



# THE AUSTRALIAN CATTLE DOG CLUB OF KZN



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**NEWSLETTER 52 SEPTEMBER 2017**

[www.cattledog.co.za](http://www.cattledog.co.za)

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## COMMITTEE

CHAIRPERSON: Carine Buitendach 082-5504713 Email : mydogs@vodamail.co.za

VICE-CHAIRMAN: Kelvin Pirie Tel (033) 3431944 Email : kelvinpirie@gmail.com

SECRETARY: Lindy George Tel (033) 3431511 Email: bgeorge@mweb.co.za

TREASURER: Patrick George Tel 073-2511125 Email: Patrick.george2364@gmail.com

MEMBER: Jenni Bagshaw Tel 082-5709772- Email: JBagshaw@growthpoint.co.za

MEMBER: Julie Grobbelaar Tel 031-7652846 Email: liewers@telkomsa.net

KZNPC REP: Julie Grobbelaar Tel (031) 7652846 Email : liewers@telkomsa.net

**BREED STANDARD:** Available on the Club website and from the Kennel Union of Southern Africa Tel (021) 4239027

**WEBSITE:** www.cattledog.co.za

**TITLES:** If your dog gains its Championship, Obedience or Working Title, please inform your Club in writing.

**SHOWS:** Please contact the Secretary for forthcoming shows in your Province.

**RECOMMENDED PRICE FOR PUPPIES:** KUSA Development Registered: R4500.00 including testing and KUSA Registered: R7000.00 including testing.

## MAGAZINES / BOOKS ON THE BREED

Available from Pets Publications Tel Azeht 082-2103312 or books@petspublications.co.za

1. The Complete Australian Cattle Dog by John and Mary Holmes.
2. Australian Cattle Dogs ....A New Owners Guide by Narelle Robertson.
3. Australian Cattle Dogs...A Complete Pet Owners Manual by Richard G. Beauchamp.
4. Heeler Power... A Guide To Training The Working ACD by Mari Shaffer.
5. Training and Working Dogs...For Quiet Confident Control Of Stock by Scott Lithgow.
6. The Good Looking Australian by Connie Redhead.
7. The Australian Cattle Dog by Kathy Christian
8. Australian Barkers and Biters by Robert Kaleski
9. A Dog Called Blue by Noreen R Clark
10. Old Timers by Cheryl Edwards

**NEWS:** We welcome any news, articles and show and obedience results.

## MEMBERSHIP

Subs of R100.00 are due annually

Payable from the 1st January of each year.

Deposit to: FNB Howick Branch Code: 220725 Acc No: 62016955926

Email proof of payment to: bgeorge@mweb.co.za



# FROM THE TEAM

August 2017

Hi Everyone,

Phew! What a hectic past few months it's been! Shows, shows, and shows!

The most prestigious of all was the **KUSA NATIONALS** held in May at the Shongweni Club. It has been a number of years since this event was hosted in KZN.

Zavvy participated in carting and Anna in breed. Anna won Best of Breed and was awarded the title of KUSA National ACD of 2017. Well done Anna.

Welcome to newcomer Mowgli and owners Samantha and Aaron Engelbrecht. They have been doing extremely well and big congrats to you too!

It is so nice to see Kassina and owner/handler Kathleen Drummond who has been doing exceptionally well in the Obedience Ring. Kassina and Kath have qualified and competed in Novice Class. Not an easy discipline to do but great exposure for our breed.

Congratulations!

It would be really nice to see more ACD's in the shows / disciplines and I encourage you all to give it a go whether it is breed, obedience, agility, dog jumping, flyball, carting, rally obedience, dancing with dogs..... Whatever floats your boat!

Go and get the necessary training for whichever discipline you choose and go for it. For those of you in the Durban area I can gladly put you in touch with trainers/coaches in most of these disciplines. Go on, get out there and have some fun with your dogs. They make us so very proud with every achievement they attain.

When I used to watch carting from the breed ring side I used to think to myself, I'll have to be at least 70 in the shade before you catch me doing that. Huh! Well, well, well, Zavvy & I just love it. Some of the competitors make it look so easy but believe me it is not. It is both enjoyable and challenging for both handler and dog. The courses are not numbered so you have to remember where you are going and what you need to do where and when (a bit like Rally O but much slower and with more precision and accuracy needed). Thankfully, when you are in novice class you do get guided by the judge to a certain degree and you are walking the course with your dog on leash. I am training Anna now in carting and so far, surprisingly, my little wild child is doing really well. So one day soon, I hope you'll see her in the carting ring with me too.

The planning preparations for our next AGM / Fun Day to be held in March 2018 are underway. Date, venue and events will be confirmed in our next newsletter and the committee look forward to seeing you all again then.

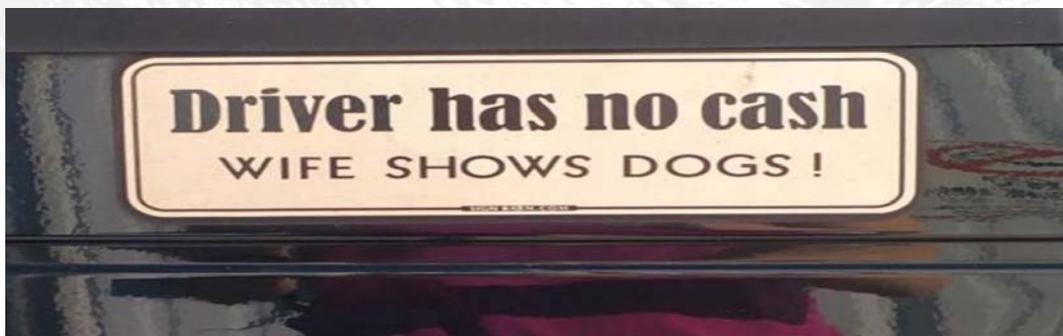
So, to all our members and your dogs, I hope you get inspired and join. Just remember it's all about fun, fun and fun with our dogs!

Ciao for now Jenni Bagshaw.





Thank you Tash Avni for sharing your beautiful photo



Oh so true!

You don't know how many  
crazy people are in the  
world until you have  
been to a dog show.



# CONGRATULATIONS TO THE REDS AND THEIR OWNERS



Linfell Red Man Tate (Mowgili) with his dad Aaron Engelbrecht  
BOB & Best Junior in the Herding Group at the Northern Natal Championship Show.



## A HAT TRICK FOR CARINE & YARRA!

Gerca Yarra with her mum Carine Buitendach  
BOB and Best Junior in the Herding Group at the Bloemfontein KC and Kimberley KC



# DRAGONSTONES CLEMATIS FAY

(Turrella Aussie Spirit x Ch Ima Wicked Red Tattoo Outback Maverick of Dragonstones CD)  
 Bred by: Fiona Powrie, Dragonstones      Owned by: Jutta Weckmueller, Outback Mavericks.



Fay with her mother Tili, just before she left for Germany at 7 months

Fay earned her youth Championship title over her first 3 shows. She went on to earn her German Championship title in equal style. She is the first Australian Cattle Dog in Germany to earn the title of VDH-Jahressieger (this title requires 4 Certain CACIB's to be earned in a one year period, 2 of them must be earned at the European Championship Show and/or German Winner Show and/or Federal Winner Show (Bundessieger Show) and 2 of them at other regular CACIB-Shows.)



Fay BOB out of 20 dogs earning her final Championship points



Congratulations and thank you for sharing Fiona Powrie Dragonstones Kennels



# YOUR DUCK IS DEAD.....!!!!!!

A woman brought a very limp duck into a veterinary Clinic. As she laid her pet on the table, the vet pulled out his stethoscope and listened to the bird's chest. After a moment or two, the vet shook his head and sadly said, "I'm sorry, your duck, Cuddles, has passed away."

The distressed woman wailed, "Are you sure?"



"Yes, I am sure. Your duck is dead," replied the vet.

"How can you be so sure?" she protested. "I mean you haven't done any testing on him or anything. He might just be in a coma or something."

The vet rolled his eyes, turned around and left the room. He returned a few minutes later with a Labrador Retriever.

As the duck's owner looked on in amazement,

the dog stood on his hind legs, put his front paws on the examination table and sniffed the duck from top to bottom. He then looked up at the vet with sad eyes and shook his head.

The vet patted the dog on the head and took it out of the room. A few minutes later he returned with a cat.



The cat jumped on the table and also delicately sniffed the bird from head to foot. The cat sat back on its haunches, shook its head, meowed softly and strolled out of the room.



The vet looked at the woman and said, "I'm sorry, but as I said, this is most definitely, 100% certifiably, a dead duck."

The vet turned to his computer terminal, hit a few keys and produced a bill, which he handed to the woman..

The duck's owner, still in shock, took the bill. "R150!" she cried, "R150 just to tell me my duck is dead!"

The vet shrugged, "I'm sorry. If you had just taken my word for it, the bill would have been R20, but with the Lab Report and the Cat Scan, it's now R150."



# Why DNA tests won't make dogs healthier

06/05/2014

By Carol Beuchat PhD

The development of ever better and cheaper tools for the analysis of DNA have driven the development of a genetic testing industry that allows breeders to identify potential genetic defects before breeding. Through pedigree research and careful selection of tested animals, breeders can now produce a litter of puppies that is essentially guaranteed to be free of particular genetic disorders that plague the breed.

Breeders have adopted routine genetic testing with enthusiasm. Nevertheless, purebred dogs are in a bad spot. The list of genetic disorders is growing faster than the canine geneticists can identify the responsible genes, and the development of tests lags even further behind. DNA tests are powerful tools - they can reliably identify the presence of particular mutations, but it sure doesn't feel like we're winning this war. Is all of the effort and expense being invested in DNA analysis and testing actually improving the health of our dogs?

Every dog has many mutations, most of which we have no tests for - in fact, we don't even know they exist unless they cause a problem in some dog. For recessive mutations, this means they can be passed harmlessly from generation to generation like any other allele, and as long as they don't meet up with a second copy (to become homozygous) in a dog they have essentially no effect.

The genes that we can test for are only a tiny fraction of all of the mutations in a population or even a single dog. So the genes we test for are really just the bit of iceberg that sticks out above the water. The much larger list of defects we don't know about is out of sight, out of mind. We can carefully navigate around the dangers we can see, but lurking below just out of sight is a much larger mass that can destroy the navigator who cuts it just a bit too close around the edge.

What do we actually accomplish with genetic testing? Most of the tests currently available are for specific recessive mutations. For these, breeding a carrier to a carrier has a 25% risk of producing an affected puppy. (Get out your Punnett square if you need a refresher.) So by testing, a breeder can completely eliminate the chance of producing a puppy with a particular disorder. The level of disease risk that a breeder is avoiding with this type of testing is 25% - one chance in four.

But what about all those other mutations we don't know about? The DNA tests we've done tell us nothing about them, and they work the same way as any other recessive mutation - a puppy that gets two copies of a mutation will be homozygous and therefore "affected". This is the part of the iceberg under water that we can't see, and if we don't properly navigate around it there could be a serious consequence - a genetic disease. How can we avoid these mutations if we don't even know what they are?

We need to navigate in a way that will minimize the risk of a puppy inheriting two copies of the same recessive mutation. Dogs that are closely related are more similar genetically than dogs that aren't, so the probability of producing offspring that inherit the same allele - good or bad - from both sides of the family is higher in dogs that are related. We can estimate the likelihood of a



puppy inheriting two copies of an allele from an ancestor on both sides of the pedigree with a statistic called the “coefficient of inbreeding” (COI). A COI of 25% means that there is a 1-in-4 chance that a puppy will inherit identical copies of the same allele from both the sire and the dam. This is the same as the risk we talked about earlier that a breeder avoids with DNA testing.

So think about this. Breeders can reduce the possibility of puppies affected with a particular genetic disorder from 25% to 0% by means of a DNA test. But if a breeder diligently runs all available DNA tests to prevent known genetic disorders, then does a breeding with a COI 25%, all they have done is swap the risk of known problems for the equally high risk of problems from those unknown, unseen mutations lurking beneath the surface. DNA tests should definitely be used as a tool to prevent known genetic disorders in puppies.\* But it is pointless to be reducing the risk of one genetic disorder with one hand (and paying for the test to do it), only to be increasing the risk with the other hand by pairing two dogs with a high likelihood of sharing recessive mutations because of their shared ancestry.

This is the road we’re on. Breeders run the available DNA tests to avoid known carriers, then line breed on that terrific dog a few generations back to double up on some of those genes - mutations included. Or breed two dogs with lots of common ancestors to get the “look” of that line, without considering the probability that even if the dogs are “health tested” for known mutations, they nevertheless can both carry some of those unknown mutations, and the more ancestry they share the greater the risk. It’s a self-defeating cycle - DNA testing to eliminate the possibility of homozygosity for a known mutation, do a breeding with a significant risk of producing homozygosity for unknown mutations, produce puppies that have a genetic disorder, commission a laboratory to identify the offending mutation and develop a test, then add this new silver bullet to the list of disorders you can avoid through testing in the next litter. The future of the DNA testing companies is assured.

Responsible breeders can test for genetic disorders, but they negate their own efforts if a breeding is likely to pair up unknown mutations. Breeding to eliminate one genetic problem while encouraging another isn’t the road to better health. This is genetic whack-a-mole, and it is potentially endless.

DNA tests will not improve the health of dogs if breeders don’t also adopt breeding strategies that will reduce the risk of producing a puppy that is homozygous for ANY mutation, not just the ones we know about. We will never solve the problem of genetic disorders caused by recessive mutations in dogs until we understand why these mutations become a problem in the first place. And when we understand that, it will be clear why DNA tests are not really necessary to avoid these problems. If breeders reduce the risk of producing puppies that are homozygous for these unknown mutations - and the COI tells us the magnitude of that risk for a particular breeding - the risk of problems from ALL mutations, including those we now test for will also be reduced. The lower the COI, the lower the risk.

What we need here isn’t genetic tests, it’s genetic management - breeding in a way that reduces the risk of all genetic disease to an acceptable level. Breeders can do this by using the information in a pedigree database to compute COI. (Again, we’re talking here only about recessive mutations, which cause disease only when homozygous.) Apparently a 25% risk is unacceptably high, because breeders are paying for tests to avoid this. Would 10% also be too high? What about 5%, or 1%? This might be different for every breeder, and perhaps even every breeding. COI is only a statistical probability, but it is far better than simply crossing fingers after a breeding decision is made, and hoping that the stars are aligned, the karma is good, and that two



months down the road you will be cuddling a litter of cute, healthy puppies.

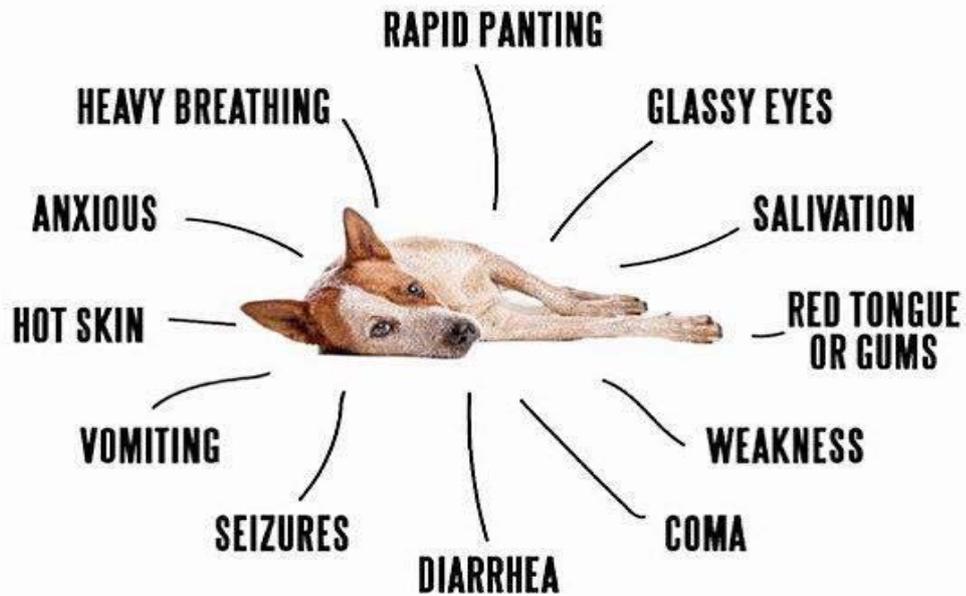
The qualities of “type” are fixed in a breed by reducing the variation in the population for the genes behind those traits. For these, consistency is produced by homozygosity. But homozygosity is also responsible for the high rates of genetic disorders in dogs caused by recessive mutations, so this is the crux of the problem. What we really need is a way to increase homozygosity of the genes we want, without also increasing the homozygosity of the ones we don't. Is this possible? Can we have both type and health?

The short answer is yes. Breeders of other domestic animals have been doing this for decades. In fact, the breeders of guide and service dogs have been quietly doing it as well. With the right tools and appropriate expertise, breeders can improve type more efficiently than they are doing now, at the same time as they are also reducing genetic diseases. Several European kennel clubs are beginning to implement these techniques, and it is only a matter of time before they are in widespread use by dog breeders. But the longer it takes, the deeper the genetic hole we are digging for our dogs and the harder it will be to turn things around. It will take cooperation among groups of breeders, oversight by clubs or breed organizations, some specialized expertise, the motivation to take the bull by the horns and just do it. I am confident that, sooner or later, this will happen.

But in the meantime, breeders need to understand that DNA screening will prevent producing puppies afflicted with disorders that we can test for, but there is little gained by avoiding the part of the iceberg you can see only to be smashed by the larger, more dangerous part that you can't. You can navigate far more safely if you use the coefficient of inbreeding to assess the risk of having an unfortunate encounter with mutations that cause genetic disease, both the ones you know about and the ones you don't.



signs of  
**HEAT STROKE**



*MY HEART BELONGS  
TO AN  
AUSTRALIAN CATTLE DOG*

*I share my life with a Cattle Dog,  
Born to herd and heel.  
A dog that's fiercely loyal-  
So full of love and zeal.*

*Active and adventurous,  
A charmer from the start-  
I took one look, and I was hooked,  
That dog had won my heart.*

*Resting by my chair at night,  
Or sharing play outside-  
The best of times, you'll always find-  
My Cattle Dog by my side.*



# THE AUSTRALIAN CATTLE DOG CLUB OF KZN

Website [www.cattledog.co.za](http://www.cattledog.co.za)

## Club Health Recommendations

### Health Testing of all Breeding Dogs

- Hips and Elbows (KUSA website)
- PRA (Inqaba Biotec)
- PLL (Inqaba Biotec)
- BAER ( Dr D Hathorn 033 3306 184)

### Puppies to be:

- Micro-chipped
- Remove dew claws
- Tested for PRA, PLL, BAER (certificates provided)
- KUSA Registered (Breed or Development)
- Vet check certificate from your vet.
- Inoculated ( 4, 6 & 12 weeks)
- De-wormed every 2 weeks

### Testing Facilities:

- Inqaba Biotec (012 343 5829) email: [info@inqababiotec.co.za](mailto:info@inqababiotec.co.za) website: [www.inqababiotec.co.za](http://www.inqababiotec.co.za)
- Hip and Elbow Scrutinisers will be found on the KUSA website under SAVA and KUSA Scrutinisers [www.kusa.co.za](http://www.kusa.co.za)

### Club Breeders Code of Ethics

- [www.cattledog.co.za](http://www.cattledog.co.za)

### Club Enquires

- Lindy George (083 3011 936) [bgeorge@mweb.co.za](mailto:bgeorge@mweb.co.za)





Donkeys being loaded onto a truck bound for Johannesburg.

PHOTO: SARAH BRAUNS

## Ending donkey skin trade

### KALISHA NAICKER

THE donkey skin trade has reached alarming statistics in the country and the Kloof and SPCA and concerned members of the public are asking the community to report any suspicious behaviour linked to the problem.

According to a person who is trying to combat the problem, she believes that donkeys are being slaughtered and their skin packaged to be transported to China, where it is used in traditional Chinese medicine and for cosmetics.

"Donkeys are being rounded up or stolen, then transported and inhumanely slaughtered for their skins. Evidence indicates that the method of slaughter is horrendous. And we want to put a stop to this," she said.

In a more recent incident last week the Kloof and Highway SPCA, with the

help of community members, transported 26 donkeys to Summerveld where they were then moved onto a bigger truck and taken to Johannesburg after being rescued.

Brigitte Ferguson, the SPCA marketing and fund-raising manager said the donkeys were part of a group that were rescued from being slaughtered in a horrendous way.

"They arrived at our SPCA where they have been kept safe, cared for and treated. As always, we thank our community for enabling our SPCA to care for the donkeys and for being there to help with their transport, donating food and vet supplies in need, without your support we could not continue the important work of preventing cruelty to animals."

She asked the community to be on the lookout and report cruelty to animals on 031 764 1212 or 078 511 1093.

Although this article has nothing to do with cattle dogs I felt it important to share as Choice Carriers is owned by Peter and Karen Choice who are members of our Club. The plight of the donkeys is so dreadful but wonderful to see them being helped by Peter and Karen. Well done Choice Carriers!



I just had to share.....I am sure we can all relate to this....and don't you love the expression! Until next time enjoy! Lindy

