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MEMBER BODIES
OF THE ANKC LTD

Dogs ACT



Dogs West



Dogs Queensland



Dogs NT



Dogs NSW



Dogs SA



Dogs Tasmania



Dogs Victoria

18 October, 2017

Mr. Vince Tantaro
President
German Shepherd Dog Council of Australia
PO Box 173
MACEDON. VIC. 3440.

Transmitted via email address: secretary@gsdcouncilaustralia.org

Dear Vince,

ANKC LTD RESPONSE ON THE GSDCA PROPOSAL FOR THE ANKC LTD TO REVERSE ITS POLICY ON THE CONDUCT OF IPO IN AUSTRALIA

At the recent Board meeting of the ANKC Ltd held on 14-15 October 2017 the Directors considered your proposition that ANKC Ltd reverse its current policy on Schutzhund/IPO/Dogsport and agree to sanction the FCI IPO dog sports scheme as a recognised activity in Australia on the provision that such activities being conducted would be in full compliance with the FCI IPO Rules and Australian State & Territory Government Regulations.

I wish to inform you that after careful deliberation of your submission and other material presented to the Board, your request for the ANKC Ltd to reverse its policy on Schutzhund/IPO/Dogsport was unanimously rejected.

In its deliberations the Board considered all aspects of your submission and found there was insufficient evidence that public observation of IPO activities would not damage the reputation of ANKC Ltd who promote the German Shepherd as a dog who displays friendly and family orientated characteristics, the sight of dog attacking a sleeve in what is described as "defence work" is not considered to be displaying the characteristics of being friendly or a good family pet.

The Board also considered the legal implications of the respective States and Territories legislation on attack trained dogs. Although attack training is currently only banned in Victoria there are other legislative considerations of aggressive dogs in a number of the other jurisdictions including muzzling, the wearing of identifying collars and signage on the entrances to properties. These again do not promote the hallmarks of a friendly family dog.

The Board noted the proposition that the recognition of IPO activities in Australia would enable the GSDCA to assess the GSD for the desired working attributes as specified in the Breed Standard, in response the Directors expressed the opinion that for many years the desired recognition of working attributes in the GSD in Australia has been sufficiently demonstrated by the GSDCA Breed Survey Scheme where dogs are assessed on temperament, character, gun sureness, anatomical attributes, movement and general soundness and where dogs who do not meet the criteria are not passed.



Further to this the ANKC Ltd Member Bodies have received submissions from the RSPCA suggesting that the ANKC Ltd consider its response very carefully as it also does not support IPO or any form of attack training. Should the ANKC reverse its policy the RSPCA would make their own representations to the various governments to have IPO declared an illegal activity. Given that various governments are currently reviewing their Companion Animals Acts and Animal Welfare Acts and the Member Bodies are in constant consultation with them it is not considered appropriate to endorse an activity that will alienate either the government or other animal advocates.

ANKC Ltd has previously rejected approaches from the FCI Utility Commission and a number of Australian Dogsport Associations to recognise IPO and reiterates that under no circumstances will it support any dog activity that encourages dogs to be aggressive towards humans or to display such aggression.

The Board deliberated hard on this matter before making its unanimous decision to reject your proposal. Should you require further information please feel free to contact the undersigned through the ANKC Administrator.

Yours sincerely,



Hugh Gent OAM
President & Chairman of the Board