

2006 Chairman's report



Source: SABBA Board
Date: 17 February 2007

It is a privilege to present the 2006 Chairman's report to members and other interested persons on behalf of the SABBA Board.

Customary, we introduce this report by honouring beloved members who passed away during the year. We pay tribute to Abri Pio of Piona Boerboele, senior appraiser and Board member; Christo Dörfling of the Eastern Cape; and Blits Nel of Nelspruit. We value their enormous contribution towards establishing and improving the standard of our beloved Boerboel. This legacy will never be forgotten.

We also congratulate Mr. Hannes van Jaarsveld, Managing Director and owner of Montego Classic - our sponsor - on being elected the National Entrepreneur of 2006 by Business Partners.

The year under review showed a decrease in the registration of dogs, namely 824 new registrations (1012 in 2005). However, birth registrations increased from 1816 to 2069. We also report a decrease in the number of paid-up members. This is primarily due to improved record keeping and our new Pastel software, which identified several 'ghost members', and had cost the Association a lot of money. The auditor will elaborate on this matter.

In the 2005 report I highlighted our strategy and supporting plans towards fulfilling our vision. Several committees were established and they now deal with matters relevant to their portfolios.

The Executive Committee continues to attend to more complex and policy issues. All decisions are taken collectively and in a transparent manner, and must be ratified by the Board. I trust that this process will never again be jeopardised by individuals serving personal agendas.

Highlights during 2006 included:

- Approval of the new Constitution.
- The appointment of Board members, respectively for the USA and Europe.
- The successful implementation of the committee system.
- Improved financial record-keeping and financial status of the Association.
- The appointment of an external auditor and the first independent audit.
- Ongoing review and improvement of the breed standard and appraisal system.
- Continued and extended sponsorship by Montego Classic during 2007 to facilitate the national Boerboel show.

Matters that did not progress as anticipated are:

- Performance testing.
- Vaginal hyperplasia research.
- Improved service to members.
- Maintenance of the web site.

There were also several unfortunate incidents, the management of which required an immense amount of time from certain executive members. I take the liberty of bringing some of these issues to your attention.

- The dismissal of both staff members in the office after a long and transparent disciplinary process.
- The disciplinary hearing of two members and the resultant suspension of one member.
- Withdrawal of appraiser status of two senior appraisers and one appraiser
- Unsuccessful consultation with the HBSA and EBBASA, and the subsequent suspension of discussions.
- Several biting incidents by Boerboels and the resultant negative publicity in the media.

My view of the future - and specifically of 2007 - is that the new Board will have to face and pro-actively address certain challenges. These include:

- Improved, prompt and accurate services to members.
- Continued improvement of management and control systems.
- Improved and consistent conduct by adjudicators.
- Complete implementation of Pastell software.
- Promoting a positive image of the Boerboel through shows.
- Implementing an improved appraisal system that will include behavioural criteria, and place less emphasis on the points that dogs receive.

I conclude by thanking all members and other individuals for their continued support and interest in this superb breed. Remember, SABBA is your member organisation and will continue to prosper because of you and the Boerboel.

The past year has not been an easy one. I thank the Board members in particular for their continued support, especially during the difficult times. I sincerely appreciate this support and your patience with me.

I also thank those honorary members who remained involved during the year, and the members of staff who worked very hard to keep 'the ship afloat' under extremely difficult circumstances.

A special thanks to the Executive Committee, and specifically to Brink Botha for standing in for me, despite personal dilemmas.

The results speak for themselves. The organisation is healthy to the core.

I wish the new Board success with the enormous task ahead.

My last wish as chairman is that the ennoblement and improvement of the Boerboel will become the only focus of SABBA, and that individuals would put this huge endeavour above personal objectives.

It was a privilege to serve SABBA, our members and the breed. Enjoy your Boerboels, and breed them with passion!

With humble appreciation.

Johan van Wyk