

## AGM news



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Guarding and promoting the standard and image of the Boerboel breed dominated discussions during SABBA's Annual General Meeting in Pretoria on February 17.

### **Raising genetic standards**

Several members urged the SABBA Board to play a stronger leadership role in ensuring that dogs that do not meet the minimum standards for genetic conditions are not used in breeding programmes. These include hip dysplasia, vaginal hyperplasia, and the eye conditions entropion and ectropion. The majority felt that SABBA should require relevant certificates before admitting a dog to the register. The Board agreed to investigate the matter.

Members were also reminded that the international FCI HD grading system is effective from January 2007, and that certification by FCI accredited radiologists only will be accepted. According to Prof Kirberger of Onderstepoort (09/03/07), Boerboels are accepted for testing from 12 months.

### **Microchips compulsory from 2008**

In terms of the new HD grading system, all dogs must be microchipped or tattooed for identification purposes. SABBA's Board further stipulated that from January 1, 2008 all puppies that will be sold must have microchips.

### **Call for broadening of appraisal criteria**

The Board will appoint a task team to investigate and make recommendations on broadening the criteria concerning temperament and health in the appraisal process. Dog behaviour scientists will be involved as well.

The minimum appraisal age of dogs will increase from 9 to 12 months (with a HD certificate). Members will be informed when this new requirement will come into effect. Members agreed that the minimum point for registration should remain 75% until there is sufficient proof of drastic genetic improvement of the breed.

### **Consultation to benefit the Boerboel**

Members expressed concern that there had been no progress in the setting of uniform breed standards for the Boerboel through consultation with KUSA and other Boerboel associations, such as EBBASA and the HBSA. They had no objection to international affiliation and registration of the Boerboel through KUSA, but were adamant that the setting of the breed standard (appraisal of the individual dog on its own merit) must not be jeopardised. They requested the Board to conduct urgent exploratory discussions with the relevant parties.

Members were also not comfortable with SABBA's policy that the offspring of dogs not registered with the Association and dogs bought from breeders who are not members, cannot be registered. The Board agreed to review the matter.

### **New Board elected**

The members of the Executive Committee are Messrs Jaap Maré of Limpopo (Chairman), Johan Blomerus of the Free State (Vice-chairman), Piet Visser (Gauteng), Roelie van Heerden (Free State) and Ms Anemari Pretorius (Western Cape). The other Board members are Ms Maggelien Maré (Limpopo), Messrs Chris Boshoff (KwaZulu- Natal), Lood Mienie (North West), Helgaardt Mostert (Eastern Cape), Frans du Toit (Mpumalanga), Dirk Taljaard (Northern Cape), Johan van Wyk (Africa), Jean Minnaar (USA) and Dolph Carstens (Europe).