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SABBA held its 2010 Annual General Meeting on February, 6. This is an overview of the most important discussions. Members may request copies of the detailed minutes, and reports presented by the committee chairmen from the [SABBA Office](#).

Promising growth in finances and numbers

During 2009, SABBA gained 127 new members, appraised no less than 867 dogs, and registered the births of 2 154 Boerboel puppies worldwide.

Despite the pressures of the recession, the Association concluded the 2009 financial year in a financially sound position, with stock amounting to R61 000 and R382 000 cash in hand.

'This positive growth trend promises a bright future for SABBA' according to Frans du Toit, Chairman of the Board. He said the investment of effort and resources in the interests of members and the Boerboel, breed were beginning to pay off.

The reports of the various chairmen of committees echoed similar confidence, and it was obvious that the beleaguered SABBA of the last two years had emerged with renewed vigour.

Plea for code of conduct for breeders

Johan Coetzee of Piet Zyn Drift Boerboele, presented a motivation for the introduction of a code of conduct for breeders. He said it should be a matter of great concern to the Association that some breeders knowingly continued to breed with inferior dogs. In his opinion, the Board should take on the responsibility of enforcing good breeding practices.

Information sharing and broadening the Boerboel knowledge base

The majority of members at the meeting echoed another plea by Johan Coetzee for SABBA guidance and assistance in respect of various problems that breeders experience. He had prepared an extensive list - which included certain medical conditions, breeding standards, genetics, and temperament. Members agreed that the Boerboel was a complicated breed, and urged SABBA to be more pro-active in preparing and informing breeders of prevalent problems and how to deal with them.

Proposals for forums to grow the Boerboel knowledge base included:

- The introduction of Boerboel information days.
- Exploring the use of electronic discussion forums.
- Including health information on appraisal charts.
- Refraining from making frequent changes to the SABBA breed standard, and placing a moratorium on revision intervals.

SABBA invests in database enhancement

SABBA's most ambitious project in 2010 will be the extensive upgrading of the database. The project, scheduled for completion early 2011, and will cost just under R100 000. It will facilitate greater access to, and use of the information on the database. Within the scope of this project, it will also be possible for the Association to identify and interpret abuse and trends in breeding practices (*as discussed above*).

Phase 1 (verification of information) is in progress. Phase 2 will introduce various functionalities for members to interact with SABBA through the website, e.g. to access and update information, and to make safe electronic payments. Phase 3 will focus on database mining - specifically in respect of profiling Boerboel information on the system.

Boerboel shows elicit mixed reaction

The SABBA regional and Championship Shows hosted during 2009 were highly rated for the organisational effort and show communications. However, the judging process was severely criticised - to the extent that the entire judging process, guidelines, and appointment of judges will be reviewed for future shows.

Several members commented that the Boerboel shows are still in their baby shoes. Criticism of show judges is relatively common at dog shows. They believe it will take some time for participants to accept the rules and judging process, and that shows are about showmanship.

Consultation with EBBASA

EBBASA reissued their invitation of co-operation to SABBA - following on the breakdown in consultations during 2009 - but stressed that unification was not an option. Members reaffirmed the ultimate objective of achieving unity in the Boerboel community, and said they would welcome EBBASA and its members unconditionally to within SABBA. They gave the Board a mandate to inform EBBASA that if consultations were to resume, it would be on SABBA's terms. The different breed standards and appraisal systems were not in the interest of the Boerboel.

AGM briefs

- All appraisers and senior appraisers will attend an Alignment and Calibration course to promote uniformity among appraisers. Courses for breeders will be presented, as and where, required. Breeders and members will benefit from attending these courses, as it will promote a better understanding of the appraisal standards, provide the opportunity for training as appraisers.
- SABBA appointed three new senior appraisers abroad - one for North America and two for Europe. This will alleviate the workload and cost of delegating appraisers from South Africa to do appraisals in those regions. Both regions reported to have upheld their positions as leading Boerboel associations.
- Ina Visser received the 2009 Boerboel Personality of the Year Award in recognition of her work and contributions towards SABBA over many years.
- Members supported proposals for rotating venues for the AGM and national shows, and stressed that SABBA should 'take the Boerboel across the country' to encourage greater participation and public awareness of the breed.

2010 SABBA Board members

There were elections for two positions on the Board, namely for Vice-Chairman and for KwaZulu-Natal. The new office bearers and regional representatives are:

Executive committee

Frans du Toit	Chairman	M 082 927 0021	fransdutoit@sabt.co.za
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Members

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