

**The DNA Programme continued from page 8**

Carriers if mated to dogs not clear may produce carriers or affected animals. It is unreasonable at this point in time to breed clear to clear only, as this would reduce an already limited gene pool in most breeds (where a test is available) even further. Hence the prospect of not having to test progeny is unrealistic and not helpful to the breeds and breeders at large.

Please remember that the parentage test is one of exclusion, and if breeders or the ANKC count on it to verify parentage, they will produce errors a certain percentage of the time and they will not accomplish their goal of a good studbook.

Also not to forget is the fact that GSS/GTG although certainly capable of running the profile, to the best of our knowledge and in depth enquiries do not have the technology or licence thereof to make their results of Profiling/Parentage compatible with the rest of the world, Any test should be universally accepted and verifiable with other data bases (for instancethat of the OFA), see Karen Hedberg's article, November issue.

**Stud book registration will be recommended but voluntary by January 2006 and mandatory by January 2008. See last month's analysis. By 2008, all breeding stock will have to be registered and a dog will not be eligible for registration if both its parents are not registered.**

Comment: Ah - ha! See paragraph above re the requirements not applying to "purebred show dogs". As we understand it, you can't have a show dog if it is not registered

**The ANKC will carry out the program with Genetic Technologies Limited, which will train sample collectors and test the samples at its Melbourne labs.**

Comment: Further consultation with a professional in the field assures us that no actual training is required to collect a cheek swab, breeders all over the world do it all the time, when they wish to send swabs for testing with regards to those diseases for which such a test exists. The company with whom this person is associated sends out three packages containing cheek swabs upon receipt of a booking. The cheek swabs look like a tiny bottle brush and are sealed in a barcoded package which also provides room for name and address and dog details etc. The breeder then swabs the cheek and returns the samples. Why three? Because this allows for a more adequate sample collection. We understand that the company selected by the ANKC will be providing only two swabs, and of a different kind, more like a cotton bud,

Labs around the world using this technology (which is fast becoming the technology which is universally accepted in veterinary and human technology) use nylon bristle Cytology Brushes, these have been especially

sterilized for collection purpose as used in human medicine by the Gynaecologist as well as for DNA testing. Varying brushes have varying use. The cotton end brushes are mainly for the collection of saliva as they slide over a surface, whereas the Cytology Brush is used for the collection of cells, which in turn contain the DNA. Saliva in it self does not contain DNA. The collection of samples with these swabs is simple and does not require any specialized professional training.

**Genetic Technologies also plans to use stored DNA samples to develop new tests.**

Comment: Excellent, however, as above, sufficient maerial for storage for future testing is unlikely to be obtained by this programme, and also a certain protocol and pedigree requirement is necessary for conducting research, plus adequate storage facility to house these as well as the profile samples and a Research & Development team to work with them. With no disrespect to the company, we are told they are purely a human-oriented DNA facility and it does seem strange that the ANKC did not call for tenders from companies already established in the field with experience in ANIMAL DNA testing as opposed to HUMAN or approach either the Greyhound or Equine Bloodstock people, both of whom have been working very successfully with DNA Profiling and Parentage Testing now for many years. .

**DNA typing (profiling) is to be done by GTG only, as the test is specific and the database for parentage checks is established there.**

Comment: We are told that a DNA typing test is NOT specific to GTG, and can be conducted by any laboratory with the facilities to do so. Specific questions as to the establishment of this new database have drawn a blank and GTG are reported to have said they are NOT establishing or administering this data base. Obviously it should - MUST - be conducted in conjunction with the already existing ANKC data base, but nobody will confirm that is envisaged either. Please re-read Dr Karen Hedberg's article page 2, November issue.

Our sincere thanks to those who helped with technical assistance for this analysis. One also provided this personal comment we felt was more than worthy of repeating.

Are we, breeders as a whole, truly so un-trustworthy that we would jeopardize our own breeding stock and breeding program, by not testing the right dogs? It would be of no benefit for the reputable breeder to do so for himself or for the breed. First of all in the event of disease tests, this would come back to haunt us, as when progeny is tested, impossible results would soon show up to discredit that breeder.

This URL may be of interest to readers

<http://www.med.umich.edu/hg/RESEARCH/FACULTY/Brewer/compendium.htm>

# DOGGY DANCING

The inaugural WCFO, INC titling and non-titling competitions and workshops on Australian soil were hosted by the Carmarna Canine Freestylers in Austral, North South Wales and held on August 28-30, 2004.

The event was sponsored by Australia's premier SUPERCOAT, Supernatural food for super-natural dogs, a division of Greens Foods Ltd.



Carmarna Canine Freestyle Club Founder/President, Lucille Ellem with family and friends, presented a memorable event in the history of dog sports in Australian on this weekend.

It was a pleasure for Nancy Withers and Patie Ventre from the USA to judge this event where everyone "danced, costumed and did wonderful musical interpretation". We do not see this understanding of a very critical aspect of the sport in many of our competitions at this beginner level. As Nancy stated, "This was the most wonderful beginner event I have ever judged. All competitors had a grasp of the concept of canine freestyle with its extended obedience difficulties. I truly enjoyed judging you all."

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workshop that covered the many aspects of our sport of canine freestyle. With about 25 attendees all eager and bouncing along, we had quite a time.

K9 Dressage by Sandra Davis was introduced to great enthusiasm and we left our signage and rules with the club so they could continue to practice. All who attended the workshops received all they came for and now know that right side heeling is just so-so equal to left side heeling and no big deal! AND... all those advanced moves cannot be done without total breakdown of all positions! YES, "canine freestyle equals extreme obedience" as stated by Gay Stahley of the WCFO DogHouse Dancers Club. A dancing dog can work in 360 degrees of its owner/handler, only if the owner/handler understands that these positions exist. WCFO rules, which were new to attendees were discussed and demonstrated. "Tea", really lunch to the USA people, was home made and wonderful with lots of giant prawns, meats and salads.

Lesley Farish, Stacy Shield and Lucille Ellem attended the judge's workshop run by Nancy Withers and they have been added to our judges in training list. Nancy Withers' off-record report was that they are all a-go!

They will be judging future video events for practice.

The WCFO titling event was a new venue to the competitors and many of them had stage fright on Saturday. It began with the national anthems from Australia and the USA and the reading of the Dog's Prayer. Judge Nancy Withers did her best to encourage confidence and a sense of warmth to these first time out beginners before they competed. They performed admirably as you can see from the legs and titles awarded. Sunday's titling event saw a few more brave teams from the FUNMEET enter and do quite well. To quote words from the hard cover, 8 page, color program, "If you are interested in becoming another Fred Astaire or Ginger Rogers with your canine companion..." the place to be Saturday evening was the Carmarna Canine Swing FUNMEET! While waiting for the event to start, the audience's focus was on the elevated, beautifully lit stage with its magnificent display commemorating this historic event: five foot Australian and USA flags shared center stage among bales of hay with antique decor illustrating the country's uniqueness along with fun displays such as "Kangaroo Crossing" road signs, with the WCFO, INC global logo present. The surrounding walls were filled with dancing, musical and canine freestyle displays.

The beautifully, formally dressed emcee, Peter Higgins stood in front of a black velvet and gold lame stage to announce the teams and talk about the sport. His delightful, funny comments provided a special addition to this show. The teams flew on to the dance floor from behind a gold lame entrance curtain as their music started, in full regalia going immediately into their routines, much to the delight of everyone. The entertaining routines captured audience applause; one after the other and it was an euphoric, fun and inspiring evening!

SPECIAL AWARDS TITLING MEETS & FUNMEET:  
NOTE: many prizes were donated by USA and Australian clubs and individuals with specific designations. Where there was no chance to award for the specified, the award was given for other achievements. Many awards were donated by the Australians and USA members' Freestyle Fanatics Club, Linda and Beverly Blanchard, Marlin Redmond,



Gloria Voss, Patie Ventre and Nancy vonKoehnen. Australian donors included SUPERCOAT Pet Foods, Diane Wright, Eileen Risby, Ron Farish, Vicki Hart, Tony Saunders & Vicki Hart.

The Towle Silver Plate Revere Bowl, High Combined Technical Merit/Artistic Impression Score, donated by Sky Acres Kennels/Ardyce & Michelle Edling was won by Lucille Ellem and GSD Noah. To WCFO, INC surprise, Lucille turned the cup around, stated that it would become a challenge trophy for Hi in Trial at all WCFO-CCF events and they would be adding a wood base to the cup and add plaques for each winner as a challenge trophy! WCFO says thank you to Ardyce and Michelle Edling for giving us this beautiful cup, which will now become a challenge trophy for Aussie Canine Freestylers! For those of you who are interested, Sky Acres Kennels produce some of the most respected Belgian Tervuren and other breeds in conformation winners.

Once on board her departing flight, Patie, WCFO Founder/President, says, "I could not stop crying! How wonderful it was to bring WCFO to Australia! It was exactly like when we started WCFO, INC in the USA! How awed future WCFO competitors worldwide will be when they see on the awards list the beautiful sashes, koala bears and autographed Frisbees straight from the WCFO Carmarna Canine Freestylers Club in Australia that came home with me."

The newly created WCFO Carmarna Canine Freestylers Club has the recognition of being the first new club that had the most entries, titling and non titling, over 2 days and bringing in the most funding for the parent charitable non profit organization, since its inception, by a country where we put down our paw and foot prints! Hats off to all of you!

Special thanks goes to Diane Atkins with her magnificent Border Collies and Diane Wright with her beautiful Dalmatians who donated their time taking us around and making programs, certificates and lots of other tasks. Special praise for Leslie and Shannon Farish who drove us to the Blue Mountains, taking along Nancy Withers and AKC conformation judge Pat Hess who was judging events for John Ellem at his club the same weekend Groovin' was held. Wendy Newton drove down from Queensland and was indispensable in donating her time to help with this event and all the duties that make the Ellem's Carmarna Kennels run so smoothly. For sharing with us his great food and wines and camaraderie, we thank the very personable John Ellem, chef extraordinaire, Australian historian and dog fancier/breeder/owner/handler/judge.

The next Carmarna Canine Freestylers events will be their Christmas show, November 2004. For information contact Lucille Ellem, WCFO Carmarna Canine Freestylers Club, 195 Fifth Avenue, Austral, NWS 2171, lucille.ellem@bigpond.com

For Photos, Videos contact: Patie Ventre. Dancing With Dogs is Fun for You & Your Pet! WCFO, INC The World Canine Freestyle Organization A non profit 501 c3 charitable organization  
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Lucille Ellem and Noah



Michael Jackson Award

The weekend started out on Friday with everyone running around picking up, delivering, decorating, organizing and dealing with all the problems that usually crop up with an event. It was exactly like our first events in the USA and other countries, just like starting WCFO, INC for the first time. There were husbands, significant others, children, friends and supporters all sharing and bonding together to make this event happen. Currency differences, electrical differences, plus a host of other issues were dealt with expediently and "improvise" was the catchword for the day.



Saturday dawned with perfect weather at a beautiful show site. During the day on Saturday and Sunday Patie Ventre ran a