

2008 Chairman's report



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Date: 21 February 2009

Thank you for the opportunity to report to you, our members, and other interested persons, on the year 2008 on behalf of the Board of the SA Boerboel Breeders Association (SABBA).

It is customary that we introduce this report by mentioning - as a token of respect - those members who passed away during the course of the year. Jan Heymans - Bonanza Boerboele; Brink Botha - Ultra Boerboele; and Anthea Turner from Wales.

Statistics

We registered 891 dogs in 2007 and 886 in 2008 - a difference of just five dogs.

The number of paid up members increased from 418 in 2007 to 515 in 2008 - a gain of 97 members - and 150 new members joined SABBA in South Africa during 2008!

The outstanding feature of the past year was the investment in our dogs and the resultant benefits for members, e.g. the regional shows, World Show and appraiser training.

The Association concluded the year in a healthy financial position, sustained by stock valued at R85 000 and R300 000 cash on hand. I express my sincere appreciation to Piet Visser and his team for managing the finances of this organisation according to sound accounting principles.

Regrettably, the year 2008 started with the adjournment of the Annual General Meeting in February, and the establishment of another Boerboel organisation.

Highlights

There were many highlights in 2008 and the 25th anniversary of SABBA will be remembered for many years to come. Some of the most memorable include:

- A significant improvement in communication between SABBA and members as a result of the implementation of SMS notifications and more information and services on the website.
- The above directly contributed to an increase in the number of dogs at appraisals in South Africa and renewed interest from dog owners in the Boerboel and SABBA.
- The hosting of successful regional shows in which no less than 362 dogs from all over the country participated.
- The success of the first genuine World Boerboel Show will also remain a talking point for some time. Public interest in the Boerboel, following on the broadcast of the Pasella programme on national television, is but one of the many benefits experienced by breeders and other SABBA members. The Farmers Weekly will also report on the World Show in the near future.
- The hosting of a calibration and alignment course for all the appraisers and Board members where the skills of our office bearers were refreshed.
- Another highlight is the continued sponsorship from Montego during 2008. Without his support SABBA events would not have been of the same standard. I would also like to announce with appreciation that Montego will maintain their sponsorship during 2009. I trust this partnership will continue to grow to the advantage of all parties and the Boerboel.
- In 2008, elections for Board members for North America were held for the first time under the auspices of SABBA. Congratulations to Shirley Hagler and Dolph Carstens who were elected to these positions.
- The renewal of discussions with EBBASA, which hopefully will lead to the unification of all Boerboel organisations in the future.
- The reopening of the Development Register at the request of members. This step will ensure the expansion of our gene pool.

Vision for 2009

I believe that the year 2009 and the future will require that we pay serious attention to the following issues:

- Improving the image of the Boerboel by providing members of the public with more information and encouraging them to become more involved with our breed. The media can play a significant role by being invited to appraisals and shows at regional and national level.
- Improving and refining our appraisal process
- Expanding our appraisal process through scientific research and implementing a progeny testing system, similar to the BLUP values used for livestock, as well as a system of behavioural evaluation.
- Improving service delivery to all members.
- Improving communication - locally and abroad - between SABBA and members.
- Training and development of breeders, appraisers and senior appraisers.
- Improving the functionality of the committee system at Board level. For example, I would like to see improved accessibility for the members to the shows and the various committees.
- Improving cooperation and relations between SABBA and other organisations and interest groups, with the focus on improving and building the image of the Boerboel.

Conclusion

I express a special word of appreciation to all SABBA members who shared 2008 with us and helped us to manage it successfully.

I also thank the office personnel, appraisers and senior appraisers, auditors, web editor and everybody who ensured that SABBA continues to function. Your contributions to the history and future of the Boerboel are considerable.

To the 2009 Board: SABBA will continue to be the flagship of the Boerboel. Stay on course and motivate members to continue to build on the healthy principles on which SABBA was established. Preserve the foundation laid by the successes of 2008 and do not hesitate to take on new challenges.

SABBA is healthy to the core and still the only true home of the Boerboel

Frans du Toit
Chairman