



FEDERATION OF BOXER CLUB SOUTHERN AFRICA BREED COUNCIL

(FBCSA BC)



Annual Report 2021

The Federation of Boxer Clubs of Southern Africa Breed Council held its AGM on 07 November 2020, and it was here that the Council bid a farewell to two of the possibly most knowledgeable persons on the Boxer dog. This is of course Mrs. Ute Füglistner and Mrs. Marlein Heystek. Both veterans of "Boxerdom" stepped down from the FBCSA BC to enjoy their "retirement" and focus on other matters. They will be missed but never forgotten. We wish them a peaceful and rewarding "retirement".

The representatives put forward by the relevant affiliated Boxer Clubs were:

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

The Natal Boxer Club did not submit any representatives for the Council, and this will be addressed later in the report.

Mr. Keith Duranty was elected as Chairman of the Council and unanimously accepted while Mrs. Sally Young was elected and accepted unanimously as the Vice-chairperson. Mrs. Carmen Coetsee was elected as the new Secretary of the Council.

As defined in the Council Constitution, the Treasurer was appointed from outside of the Council representatives as was the Registrations Secretary. These roles have been once again filled by Mrs. Diane du Plessis and Mrs. Karin Schoeman respectively.

From a financial and budgetary perspective, the FBCSA BC is financially sound with a balance of R 56 431.99 at 31 August 2021. This is from a year-end balance of R 40 021.32 the previous year. I'd like to take the opportunity at this time to thank our Treasurer, Mrs. Diane du Plessis for her time and efforts in ensuring that the finances of the Breed Council are in order. Furthermore, I also wish to express my appreciation on behalf of the Breed Council to Mr. Kyle Farmer and the KUSA office team that assist him with providing us with financial updates throughout the year. It is greatly appreciated.

There were 280 puppy registrations during the past financial year, however this figure has not yet been validated at the time of this report. It is nonetheless encouraging to see that we still have a relatively steady number of registrations when compared against previous years. Judging from the messages that are regularly posted on the FBCSA BC WhatsApp group, the concern is not so much the number of registrations as it is the number of puppies available. At the risk of sounding facetious, the Boxer Community has the fortunate pleasure of having a higher demand for puppies than what can be provided to buyers. Naturally, this could be interpreted in several ways, but it does suggest that we have a decline or lack of Breeders of KUSA registered Boxer dogs. It

has also been noted that many members are not renewing their KUSA memberships since the outset of COVID-19 and this may or may not be contributing to the dwindling numbers. Two new Boxer affixes were registered (from a Breed Council perspective) and we therefore remain optimistic that these numbers will begin increasing in the new year as the country moves toward "normality".

Overall the FBCSA BC had a rather slow year, partially as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic that continued to haunt the country through most of the year. As a result, the FBCSA BC has made some progress in terms of the goals that were set out at the beginning of the year, however, there are still many tasks and areas that need to be addressed in the coming year.

An item that has been in the crosshairs of the FBCSA BC has been the purchase of a Holter monitor for health testing of Boxer dogs. The matter has been on FBCSA BC agendas for some time and it was finally addressed during the year as a focus item. The FBCSA BC in collaboration with a veterinary partner have entered into an agreement to purchase the Holter and share in the costs thereof. While this is in itself great progress, the agreement also includes the use of the Holter. This specialized piece of equipment requires professional assistance in not only the fitting thereof, but also the analysis and interpretation of the data collected.

To this point the agreement addresses these aspects and provides for the correct fitting, collecting of data and analysis of the data as well as a healthy discounted rate, no pun intended, to Boxer dogs that make use of the facility. Once the Holter is in the country and all payments, processes and documentation has been finalised, Breeders will be encouraged to make use of the opportunity to test their dogs for any health issues.

Another item on the agenda that continues to result in no consensus is the question of showing white Boxer dogs in conformation shows. There are certainly strong opinions on both sides of the debate, and this is one of the items that the Breed Council needs to finalise in the coming year as there are members waiting desperately for a decision.

Another area that has been a rather long drawn out and challenging matter for the FBCSA BC has been the FBCSA BC website. From the outset, the website has experienced several drawbacks and was finally published in late 2019 / early 2020. During this time there have been several problems found with the functionality thereof and the content has been questioned in some regards. Being the first point of contact for the Breed Council, and for that matter the Boer dog, the members of the Breed Council have spent many meetings, mails and WhatsApp conversations trying to identify the problem areas as well as areas of improvement for the website.

Here I need to extend a hand of gratitude to Mrs. Sally Young and Mrs. Jacqui Eisler for their time and efforts in working through the website, page by page, testing links, validating content and so forth. Without these two ladies taking time out of their schedules to do this we would never have progressed as much as we have. This is not to say that the site is completely updated, and all the issues resolved. We still have a way to get there but we have as a result documented the changes and prioritised them.

Thank you to our Webmaster, Mr. Ken Hull who administers our website and does all the updates and corrections for us. He has been instrumental and getting the work completed and there are already several aspects of the website that have been improved.

We are hoping to complete the updates to the site, specifically the priority one and two items by the end of 2021.

The subject of the Natal Boxer Club has been raised at several Council meetings for the fact that the Club is affiliated to the Breed Council as a Breed Specialist Club, however it was stated that the Club has no active Boxer dog members and therefore do not host any conformation events under the Club's license. The Club is also not represented on the Breed Council and has never been represented since the establishment of the FBCSA BC. Some of the member Clubs have taken exception to this and have questioned the continued affiliation to the Breed Council. Being a somewhat complex matter, this has been kept on the FBCSA BC meeting agendas for some time and needs to be addressed in the coming year through discussion and consultation with the

Club itself, KUSA and the Breed Council. At this time, they remain part of and affiliated to the Breed Council

The affiliated Boxer Clubs have managed to host some of their planned events in 2021, however, as we're all aware, some of these were cancelled as a result of COVID-19 restrictions and while there have been opportunities to host some of these events at later dates, this has not always been possible simply from a timing perspective. The following events were hosted by the respective clubs:

Boxer Club Gold Reef:

One (1) Open show

One (1) Championship show

Northern Boxer Club Inc.

None to date, however the Club will be hosting a Championship show on 07 November 2021.

Western Province Boxer Club:

Two (2) Discipline shows

One (1) Breed show

A lot of work still lies ahead for the Breed Council in 2022 and I am hoping that we will continue to see the COVID-19 restrictions relaxed going forward. Having had a very informative and well-presented webinar presented by Mr. Tim Hutchings (UK) through JEC's education programme, I would like to see the Breed Council Clubs jointly bringing an international judge to South Africa to help boost the "return to the show ring" in what we all hope will be a year without all the lockdown restrictions.

In finishing off, I would like to sincerely thank the Club representatives on the Breed Council for their contribution and commitment to not only the FBCSA BC but more so to the Boxer dog.



Keith Duranty: Chairman