

Source: SABBA Board  
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Thank you for the opportunity to report on the year 2009 to the membership on behalf of the SABBA Board.

It is customary to introduce this report by honouring members of the Boerboel community, who had passed away in the course of the year: Bernard Marais (member) and the mothers of Marietha Pieterse, Johan van Wyk and Marileen van Wyk. We honour their sacrifices and support of SABBA and the Boerboel breed.

### Statistics

During 2009, SABBA gained 127 new members, and 867 dogs were presented at appraisals worldwide (20 less than in 2008). However, birth notifications had increased to 2 1540, of which almost half were received via the SABBA website.

Thanks to the efficient implementation and functioning of new systems last year, this growth trend promises an exciting future for SABBA.

### Financial realities

All of us experienced the pressures of the recession on a daily basis. At the 2009 AGM, members had urged the Board to manage their financial investment in SABBA responsibly and with circumspection. This is exactly what the Board did. SABBA ended the year 2009 with a surplus of R43 000!

I thank Piet Visser and his team for applying sound accounting principles to our financial management. Thank you very much to the Finance and Administration Committee, and our auditor, Leon Marais, for your meticulous work and dedication. I also express a special word of appreciation to our major sponsor, Montego Classic, for their huge contribution.

Last, but not the least: I have to thank all our members and the large breeders for their continued support of SABBA.

The various regional shows, the National Show, and the appraiser training courses, confirmed SABBA's commitment to invest our resources to further the interests of our members and the Boerboel. We also initiated work towards the upgrading of our accounting system and the database, which is possibly the most important function of a breeders association.

### Other highlights

1. SABBA concluded 2009 in a financially sound position, with stock amounting to R61 000 and R382 000 cash in hand.
2. The Association continued with the good work in respect of communication with members. The renewed interest in SABBA in North America is an excellent example, and we must give credit to Shirley Hagler for the investment in the office and the website of that region.
3. The superbly organised Championship Show and the regional shows, which all the large breeders supported. No less than 614 dogs participated (480 in 2008). We thank Aldu le Grange and Marileen van Wyk for their leadership in enabling us to offer this service to our members. We also thank everybody who participated. I thank in particular the large breeders: Piet Zyn Drift, Mighty, Al Asaad, Afrika, and Spitsvuur for their support and participation in significant numbers.
4. The hosting of an alignment and calibration course helped senior office bearers to update their skills. The Board also decided to host C&A courses annually, and to make attendance compulsory for all office bearers.

### Vision for 2010

In my opinion, SABBA should pay more attention to the following matters during 2010:

1. Continued improvement of services to members.
2. Making the committee system, which is already functioning well within the Board, more accessible to members. Members should at all times feel free and have the opportunity to give their input. This will contribute to making the AGM a gathering for the exchange of knowledge and discussion of new challenges. The AGM should not be viewed as a forum for criticism and problem solving.
3. The investment in our database should be a priority in 2010. This project must literally be the heartbeat of a member organisation. The outcome will manifest in the introduction of a progeny testing system, which will include behavioural evaluation. Members and breeders will have access to information of an exceptionally high standard.
4. The Board intends hosting appraiser courses in the Western Cape and Gauteng during 2010. This will not only contribute towards augmenting our appraiser corps, but also address the most important function, namely the exchange and dissemination of knowledge. Both Senior Appraisers and Appraisers will attend the A&C course.

5. Furthering the image of the Boerboel through the public media. Articles and radio interviews published thus far, elicited a lot of interest from members of the public, and we should continue with efforts to convey a positive image of the Boerboel breed throughout the world.

### **Conclusion**

In closing, I thank all the Board members, the Office staff, the Web Editor, Senior Appraisers and Appraisers, and everybody who contributed to SABBA's welfare during 2009. This organisation is successful because of your work!

To the 2010 Board: SABBA is healthy to the core. Please continue your work along the sound principles and practices established thus far. This Association belongs to the members and their Boerboels. Accept your responsibilities and duties!

To all our members: Thank you to each and everyone for your contribution towards SABBA's success. This organisation owes its success to the loyal and active members and breeders, who have served the Boerboel with vision and commitment. Please continue to do so!

SABBA remains the only true home of the Boerboel.

**Frans du Toit**  
**Chairman, SABBA Board**