

German Shepherd Liaison Council

Chairman's Report 2017-10-15

I would like to start off by thanking the committee who are so very supportive in all our interactions. John Swartz; as vice chairman, Landi Odendaal our treasurer and computer fundi, Sandra Brunner; our secretary for all her hard work with the correspondence and interactions with outside entities. Thank you all for your hard work.

Then we have to make mentioned of our champions, Chris Griffiths and Jenny Hubbard. Thank you so much for the vast amounts of support you gave the German Shepherd Dog in KUSA. Thank you for standing up for what, is just and fair. We realised that it was not easy for you and you worked under tremendous stress. I personally will for ever be in your debt.

We started 2017 with the organizing of the Breed Assessment's "Sightings" in Gauteng and the Western Cape. Sandra organized the RSV2000 to send Hans Bodenmeier to conduct the Breed Assessments. This we combined with some training of our local Judges and Helpers. In Western Cape Joy Mac Farlane was given first-hand experience in what the German Shepherd Dog construction should be like. She made full use of the opportunity to discuss the construction of the GSD with Hans Bodenmeier. In order for the breed to still maintain its Breed Worthiness and to still be able to perform its functions as a utility working dog.

The committee welcomed two new specialist clubs, in the Matrix GSD Club and the East Rand GSD Club. The formation of these two clubs did not come without a fair share of problems. The first problem we found was that the Office did not know how to recognize a potential specialist GSD club. But even more problematic was that we discover that the term "Specialist Club" is so loosely defined that just about every club can be classified as a specialist GSD Club. No need for breed shows, no need for GSD's in the club, all what is required is GSD in the name. This lead to asking FEDCO to discussed the topic "specialist club". We will pursue the matter further as most the "GSD Specialist Clubs" did have not had a breed show for 10 years or more and if you look at the breeds in their clubs you will be surprised how few GSD's are in these specialist club. These are the same clubs preventing us from forming a GSD Breed Council.

This year saw the introduction of DNA into our breeding requirements. DNA always was a mystical subject till we started to investigate. We have 3 Laboratories offering the service, Stellenbosch Medical School, Pretoria University, Onderstepoort, and an Independent Lab in Pretoria. All three these labs are using the same markers and protocols. They are also talking to each other and can use each other's results in proving parentage. This is very convenient for our members and at R200.00 per sample it is cheap.

With the White Paper there to guide us we are hoping to make 2018 a super year. With double the amount of puppy registrations, double the amount of shows, double the amount of Assessments and double the amount of trials. Have a wonderful year.

John Rautenbach

