

VALE
ERN DRINKWATER

Members of the Australian Dog World were saddened to learn that Ern Drinkwater passed away on December 16 2002. Ern was a very important member of the canine fraternity and will be an enormous loss to our great hobby of purebred dogs.

Ern Drinkwater and his wife Joan became involved in the dog world in 1958 following the purchase of a Labrador puppy dog. By 1960 they had acquired the foundation bitch and registered the prefix "TESDIN". Having bred their first litter and keeping a puppy, they moved to a 5 acre property in Berwick and really got involved in what Ern called "dogmania". Since that time they have campaigned many Labradors through to the title of Australian Champion, as well as winners in several other breeds.

Ern became interested and very involved in club administration and show management and in 1965 joined the judges training scheme. He obtained his Gundog license in 1967 and attained "All Breeds" status in 1978.

Being a recognised business leader and administrator through his position with the RACV (Royal Automobile Club of Victoria) Ern Drinkwater was an obvious appointment in 1968 to the Committee of the then KCC and served on many of the sub-committees including Finance and the Judges Training Committee. He was elected a Life member of the KCC in 1974, a Life Councillor in 1988 and retired from the KCC Committee in 1992.

He was a Patron of the Yarra Ranges Kennel Club and the Western Suburbs All Breeds Kennel Club.

As well, Ern Drinkwater had served as President of the Cranbourne Dog Club, Warragul Kennel Club and the Melbourne Dog Club and was honoured with Life Membership by the Labrador Retriever Club of Victoria, Western Suburbs All Breeds Kennel Club and the Melbourne Dog Club.

Upon retirement from the position of Chief General Manager of the Royal Automobile Club of Victoria, Ern was elected to the Council of the Royal Agricultural Society of Victoria. Ern was a Life Councillor of Society and even up until his death, was Deputy Chairman of the RASV Dog Committee, responsible for the conduct of the Royal Melbourne Show, the largest Dog Show in the Southern Hemisphere, and in the past, had spent several years as Chairman of that particular Committee.

Whilst Labradors had always been his first love, Ern and Joan also bred and exhibited Cocker Spaniels and Pointers and have owned and exhibited English Setters, Maltese, Greyhounds, Borzois, Shih Tzu and Shiba Inus.

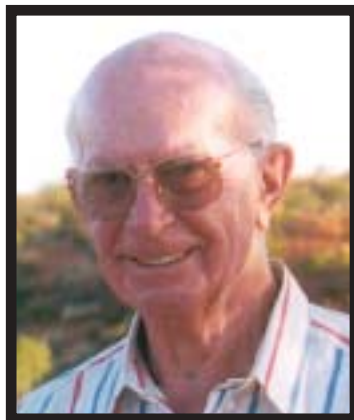
Ernie Drinkwater was a most popular and sought after judge. On numerous occasions his judging appointments took him to all States and Territories of Australia, many, many trips to New Zealand and internationally he had also enjoyed judging appointments in Hong Kong, Japan and Argentina.

The Dog World has lost a real gentleman and a hard working promoter of the world of purebred dogs. Whilst he has passed from this world he will be remembered for his great passion and total commitment to the Dog World. Farewell Ern Drinkwater.

All members of the VCA extend their sincere condolences to his wife Joan.

Bob Bell

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VALE
Laurie Grant

Laurie Grant came into the dog world in early 1950s with a Dachshund bitch. He was at the time employed at Enterprise Yarns in Brighton working with David White whose father owned and operated the company.

When David White's father died and the factory was due to close Laurie accepted the position of a plantation manager in Nairobi East Africa for a fixed five year term.

Laurie was living in Pitt Street Eltham at the time and the move meant selling everything, lock stock and barrel & taking Beryl and their two daughters (Lyn & Wendy) to Africa in 1956.

Political unrest in Africa and danger from the Mau Mau caused Laurie to reconsider committing himself after the initial five years. Laurie and the family returned to Australia on leave after the five years, but the position had escalated to the point where Laurie was not satisfied, that the safety of his family could be guaranteed, so Laurie returned to Africa alone to arrange transfer to a successor and to once again arrange a return to Australia.

On his return to Australia Laurie and Beryl purchased a property in Croydon and he obtained employment with an accounting firm Smail Middlemiss in Little Lonsdale Street Melbourne.

Laurie's responsibilities centred on company finances, liquidity and liquidations with the accompanying legal requirements associated with these duties.

This required meticulous care to detail that was no doubt Laurie's forte, absolute responsibility and accountability of company assets, obligations and responsibilities. These duties included accountability for the working day with all phone calls, conversations and actions recorded each eight minutes of the day.

Such were Laurie Grant's credentials that he put his family first in taking such a position overseas and again when he was not happy that their safety was assured that he returned to Australia. Likewise, his characteristic desire for exactness and absolute accountability that any action initiated by him on behalf of his employer or a company for whom he was acting or for they whom he held a legal responsibility would not be embarrassed or responsible for litigation through any default on his part.

This characteristic of Laurie's was also noticeable in his attention to detail in his interests in the Dog World whether as an exhibitor, judge, lecturer, examiner or as a Committee Member of the KCC.

Laurie's financial background was utilized in his appointment to the finance committee, likewise his knowledge of legal requirements and responsibilities saw him appointed to the Municipal By Laws Committee besides being a member of the Classic Committee, Editorial and Building Committees.

Laurie characterized honesty and a lack of bias in all his deliberations and was co-opted to groups to consider applications for the appointment of the caretaker and curator of KCC Park – of the appointment of the KCC Field Officer and the salary and occupation Committee who made the necessary recommendations affecting the transfer of the RAS staff to the newly formed VCA and the salary and conditions of their employment.

Laurie Grant was one of the original three committee members who wrote up the KCC Code of Ethics and was the Chairperson of the Committee of four persons who wrote the VCA Constitution and the Rules and Regulations adopted at its inception. Laurie undertook to record the minutes for those meetings and to incorporate those decisions into the Constitution, Rules and Regulations.

This was no mean task requiring considerable tact, good memory and recording skills and the ability to incorporate these all into legible form that would withstand ambiguity and argument. All this in the era before computers.

Laurie's honesty, knowledge, lack of bias and objective thinking were utilized by the VCA in Laurie's appointment to the VCA Disciplinary Appeals Committee where his clear thinking and sound judgment was truly appreciated and probably saved both the VCA and members costly litigation.

Laurie Grant was a very determined person and if he considered the constitution or rules were deficient he would not rest until the matter was corrected and on his death one member remarked "The Annual Meetings will never be the same again without Laurie". That is probably right, the amount of time and effort he put into trying to improve or to perfect the system will probably never be repeated let alone the time and effort he put into explaining and campaigning his proposals at the annual or special meetings.

The honesty of purpose, the knowledge, and dedication of Laurie Grant will be a hard act for any member to follow and the amount of VCA funds saved by the strength of the constitution rules and regulations, avoiding unnecessary litigation, will probably never be known.

Laurie Grant, it was a pleasure to have known you and to have worked with you and for your wise counsel.

Frank R Ahern

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