



NATIONAL CONVENOR REPORT – 2022

The National Rally Dog sub-committee was established January 2022 (per Fedco December 2021 minutes).

The NRDSC commenced with 3 provinces, being Western Cape, KwaZulu Natal and DOGSPC. Shortly afterwards NAPC joined and at end March 2022, Port Elizabeth joined the National Rally Dog sub-committee, making us 5 provinces strong.

On 28 March 2022 the NRDSC held the first meeting, a lengthy 4.5 hours to discuss the changes each province had put forward on the Schedule 5T. At this meeting, the PE Provincial sub-committee was not yet ratified and therefore could only attend as guest, unable to vote. There were approximately 5 items which were not agreed upon, or in a tied vote, so the NRDSC agreed to meet at a later date, after going back to our Provincial sub-committees to re-discuss these items.

Before we held the 2nd meeting, we held our AGM on 28 June 2022, as KUSA required us to hold the meeting by end June 2022. The NRDSC held a short inaugural AGM and re-clarified the position of National Convenor and voted for a secretary, being Robyn Harflett from NAPC, by unanimous vote from all provinces.

On 8 August 2022, the NRDSC held the 2nd meeting regarding changes to Schedule 5T and the Judging Guidelines for Rally Dog, and the outstanding items for 5T were finalised. It was refreshing to note that all the sub-committees negotiated on clauses and did a 'meet in the middle' to compromise on an item.

As the first schedule approved by Fedco for Rally Dog was drawn up by the Western Cape prior to Rally Dog being implemented in South Africa, we need to have actual shows before we could see where the schedule needed either housekeeping changes, or more detailing on a particular clause for there to be better clarity, or where there were issues which we as the NRDSC felt needed to be added into the schedule. As a result, there are numerous changes to the schedule as it is a collaboration of all the above and from five provinces. We do not envisage so many changes needing to be done again in a hurry.

At the meeting on 8 August 2022, the NRDSC also extensively discussed the way forward for judges to uniformly judge the discipline across South Africa and we believe the result of this is a well worked through document which provides the Rally Dog judges across South Africa with a solid basis from which to work. The document is still a 'guideline' and as such judging is not cast in stone, we are aware that each judge will have their style of judging and we do not wish to force anyone to judge like someone else. The main objective of judging is to reward those who successfully navigate a rally course showing a happy dog bonding with his owner, obeying instructions, and enjoying itself, and the other



side of judging is to give handlers feedback on what they need to work on so they can leave a show having learnt something and come back improved after working on whatever needed work.

The Rally Dog Judges Guidelines were distributed to the Provincial sub-committees on 12 August 2022, for roll out to the judges across South Africa.

In terms of the discipline and the enjoyment thereof by handlers across South Africa, it is clear that the discipline is appreciated and the handlers and dogs enjoying themselves is why we do what we do for the discipline. Rally Dog might look easy, but it is not that easy as it is a combination of Obedience, with a little bit of agility and some tricks too. We note the handlers who are working hard to achieve a goal and we enjoy seeing handlers come out to have fun with their dogs.

From 2023 on, the NRDSC will be holding judges' webinars, which our Secretary Robyn Harflett has initiated.

We will also be looking at implementing a National Competition between the provinces to have a type of National League for Rally Dog. And of course, one day we might even have a national event.

Thank you to the people who make up the NRDSC for their time & efforts to have a discipline where the goal is uniformity across SA. And thank you to KUSA & Fedco for their support of Rally Dog to date.

RClements

Robyn Clements
National Convenor – Rally Dog