys that were ok. The incomplete breed surveys are null and void. Motion seconded. **Motion carried.**

Ken Downing will send a letter to O.G. Agua Dulce outlining the violations and asking them to show cause. That will be addressed at our next meeting.

Jim moved that we reaffirm that we not allow deviation from our rules. Motion seconded. **Motion carried.**

Adjourn 11:15 pm.

SATURDAY April 14, 2007

Call to Order

President Ken Downing called the meeting to order at 8:07 am.

Officers and Directors Present

LaMar Frederick, Wayne Davis, Jim York, Miriam Barkus, Martylou Plinski, Ken Downing, Richard Agee, Tom Mesdag, Rhonda Long. David Landau and Mike West were unable to be present. David was judging the GSDCA-WDA National Championship and Mike, as Event Chair was required to be present at the trial site.

Committee Chairs Present

Danny Spreitler

Guests Present

Alethea Caldwell Munsinger, Joy Schultz

Executive Committee

Ken requested Board approval of the following Executive Committee members: Wayne Davis, David Landau, Martylou Plinski and Richard Agee. Jim York moved to approve. Motion seconded. **Motion carried.**

Nominating Committee

Ken Downing called for nominations to serve on the nominating committee for this year's election of officers and directors to serve in 2008 and 2009. Ken Downing nominated LaMar Frederick to chair the committee. LaMar accepted. LaMar nominated Danny Spreitler; Wayne Davis nominated Brett Fulford; and Richard Agee nominated Brigitte Holder. Wayne Davis moved nominations be closed and that LaMar, Danny, Brett and Brigitte be approved to serve on the nominating committee. Motion seconded. **Motion carried.** Ken advised LaMar that he will have to go to the Executive Committee for alternates ASAP.

Perpetual Trophies

The Termini Perpetual Trophy was instituted but not funded in 1991 by the Northeast Georgia Schutzhund Club. Ken suggested the trophy be retired to the person who has won it the most times, Karoly Meszaros. Wayne Davis moved to return the trophy to the Northeast Georgia Schutzhund Club for their disposition. Motion seconded. **Motion carried.**

The Janis Novak Perpetual Trophy program that is to be awarded each year to the first place 18-24 month female at the NASS has been poorly handled. The Southern Idaho Working Dog Association has funded this trophy. The trophy resides for one year with the winner and then it is returned to the Southern Idaho club to be presented to the next recipient. Danny Spreitler volunteered to handle managing the trophy and its presentation at the NASS.

Breed Survey Rules and Procedures

Martylou Plinski read changes made to the document. The most significant change is that dogs could be trialed for both working titles and the AD under GSDCA-WDA and USCA judges and be eligible for GSDCA-WDA Breed Surveys. David has gone through the entire document and made other minor changes. Miriam moved to approve. Motion seconded. **Motion carried.** Joy is to send the document to the clubs and have it put up on our website.

Richard Agee questioned and requested the Board revisit the level of Helper required to do breed surveys. He stated it is financially difficult for clubs to have to bring in a National level helper. Martylou read from the Breed Survey Rules and Procedures regarding the level of Helper required. "A Breed Survey Master judges the protection work. A Regional or National level GSDCA-WDA certified helper shall be available to assist the Breed Survey Master during the protection work. A SV Teaching Helper may also do the protection work with prior approval of the GSDCA-WDA Board of Directors."

Richard Agee moved to allow club Helpers to do breed surveys. Motion seconded. After lengthy discussion Martylou Plinski called for the question. The call for the question was defeated.

After a heated exchange with other board members, Richard Agee exited the meeting and did not return. Ken Downing called for the vote to allow Club level Helpers to conduct breed surveys at the club level. **Motion carried.** Ken instructed Martylou to insert this change in the breed survey rules and procedures.

Meeting Recess

There was a 90-minute recess of business while Ken Downing left the meeting to calm Richard down. Upon Ken's return to the meeting the recess ended and the meeting resumed.

New Member Clubs

Joy Schultz requested approval of two clubs who have done their affiliation trials and received good reports and their paperwork was in order. The Good Shepherd Schutzhund Club and the Fairfield County Working Dog Club. Martylou moved to approve. Motion seconded. **Motion carried.**

Bylaws

LaMar Frederick presented a revision draft of the Club bylaws for discussion.

Motion by LaMar Frederick that in the election taking place in 2007 for the Officers to serve 2008 and 2009 that there be an election of President and Vice-President and 9 Directors. We have to do this because of Colorado law. We have put a Nominating Committee in place so we have to vote on this. Motion seconded. **Motion carried.**

LaMar Frederick will incorporate the discussed changes to the bylaws draft and send to the entire Board for study by the end of the week.

Meeting adjourned 12:30 pm.