



Following on the disappointment we raised in our editorial last month concerning the use of sensational headlines - in the one we referred to - an unfounded article on the prevalence of drug use in the Australian dog scene in the last issue of another Australian canine publication, yet another sensational headline appeared in their current issue .....

**“NZ Win for Tradition: Government approves tail docking”.**

It appears this headline did not accurately reflect the situation, as the story went on to attribute statements to the New Zealand Kennel Club's chief executive Brian Priest which, we are assured, were not made at their recent Conference.

The facts as provided to us are that over a number of years, a group with representation from virtually all parties interested in dogs in New Zealand had drafted a 'code of welfare for dogs'. New Zealand Kennel Club was represented. Then, following the process laid down in NZ's Animal Welfare Act, the draft was submitted to the National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee which advises the Minister of Agriculture. NAWAC then advertised for public submissions and has been considering those.

It is understood that NAWAC is very close to sending the Code of Welfare to the Minister of Agriculture for signature, the final step to approve the Code and bring it into force.

NZKC is very concerned that the publication of an incorrect story may seriously jeopardise the interests of dog breeders and exhibitors, and that years of work could be lost.

Throughout the process of developing the Code of Welfare, NZKC has kept breeders informed through articles and news in their membership magazine, NZ Dog World, and by email/website updates. They have called on people to inform themselves and make submissions, and given guidance and suggestions. NZKC tells us they acknowledge the work of the NZ Council of Docked Breeds.

NZKC says it has vigorously represented the interest of members, not just for freedom of choice to dock, but on many other aspects of canine welfare. The combined efforts of many good people have resulted in the defeat of a private member's bill at Parliament which would have outright banned the practice, and has influenced the development of the Code of Welfare.

The Code of Welfare may still result in an appropriate outcome on docking, and in all areas of caring for man's best friend.

The statement on page 4 from the NZKC's CEO has appeared in their August issue of the NZ DOG WORLD magazine and is reproduced with their permission.

And from our monthly round up of news this month ...

From Harry Heikinen at the European Winner Show in Dublin .... Surprisingly enough, the numerically biggest breed was the Dogue de Bordeaux with 96 entries. So the Dogues outnumbered for example such usually most popular breeds like Golden Retrievers (79) and Labradors (65).

From Diana Norman, Griffon correspondent ... The show was held at Zbraslav, a former Soviet army military camp which is now the canine complex.

From Heather Budd, NSW correspondent, I would love to hear from the coursing convenors as to the timing of their next event, and even some results from their competition. There are a great deal more opportunities available to we dog folk than just conformation showing and we often fail to look outside the square and do not embrace all that our sport offers.

From Al Grossman – The Skeptic Tank - Breed Standards by their very nature (and AKC's attitude toward radical changes) tend toward the conservative. Radical changes seldom appear, so stability of a breed is promoted. Just read the proposed changes in the AKC Gazette to assure yourself of this fact. Although provision is made for evolution and improvement of breeds, revolution is prevented. A dog that is acceptable today most likely will be acceptable next year.

From Debra Hill's USA Sheltie Specialty report ... The evening of Day 2 had been highly anticipated by us as it was "Visiting Hours". This event was held in the grooming building where breeders showcased their finest with pedigrees displayed, and gave the opportunity to personally "go over" all their dogs. Some even offered champagne, nibbles, even chocolates designed to match their kennel logo. Very exciting indeed to see in the flesh and "put your hands on" many of the dogs much admired by us only in magazines, on-line and reading of their achievements.

From Cheryl Bedggood reporting on her recent judging in Malaysia where she also conducted a Dancing with Dogs seminar ... The DWD Workshop went very well. Everyone was so keen to learn all about it, and they were anxious to get started right away. It was hard to keep everything low key and teach only starter moves and routines, as everyone wanted to progress so quickly!

From Jeannie Johnston, GSD correspondent about Bob Knight, tragically an innocent victim of a shoot out as reported last month ... His funeral service at St Andrew's Presbyterian Church was packed with family, friends, truckies and members of the GSDC. His beloved white Kenmore prime mover led the cortege to the Norwood Park Crematorium where there was a Guard of Honour of GSDs including his own beloved Jessie. The ACT GSDA hosted the wake at their Club

rooms including a slide show of about 300 photos of Bob with his GSDs and Family. Our sympathy to his wife Jeanette, his children David and Cathy and his 3 grandchildren Josh, Alli and Georgia. Bob will be missed by so many - the truckie with a wicked sense of humour and a passion for GSDs and his family. Rest in Peace, Bob.

From Kate Hall, Samoyed correspondent .... responsible breeders are now beginning to blood test litters for liver function. It is impossible for breeders to avoid every potential problem in a puppy; however the blood test is another tool to help breeders only place sound, healthy puppies in homes; and avoid the trauma of discovering a PSS after a puppy has been homed. When dealing with living animals, we can only assure the public that we have taken all steps available to us: another reason for them to buy from a breeder ... and I would like to raise something that has been on many of our minds for some time: our hip x-raying and scoring procedure here in Australia.

In Australia, all dogs must be put under general anaesthesia for x-rays to be validly scored. In NZ, dogs only need to be sedated; and yet the x-rays are sent to the same people for the same reading. Some European countries which have strict breeding criteria have x-rays taken without any sedation at all. It is time we reassessed our x-ray procedures. If we were to take away the need for general anaesthetic, we would be removing the two main factors which cause concern to breeders and owners: risk to the dog, and cost.

The percentage of dogs which do not wake up after having x-rays is very small; however none of us want to lose our beloved dogs so unnecessarily. I wonder if we should be asking pet owners to take this risk for the sake of our breeding programmes? Yet if we were to remove the anaesthesia, we could safely recommend hip x-raying to pet owners. Without anaesthetic, the cost of x-raying would be drastically reduced, therefore encouraging more breeders to have hips x-rayed and scored; as well making it more economical for breeders who hip-score. By removing the requirement of dogs to be x-rayed under anaesthesia, we simplify the whole process of x-raying, making it more accessible to breeders and pet owners.

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**John Perfect, NZKC President, Carl Reisinger FCI President, and ANKC President Hugh Gent at the recent FCI Asian and Pacific Section meeting In Taipei, see page 4 for report**

**Aficionados at the Tibetan Spaniel Association of Victoria Specialty**

