FEDERATION OF BOXER CLUB SOUTHERN AFRICA
BREED COUNCIL

(FBCSA BC)

Annual Report 2022

The representatives of the Boxer Breed Council for 2022 are as follows:

Mrs. Sally Young Boxer	Club Gold Reef
Mrs. Carmen Coetsee	Boxer Club Gold Reef
Prof. Marinda Oosthuizen	Northern Boxer Club Inc.
Mr. Keith Duranty	Northern Boxer Club Inc.
Mrs. Jacqui Eisler	Western Province Boxer Club
Mr. Ken Hull	Western Province Boxer Club

2022 finally saw the restrictions of COVID-19 being lifted and life returning so some degree of normalcy. The previous two years had a definite impact on the number of shows held, the number of entries in a show and with that the amount of revenue generated by Clubs. The Country's economy also saw a dramatic impact as a result and after the COVID-19 restrictions were lifted it was thought (and hoped) that we'd see everyone returning to the ring and or field and that revenue would once again begin to flow into the Clubs. The Federation of Boxer Clubs of Southern Africa Breed Council was no different but this would not be the case. Indeed, 'normal' as we once knew it is no longer the same thing and although we saw exhibitors returning to the ring (or the field), it has by no means been anything close to what was seen pre COVID-19. This was evident by some of the moratoriums implemented by KUSA such as the entry requirements for Specialist Club to retain Championship status. Fortunately, these were implemented or many Clubs, including some the Boxer Clubs would have lost their Championship statuses. One can only hope that 2023 will see an increase in the number of exhibitors at the shows.

The FBCSABC began the year with plans to finalise or resolve some of the matters that have been on meeting agenda's for a very long time and just been dragging on for several years. Initially these were discussed by the Breed Council as a whole but progress stagnated and it was then agreed to assign these matters to small work groups within the Breed Council. Although there has been some progress on almost all of the matters, none have been resolved to the point that any new matters could be addressed and it seems that the Breed Council is a slow moving machine.

Trying to understand why this is the case has been quite challenging and it is almost as if we are all getting lost in the detail. It is imperative that all aspects of a topic are investigated and that all feedback is analysed before a decision is taken but there will never be a perfect solution that meets everyone's approval and perhaps this is why topics remain on the Breed Councils agenda for so long.

Whatever the answer, the Breed Council will need to show value to its members in the next year or it may never really get off the ground, so to speak.

It has not, however, all been doom and gloom. The website had a significant amount of work put into it by our webmaster, Mr Ken Hull, whom I would like to thank for his efforts and time and trying to get the website looking how we envisaged it. The changes gave the site a whole new look and

feel and was making great progress. Unfortunately, due to an administrative "glitch", the website was suspended and with it all the work being done on it. After many emails, telephone calls and much frustration, the matter was eventually sorted out and the website restored. Thankfully, we did not miss any critical messages and now have plans in place to avoid a repetition. Improvements will continue to be made in the year ahead.

As many are aware, the WODAC expo never materialised in 2020 as a result of COVID-19 and after several setbacks, the expo was relocated to Monte Casino in Fourways and was rebranded as PetExpo. The FBCSABC were fortunate enough to host a stand at the event which as quite busy for most of the duration of the event. I would like to thank all those persons who assisted in setting the stand up, tearing it down after the event and tending the stand during the event. In particular, I would like to thank Mr Shaun Graham and Mrs Karin Schoeman for the many hours that they spent at the exhibition, answering queries from the public and generally being ambassadors for both the Breed and the FBCSABC. If the FBCSABC decides to repeat the event in 2023, I would like to see more members from both the Breed Council and the associated Boxer Clubs assisting with tending to the stand. A word of thanks must be extended to our sponsors at PetExpo, whom without their support, none of our events would be possible or at the very least be far less successful.

Not only did PetExpo help to expose FBCSABC to the public, but the Boxer breed in general. How better to do this than to show off the very best of the breed. Northern Boxer Club held a breed Championship show at the venue which was judged by Mr Jari Partanen from Norway. He was an absolutely super judge and made all the exhibitors feel welcome. Overall the show was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone.

Last but not least, a word of thanks must go out to the organisers of the event. Thank you for making it possible and for all your endeavours to make the event run seamlessly and successfully. It was well organised when taking into account the size of the event, the time allocated to get the event organised, arranging the infrastructure, judges, vendors, sponsors and so forth. Well done and thank you.

One of the matters on the FBCSABC agenda for some time has been that of exhibiting the white Boxer. Although not a disqualifying fault, there has historically been much controversy around the topic and the Breed Council made the decision to encourage Clubs to include classes for white Boxers at their shows. The aim thereof is not necessarily to exhibit white Boxers nor to promote the breeding of white Boxers but to encourage owners of these dogs to exhibit them and experience the joy and challenge of exhibiting in the show ring. The hope is that through this experience some of these handlers decide to get a dog that would allow them to participate at Championship shows and potentially title the dog. This would theoretically not only increase the number of dogs in the show ring but also potentially increase the number of breeders of Boxers.

On the subject of breeders, the FBCSABC one again saw a shortage of available puppies throughout the year. There were many occasions where we received queries for puppies but were unable to direct the persons to a breeder who had puppies available. During the 2021 financial period 280 puppies were registered, in comparison to 182 puppies, registered for the period 30 September 2021 to 31 August 2022 (unconfirmed statistics). This is a huge drop of 35% in the registration of Boxer puppies. When further analysing this figure, only 56 puppies have been registered between March 2022 and August 2022 which is a reason of concern. What needs to be clarified is whether there were much fewer puppies born during this period or fewer registered. Irrespective, it needs to be established what the reasons for this steep decline are and to focus our efforts on how to remediate the problem. Unfortunately, all relevant statistics were not available at the time of writing this report and so not much more can be said on this matter.

Financially, the FBCSABC finds itself in a relatively good position despite the low registration numbers and as at 31 August 2022, the account has a balance of R57 103.53. Taking the balance at the end of the previous financial year into account, revenue for the FBCSABC has been almost negligible, however, once again, these are unofficial figures and the annual transactions would

need to be properly analysed to determine what this really means from a financial perspective. The Treasurers report at the end of the financial year will clarify this. In this regard, I would like to thank the FBCSABC Mrs Diane Kee du Plessis for her effort in keeping the financials in order and diligently updating the Breed Council on financial matters. Also, a big thank you to Mr Byron Delily for always assisting the Breed Council with ensuring payments are made when and where requested and for providing the financial figures on a monthly basis to Mrs du Plessis throughout the year.

Being a working breed, the FBCSABC agreed to take on the re-introduction of the Dog Aptitude Test and Mentality Assessment (APT-DMA) in Gauteng. The APT-DMA has been operating successfully in the Western Cape and Kwa-Zulu Natal provinces for many years and many owners cite the lack of time and effort required to train their dogs to be able to participate in the various working disciplines. The world is moving at speeds never seen before and time is a luxury many cannot afford. This is what makes the APT-DMA such a fitting test since no training is required and is based on the dog's natural drives and instincts. The FBCSABC therefore agreed to try promote the working side of the Boxer through the APT-DMA but also not to limit their efforts to Boxers only but to any other working breed and or interested persons. Although there are no longer any qualified officials in Gauteng, both the Western Cape and Kwa-Zulu Natal Officials have agreed to assist with qualification of interested persons in Gauteng. Through personal contact, emails and other such communication, information regarding the discipline was distributed through Gauteng to start up a group of persons that would be interested in qualifying and getting the test re-established in Gauteng. Sadly, very little interest was shown and it has to date not had any momentum. Unfortunately, this can only become a reality if there is sufficient interest and funding. There are at the time of this report six individuals that have expressed interest in APT-DMA in Gauteng and we will therefore continue trying to stir up support for this during the ensuing year. I believe that if we can get to the point where we can host one event and KUSA members in Gauteng get to see the test in action, we'll see a greater interest. We will need to work on sponsorship to host an event in Gauteng since all officials and equipment will need to be brought into Province to be able to host such an event.

The FBCSABC affiliated Boxer Clubs hosted their planned events in 2022, however, as already noted, attendance at the shows were somewhat low. This, however, did not deter the Clubs from hosting their events and to date, only one event, the planned Breed Assessment, did not materialise.

Northern Boxer Club held one of their Championship shows at PetExpo as reported previously and also held two Non-championship shows. A second Championship show has been scheduled for November 2022.

Boxer Club Gold Reef held one Championship show, two working disciplines shows and one Non-championship show during the year. A Non-championship and working discipline show has been scheduled for December 2022.

Not only did the Western Province Boxer Club host two working disciplines shows, one Dog Aptitude Test trial and one Non-championship show, they also held one Championship show in October 2022 which marked their seventieth anniversary as a Club. No doubt a very momentous event for the Club and was well attended.

The year ahead will be a challenging one for the FBCSABC in terms of proving its value and relevance to the affiliated Breed Clubs but there is no doubt that with a little nudge this can easily be achieved.

Investigations will need to be done into what the underlying problems are from both a Breed Council and Club perspective to help understand how registrations can be improved, how matters for the Breed Council can be addressed more efficiently and how we can increase the number of dogs being exhibited not only in the breed ring but also in working disciplines. I hope that the Clubs will continue to host as many events during 2023 and that we see greater numbers

participating in these events, particularly seeing more dogs in the working disciplines to ensure that we continue seeing the Boxer as a working breed.

It is also important for the Breed Council to continue encouraging breeders to do health testing in breeding pairs to ensure that we continue to improve the quality of our Breed and to eliminate the known problems currently affecting the Breed. At a minimum, it would go a far way if all breeders tested for hip dysplasia and any congenital heart conditions such as Aortic Stenosis. Of particular interest is going to be whether the BOAS grading will reach our shores in the next year and if it will be adopted by KUSA in its entirety or with modification. It is expected that this may still take some time because of all the underlying factors such as training of Veterinary Surgeons and so forth. Only then will the FBCSABC have a clearer understanding of how and if this would need to be included in the list of health tests for the Boxer as a brachycephalic breed.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the Club representatives serving on the FBCSABC their contribution to the FBCSABC and most of all to the Boxer as a breed. Although there are many problems to be addressed in the coming year, I look forward the challenge.

Keith Duranty: Chairman