

# FEDERATION CYNOLOGIQUE INTERNATIONALE (AISBL)

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## FCI Herding Dog Commission

### Minutes of the Annual Meeting held in Paris on 9/10 May 2009

The yearly working meeting of the above-mentioned commission took place on 9/10 May 2009. Due to technical problems in Switzerland, the meeting venue had to be changed at short notice. In his capacity as President of the commission and the member representing France, Jean-Paul Kerihuel organised switching the meeting to Paris, where it took place in the SCC offices. We are very grateful to him for this.

In accordance with the agenda, the meeting was opened on Saturday, 9 May 2009 at 9:45.

#### **Participants:**

Jean-Paul Kerihuel - President and the member for France (SCC)

Wilfried Scheld – Executive Secretary and the member for Germany (VDH)

Radko Loucka – member for the Czech Republic (CMCKU)

Marion Fuchs – member for Austria (OEKV)

Sandra v. Erlach – member for Switzerland (SKG-SSDS)

Katharina Björn – member for Sweden (Svenska Kennelklubben)

Lia Helmers – member for the Netherlands (Raad van Beheer)

Jozsef Arkosi – member for Hungary (MOE)

Mario Massucci- Reporter for the Herds Guardian Dogs - SCC

Kata Kereny (Translation for Hungarian )

Philippe Heintz (Translation for French, SCC)

#### **1.) Opening**

President Jean-Paul Kerihuel opened the meeting, greeting all delegates present. He expressed his hope that the meeting would lead to the furthering of our projects and thanked the commission members for their constructive work together up till now. The SCC had been so kind as to make the rooms and all technical facilities available for the meeting.

#### **2.) Welcome to new members**

There were no new members present this year. Commission members did however report:

- that Poland was interested in joining and would soon be getting in contact;
- that Serbia was similarly interested, though visa requirements restricted travel;
- that Croatia was interested;
- that, in the Czech Republic, interest was growing, in particular for the “Trad. Style”;
- that the Belgian Sheepdog Club in France was showing interest (Trad. Style).

As Secretary, W. Scheld reported that Belgium had not as yet named any substitute for Walter van den Broeck.

The representative from Finland would not be taking part.

The representative from Slovakia had asked to be excused.

The representative from Croatia had not sent any information whether he would be taking part or not.

The representative from Romania had not sent any information whether he would be taking part or not.

The representative from Italy had cancelled at short notice.

### **3.) Reports**

a) In accordance with the internal regulations for the commissions, President Jean-Paul Kerihuel had sent the commission's activity report to the FCI Office. The report contained a description of the commission's activities over the last two years, highlighting the drafting and adoption of the herding regulations (*Hüteordnungen*). It also referred to the successful completion of the European Championships (Trad. Style) in October 2008 in France. The report was handed out to all members present in written form.

As part of the ensuing general discussion, the problems involved in conducting herding trials were the subject of intense debate. Suitable sheep were only available in the right numbers in certain regions. Animal protection regulations concerning dogs injuring other animals by biting, stress factors and extreme weather conditions were also seen as obstacles.

b) Amongst other things, W Scheld, as Secretary, reported that – subsequent to the completion of the 2008 minutes – a letter had been sent to all commission members in September 2008. He also reported on the correspondence with the above-mentioned members. At the point in time of drafting this minutes, no replies had yet been received.

He then read out an excerpt from the FCI circular 33/2009 (Herding dogs, Gumpoldskirchen 2008: MM Fischer and De Clercq once again underline the excellent work of this commission and mention that the first CACIT trial took place in France in observance of the new FCI rules).

He went on to report on a discussion in Estivareilles in August 2008 with the President and Lia Helmers to discuss a change in the text of the Trad. Style regulations (IHT 3 and HWT). The observations had at that time already been sent to FCI Office and to Mr. Uwe Fischer, the board member responsible for the commission. In the meantime, the necessary rewording had been completed, approved and published (see attachment).

He further referred to the divergency between the requirements to gain the CACIT and the guidelines for the international working dog championship. Although the issue had been taken up with the FCI Office, clarification remained outstanding (see attachment).

### **4.) Review of the rules (Trad.Style)**

As reported above, the FCI Board had completed the rewording of the rules and put them online as of 1 April 2009 (for details, refer to item 3b) (see attachment).

### **5.) Review of 2008 events**

As part of this item, the president handed out to members a letter from Mr. De Clercq once again clarifying the rules regarding judges from abroad taking part in CACIT events.

- Jozsef Arkosi gave a report on a number of activities taking place in Hungary.

- Radko Loucka reported on events in the Czech Republic. It was interesting to note the greater interest currently being shown in participating in “Trad- Style” trials.
- Lia Helmers reported on bringing together and setting up a working group with members from various breed clubs in Holland (Raad van Beheer) interested in herding. She mentioned an upcoming meeting to take place in Holland where the next steps were to be discussed. In the run-up to this meeting, an initial meeting had taken place to discuss fundamental issues.
- Kath. Björn gave a report on her efforts to get dog owners interested in the Trad. Style.
- Marion Fuchs reported on her judging activities in Poland and Italy and on the CACIT trial in Austria.
- Philippe Heintz and W. Scheld reported on the trial which had taken place in St. Gervais in France. The interest from neighbouring countries had been surprising, given the very short preparation time available to the organisers.

## **6.) Judges’ pool**

A list of national judges for herding trials had been compiled. This was based on data from the national kennel clubs. At present the list from the Irish Kennel Club was open. The Swiss delegate, S. v. Erlach reported that Ireland had indeed named judges. These were however not authorised to judge herding trials. A further request sent by W. Scheld had not as yet led to any clarification. Delegates were asked to review the list to check whether it was up-to-date and, if need be, to correct it. Any modifications were to be communicated to the commission Secretary.

It is a general rule that these judges – on account of their authorisation by their national Kennel Clubs – are authorised to judge at FCI trials. This list contains national judges **recognised** by the FCI. They are however not “FCI judges”

## **7.) Internal Trad. Style judging guidelines**

With a view to guaranteeing as far as possible consistent judging at Trad. Style trials, a “judging guideline” was presented. This had been compiled by Ph. Heintz and Daniel Schwartz (France) and W. Scheld (Germany). It was based on the practical experience gained using national herding rules up to now. There is general consensus that sooner or later a judges’ conference will need to be held. In the short term it was however a question of gathering further experience in national canine associations. W. Scheld and Ph. Heintz presented details of the guideline.

**It should be stressed here that this is an internal document for judges.**

## **8.) Set of specifications to organize international trials and European and World Championships.**

With a view to ensuring minimum standards at such events, a document was to be drafted containing the technical requirements, their implementation in practice and maybe details of how to qualify for trials at this level.

These were to be based on the already existing FCI regulations for working dog trials. The new document was to contain both working styles. To start with, a draft document was to be compiled by Ph. Heintz , W. Scheld and Jean-Paul Kerihuel and then circulated to other members.

## **9.) Entry forms for trials / tests (C+T)**

W. Scheld presented an entry form for trials. In future, this fully completed document will need to be handed in to the organizers. Otherwise the person will not be authorised to start.

Member Loucka was busy drafting a **Collecting Style** document for the judges. W. Scheld was doing the same for the Trad. Style (see attachment).

#### **10.) Herds guardian dogs**

**For almost 100 years, there were no longer any wolves in parts of Central Europe. In the mountain regions of Italy and France there are big flocks of sheep, and these two countries are being faced with the matter of “large-sized predators”. Germany is also looking into the issue. The experience of shepherds in East Europe can be used as wolves and bears never became completely extinct overthere. Apart from the use of technical measures (stronger and higher fences, optical and acoustic signals), the use of herds guardian dogs is advisable. Donkeys can also provide adequate protection. Sheepdogs are to be used rather as a deterrent.**

The dogs mark off the ever-changing sheep grazing areas with their droppings and urine. Wolves respect this boundary, knowing they risk a conflict when crossing it. As their instinct leads them to take the path of least resistance, they stay away. However, in practice there are a number of obstacles that need to be overcome before dogs can be used to guard flocks. Sheep and dogs are not natural friends and need to become accustomed to each other. It is an advantage when dogs live with baaing flocks right from birth. They then see them as their pack. Sheep obey sheepdogs, while the latter obey the shepherd. It is only when their “pack” is attacked that herds guardian dogs instantaneously switch from being a peaceful sheepdog to an aggressive dog ready to fight. Such adaptability cannot be trained. It is to a great extent innate in **Maremmano-Abruzzese sheepdogs and the French Patou breed (Pyrenean Shepherd Dog).**

There can be a problem involving the natural protection reflex when tourists (with or without dogs), mountain-bikers and mountain climbers come too close.

This has led the French Ministry of Agriculture to authorising and commissioning the SCC to register herds guardian dogs and to check the extent to which they fulfil their protective functions without endangering/attacking people.

In his capacity as reporter for this project, Mario Massucci explained the test procedure. Apart from checking their social acceptability, dogs were also checked for their suitability as herds guardian dogs in practice. The results of this check then become part of a recommendation for their keep in general and for their presumed use as guardian dogs and for breeding purposes. The reporter went into great detail about the individual items contained in the test procedure. The checks were continuing and results would be published.

At the same time, similar checks had been done in Switzerland. Furthermore, initial findings were being gathered in East Germany. The whole complex was of major interest for cynology, as the (desired) behaviour of herds guardian dogs needed to be genetically consolidated (see attachment).

#### **11.) CACIT trials schedule**

a) W. Scheld reminded members of the requirement for organisers to communicate details of planned trials to himself and to FCI headquarters. This must be done by national kennel clubs, not by herding dog departments/committees (see attachments).

b) Events had been planned in Austria, the Czech Republic and France for 2009. There was no European championship (C./T.) planned.

An International Collecting Style trial (European Championship) is scheduled to take place in 2010. Trad. Style trials were planned to take place in Germany in 2011, with a possibility of international Collecting Style Trials taking place in Holland in the same year.

## 12.) 2010 Meeting

Next year's meeting was scheduled to take place in Switzerland on 23/24 May.

## 13.) Diverse

a) The Hungarian representative referred to problems and troubles with a group/club for French breeds. This group had started carrying out herding tests following its own rules. President J.-P. Kerihuel and W. Scheld would be drafting a letter stating their opinion on the matter.

b) As the final item, President Kerihuel presented an SCC project. A lot of effort was being put into investigating an old breed used for over 100 years by shepherds in the Crau (Rhone-Delta/Camargue) region of France. Dogs of this breed had proved to be very reliable herding dogs, leading and watching over large flocks of sheep (transhumance). Over a period of many years, the dogs there had been checked and registered, with the goal of having them – originally working dogs– recognised as a breed. These were middle-sized dogs with curly hair. They were slightly elongated and well-balanced. The dogs were very robust, full of temperament and very reliable.



dog of Crau

The meeting ended on Sunday around 15:00 with the President thanking everyone again for their constructive work and the pleasant work climate.

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Buseck, 15.5.09      Wilfried Scheld

# FCI-Hütewesen - Collecting-Style

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## Anmeldeformular für Teilnehmer am Trial

In Klasse .....

Am .....in.....

.....

Name, Vorname.....

Organisation.....

Strasse.....Wohnort.....

e-mail.....fon.....

### Angaben zum Hund

Name des Hundes.....

Rasse:.....

Bisherige Prüfung: (Organisation,Ort, Datum,Klasse).....

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Z.-Buch-Nr.....Tätow./Chip.....

Wurft.....Geschlecht.....

Zuchtbewertung-Ort-Klasse.....

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Datum, Unterschrift

# FCI-Hütewesen - Traditional-Style

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## Anmeldeformular für Teilnehmer am Trial.....

Klasse .....

Am .....in.....

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Name, Vorname.....

Organisaton.....

Strasse.....Wohnort.....

e-mail.....fon.....

### Angaben zum Hund

Name des Hundes.....

Rasse:.....

Bisherige Prüfung: (Ort und Klasse).....

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Z.-Buch-Nr.....Tätow./Chip.....

Wurft.....Geschlecht.....

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Datum, Unterschrift