

Rottweiler Breed Council of K.U.S.A
CHAIRMANS REPORT
29TH June 2014

The past year has been filled with some great moments for the Rottweiler, but has had its fair share of tragedy. We observed the passing of Luan Esterhuizen, a passionate enthusiast and potential future leader of our sport. On behalf of this council I would like to once again extend our condolences to his family, please join me for a moment of silence.

I would like to begin by congratulating those clubs that hosted some fantastic events and shows during the past year. Especially the CRC for hosting their first ever GV show with great success. I am sure you have gained a great deal of experience for your next GV show and will seek to perfect certain aspects. I would like to wish the RWBA all the best for the upcoming Grand Victor show and trust the event will be a great success.

We have seen great participation at most specialist shows and this is truly encouraging when we compare entries at our specialist shows with that of all breed shows where entries continue to decline. I would like to congratulate the achievements of our learner judges and touch on the new challenges that we face with the revised KUSA judges program. Both Tommie and I have done some considerable canvassing to highlight our concerns from a specialist judge perspective and we are confident of a positive outcome. It is clear that we have a responsibility to make plans for the next wave of learner judges that should be entering the KUSA and RBC programs soon. We definitely need to ensure a steady flow of qualified judges in the future given the fall out rate and time needed to complete both the RBC and KUSA requirements. Clubs are encouraged to host Open shows so that these learners gain the necessary experience and opportunity to write evaluations.

Collectively we as clubs must not lose focus of the immense working ability of our breed and our responsibility to promote all working aspects. I would like to encourage every club to host seminars, trials and training that displays the mental and physical ability of our working breed. Without preserving these aspects of our breed we lose the essence of the Rottweiler.

We are faced with new health concerns and so we need to be steadfast in ensuring that our breeders select healthy breeding stock that will make a valuable contribution to the future of our breed. Often breeders are more concerned with the financial aspects and immediate gratification of winning in the show ring. We have the obligation of protecting and developing our breed in all aspects and keeping our breeders focused, honest and on track irrespective of the occasional grand standing from some quarters. Great achievements often come at a cost and we need to emphasize the ultimate goal. This council still has a great deal of work around breeder/owner education, this is something that must be a focus for the future. The website and other publications will go a long way in terms of education but I strongly believe more presentations, talks and face to face interactions are needed. A good mechanism is the regional breeders meetings which have not yet managed to get off the ground. The Cape Town and Durban clubs are requested to arrange dates with the breed convenor.

It is important that we constantly consider the effectiveness of our current selection tools and tests, one such example is the Breed Assessment. I am certain that we will be able to improve on the current system and possibly reference experiences from other countries or clubs internationally.

We find ourselves in a very fortunate financial position and as such we are obliged to allocate funds to important activities and portfolio's within this council that align with our strategic objectives.

We have a proposal on the agenda which is aimed at giving clubs a measurable tool by which to gauge their performance. A spin-off of this proposal leads into a discussion around finding measurable objectives for breeders and rewarding achievements that are deemed important to this council and benefit the breed. These club and breeder awards could become the highlight of an annual RBC gala dinner celebrating the success of breeders, competitors and clubs as well as sharing this council's vision. We could also consider inviting an international speaker for this prestigious annual event. Something to consider!

To conclude, the council remains committed to its mandate and will continue to pursue the development of the Rottweiler within the KUSA jurisdiction through the support and input from affiliated clubs and their dedicated membership bases.

Neil Perkins
RBC Chairman