

2008 World Boerboel Show and Auction overview



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The number 25 played a prominent role in SABBA's activities during 2008. The Association celebrated its 25th anniversary this year, but the highlight certainly was the World Boerboel Show in Parys in the Free State on Saturday, 25th October.

From the outset, there was a tangible spirit of excitement and anticipation among the participating owners, the visitors from abroad, and the many members of the public who came to experience this unique gathering of the best among the best of Boerboels.

Many individuals worked hard to bring this event to fruition, but the people who really made the Show possible were the owners who enrolled no less than 124 dogs. This year they travelled thousands of kilometers – at great cost and effort - from every province in the country, as well as from Namibia to participate in this proud occasion. Thanks to them, much of the public and media misconceptions about the temperament and behaviour of the Boerboel were dispelled forever. Watch out for the *Pasella* programme on SABC2 on Wednesday, 19 November at 19:30 with Cindy Nell confidently hugging one huge Boerboel after another!

It was also gratifying to meet several Boerboel enthusiasts from the US and Europe. The SABBA Board member for North America, Shirley Hagler, presented their trophies and those sponsored by supportive breeders in the US. John Walker Smith also came all the way from the UK to present his trophy.



Lucas van der Merwe
SABBA Member No. 3

Another valued visitor was Lucas van der Merwe, the only surviving founding member of SABBA. He received a certificate of appreciation for his contribution towards establishing the Boerboel as South Africa's very own dog breed. Anemari Pretorius was named *Boerboel Personality of the Year* with special mention of the value of her book *The Boerboel – South Africa's own*, which was also published in English last year.

The Auction was quite fascinating. Some dogs fetched excellent prices, but about a third of those on offer were not sold because bids did not meet the sellers' reserve prices. The feasibility of auctions in this day and age where electronic communication between prospective buyers and breeders has made the Boerboel accessible to all, should be investigated.

As with any new event (the shows were reintroduced in 2007) there are some practical issues, which the organising committee will have to address for future shows. But, with the support of the Boerboel community, the superb quality of the participating dogs and ever-growing public interest, the SABBA shows can only go from strength to strength.

- [2008 World Boerboel Show results \(1st five positions\)](#)
- [2008 Male champions and class winners \(photos\)](#)
- [2008 Female champions and class winners \(photos\)](#)