



American Border Collie Association, Inc.

Newsletter

www.americanbordercollie.org

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RODS & CONES

What do you see? And what does your dog see? It all comes down to rods and cones.

The structures of human eyes and canine eyes have a lot in common: light enters through the transparent *cornea*, then penetrates the *lens*, and then strikes the *retina* at the back of the eye. The retina contains photoreceptors called rods and cones, which transmit data to the brain for interpretation. The result is sight.

Rods and cones are distributed differently in our dogs' eyes than they are in ours. In the first place, humans have many more cones than rods. Also, the rods tend to be located around the sides of the retina, while the cones are concentrated toward the center. In fact, there is an area called the *macula* at the center of the human eye which is particularly rich in cones, and an area in the very center of the macula called the *fovea* which has no rods at all, only cones. So when we humans are staring straight at something, what we see is largely determined by cones.

This matters because cones are different from rods in several ways. They transmit sharper images and brighter colors than rods, but they need more light to function well. Rods, on the other hand, operate best in dim or dark conditions, and whether the light is bright or dark they cannot transmit the clear, sharp images that cones can. We rely on them for our night vision and peripheral vision. Have you ever noticed that if you are trying to see an animal or other object clearly in the dark, you will have more success looking slightly to the side of it rather than directly at it? That's because you are bringing the rods on the periphery of your retina into play, rather than the cones in the center of your retina which cannot deliver images very well in the dark.

Dogs can see better than we can in dim or dark conditions because, unlike us, they have many more rods than cones in their retinas. That gives them a big advantage over us in night vision. They also have reflective tissue called the *tapetum lucidum* beneath their retinas, which allows them to recapture some light that may have failed to strike rods or cones when it first entered the eye (and which accounts for the yellow glow we sometimes see in their eyes).

But they don't have maculas or foveas as we do, so there is no way for them to achieve the sharpness of vision that we normally have when we focus directly on something. Nor, apparently, are they able to see the range of colors we can.



"Jill"

photo credit Jamie Spring

While nobody knows exactly what a dog sees, they probably mostly see the world in pastel shades of blue, violet, gray and tan. They can probably see red or green, but not with the vividness that we can -- red probably looks brownish and drab to them.

So if a dog fails to see the sheep at the top of the trial field when you can see them clearly, or even a stick right in front of his nose, it's not fair to think, "But you're looking right at it!" He doesn't have the same capacity to "look right at" something that we do. He sees something he is "looking right at" about as well as we see something in our peripheral vision. But when it comes to seeing that maddeningly motionless calf that you're looking for at dusk, he's got us all beat.

Annual Memberships Due before January 1, 2021

Annual Memberships expire on December 31st of each calendar year. To be eligible to vote in the 2021 elections, your membership must be paid **prior** to January 1, 2021.

Annual Membership fees are \$15. Lifetime Memberships are \$150.

Both Annual and Lifetime Memberships offer the same benefits.

AMERICAN BORDER COLLIE ASSOCIATION

Annual Directors' Meeting

November 30, 2020

Minutes

Due to logistical problems resulting from COVID-19, ABCA was unable to hold an in-person meeting of the membership this year. Directors, present by telephone at the meeting were Eileen Stein, Angie Sells, Scott Glen, Allison Jarrard, Bob Johnson, Kathy Knox, Jamie Spring, Bridget Strang. Also present Debbie Bailey.

Eileen Stein welcomed the Directors to the conference call and called the Annual Meeting to order.

Debbie Bailey presented proof of mailing of the notice for the Annual Meeting. Debbie stated 2,439 ballots mailed to eligible voters, 14 ballots returned undeliverable. Patricia L. Smith, CPA, tallied the ballots, reporting 403 validly cast ballots. This represents more than a quorum of 10% of eligible voters. The results of the election; 5 Directors were elected for 3 year terms; Eileen Stein (MD), Warren Mick (NY), Jamie Spring (SD), Kathy Knox (MO), Bridget Strang (CO).

The minutes of the 2019 Annual Meeting were distributed to the Directors. A motion was made by Bridget Strang to approve the minutes as presented. Bob Johnson made the second and the motion was approved.

Eileen Stein gave the President's Report. Eileen stated that ABCA registered more than 14,000 dogs and made 2200 transfers in 2019. ABCA registered dog #485,000 in 2019.

The Board of Directors approved a total of \$43,500 to help sponsor the National Sheepdog Finals and the National Cattledog Finals during 2019. The ABCA is the longest tenured and most dependable sponsor of both events. Funds have been allocated for livestock expenses, prize monies, and general support. The specific breakdown of these funds is contained in the financial report.

The Board of Directors approved the expenditure of \$4,500 to help with the live webcast of the 2019 National Sheepdog Finals.

In 2019, the Board approved the expenditure of \$23,928 in promotional and educational funds to local and state organizations and individuals for working Border Collies events.

The 2019 Financial Statement was distributed and presented.

Eileen Stein, on behalf of ABCA Health and Education foundation, reported that there was little progress on EAOD research in 2020 due to COVID-19, which caused lockdowns in Finland, closure of labs, and redirection of resources to COVID research.

Only two comments/questions were received from members, both regarding whether spouses who share a single membership were entitled to cast two separate votes. Both inquirers will be contacted and told that only one vote per membership can be accepted.

ABCA suffered a great loss when Emil Luedecke passed away in May 2020. He was ABCA President almost up to his death, and over the years could always be counted on for guidance, support, and plain hard work.

Eileen Stein asked if anyone had comments or further business. Scott Glen moved to adjourn, Angie Sells made the second. Meeting adjourned.



"Tuff"

photo by Rachel Ritland

Prize Monies Paid at the National Finals Each Year

**Handler must be a current American Border Collie Association Member to compete in the USBCA Finals.*

Dogs must be ABCA registered to collect ABCA prize monies.

Sheep Finals - Nursery Top 30 Qualifying - \$100 each

Open Top 50 1st Go Round - \$100 each

Open Top 20 2nd Go Round - \$100 each

Breeder of the Top ABCA registered Nursery and Open Dogs - \$500 each

Cattle Finals - Nursery - 1st - \$300, 2nd - \$200

Open - 1st Go Round - 1st - \$200, 2nd-4th - \$100 each

Open - 2nd Go Round - 1st - \$200, 2nd-4th - \$100 each

Open Finals - 1st-\$500, 2nd-\$400, 3rd-\$300, 4th-\$200, 5th-10th-\$100, 11th-20th-\$50

Breeder of the Top ABCA registered Open and Nursery Dogs - \$500 each

AMERICAN BORDER COLLIE ASSOCIATION, INC.
STATEMENTS OF REVENUES, EXPENSES, AND OTHER
CHANGES IN NET ASSETS - MODIFIED CASH BASIS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2019

REVENUES	<u>2019</u>
Annual Memberships	\$ 32,010
Duplicates and corrections	6,285
Lifetime memberships	25,020
Registration fees	216,319
Transfer fees	28,952
Miscellaneous	4,656
Investment income	26,061
Total revenues	<u>339,303</u>
EXPENSES	
Program Services	
Prize monies awarded	17,100
Promotional support to members	20,928
Research support	3,000
Trials sponsorship	28,953
ABCA Health and Education Foundation support	-
Total program services	<u>69,981</u>
Supporting Services	
Advertising	-
Annual Meeting expenses	1,636
Bank fees	4,966
Computer expense, technical support, and web expense	5,463
Depreciation and amortization	477
File storage	1,445
Insurance and bonding	1,562
Investment fees	11,337
Office supplies	1,205
Postage and delivery	12,321
Printing and reproduction	7,123
Professional fees	4,325
Office Manager/Registrar fees	79,380
Telephone	2,595
Travel	1,713
Other office expenses	1,307
Total supporting services	<u>136,855</u>
Total expenses	<u>206,836</u>
OTHER INCOME (EXPENSE)	
Realized loss on investments	<u>26,636</u>
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	<u>159,103</u>
NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR	<u>1,112,381</u>
NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR	<u>\$ 1,271,484</u>

Promotional Money Available through ABCA

Promotional money is available upon a request from any ABCA member to promote the working Border Collie in their area. Funding for these projects comes from a designated fund at the rate of \$2 per dog registered. Funds are allocated to the state or province of the Breeder. Events often include trials, clinics, fun days, school projects, etc. A Promotional Money Request Form is available on the website or through the office. The request must be submitted to the office prior to the deadlines of February 15 and July 15 of each year. Following is the amount available as of November 2020.

STATE	AMOUNT AVAILABLE	STATE	AMOUNT AVAILABLE
AB	\$ 930	NB	\$ 94
AK	\$ 377	NC	\$ 1,838
AL	\$ 3,172	ND	\$ 635
AR	\$ 1,676	NE	\$ 1,973
AZ	\$ 1,885	NH	\$ 1,013
BC	\$ 317	NJ	\$ 1,755
CA	\$ 2,399	NM	\$ 1,153
CO	\$ 1,577	NS	\$ 28
CT	\$ 815	NV	\$ 1,192
DC	\$ 2	NY	\$ 747.69
DE	\$ 92	OH	\$ 5,216
FL	\$ 1,597	OK	\$ 1,933
GA	\$ 1,962	ON	\$ 1,331
HI	\$ 4	OR	\$ 2,507
IA	\$ 2,068	PA	\$ 4,340
ID	\$ 887	PR	\$ 38
IL	\$ 992	QC	\$ 1,222
IN	\$ 4,467	RI	\$ 205
KS	\$ 4,173	SC	\$ 2,047
KY	\$ 843	SD	\$ 224
LA	\$ 4,801	SK	\$ 645
MA	\$ 1,333	TN	\$ 1,971
MB	\$ 364	TX	\$ 6,085
MD	\$ 475	UT	\$ 943
ME	\$ 1,558	VA	\$ 2,557
MI	\$ 2,852	VT	\$ 463
MN	\$ 773	WA	\$ 1,868
MO	\$ 1,658	WI	\$ 998.75
MS	\$ 1,250	WV	\$ 2,644
MT	\$ 1,312	WY	\$ 1,022

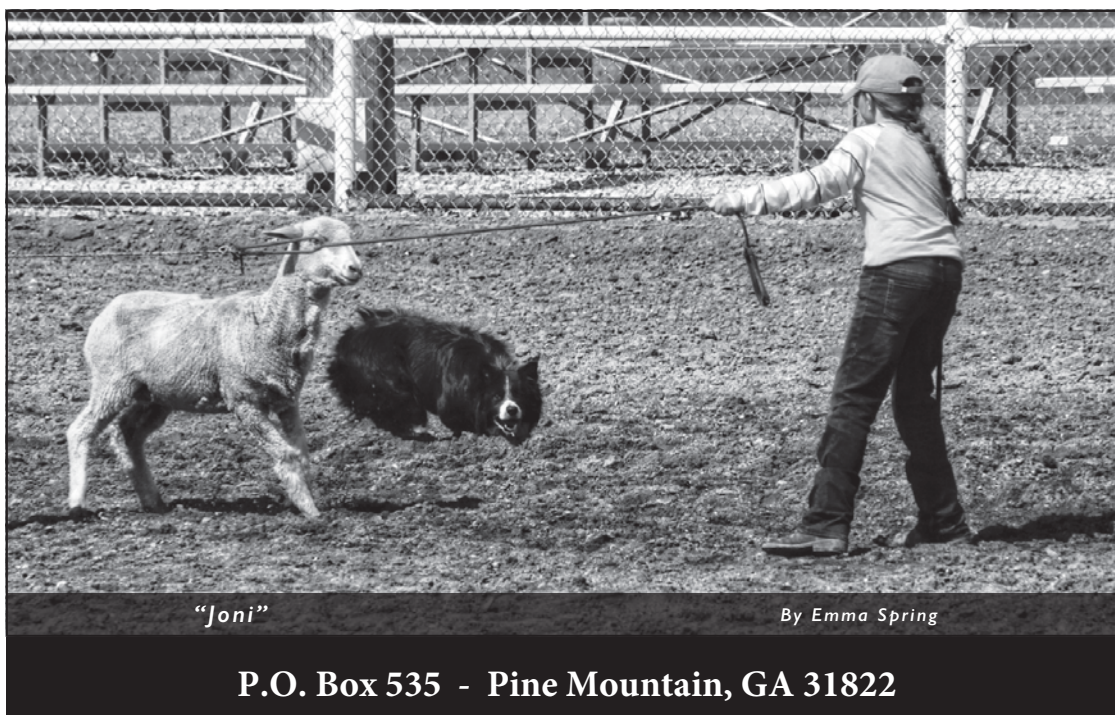
Grant funds are also available from the ABCA. Grants are generally made for scientific research and educational projects, and grant monies are not allocated by state. A Grant Request Form is available on the website. The deadlines for grant requests are January 15 and June 15 each year.



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**Hall of Fame
Nominations**

Due To ABCA by June 15, 2021

Application forms available from the office or online at www.americanbordercollie.org