

Rottweiler Breed Council Minutes

Sunday 7 Feb. 2010, MRL Clubhouse, Goldfields K. Club, Bedfordview.

Present (alphabetically):

Barron Africa	Treasurer , Working Sub-Committee Convenor	WPRC 1 st Delegate
Case van Hattem		NARC 1 st Delegate
Chris Pretorius	Secretary,	WPRC 2 nd Delegate
Danie Swanepoel		NARC 2 nd Delegate
Gaynor Matthews		Highveld 1 st Delegate
Hamidah Ajam	ID/Sub-Committee Convenor	
Jack Knight		NRA 2 nd Delegate
Marion Brown		Breed Convenor
Marthie Vermaak		MRL 2 nd Delegate
Meryl Geyser		Highveld 2 nd Delegate
Neil Perkins	Vice Chairman, Health Sub-Committee Convenor	MRL 1 st Delegate
Osman Damon		CRC 2 nd Delegate
Rainer Neff		NRA 1 st Delegate
Renier Gertzen		RWBA 2 nd Delegate
Selvin Lewis		CRC 1 st Delegate
Tommie Bezuidenhout	Chairman, Judges Sub-Committee Convenor	RWBA 1 st Delegate

- 1) **Opening of Meeting, ratification, accreditation and welcoming of delegates:** The Chairman welcomed all present and on behalf of the RBC, thanked the MRL for providing the venue and NARC for providing the catering. The Vice Chairman responded by suggesting that in 2011 the Judges and Breeder's meetings also be held in the MRL Clubhouse, for which the Chairman thanked him on behalf of the Council. The Chairman further stated his appreciation for the spirit of co-operation that has become evident amongst all Clubs.
- 2) **Apologies:** The Rescue Convenor, Mr. Mike Danatt tendered his apologies, as he is caring for bitch with very young puppies that has recently whelped, but presented his annual report to be read. Mrs. Marion Brown, the Breed Convenor, would be arriving later to present her report.
- 3) **Confirmation of previous meeting's Minutes (Sun. 8 March 2009):** Proposed in order CvH; seconded NP.
- 4) **Matters arising from previous Minutes:** The investigation into Breed regulations as practiced by different countries from where potential importers might want to acquire Rottweilers, to be handled by Mrs. Letsie Fischer, to stand over for now. Secondly, CvH stated that the proposal for BA requirements as envisaged by the RBC for ARC (Advanced Registration Certificate) status has not been received by FEDCO. This to be handled by the Breed Convenor.
- 5) **Correspondence:** The following were read to the meeting by the Secretary:
 - i) Letter from Mr. Neels Haywood re an alleged fraudster (Miles Meyers) who paid for a Rottweiler pup with an Internet bank transfer that turned out to be dishonoured. He wished to draw the RBC's attention to this (22 Feb 2009)
 - ii) Communication between the Vice Chairman and KUSA re the status of Hungary with regard to the testing of CHD when exporting Rottweilers to SA, as requested by Mrs. L. Fischer. (25 March 2009)
 - iii) Letter from Mr. Clinton Braaf re buying a Rottweiler pup that turned out to have structural problems. Enquired as to what claim (if any) he had. In reply, it was pointed out to him that this depended on what was contained in the sales agreement (if any) and best handled by a lawyer, as the RBC was not a disciplinary or arbitrary body. (10 Sept. 2009)
 - iv) Notice to RBC Club Delegates re Judges-, Breeders- and RBC Meetings planned for the weekend of 6 and 7 Feb. 2010 (08 Nov. 2009)
 - v) Notice to RBC Specialist and Aspirant Specialist Judges re Judges Meeting planned for Sat. 6 Feb. 2010 (08 Nov. 2009)

- vi) Letter from Mrs. Van Aarde of Tzaneen, who bought Rottweilers from 2 breeders. While the one was very satisfactory, the other turned out to be non-typical, and was returned to the breeder. Mrs. Van Aarde is still awaiting full reimbursement from this breeder. In reply it was explained to her that the RBC does not involve itself with legal disputes of a commercial nature, but that the seven RBC Clubs took note of what happened and who the breeder was (08 Jan 2010).
- vii) Letter of accreditation from NRA (18 Jan. 2010)
- viii) Letter of accreditation from MRL (20 Jan. 2010)
- ix) Letter of accreditation from RWBA (22 Jan 2010)
- x) Letter of accreditation from WPRC (22 Jan. 2010)
- xi) Letter of accreditation from CRC (27 Jan. 2010)
- xii) Letter of accreditation from NARC (27 Jan. 2010)
- xiii) Final Agenda for RBC Meeting sent to Delegates (31 Jan. 2010)
- xiv) Final Judges' Meeting Agenda sent to Judges & Aspirant Judges (31 Jan 2010)
- xv) Communication with Mrs. Gaynor Matthews re legality of persons attending RBC meeting, who are not fully paid up KUSA members.
- xvi) Letter of accreditation from Highveld (5 February 2010)

- 6) **Finance:** The Treasurer handed his report out to all present and elaborated on some items. He stated that KUSA's financial year ends at 31 August, therefore the figures present were as for up to 31/08/2009. The increased levy was effective as from 1 Sept 2009 onwards. There was a 17.6% decline in Rottweiler puppy registrations. In bank at present, R29,245, with approx. R32,000 projected for end of Aug. 2010. Amongst RBC assets; tattoo pliers purchased in 1992 to be written off (w.e.f. 1 Sept 2010, micro-chipping to be made mandatory by KUSA as identification mode for all breeds). The Treasurer then invited comments. R200 still owed to RBC by Mrs. B. Larkin; Miss Ajam to follow it up. The Chairman stated that the catering costs incurred by NARC should be reimbursed to them. Agreed by all present.

The Vice Chairman complimented the Treasurer for his report, and for the fact that he was able to spot some discrepancies in KUSA's records. Acceptance for Finance report proposed by DS; seconded by SL.

- 7) **Confirmation of Minutes of Judges' Meeting Saturday 6 Feb. 2010 and discussion of issues arising therefrom:** The Chairman thanked the Vice Chairman for having kept the Minutes for the Judges' Meeting the previous day, and NP proceeded to inform those present as to the content. NP requested that the Secretary inform Ms. Leanne Tutt to attend the next Judges' Meeting, in order to avoid losing her Specialist status and to also inform the KUSA President about Mr. David Jones who has since lost his Specialist status. To make their status official, RBC judges qualified to grade, critique and perform Breed Assessment, should be indicated as such on the RBC Website.
- 8) **Confirmation of Breeder's Meeting held Saturday 6 Feb. 2010 and discussion of issues arising therefrom:** There were no Minutes taken, as this was an 'open discussion' meeting. At the time, the Convenor, Mrs. Brown, lectured on type and soundness and invited participation from those present. The Vice Chairman informed the delegates of a Rottweiler Compendium (authored by Gerhard O'Shea and Lotta Syvertsen of Sweden)) that has become available, stating that this was an authoritative work, which was well worth acquiring. He circulated information of this to those present. It describes the movement, anatomy and Breed characteristics of the modern Rottweiler.

Noted as tabled.

- 9) **Chairman's Report:** TB presented his report for 2009, noting that the RBC was currently working on several options as how to run the GV Shows more efficiently. One of them was doing it according to FCI rules, in order to bring the age groups on a par with what is the custom in Europe. He further noted that the fact that the reports of RBC trained judges were being assessed by the National Judges Sub-Committee of KUSA, was unacceptable, as none of them had the training background of RBC judges with regard to Rottweilers. Another matter to be discussed was the HD and ED gradings for Rottweilers over the age of 12 months by non-FCI countries - guidelines should be put in place to make importers aware of proposed guidelines. He thanked Mr. Van Hattem

who held defence work assistants/helpers courses in Cape Town and Johannesburg, during which Messrs. B. Africa, D. Swanepoel, M. Vorster, S. Lewis and U. Esterhuizen qualified, and wished to tender his congratulations.

Proposal for acceptance of Chairman's report by BA, seconded by DS.

- 10) **Judges' Convenor's Report:** Similarly distributed amongst delegates. In addition, TB informed that a Module 1 Judges course would be held in the Cape by C. Pretorius for a number of aspirant judges, amongst whom some from Gauteng and KZN. TB to assist with this course. Proposed for acceptance: CvH, seconded CP
- 11) **Breed Convenor's Report:** MB, who has since joined the meeting, read her report to the meeting. Following up on that, and from a suggestion by RN, it was decided in principle to investigate the compilation of a 'Zucht Book' type document for Rottweilers. HD/ED results were obtainable from the KUSA data-base. CvH to check on the legalities of making this available to the public and the Breed and Health convenors to be tasked with it when opportune. CvH proposed that the ARC-breeder's proposal should also be taken to another bracket (MB and NP to follow up). He proposed that w.i.e. a footnote should be added to all RBC documents, e.g. BA documents, to the effect that the owner/s agree to have results made public. As previously mentioned, the ARC requirements for Rottweilers to be adjusted and requirements to include BA/BST. CvH to obtain the wording for the rider on these documents. Seconded by NP, accepted by all present.
- 12) **Health Convenor's Report:** NP (who convenes this Sub-Committee) presented it by means of a projector. He undertook to e-mail this to the Secretary, for distribution to the Clubs. Forthcoming from the presentation he mentioned that there appeared to be an 11% increase in the occurrences of grade E1 (HD3) hips. CvH stated that if possible, both NP and TB should be present when reporting on the RBC's activities to FEDCO.

The Chairman thanked NP for his presentation and after viewing the HD/ED graphs, proposed acceptance for the report (seconded by CP.)
- 13) **ID Convenor's Report:** The Convenor, Miss Ajam presented her report after distributing it amongst delegates. Forthcoming from this, CvH informed of a new Virbac microchip which is made from a synthetic material (not glass) which would be more unlikely to migrate and has a surface that will adhere itself to an animal's muscle fibres. This chip is in the process of being physically tested, and the meeting was reminded of micro-chipping of KUSA dogs being made mandatory from 1 Sept. 2010. HA to send the ID malfunction report form to be used at show, to the RBC member Clubs. This form should reflect both the old and new numbers, once a new chip has been inserted. Report proposed accepted: SL, seconded by RN.
- 14) **Working Convenor's Report:** This was presented to the meeting by BA after copies were distributed. He made mention of all on the RBC who assisted him in this the last year, and mentioned the handlers who participated in IPO/ITT/BWT shows during the time, whether successful or otherwise. There was still a lack of IPO judges. CvH asked RN whether he would be interested in doing an IPO 2 & 3 Judges course. RN agreeable. CvH further informed that he could hold a course in April 2010, which BA and SL could attend, the theoretical portion of which CP could invigilate in the Cape. NP again informed all about the Working Clinic due to be held by Oliver Neubrand in Gauteng, and gave the tariffs for full participation as well as for observers. Working Convenor's Report proposed for acceptance by RN, seconded by NP.
- 15) **Rescue Convenor's Report:** Read by CP in Michael Danatt's absence. It appears that the tide of people leaving the country has been stemmed by the economic downswing endured by most of the world for the last year, and far fewer Rottweiler owners were giving up their dogs. It remains an ongoing task though and there would always be a need to render such a service. Proposed for acceptance by NP, seconded by BA.
- 16) **Thoughts with regard to Grand Victor Shows:** RN, on behalf of NRA requested that the 2012 GV show be hosted by them. Unanimously accepted. BA, on behalf of WPRC requested that the 2011 GV show be hosted by his Club. Unanimously accepted. CvH cautioned that all judges invited to judge these events be presented for RBC approval. Agreed by all.
- 17) **Items submitted for discussion by member Clubs:** The Chairman stated that it was unacceptable that proposals be submitted to the RBC too late for scrutiny by Club Committees, and proposed that these reach the

Secretary at least 60 days before the meeting. Some Club Committees met only every 2nd month, which did not allow sufficient discussion time. The final Agenda to then to be prepared 6 weeks before the meeting, for distribution to the Clubs. Agreed unanimously. As time was running out, the Chairman announced that he'll be prioritizing items remaining on the Agenda, in case time remaining does not allow for all.

a) **MRL:**

1) Proposed by NP, seconded by BA: All imported Rottweilers under 12 months to be screened in SA once it reaches 18 months of age. HD/ED gradings performed under 12 months (locally or abroad, not to be considered valid.

a) HD requirements for importation of Rottweilers / semen for breeding purposes to be: dogs who received an official FCI recognized grading from one of the following countries (after age 12 months) to be accepted: Switzerland, Scandinavia, England, Australia, New Zealand, Germany, Austria, Belgium, France, Italy, Portugal, Spain, Holland, USA (OFA gradings only) and Canada (OVC gradings only.)

b) For any animal not graded by one of the above countries, the following to apply:

i) The dog to be X-rayed and graded after the age of 12 months.

ii) The dog to receive an official FCI grading according to FCI rules

iii) Any such gradings must be performed and certified by the State Veterinary University or CHD panel of the country. This to be clearly reflected on the official HD/ED Certificate.

Unanimously accepted.

3) Proposal: To increase the number of V-gradings needed for Championship status to two (2) from different Specialist judges. One of these to be issued at a show held under Sched 3X. This will increase the value of Championship status and increase entries for Specialist Shows. At present a Schedule for Specialist shows is non-existent. Proposal from SL: at least one V-rating to be awarded after 24 months of age and at least one to be at a Rottweiler Specialist Show (or from a RBC-approved Specialist grading and critiquing at an all-breed show). Without a Specialist Show Schedule in place, awards will remain open to challenge. Schedule to be set up by CvH, who will send it to CP, for transmission to the Club delegates.

b) **RWBA:**

1) Definition of Rottweiler Specialist Judges, with regard to countries: See item 16 of March 2009 Minutes; add Scandinavia. RN suggested that such an addendum be made to add to the proposed Specialist Show Schedule.

2) Judges Reports: The RBC to assess the reports for its own judges for paneling purposes. Tutor judges to observe aspirant judges; three judges to do so: the first observer to be of the student's choice, and the last to be appointed by the RBC. TB (as Judges' Convenor) to prepare a motivation to KUSA (in liaison with CvH.)

c) **NRA:**

3) To reduce the number of dogs to be judged by an aspirant judge in order to qualify as a Specialist (as required by the Specialist Judges' Qualifying Scheme). The RBC to ensure that aspirant judges receive judging appointments. 75 dogs reduced to 50 (?) OD disagreed, stating that it is imperative that judges get as much exposure to judging as possible.

b) **WPRC:**

2) Travel costs for out-of-town RBC delegates remains discriminatory. CvH informs that the RBC, in the past, paid for out-of-town delegates, but that was later waived and delegates paid their own fare. Since some years ago, the RBC approved that half the travel costs be reimbursed, but as there are now no less than six delegates from three coastal Clubs, this is becoming cost-prohibitive for the RBC. He proposed that, for this year, R4,000 be made available to reimburse the coastal delegates for a portion of their expenses, but that this be reviewed in 2011.

(at this stage, CvH advised that he has been informed that a) KUSA data may be published for public consumption, b) in case of double ID numbers, both be added to a registration certificate (and TB be advised) and that c) VIRBAC microchips were acceptable to KUSA.)

a) **MRL:**

5) To create a schedule for Regional shows (like Sieger Shows) which will be rotated amongst Clubs in their regions and run under a new schedule, almost similar to that of GV Shows. It will offer 3 regional titles Gauteng,

KZN and the Cape, that could be added to a pedigree certificate. This will hopefully encourage entries at Specialist Shows and encourage attendance at 'away' shows. The feeling was that once a Specialist Show Schedule has been compiled, this possibility be pursued.

c) **WPRC:**

3) The RBC to consider introduction of a Working Assessment for Rottweilers to take place on show dates (almost like that of GSD Federation, but according to own requirements.) A draft schedule of this was distributed by BA. This entailed a 'bite' exercise and gunshot and was intended to get more dogs into the Working Class. NP had his misgivings, stating that a bite on a sleeve alone meant nothing with regard to Working. Other comments were that the timing on the day could be problematic, that the wording of such an award needed to be looked at and that the Judges who could judge these had to be identified.

a) **MRL:**

4) ADRK/FCI Standard - overtaken by events.

Further discussion: BA urged that voluntary docking remain in place. A discussion ensued in this regard. Referring to the rider on the tail description of the FCI Standard held by KUSA, CvH informed that this cannot be removed until a general docking ban is implemented in SA. NP urged that Clubs be tasked to educate their members with regard to leaving dogs undocked. This will remain an open issue, until the FCI Standard for the Rottweiler has been corrected on the KUSA website.

6) Proposal: To create a breeder's booklet containing basic breeding principles, RBC breeding regulations and guidelines. This does not exist at present. It is hoped that such a booklet will minimize incorrect care and breeding. CP suggested that this rather be built into the RBC website, for personal downloading by whoever has a need for it. Clubs to please send suggestions to NP, and MB to participate.

BA referred to the reference made to maiden bitches in the FCI's breeding rules, with regard to Artificial Insemination (?) TB suggested this be circulated to the Clubs first, as there cannot be comments made on something that has not been viewed yet.

18) Urgent matters permitted by Chair: Breed Specific Helpers for BST/ZTP - this still needs to be addressed. More specialist judges need to be qualified to conduct BA as well as BST/ZTP. TB stated that the youngest of the five judges qualified to do so, have already reached the age of sixty (60), to which CP replied that amongst the younger generation of aspirant Breed judges for Rottweilers, the qualifications for four more to do so, were already in place. NP stated that the requirements for judges performing BST/ZTP should not be downgraded, and that previous proposals for this should be discarded. Proposed NP, seconded RN. TB further urged all to assist Liliane Danatt, who is doing an excellent job with the RBC Website and to explore it and make more use of it. Agreed unanimously, with due thanks to Liliane. The annual gratuity for the Secretary proposed by NP, seconded by SL. BA enquired as to the costs for the refreshments, in order to arrange repayment. RN reminded all of their Sat. 1 May NRA Show judged by Mr. Pieter Neveling, and requested support.

19) Close of Meeting and provisional date of the next: The meeting closed at 17:34 - the 2011 RBC meeting to take place during the last weekend in Jan. 2011 / the first weekend in Feb. 2011; all clubs to be notified closer the time.