

BCCA Committee Report - End-of-Year

2015-2016

1. Name of Committee: Obedience
2. Name of Committee Chair/Co-Chairs: Laurie Lo
3. List of Committee Members: Kathy Thomas, Elizabeth Hayes
4. Committee Goals for 2015-2016: continue to promote the sports of obedience, rally and tracking
5. Activities and Major Accomplishments:
 - a) Participation in Versatility Award Ad Hoc committee.
 - b) Articles for Beardie Bulletin.
 - c) Brags and "tips" for Bagpipes.
 - d) National specialty obedience and rally reports for the Beardie Bulletin
 - e) Analysis and determination of Top Dog Awards, both obedience and rally.
 - f) Analysis and determination of the Obedience and Rally medallion recipients.
6. Statistical Information (if applicable): see 5e and 5f.
7. Additional Information/Comments/Special Highlights (please attach):

Kathy Thomas will become the 2016-2017 Obedience Chair.

Laurie Lo will remain to oversee the Obedience and Rally Medallion award.

Comments:

My participation in the Versatility Award Ad Hoc committee has given me deeper insight into the workings of the BCCA. I was constantly ridiculed and berated for my expertise in the field of obedience as I spearheaded the effort to separate rally and obedience as different venues (they had been combined the previous year without any input from the obedience committee). I was told that rally and obedience were the same because they both required heeling. An absurd notion at best. And ignorant notion at worst.

Now our membership will do the minimal work in obedience (a BN) in order for their dogs to qualify for a Versatility Award. Until the year before (when rally and obedience had been combined as one discipline and the BN slipped into the VA requirements), the lowest level obedience title accepted for Versatility was a CD.

Competition Obedience, starting with the CD, sets the Gold Standard for Performance Dog Sports. It is the ONE sport that does not rely on "instinct." As the dog advances in his work, the tasks become more difficult and he has to make more choices. Some choices are right, some are wrong. But none of the choices are based on instinct. They are based on careful training. This careful training brings the dog and handler very close emotionally and mentally. Sadly, I doubt that many bearded collie teams will experience this special relationship. The new Versatility Award requirements has put a stake in the heart of Competition Obedience.