

## 2009 AGM overview



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The year 2008 - which was also the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the SA Boerboel Breeders Association - will be recorded as a turning point in the history of the organisation.

This became apparent at the Annual General Meeting (AGM), held in Pretoria on the 21<sup>st</sup> February. For the first time in many years, discussions focused on promoting and ennobling the Boerboel breed - in accordance with the founding principles of SABBA.

### **SABBA Constitution**

The only 'people issues' on the Agenda was feedback from the Board on constitutional changes that were proposed at the informal member meeting of February 2008. Provision for honorary life members had been scrapped, because members felt that SABBA's role was to serve the Boerboel, and not to honour people.

The Board had decided to retain the status quo in respect of the other two proposed constitutional changes, namely reducing the size of the Board and the election of regional Board members at regional level. The Board believed the first proposal was impractical in view of the demographic profile of the membership. They accepted the principle of regional elections, but planned to describe the process in an annexure to the Constitution. The Board was requested to reconsider the feasibility of formally recording the regional election process in the Constitution.

### **Committee reports**

#### **Show Committee and Marketing Committee**

The six regional shows proved to be extremely popular, and no less than 362 dogs from all over the country participated. These shows culminated in the World Show in which 124 dogs participated. The Board promised that the 2009 shows would be even more memorable. The new Show Committee will be appointed at the first Board meeting, with the mandate to start their work immediately, and to take due note of the positive and negative lessons learnt from previous shows.

#### **Breed Standard and Appraisal Committee**

During 2008, SABBA appraised 900 dogs in 48 centres in South Africa, Europe, North America and Africa - 12% more than in 2007.

In July, all appraisers and Board members attended a work session to update their skills, and to ensure uniformity in appraisal standards. Judging from the positive reaction of appraisers and breeders alike, it was clear that there was a great need for regular refresher and breeders courses

Members requested more information on appraisal criteria, especially in respect of the minimum and maximum height of dogs. This matter will be considered at future training courses, and the outcome will be published accordingly. It was also agreed that organisers should give an overview of appraisal criteria at the start of all appraisal events.

#### **Genetics Committee**

The Development Register was reopened at members' request. The criteria are somewhat strict because SABBA intends to manage the broadening of the gene pool in a responsible manner. The criteria are:

- (i) The Executive Committee will consider the merits of an application by the owner of a dog where the required documentation is incomplete or non-existent.
- (ii) A dog appraised at a minimum of 80% will be included in the Development Register.
- (iii) The first generation progeny of the dog will be included in Development Register, if they too are appraised at a minimum of 80%.
- (iv) The second generation progeny of the dog may remain on the Development Register, if they also receive a minimum score of 80%.
- (v) The third generation progeny of the dog may be entered into the Registration Register if they are appraised at no less than 85%. If not, they will remain on the Development Register.

SABBA also issued a statement on the status of the Black Boerboel, asserting that black is not viewed as one of the three specified colours - brown, yellow and brindle - but as a variation of brindle.

Other issues discussed included: plans by the Board to introduce progeny testing after appropriate database development; and ways to motivate members to voluntarily submit health information, e.g. on hip dysplasia and vaginal hyperplasia.

## Finance and Administration Committee

The 2008 SABBA financial year ended with stock to the value of R85 000 and R300 000 cash on hand. Tariffs were last increased in 2006. The Board motivated that the 2009 increases introduced in respect of member fees and birth registrations were essential for the survival of the Association in difficult economic times. In 2008, SABBA invested significant amounts that directly benefited owners and the Boerboel breed, and which contributed to the demand for Boerboels and prices rocketing worldwide.

Members accepted the principle that a member association should be kept viable through member contributions, but proposed that other sources of income be explored and that a special committee be appointed for this purpose.

## Chairman's Report ([Full report](#))

The Chairman introduced his report by paying homage to three members who had passed away in the course of 2008: Jan Heymans - Bonanza Boerboele; Brink Botha - Ultra Boerboele; and Anthea Turner from Wales.

Despite the breakaway movement in the Boerboel community, the percentage of paid up members had increased by 20%, and 150 new members joined SABBA in South Africa during 2008.

Priorities for 2009 include: Improving service delivery and communication with members - locally and abroad; ongoing promotion of the public image of the Boerboel breed; ongoing training and development of appraisers, improving the functionality of, and member access to, committees; and improving cooperation and relations with other Boerboel organisations.

## EBBASA

SABBA had resumed consultations with EBBASA with a view to possible unification of the two organisations. Subsequently, EBBASA informed SABBA that they were prepared to cooperate on certain levels, e.g. appraisals and shows, but that they were not prepared to commit to unification at this stage.

Members were disappointed that no real progress had been made since the first discussions in 2005. They reiterated SABBA's commitment to bringing about unity in the Boerboel community, on the condition that all parties approached the matter with the same zeal and that negotiations focussed on substantial issues.

## Boerboel Personality of the Year 2008

The award was made posthumously to Brink Botha. This was motivated by Domien and Marianne Coppelmans from the Netherlands as follows (*free translation*). 'We believe he deserves this award posthumously. He always approached Boerboel issues in an honest and sincere manner, and remained loyal to SABBA, even in difficult times.'

## 2009 SABBA Board

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