



# EXECUTIVE AND OFFICE HOLDERS UPDATE

26 August 2023

## FROM THE GSDCA PRESIDENT - SEAN LYNCH

Dear Members,

It's Sieger Show time, a very exciting time of year, I hope those attending have a great time and I look forward to the comments and photos from you all.

During September two of our Executive members, Janet and Alistair will be representing our organisation at the General Assembly Meeting in Germany. We are hoping for clarity and a clear vision of the future for Australia, we will have reports to you all as soon as we can once Janet and Alistair return.

The NBC meeting has just been held in Adelaide, first face to face meeting for three years and I can say it was very positive. Full minutes will be sent to the clubs in the near future. I would like to thank Mel Groth for the two workshop she presented, it was great to see the attendees take part in the exercises, also thank you to Gab for taking the minutes and the rest of the Executive for working towards marking this a very worthwhile meeting.

Part of this meeting is to look at new applications for Breed Surveyors, I am very pleased to announce that three of our judges have been nominated by the GSDL for this honour, the meeting was happy to accept these nominations, I would like everyone to congratulate - Glen Gregory, Jess Kada and Kurt Morton to the aspirant scheme.

Have a great day,

**Sean Lynch**



**Kurt Morton**



**Glen Gregory**

**Jess Kada**

## NATIONAL BREED COMMISSION CHAIR - IAN URIE



The NBC and Judges meeting was held in Adelaide on 19/20 August and was attended by 28 Judges, Surveyors and Club delegates. It was a very productive meeting for our fraternity and was the first in-person meeting for over 3 years.

I am pleased to report that three new Aspirant Breed Surveyors have been appointed - Glen Gregory, Jess Kada and Kurt Morton. Glen's application complies with the current requirements, and both Jess and Kurt have a few judging appointments still to complete during their aspirant terms. All three came highly recommended by their club, the GSDL. We did however discuss amending the pre-requisites (which currently require 5 appointments after completing the Judges Extension Course) and the NBC Executive will be formulating a motion to the AGM for an alternative procedure. We feel that mentoring and in-training education is just as important as judging history. Congratulations to the three aspirants, appointed by the NBC, which will be ratified by the next AGM.

Several resolutions were passed to make minor amendments to some Council regulations.

We clarified the process for Verification of imported semen. The current rule in the Breed Survey Manual implies that progeny got from semen cannot be presented for Survey if the semen has not been verified by the GSDCA officer. This conflicts with the requirements for progeny from a physical mating where this does not apply, and the rule needs to be amended to be more equitable. We have approval from the meeting to amend the wording of BS rule 5.5.1 to remove this anomaly. We also decided to add a line to the Verification application form that the owner of the dog or semen consents to the verification being published on the GSDCA website. This important information should be available to prospective breeders and Surveyors, and verification is also a requirement for advertising in the National Review. Another amendment approved was to Regulation 5.2.10.2(b) - State Breed Exhibition grading requirements. Maximum size for "Excellent" grading will be changed to 62/67 cm, to align with the existing rule which applies at all other shows. The maximum size for "Excellent Merit" will remain as 61/66cm.

Thank you to all who attended and contributed to the 2023 Judges Committee and National Breed Commission meetings. Other business will be reported in the meeting minutes in due course.

## **JUDGES COMMITTEE CHAIR - MELANIE GROTH**

Thanks to those people that attended the recent NBC/Judges meeting in Adelaide in person and online. I appreciate that it is an expensive exercise, however it has proven and acknowledged to be a valuable opportunity to meet in person, share ideas, collaborate, and listen to alternative viewpoints so that we can make decisions in the best interest of the German Shepherd Dog and the members across Australia. Thank you to the attendees who were actively engaged in the presentations, contributing positively throughout the weekend.

Janet Haase has given an enormous amount of her time in preparation for this meeting and the presentations whilst also keeping abreast of Council business, responding to requests and business from the member clubs. Thank you, Janet, for pulling the meeting agendas together to enable a smooth process and for ensuring that those judges and surveyors who were unable to attend were provided the opportunity online on both Saturday and Sunday. Thank you so much to Gabrielle Peacock for doing the minutes for the entire weekend. Gab did a great job and has had them back to us this week for editing. I expect they will be circulated very soon.

Congratulations to the GSDCA judges who have now entered the aspirant breed surveyor scheme after submitting outstanding resumes and applications. I thank the delegates and clubs for the support of Glenn, Jess, and Kurt to join the survey team and look forward to seeing them grow in their new roles.

It is widely acknowledged that the rules and regulations that bind our activities in the Council are not really serving our fraternity in the current social and declining numbers climate. We really must be mature and responsible about managing the complexity of situations that arise from time to time and being flexible in our approach so that the organisation can keep moving forward and not inhibit potential position holders and aspirants from contributing positively. It was pleasing to see the delegates acknowledging this on the weekend and enabling us to make administrative adjustments that keep the workflow moving.



## **OBEDIENCE CHAIR - ALASTAIR HENDERSON**

To date there have been 69 animals that have completed the ZAP Character Assessment. The draft process for accreditation of new assessors was discussed and is displayed below. It was agreed that those who attended and actively participated in the Harold Hohman workshop would be eligible for assessor status. Those who meet this criterion are required to submit a letter of endorsement from their member club detailing their suitability, knowledge, and experience. This endorsement needs to be submitted to the me vis the GSDCA Secretary.

### **GSDCA ZAP – Puppy Character Assessor Accreditation Process**

- All GSDCA Breed Surveyors who did not attend the Training Seminar with Harold Hohmann will be required to participate in a ZAP assessment and successfully complete a worksheet under the supervision of the State Coordinator.

The following is a list of candidates, which would be eligible to apply to become a GSDCA ZAP Assessor.

- Any licensed GSD Specialist Judges
- ANKC Obedience Judges who appears on either the GSDCA Preferred or Supplementary judges lists.
- GSDCA Club Instructors or suitable personnel if required.

#### Process

- Applicant to complete application form (to be developed)
- GSDCA member clubs will need to supply a letter of endorsement to the GSDCA for each trainee ZAP assessor before they can enter the training program.
- Training would include the trainees successfully completing worksheets with the State Coordinators at a minimum of two assessments and then be tested by the appointed person in charge at GSDCA.
- Trainees would be tested on their familiarity with the contents of the manual, their understanding of body language/play drive as displayed by the dog, and their competency of filling out the worksheet.

## **SECRETARY - JANET HAASE**

It's been a very busy few weeks, but worth the work when you watch our Breed Surveyors, Specialists Judges and Club Delegates working together with positivity and engagement. The minutes of both the meetings are

nearly complete and will be emailed to member clubs shortly. Congratulations to our new aspirant Breed Surveyors, Glen Gregory, Jess Kada and Kurt Morton.

This issue of the Executive Update is a little early because I'm off to Germany for the Sieger Show on Monday. I can't wait for some beautiful European summer weather and catching up with friends from around the world. Whilst we're in Germany Alastair and I will be representing the GSDCA at the WUSV meeting. We will provide a detailed report for you on our return.

Our condolences to Peter Flynn on the unexpected death of his brother. Our thoughts are with you, your parents and family.

